



IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
2015 Annual General Meeting
Regional Update

North Atlantic

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Regional Membership

- Countries represented
- Number of members = 43 (changing)
- Recent changes to membership = TBA
- Membership gaps, highlights, goals = add RLA assessors, add active researchers/managers; switch those that have moved, retired, etc.

Regional Concerns

- Kemp's ridley population trends (many juveniles frequent waters of NA region)
- Massive cold stun event in Cape Cod (Kempocalypse) ~1200 animals
- Continuing issue on bycatch
- New oil exploration proposals over continental shelf of eastern USA

Regional Opportunities

- Ongoing exciting research on stable isotopes, small turtle tracking, nesting beach selection, genetic tags, etc.
- US Endangered Species List incorporation of regional units (DPSs) for loggerheads (completed 2014) and green turtles (proposed)
- MTCA (outside USA); NFWF (specific themes)

Red List Assessments

- Species in need of regional assessments:
 - Loggerhead (underway)
 - Kemp's ridley (regional = global; underway?)
 - Green turtle (last global RLA = 2004)
 - Hawksbill (last global RLA = 2008)
- Species with current regional assessments:
 - Leatherback (completed 2013)

Networking & Regional Development

- Linkages between MTSG and other regional bodies (existing/proposed/possible):
WIDECAST (overlap with southern extent of region)
- Support needed from IUCN and / or MTSG
MTSG co-chairs always responsive to requests for letters of support, etc.