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THE SPORADIC NESTING SITES OF LOGGERHEAD AND GREEN TURTLES ON WESTERN ANATOLIAN COASTS**Eyup Baskale | Doğan Sözbilen | Yusuf Katılmış | Musa AZMAZ | Mehmet UZUNER | Bahattin SÜRÜCÜ | Yakup Kaska**

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In the Mediterranean, the main nesting sites of loggerhead and green turtles are located in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, and both species use the Turkish Mediterranean Coast as a nesting beaches. In the 90's, 16 nesting beaches had been identified in Turkey while there are 21 beaches identified as sea turtle nesting beaches with a total length of 290 km. in recent years. The Loggerhead turtles nest mainly western beaches and the green turtle nest on the eastern beaches. Some of these beaches have been regularly monitored by different group of Volunteers and supervised by the University researchers while the rest of them are occasionally monitored for each nesting season. However, there is not any monitoring studies in many nesting sites in Turkey and other countries due to low or sporadic nesting effort, making it difficult to publish this information. We aimed to focus on sporadic nesting site importance, we searched western coasts of Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Coasts between 2015 - 2017 nesting season and we explored sporadic nesting sites for loggerhead and green turtles. The results of the nesting site surveys, we found 15 nests for loggerhead turtle and one nest for green turtle belong to eight different nesting site. Most of the nests (7 nests) is observed in Kabak beach where is located on Muğla province and 22 km away from Fethiye nesting beaches by bird's eye view. The other nests are observed Fethiye - Butterfly valley- (1 nest), Marmaris- İçmeler (1 nest), Muğla – Ören (1 nest), Aydın- Kuşadası (4 nest), İzmir- Urla (1 nest) and Çanakkale-Babakale (1 nest). In addition to these only one green turtle nest was observed in Göcek Bay (Muğla). Moreover a few non-nesting emergences were found in some beaches of Aegean Coast (ie. Gümüldür beach) and will be randomly monitored the following nesting seasons. With this study, the first green turtle nest is recorded in Göcek Bay, is located south western coasts of Turkey while the new sporadic nesting sites were found south western Mediterranean coasts of Turkey and Aegean coasts of Turkey. Furthermore, the northernmost nesting site was found in Çanakkale province (39° 30.675' N, 26° 05.024' E). Thus, this information supported the idea that is sea turtles to seek out alternative sites the reason of climate change and associated sea level rise.

Keywords: Sporadic nesting site, Loggerhead turtle, Green turtle, Anatolian Coasts, Turkey