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NEST TEMPERATURES AND SEX RATIO VARIATIONS AMONG THE HATCHLINGS AND EMBRYOS OF LOGGERHEAD TURTLES ALONG THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF TURKEY

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Temperatures of loggerhead nests and sand temperatures were recorded on seven beaches (Dalyan, Dalaman, Fethiye, Patara, Cirali, Anamur and Kazanlı) for at least one season during the last five nesting seasons. The nesting season started towards the end of May and continued until mid-August on all beaches. The majority of the nests were recorded during June and July, which is peak nesting season. The sex ratios of dead hatchlings and embryos were determined by gonadal observation and sex ratios for the other hatchlings were estimated by measuring nest temperatures and by analyzing the incubation durations and the periods of emergence asynchrony. Sand and air temperatures were not directly related to nest temperatures. Air temperatures were warmer on the eastern beaches but nest temperatures did not change accordingly. The sand temperatures were much more variable in different areas of the beach (i.e. sandy, shady and stony areas). The sex ratio of hatchlings obtained from dead hatchlings showed remarkable differences between the zones of the beach perpendicular to the sea and the depths of the nests, having more females in the inland nests and at the top of the nests. The sex ratio of dead hatchlings collected from the first and last emergences of nests were also different, having a higher ratio of females in the first nightly emergence and higher ratio of males in the last nightly emergence.

A FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF SEA TURTLE TAGGING DATA FROM AN IN-WATER STUDY IN THE MARYLAND PORTION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY: POSSIBLE EVIDENCE OF SITE FIDELITY

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The Chesapeake Bay has been identified as an important region to study sea turtle seasonal distribution, site fidelity, genetic origin, baseline health, and growth rates. In 2001, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources initiated a sea turtle tagging and health assessment study in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay. Through the cooperation of commercial watermen, data were obtained from sea turtles that were incidentally captured in pound nets, a type of passive, stationary fishing gear utilized in the Chesapeake Bay to catch finfish. Between 2001 and 2005, 70 individual sea turtles (39 loggerheads, 29 Kemp's ridleys and 2 greens) were examined as part of this study. The number of turtles ranged from 7 in 2001 to 23 in 2004, with an average of 14 sea turtles per year. The number of watermen participating in the study varied from year to year, which in part accounts for the variability in numbers over the five year period. The loggerheads ranged in size from 51.9 to 105 cm (curved carapace length (CCL), notch to tip), the Kemp's ridleys from 29.8 to 57.2 cm (CCL) and the greens measured 34.2 cm and 83.1 cm (CCL), with the majority of animals being juveniles. The occurrence of a large subadult green sea turtle is uncommon in sampled