



SWOT Report

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State of the World's Sea Turtles

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FRONT COVER: Look very closely at the turtle on the cover of this year's magazine, and you may notice something odd. This hawksbill is missing one of her back flippers. Dive staff members at White Sands Island Resort in the Maldives believe she is the same turtle they rescued near South Ari Atoll, where this photograph was later taken. When they rescued the turtle, she was ensnared in a plastic bag with her back flipper tightly entangled in the plastic. Although they were not able to save her flipper when they cut her free, she is still commonly seen near this dive site and appears to be living a normal, healthy life.

© STEVE JONES / WWW.MILLIONFISH.COM; THIS PAGE: A tribesman in Myanmar's Mergui Archipelago in the Andaman Sea holds a green turtle. © NICOLAS REYNARD / NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC IMAGE COLLECTION; AT RIGHT: The average size of an adult hawksbill is approximately 2.5 feet in length and 95 to 165 pounds, although some may reach up to three feet in length and weigh up to 300 pounds. Hawksbills are found throughout tropical and subtropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. © CAROLINE ROGERS

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 **Find Mr. Leatherback!** How many times can you spot Mr. Leatherback's distinctive silhouette in this issue of *SWOT Report*? Check the SWOT website at www.SeaTurtleStatus.org for the correct answer! See page 30 for a hint.