



IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
2015 Annual General Meeting
Regional Update

Wider Caribbean

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Regional Membership

- Countries: Aruba, USA, Cuba, Venezuela, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Barbados, French Guiana, Nicaragua,
- Number of members 29
- New members:
- Membership gaps: Suriname, Guyana, Martinique, Guadeloupe, St Martin, St Bart, Trinidad and Tobago, ect...,
- highlights, goals- bring on members from other CAR nations

Regional Concerns

- Emerging / ongoing concerns for turtles:
 - bycatch: gillnet (all countries?), fish trawling (Surinam, Trinidad), shrimp trawling (Louisiana, Costa Rica, ?,?.) Longline (Suriname, Venezuela)
 - Illegal Fishing
 - poaching adults and eggs.
 - unchecked oil drilling of coast of French Guiana 6000m
- Concerns for MTSG:
 - Encourage and developing collaborative research capacities for bycatch mitigation.

Regional Opportunities

- New projects, opportunities:
 - Develop TED's for fish trawls in Suriname.
- Relevant new research
 - TED's for skimmer trawls in Louisiana-Reduced bar spacing for small turtles
- Gaps
 - No CPUE for gillnets (except FG, Martinique, Guadeloupe)
 - No CPUE for fish trawls in Suriname
- Opportunities for MTSG involvement in regional issues.
 - Encourage onboard observer programs.
- Potential funding sources (CAR-SPAW, WWF, ONCFS, NOAA, INSAPESCA, NFWF)

Red List Assessments

- Species in need of regional assessments
 - Leatherbacks
 - Olive ridley
 - Green
- Status of regional assessments (ongoing support to global assessment processes, stand-alone assessments, etc)
 - Guiana's Leatherbacks (CNRS-Lebreton) first feed back april

ERA for the Caribbean

- With Widecast country coordinators, need Widecast validation?
- Must determine which protocol for administering the ERA?
- determine who will conduct the analysis?

Networking & Regional Development

- Linkages between MTSG and other regional bodies (existing/proposed/possible)
- Support needed from IUCN and / or MTSG

Global Trawling / and TED use map

- Administer survey to all MTSG members 2015
- Present results at ISTS Peru IUCN-MTSG meeting
- Will be useful for EU TED initiative.
- IUCN should support EU in move towards TED use.

- Once validated by MTSG the message will also be translated in French, Spanish, and Cantonese.
- Please give feed back on the following text.

Dear MTSG members,

In accordance with the minutes from the 2014 MTSG meeting in New Orleans (attached), We are launching a request for information from all MTSG members worldwide. The information requested is simple and will allow the MTSG to produce maps of shrimp and fish trawling activities occurring in EEZs worldwide. We will also be able to create a map showing countries with TED laws and effective TED programs worldwide. This will contribute to prioritizing areas where marine turtle conservation through TED use could occur.

Please reply to me at bigsharkchum@yahoo.com with responses to the 8 questions below. If you have literature (published or not) that discuss the trawl fishery(ies) in your particular country this will be helpful also. We will present the advances in this work at the 36th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium in Lima, Peru.

Questions for MTSG members for: IUCN global maps of shrimp/fish trawling and TED use in EEZs

- 1 Country for which data are being reported: (name the country)
- 2 Reported by: (enter your name), Contact details: (enter your email)
- 3 Contact person in (enter country from above) Contact details: (enter the person's contact)
- 4 Does shrimp trawling occur? Yes () No () Number of Boats ()
- 5 Does Fish trawling occur? Yes () No () Number of Boats ()
- 6 Are there any legal requirements for Turtle Excluder Devices? Yes () No ()
- 7 Are these legal requirements monitored and enforced? Yes () No () Partially ()

Please forward any relevant literature or legal statutes to bigsharkchum@yahoo.com

Many thanks!

Please forward any relevant literature or legal statutes of TED use to to bigsharkchum@yahoo.com

On behalf of the MTSG-IUCN we thanks for your support and contributions which will be recognized on any literature coming from this work.

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