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**Karen Sayles**

11/14/2006 12:47 PM  
EST

To: Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS  
cc:  
Subject: FW: Re: Florida loggerhead nesting in decline.

Hey Britta,

Thought you might like to know what some of the debates are surrounding loggerhead nesting numbers in decline.

Karen Sayles  
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-----Forwarded by Karen Sayles/CAHA/NPS on 11/14/2006 12:47PM -----

To: karen\_sayles@nps.gov  
From: "karen@aginet.com" <karen@aginet.com>  
Date: 11/14/2006 09:21AM  
Subject: FW: Re: Florida loggerhead nesting in decline.

----- Original Message -----  
From : Michael Frick [<mailto:caretta05@aol.com>]  
Sent : 11/13/2006 12:26:06 AM  
To : CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu  
Cc :  
Subject : FW: Re: Florida loggerhead nesting in decline.

Those interested,

News from Florida is not good this year. First, I think it seems common  
sensial to cast a steely  
glance at all the 'mid-Atlantic US' deaths of subadult and large immature  
loggerheads off the  
Carolina - Chesapeake Bay region several springs ago and the subadult die-offs  
off Miami,  
etc...C'mon man! It is apparent that more in-water protection is vital for  
neretic-stage turtles  
off the U.S., but what has been at the front of some state and the Fed agendas  
since 1998: "What  
consequences are current management practices having on turtles at the nesting  
beach? (i.e. are we  
adversely affecting hatchlings by relocating nests or messing with their  
navigational capabilities  
by using metal scening?). It's time for the conservation police to act and  
act now. A great  
beginning would be a complete, finished Loggerhead Recovery Plan (circa now)  
to present to  
Congress. Reputations, conference presentations and personal publications can  
wait while such  
necessary info is compiled for the sake of the turtles, particularly before

spring migrations  
through the treacherous Carolina waters.

Mike Frick

-----Original Message-----

From: gary@CCCTURTLE.ORG  
To: CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU  
Sent: Fri, 10 Nov 2006 9:02 AM  
Subject: Florida loggerhead nesting in decline.

CCC sent out the following press release yesterday to state and national media. We thought the content would be of interest to the list. The press release also briefly notes the serious cut in federal funding for the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. We will post information on our website next week on how people can help support the effort to restore funding to the Archie Carr Refuge.

Gary

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Contact: Caribbean Conservation Corporation  
4424 NW 13th Street, Suite A-1  
Gainesville, FL, USA 32609  
(352) 373-6441  
www.cccturtle.org  
November 10, 2006  
David Godfrey or Gary Appelson  
Caribbean Conservation Corporation  
352-373-6441 or david@cccturtle.org  
Immediate Release

For

#### Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting in Steep Decline

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA?Scientists with Florida?s Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) today released a research report concluding that the United States? largest remaining loggerhead sea turtle rookery is in steep decline. In the report, which was posted on FWCC?s website ( [http://research.myfwc.com/features/view\\_article.asp?id=27537](http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=27537) ), scientists analyzed 17 years of sea turtle nesting data and found that since 1989 nest counts have declined 22% throughout Florida. Since 1998, in just seven years, nesting at Florida?s most important nesting beaches all over the state have declined 40%. Florida accounts for 90% of the loggerhead nesting in the U.S., with one nesting aggregation on the beaches of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge on the Atlantic coast considered to be one of the two largest remaining in the world.

David Godfey, Executive Director of the Florida-based Caribbean Conservation Corporation, the world's oldest sea turtle conservation group, stated, "We have known loggerheads were declining, but this thorough analysis of data dating back nearly two decades paints a far grimmer picture of the status of loggerhead nesting in Florida and the U.S. The results are alarming, and it is urgent that state and federal agencies strengthen conservation efforts to address the root causes of this decline. Sea turtles are ambassadors of the sea?."

The FWCC report does not point to any conclusive cause of the decline, but points a finger at the many threats facing loggerheads at sea and when they return to Florida beaches to nest. The report states that recent hurricanes are not the cause of the decline. Loggerheads that hatch on Florida beaches take 20-30 years to reach maturity, so recent storm impacts would not be seen in the nesting population for decades. The report suggests that threats occurring far from the states waters and beaches, in the open Atlantic Ocean, may be the major cause of the decline. These threats include drowning in fishing trawls and incidental capture by the long lining commercial fishing industry. Sea turtles in Florida face many other threats according to the report, including the challenges faced by a booming coastal human population and coastal development.

Juvenile sea turtles travel and forage throughout the Atlantic Ocean after they leave Florida's beaches. The FWCC report notes that both the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have management oversight in the marine environment beyond Florida's beaches.

According to Godfrey, the long line fishing industry, which sets millions of hooks on the open seas, has long been a suspect in the loggerhead decline. CCC concludes that the cumulative effects of numerous U.S. Fisheries already permitted to kill thousands of sea turtles incidentally each year are a major source of these declines. The actual number of loggerheads killed annually by U.S. and foreign boats in the Atlantic is taking an enormous toll on the American loggerhead, a species touted as an Endangered Species success story until only a few years ago.

This report comes on the heels of a recent press release from the USFWS announcing 70% staffing cutbacks at the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, including all the scientific and public outreach staff. The refuge was established to protect the most heavily nested loggerhead turtle nesting beaches in the Western Hemisphere.

