

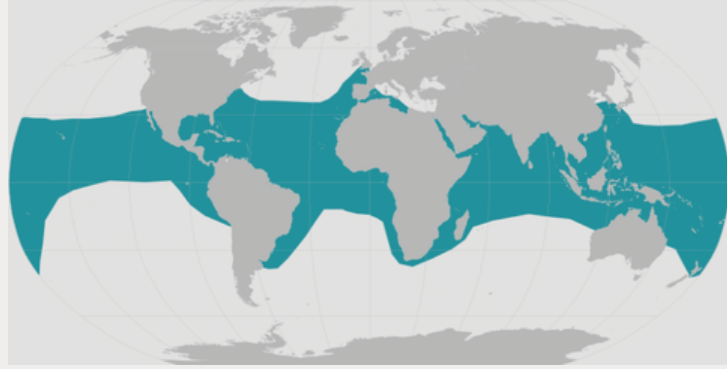
Species Spotlight: Hawksbill Sea Turtle

Conservation Connections ~ May 2025



Where are they found?

Despite sightings in tropical waters around the world, hawksbill sea turtles are considered **critically endangered**, according to the IUCN.



Their biggest threats include bycatch, intentional hunting for their shell (jewelry/fashion), eggs, or meat, loss of habitat, predation of eggs/hatchlings, collision with watercrafts, entanglement or ingestion of marine debris, and climate change.

Extinct

Extinct in the Wild

Critically Endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near Threatened

Least Concern

Data Deficient

Not Evaluated

YOU
ARE
HERE

What does “critically endangered” really mean?

According to the IUCN, the term “critically endangered” refers to a species who has a 50-70% higher chance of population loss in 10 years (3 generations), compared to a 20% chance of population loss for species labeled “endangered.”

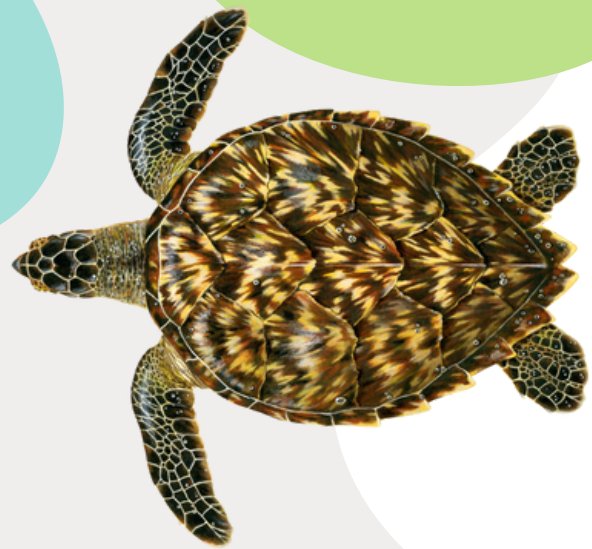
Critically endangered species are expected to have less than 250 remaining individuals.

Hawksbill or Green Sea Turtle? Spot the difference!

Hawksbill

- Shell has protruding scutes or plates that give it a horned silhouette
- Narrow head and pointed beak

Hawksbill / Honu'ea
Eretmochelys imbricata

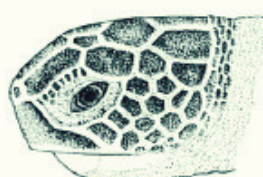


Green Sea Turtle

- Shell has smooth scutes or plates
- Rounded head



Green / Honu
Chelonia mydas



Rounded head

What do I do if I see one?

In HI, USA, report strandings to NOAA Marine Animal Line @ (888) 256-9840, submit photos to <http://www.hihawkbills.org/>

In Bermuda, Marine Turtle strandings should be reported to 293-2727 x999. A complete phone tree for strandings can be found here: <https://conservation-services.squarespace.com/contacts-for-strandings>