



# SEA TURTLE CONSERVANCY

## What can you do?

### Become a Turtle Guardian:

at <https://conserveturtles.org/support-stc-monthly-giving/>

For as little as \$5 a month – about the price of your favorite cup of coffee – you can help sustain and strengthen Sea Turtle Conservancy’s work in the United States, Costa Rica, Panama, Bermuda, and the Caribbean. Become a Turtle Guardian today and provide critical resources to support science-based conservation programs. Turtle Guardians are a group of dedicated supporters like you who make regular monthly gifts.

#### Why Give Monthly?

- Convenient, automatic payments.
- Do the most good. Maximize your giving with gifts that require less paperwork and processing time
- Provide a stable source of funding for critical long-term sea turtle programs
- Control your gift – update or cancel your donation at any time
- Receive a subscription to the Velador newsletter

#### Questions?

Contact STC’s Membership Coordinator Taylor Swoyer at [352-373-6441](tel:352-373-6441) or emailing [membership@conserveturtles.org](mailto:membership@conserveturtles.org).

## What else?

**Reduce Garbage-** Collect all the plastic trash you use in a 24-hour period. Consider how much plastic trash your street produces in a day; the whole city; the state; the nation. Think about how you and others can get through each day using less plastic and locate a local plastic recycle center — then do it and encourage others to reduce and recycle as well.

**Adopt A Turtle-** Take a personal interest in one of the satellite-tagged turtles or a turtle tagged in Costa Rica. The donation directly supports sea turtle conservation and can be found on our website.

**Reduce Amount of Chemicals Used-** Many people use chemicals and fertilizers on their lawns and gardens. Used motor oil and paints are deadly to plants and animals if not disposed of correctly. Many of these chemicals get washed into coastal lagoons and wash up on beaches. Find biodegradable lawn and garden products that you can use and facilities that properly dispose of toxic chemicals.

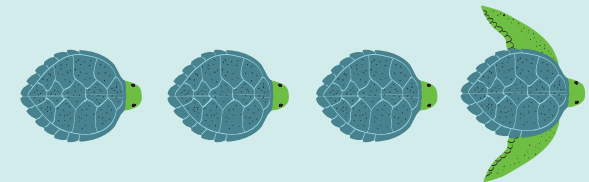
## Meet Our Turtles



## Who we are:

It is the mission of Sea Turtle Conservancy to ensure the survival of sea turtles within the Caribbean, Atlantic and Pacific through research, education, training, advocacy and protection of the natural habitats upon which they depend.

Sea Turtle Conservancy’s geographic focus is the Wider Caribbean and Atlantic because of the region’s unique importance to the world’s remaining sea turtle populations.

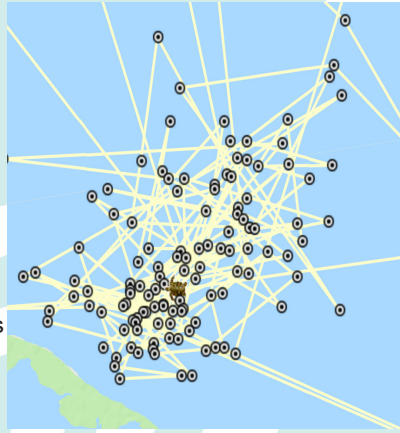


## Why save turtles?

STC has chosen sea turtles as the focus of its conservation efforts in part because these ancient creatures are among the most important indicators of the health of the world’s marine and coastal ecosystems. STC believes that whether sea turtles ultimately vanish from the planet or whether they remain a wild and thriving part of the natural world, will speak volumes about both the general health of the planet and the ability of humans to sustainably coexist with the diversity of life on Earth.

# What is the turtle tracker?

In 2000 the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) began satellite tagging sea turtles to study their migration from their nesting grounds at Tortuguero, Costa Rica to their feeding grounds throughout the wider Caribbean. A satellite transmitter was attached to the shell of the sea turtle and using this state-of-the-art satellite tracking technology, STC and other researchers are able to monitor the movements of sea turtles once back in the water. Both green and hawksbill sea turtles are being tracked as part of this study designed to help STC and others learn more about the migratory behavior of these species. This information will help both conservationists and natural resource managers improve protection efforts for this endangered species by helping establish "migration pathways" between nesting grounds and feeding areas.



## 2018 Turtles-

Follow them at <https://conserveturtles.org/sea-turtle-tracking/>



**Bean**

Bean is an adult female green sea turtle released with a satellite transmitter on August 5, 2018 from Tortuguero National Park in Costa Rica. She measured 114.6 cm in carapace length. She was recused by the Turtle Hospital and FWC and was treated at the Turtle Hospital for gastrointestinal issues. Bean received broad spectrum antibiotics, vitamins, fluids and a healthy diet. She is swimming strong, healthy and ready to return to her ocean home!



**Cordelia**

Cordelia is an adult female green sea turtle released with a satellite transmitter on August 5, 2018. She was found suffering from a severe boat propeller strike injury. Her face was lacerated and she was admitted to surgery immediately upon arrival. After months of rehabilitation, surgeries, and Hurricane Irma, she is healed, measures 87.0 cm carapace length, & weighs a healthy 181 lbs! Despite missing her missing eye, she has recovered fully and been deemed ready for release by the sea turtle veterinarian.



**Vida**

Vida is an adult female green sea turtle released with a satellite transmitter on August 6, 2018. She measured 115.0 cm in curved carapace length. Vida was found entangled in fishing line swimming on a reef by local divers. Gumbo Limbo Rehabilitation Facility treated her for a severe fracture of the humerus bone, lacerations on the front left flipper and neck, and ingested line. After four months of rehabilitation, she has completely recovered from all injuries and is ready for the ocean.

# What threatens turtles?

## Marine Debris-

Over 1 million marine animals are killed each year due to debris in the ocean. More than 80% of this plastic comes from land. It washes out from our beaches and streets. It travels through storm drains into streams and rivers. It flies away from landfills into our seas. As a result, thousands of sea turtles accidentally swallow plastics, mistaking them for food. Leatherbacks cannot distinguish between floating jellyfish – a main component of their diet – and floating plastic bags. Most of the debris is recognizable: plastic bags, balloons, bottles, degraded buoys, plastic packaging, and food wrappers. Some plastics aren't so easy to see, in fact, that it is invisible to the naked eye. If sea turtles ingest these particles, they can become sick or even starve. Turtles are affected to an unknown, but potentially significant degree, by entanglement in persistent marine debris, including discarded or lost fishing gear including steel and monofilament line, synthetic and natural rope, plastic onion sacks and discarded plastic netting materials.



## Artificial Lights-

Sea turtles have crawled onto beaches to nest for millions of years. It was once easy for hatchlings to find the ocean after emerging from nests because the brightest horizon was always the ocean, compared to the dark dune. Now, Florida's coasts are lined with beachfront properties that can emit powerful, white light, which can cause sea turtles to crawl toward those lights (misorient) or crawl in circles on the beach (disorient). Based on consensus from a panel of sea turtle experts, around 100,000 sea turtle hatchlings are disoriented each year in Florida. They can end up in pools, decks, or even the road.



## Fishing-

Each year hundreds of thousands of adult and immature sea turtles are accidentally captured in fisheries ranging from highly mechanized operations to small-scale fishermen around the world. Global estimates of annual capture, injury and mortality are staggering – 150,000 turtles of all species killed in shrimp trawls, more than 200,000 loggerheads and 50,000 leatherbacks captured, injured or killed by longlines, and large numbers of all species drowned in gill nets.



## Consumers-

In many coastal communities, especially in Central America and Asia, sea turtles have provided a source of food. During the nesting season, turtle hunters look for nesting females and will wait until the female has deposited her eggs to kill her. Then, they take both the eggs and the meat. Additionally, people may use other parts of the turtle for products, including the oil, cartilage, skin and shell. Many countries forbid the taking of eggs, but enforcement is lax, poaching is rampant, and the eggs can often be found for sale in local markets.