

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Safe Harbor for Sea Turtles

Photos by Doug Perrine ©

*They're here
now!*



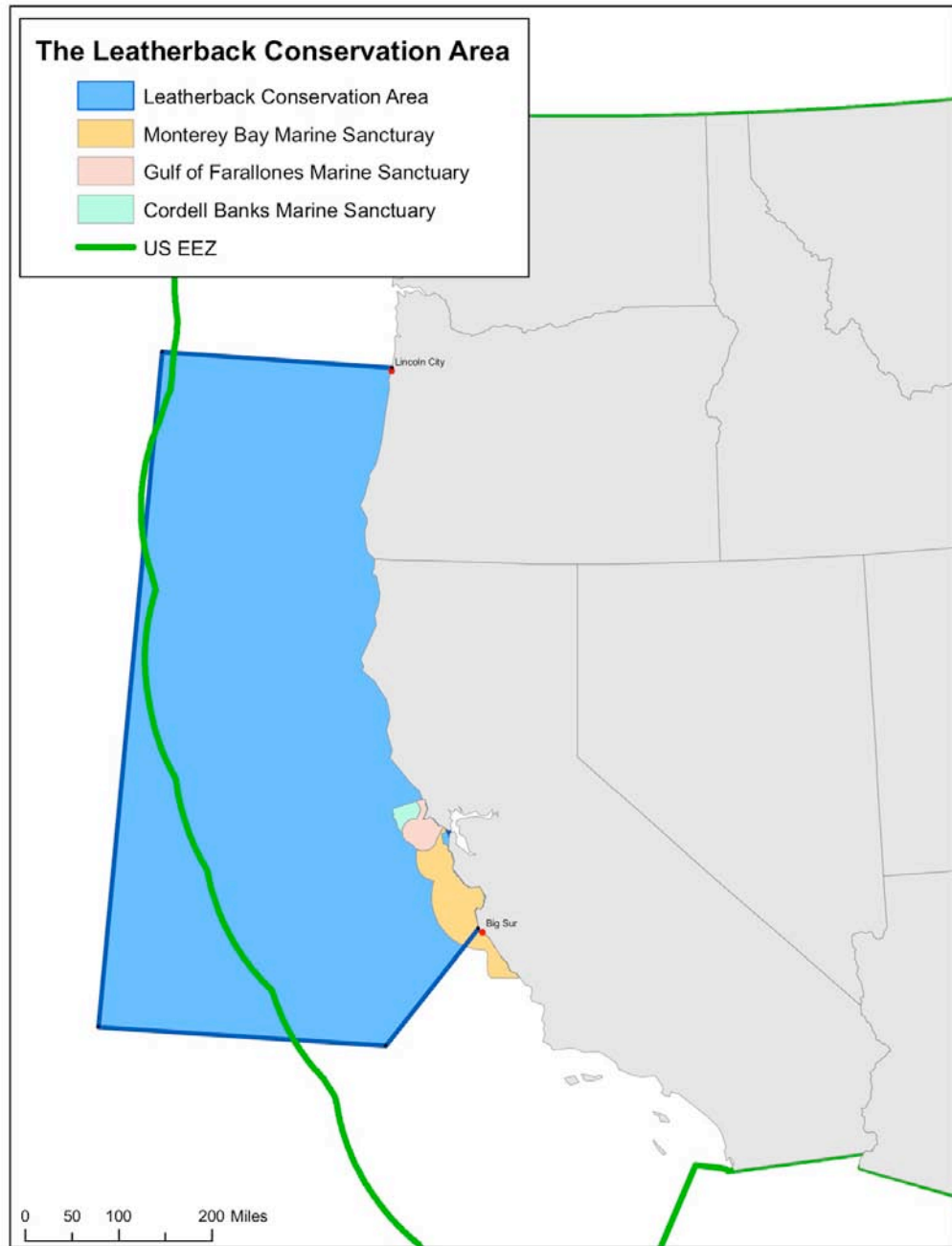
West coast sanctuaries and adjacent ocean provide one of the most important feeding areas in the entire world for leatherbacks and is a significant migratory corridor for loggerheads

Leatherbacks swim 6,000 miles from Indonesia to California to Feed on Jellyfish ~ August – December





Green sea turtles,
olive ridleys also
seen along West
Coast



Leatherback Sea Turtle Sightings off the California Coast, 1990-2003







Pacific Ocean



Aerial line-transect surveys were conducted for sea turtles and marine mammals from 15 August and 15 November in 10 of 14 years between 1990 and 2003. Data courtesy of NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, as published in:

Benson SR, Forney KA, Harvey JT, Carretta JV, and Dutton PH. Abundance, distribution, and habitat of leatherback turtles (*Demochelys coriacea*) off California, 1990-2003. Fishery Bulletin, 105(3): 337-347.

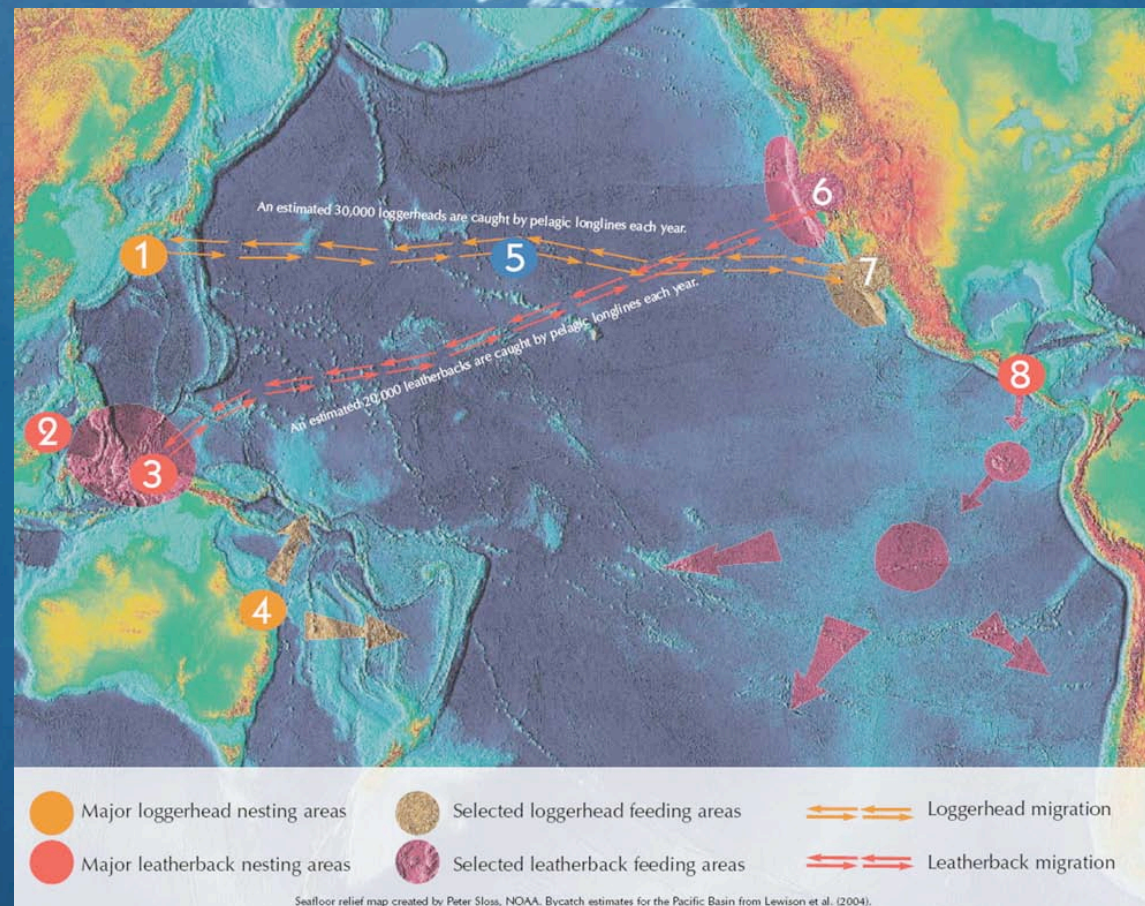
Legend

-  Leatherback sightings 1990-2003
-  flightpath waypoints
-  California State Waters
-  survey path

0 20 40 80
Miles

Longline Fisheries Threaten Sea Turtles

Shallow-set swordfish longlines snare loggerhead sea turtles at a rate 10 times greater--and leatherbacks at a rate approximately 3 times greater--than deep-set longlines targeting tuna

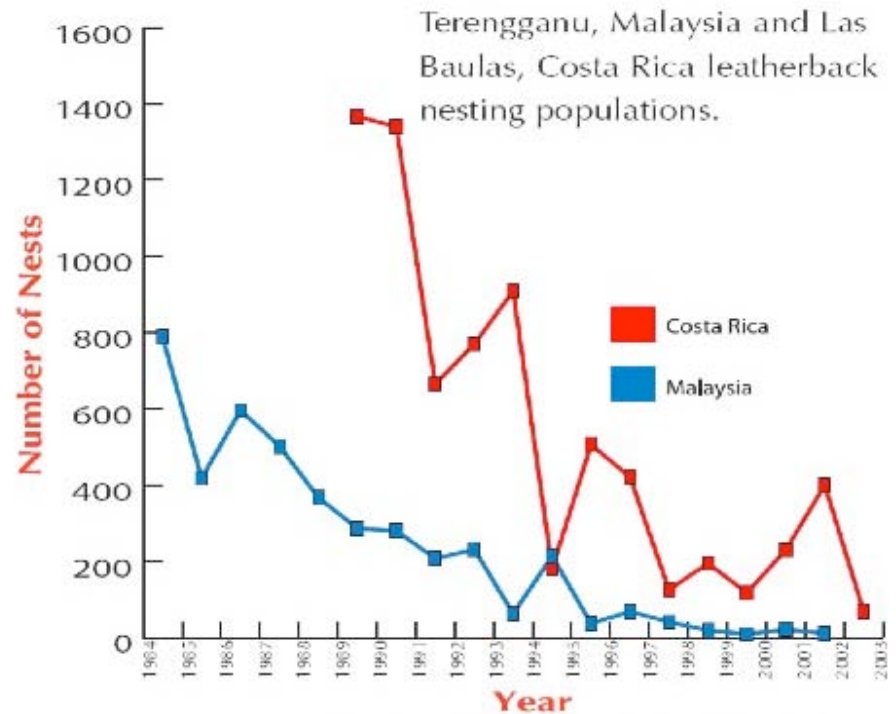


Scientists Attribute Nesting Beach Declines to Pelagic Fisheries

Scientists conclude increase in adult mortality from the fishing effort of pelagic fisheries, poaching of eggs a secondary cause

Rapid population declines continued despite researchers and government efforts in Malaysia and Mexico to:

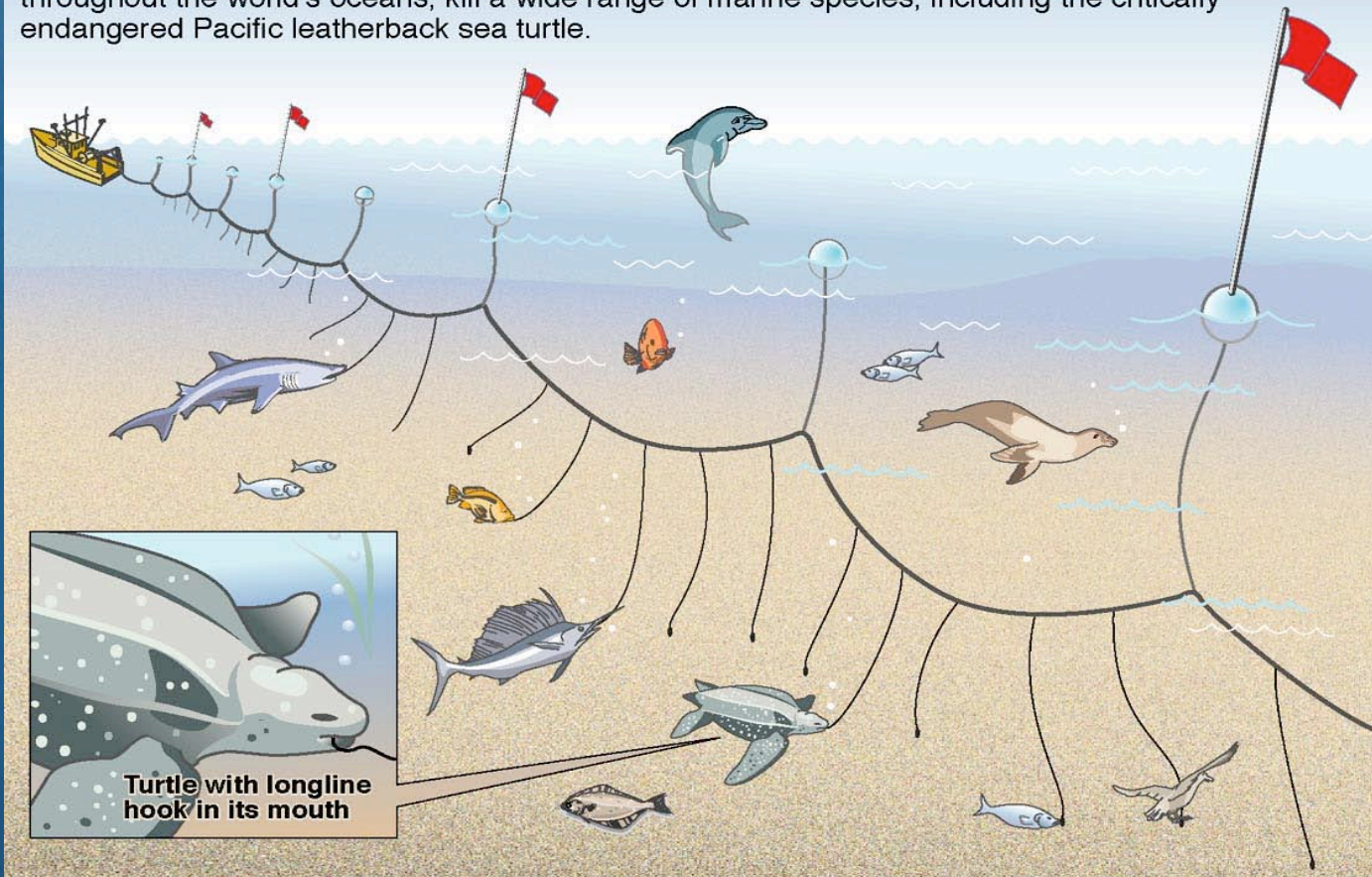
- Protect nesting beaches
- ban consumption of eggs
- conduct public education campaigns
- in Malaysia deposited 100% of eggs in hatchery



From: Steyermark et al. 1996, I. Spotila & E. Paladini, pers. comm. and Department of Fisheries, Terengganu, Malaysia.

Longline fishing is an industrial fishing method with high “by-catch” – non-target species such as sea turtles, sharks, sea birds and marine mammals

Longlines, which set up to 5 million baited hooks set each day on 100,000 miles of line throughout the world's oceans, kill a wide range of marine species, including the critically endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtle.



Longline Fishery Mitigation Measures



Squid vs Mackerel Bait



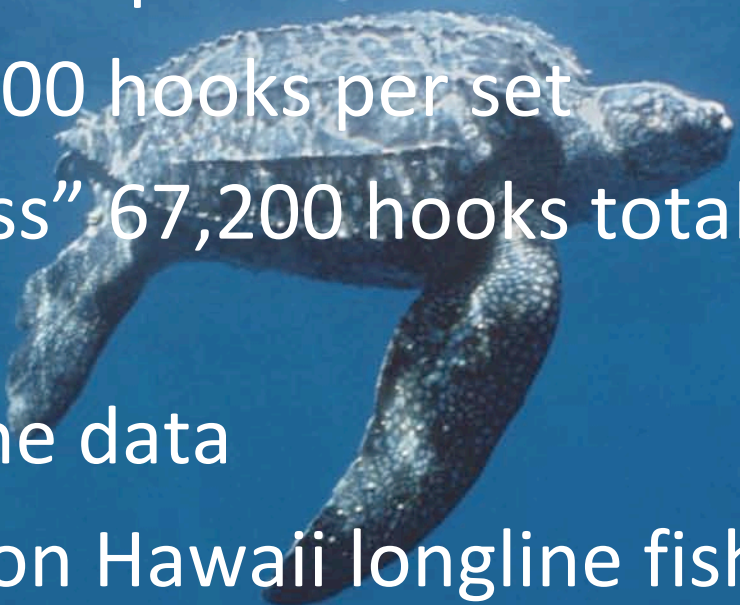
Circle hook

"J" hook

J Hook vs Circle Hooks

- Still captures sea turtles - e.g. Hawaii fishery shut in 2006
- Have not been shown to prevent or reduce marine mammal bycatch, sharks or other non-target species
- Should not “experiment” on populations of critically endangered species

67,200 deadly hooks

- Single vessel 4 trips per year
 - 14 sets per trip
 - 400 to 1,200 hooks per set
 - “Best guess” 67,200 hooks total maximum per season
 - No baseline data
 - All based on Hawaii longline fishery and drift gillnet – both closed due to sea turtle capture
- 
- A photograph of a sea turtle swimming in clear blue water. The turtle is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image, swimming towards the right. Its shell is dark and textured, and its flippers are visible. The water is a deep blue with some light reflections on the surface.

By-catch from new longline vessel

60 % by-catch; 40 % swordfish

Species	Estimated By-catch	Sanctuary Habitat	ESA
Leatherback	5 captures, 1 death	E	E
California Sea Lion	1 to 10	V	
Northern elephant seal	1 to 10	E	
Short-beaked common dolphin	1 to 10	S	
Risso Dolphin	1 to 10	V	
Northern right whale	1 to 10	S	E
Curved beak whale	1 to 10	V	
Black footed albatross	1	E	E
Laysan albatross	2	S	
Blue shark	850	E	
Dorado	235		
Escolar	112		
Bigeye tuna	105		
Albacore	71	V	
Shortfin mako shark	59	V	
Swordfish	1,153		

Source: NMFS. 2007. An Evaluation of the Proposed Shallow-Set Longline Exempted Fishing Permit's Consistency to the California Coastal Management Act.



West Coast Historic Management Prohibits Longline Fishing

- A commercial longline industry has *never* existed in West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – 200 miles
- The California State Legislature explicitly banned *all* forms of longline fishing in the EEZ in 1990 (Fish and Game Section 9028 was enacted by SB 1080)
- Longline EFP would reverse historic management to **protect marine biodiversity** off the U.S. West Coast

Widespread Opposition to new swordfish fishery

- California Coastal Commission
- California Department of Fish & Game
- California State Legislature – Assembly Joint Resolution 62
- California Ocean Protection Council established by Governor Schwarzenegger
- California Congressional delegation signed Dear Colleague letter
- 120+ scientists signed a joint statement opposing the new swordfish fishery
- 25,000+ public letters/emails have been sent to NMFS & the Pacific Fishery Management Council opposing the new longline swordfish fishery
- Environmental & Recreational Fishing NGOs
Sea Turtle Restoration Project, Oceana, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity, Humane Society of the United States, Friends of the Earth, United Anglers of Southern California, Coastside Fishing Club, International Game Fish Association

Longline Permit is Inconsistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and Management Plans

- By harming and injuring marine animals that are protected in the sanctuary, the federal fishery undermines the goal of the GFNMS's Ecosystem Protection program "to maintain and where necessary, restore, the natural biological and ecological processes in Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary by evaluating and addressing adverse impacts from human activities on sanctuary resources and qualities."
- Fishing Activities Action Plan – FA – 1 SEAs survey – sea turtles, FA – 2 Profile fishing activities . . in and adjacent to the sanctuary; FA-3 evaluate impacts from fishing activities on sanctuary resources; FA-4 address impacts from fishing activities on sanctuary resources
- Conservation Science Action Plan – CS – 4 Conduct long term monitoring of . . . sea turtles and prey species

Gulf of the Farallones NMS

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Please oppose the new longline swordfish fishery with a resolution

Join the opposition to destructive longline fishing

Help Protect the West Coast's Imperiled Sea Turtle Populations and Marine Wildlife



Thank you.
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