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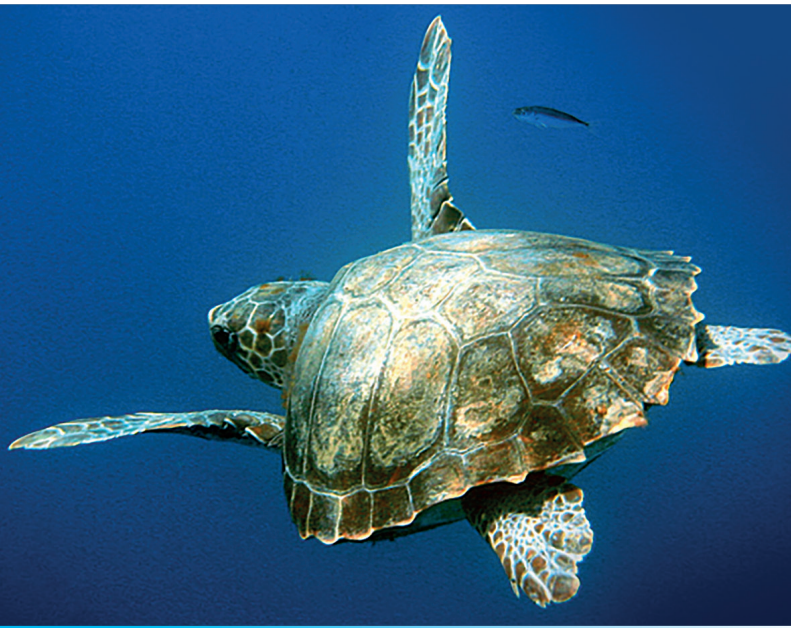

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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ARE THE RELOCATED NESTS PROVIDING BENEFITS TO THE SEA TURTLE POPULATION?

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Relocating of nests in risks such as inundation, predation, coastal erosion takes an important part in sea turtle conservation studies. Determining the nests to be relocated in the light of existing data, increases the number of protected nests and hatchling success and contributes to population growth. The annual nest numbers increased in the last five years (2013-2017) on Dalyan İztuzu Beach. A considerable number of nests were relocated. Nests were relocated according to the beach structure and previous data. Nest that located under 25 m from the sea in the first 1.0 km at the westernmost part of the beach were in inundation risk. Nests that located under 10 m from the sea were in inundation risk in the next 3.0 km part of the beach (middle section). The nest that located under 15 m from the sea were also under inundation risk in the last 0.5 km part of the beach. These nests were relocated in safer locations within eight hours after nesting. We also compared the annual number of relocated nests, the nest and hatchling success, carapace length of nesting females, and the distance from the sea of different nests of a same individual. Of the total nests, an average of 26.8% of the nests were relocated during the study period. The hatching success was calculated as 74.8% in the same period. The success of the relocated nests was not affected from the relocation and 26.8% nests were protected from possible inundation risk. The potential risk of sea level rise, loosing of nesting sites, and therefore the location of sea turtle nests would be a compulsory conservation technique to be used in most of the Mediterranean beaches and elsewhere.

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A BRIDGE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND SEA TURTLES: OVER 25 YEARS OF ACTIVITY WITH LAMPEDUSA TURTLE GROUP

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Lampedusa, thanks to its strategic location, separates the Western portion of the Mediterranean Sea from the East one, and the Northern part from the Southern one: the role of a small platform in the middle of the sea has motivated our activities on Sea Turtle Conservation during the past 30 years, in collaboration with WWF Italy and various research Institutes. The main interest of the project is focused on fishery interaction with sea turtles, mainly trawlings and longlines, which often stop in the harbor. Between 1990 and 2018, in the hospital over 4800 turtles were admitted, and more than 2500 surgeries were carried by the Vet Team. From the Vet Dept of Bari University, Prof. A. Di Bello developed new surgical techniques, and thanks to his precious collaboration, we have improved medical care and convalescence techniques. We organize several vet seminars since 2009 in order to develop a close cooperation among the Mediterranean Rehab Centers and Associations. Together with Submon (Spain), Dekamer (Turkey) and Pula Aquarium (Croatia), we have lead a project, TurtleVet, supported by the European Community, for training young vet generation with the aim to standardize medical procedures for emergencies. Since 2010 supported by Mediterranean colleagues, we coordinate the Medicine and Health Workshops during the ISTS Annual Symposia, with the goal to expand the Rescue Centers network, actually considered an opportunity for conservation, thanks to awareness and research activities. Finally, we compare the contribution and value to the activities offered by hundreds of volunteers, making the difference at any level! Bypassing the borders, marine turtles represent a way of communication: they are the reason for making relations from people from different countries.

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