

GLOBAL BIOGEOGRAPHY OF LEATHERBACK SEA TURTLES

The maps below and on pp. 28–29 display available nesting and satellite telemetry data for leatherback sea turtles. The data include 988 nesting sites and 321 satellite tags, compiled through a literature review and provided directly to SWOT by data contributors worldwide. For metadata and information about data sources, see the data citations on pp. 46–53.

Nesting sites are represented by orange dots scaled according to their relative nesting abundance in the most recent year for which data are available. Black squares represent nesting sites for which data are older than 10 years, data are unquantified, or the nest count for the most recent year was given as zero. For the purposes of uniformity, all types of nesting counts (e.g., number of nesting females, number of crawls) were converted to number of clutches as needed. Conversion factors ranged from 4.1 to 6.4 clutches per female and 0.75 to 0.9 crawls per clutch.

Satellite telemetry data are represented as polygons that are colored according to the number of locations within each hexagon. Darker colors represent a higher number of locations, which can indicate that a high number of tracked turtles were present in that location or that turtles spent a lot of time in that location. Telemetry data are displayed as given by the providers, with minimal processing to remove locations on land and visual outliers, and represent almost 150,000 animal locations. Some tracks are raw Argos or GPS locations, whereas others have been more extensively filtered or modeled.

We are grateful to all of the data contributors and projects that participated in this effort. For details, please see the complete data citations on pp. 46–53.



Leatherback Turtle Satellite Telemetry

