

Annotated Bibliography Of Sea Turtles Taken By Longline Fishing Gear

by

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Atkins, L. S. 1960. The leathery turtle, or luth, Dermochelys coriacea (L.), in Co. Cork. Irish Naturalist Journal 13, 8:189.

Brongersma, L. D. 1972. European Atlantic turtles. Zoologische Verhandelingen 121:1-318.

On 1 October 1960 a 207-kg leatherback was caught alive on shark longline gear baited with herring. The capture site was 10 km southwest of Old Head of Kinsale (Co. Cork) Ireland.

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Cato, J. C., F. J. Prochaska, and P. C. H. Pritchard. 1978. An analysis of the capture, marketing, and utilization of marine turtles. Report prepared for the Environmental Assessment Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, St. Petersburg, Florida (P. O. No. 01-7-042-11283). 119 p.

Lists the capture of 227 kg of green turtle by "longline" in 1962 off the east coast of Florida, and the capture of 545 kg of loggerhead turtle by "handline" in 1971 off the west coast of Florida.

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Cushing, F. A. 1974. Observations on longline fishing methods conducted aboard the R/V Bosei Maru. University of Guam the Marine Laboratory, Miscellaneous Report No. 17, December, 16 p.

Pritchard, P. C. H. 1977. Marine turtles of Micronesia. Chelonia Press, San Francisco, 83 p.

A Japanese research ship set longlines at five locations south of Palau, Caroline Island, during September of 1974. Each longline contained 500 hooks and was set for a single 5-hour period at each location. A total of five subadult olive ridleys were caught at three of the locations (i.e., lat. 1°N, long. 133°10'E; lat. 2°20'N, long. 136°30'E; and between Tobi and Helens Reef at lat. 3°N, long. 131°30'E).

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Graham, J. J. 1957. Central North Pacific albacore surveys, May to November 1955. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report-Fisheries 212, 38 p.

Lists the capture of a turtle on longline gear during May 1955. The fishing site was approximately 500 km north of the Hawaiian Islands at lat. 28°25'N, long. 155°04'W. The turtle was hooked on a hind flipper.

Hillestead, H. O., J. I. Richardson, C. McVea, and J. M. Watson. In press. Worldwide incidental capture of sea turtles. The biology and conservation of sea turtles, Smithsonian Press.

Lists longline as a fishing method known to "occasionally" take sea turtles. Cites Atkins (1960) and Cato et al. (1978) as supporting references. States that "longline fishing efforts probably catch few turtles and cause minimal impact."

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Iversen, E. S., and H. O. Yoshida. 1956. Longline fishing for tuna in the central equatorial Pacific, 1954. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report-- Fisheries 184, 33 p.

Lists the capture of a leatherback by longline gear on 21 May approximately 95 km east of Palmyra Island at lat. 5°57'N, long. 161°11'W.

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Lopez, A. M., D. B. McClellan, A. P. Bertolino, and M. D. Lange. 1979. The Japanese longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico, 1978. Marine Fisheries Review 41(10):23-28.

Presents some results of a fishery observer project. A sampling of Japanese longliners in the U. S. fishery zone of the northern Gulf of Mexico during March-July 1978 revealed that six turtles of unstated species were captured. A total of 21 vessel boardings were made and 167 fishing days monitored. Mackerel, saury and squid were used for bait. The total longline fishing effort in the area was not reported.

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McCoy, M. 1980-81. Correspondence and photographs to G. H. Balazs dated 14 April 1980, and 7 January and 14 September 1981 from the Micronesian Maritime Authority, Kolonia, Ponape, Eastern Caroline Islands.

In November of 1979 a Japanese Government research vessel caught a 50 cm olive ridley by longline while fishing between Truk and Papua New Guinea. Frozen saury pike was used for bait and the line was set 27 m below the surface.

In May of 1980 a commercial Japanese longliner caught a 60 cm olive ridley while fishing at lat. 3°58'S, long. 149°29'E.

In May of 1981 a commercial Japanese longliner caught a 25-cm hawksbill at an unspecified site in the western Pacific. The turtle was still alive and reportedly was released several hours after capture.

McVey, J. 1974. Correspondence and photograph to G. H. Balazs dated 3 December from the Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center, Palau, Caroline Islands.

Three Taiwan "tuna boats" apprehended within territorial waters from 1972-74 were found to have 25-100 turtles each. Some of these turtles were adults that were undoubtedly poached from nesting beaches. However, many were of an immature size that could not have been found on shore.

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Thompson, P. A. 1981. Correspondence to G. H. Balazs dated 5 November from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Mississippi Laboratories, Pascagoula, Mississippi.

Lists some results of an observer project in the U. S. fishery zone of the Atlantic and northern Gulf of Mexico. The sampling of an unspecified number of Japanese longliners during 1979 found that 2 leatherbacks, 5 loggerheads, and 17 unidentified sea turtles had been incidentally captured. From February through April of 1980, 6 leatherbacks and 4 unidentified sea turtles were captured. Many of these turtles were still alive, but the extent of injuries was not stated. Most of the turtles were hooked somewhere on their body. Longline fishing in the area has progressively increased during 1979, 1980, and 1981, however, the actual fishing effort for each year was not stated.

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Wright, A. 1980. An investigation of Japanese longline tuna fishing operations in the region of Papua New Guinea. Research Bulletin No. 23, Department of Primary Industry, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, August, 47 p.

Wright, A. 1980. Japanese longliner voyage north of Papua New Guinea analyzed. Australian Fisheries, November, 39, 11:8-12.

Wright, A. 1981. Correspondence to G. H. Balazs dated 19 March from the Department of Primary Industry Fisheries Research, Kavieng, New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.

During a 50-day fishing trip north of Papua New Guinea, a Japanese longliner caught a 130-cm leatherback and a 60-cm green turtle. Both turtles had swallowed the hooks and were dead when recovered. The leatherback was too large to fit through the "fish door" and was not brought aboard. The green turtle was landed, frozen whole, and taken back to Japan to be tanned. Preserved turtles of this size reportedly sell for between 43,000 and 75,000 yen (approx. US\$145 and US\$250). The Fishing Master of the vessel stated that most longliners catch from 1 to 2 turtles per trip in this area. In 1978 there were 274 Japanese longliners licensed to enter Papua New Guinea's fishing zone. An unknown number of Taiwan longliners also fish in this region.

Anonymous. 1935. 445-pound turtle caught by sampan. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 8 April, p. 3.

A 202-kg leatherback was caught when fouled in the lines and hooks of longline gear set 25 km off Kailua on the west coast of the Island of Hawaii.

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Anonymous. 1958. Aquarium gets rare turtle. Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 30 May, B Sect., p. 17.

A 114-kg "female" leatherback was caught when tangled in longline gear off Lyman Point on the Island of Hawaii. The turtle was transported to the Waikiki Aquarium where it later died.

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Anonymous. 1967. 764-pound turtle caught. The Honolulu Advertiser, 17 November.

A 347-kg leatherback was caught on longline gear off Hilo Bay on the Island of Hawaii. The turtle was sold at the fish auction to Sumida's Restaurant.

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Anonymous. 1975. 978-pound turtle caught. Micronesian New Service, 27 June, Ponape, Eastern Caroline Islands.

Pritchard, P. C. H. 1977. Marine turtles of Micronesia. Chelonia Press, San Francisco, 83 p.

A 160-cm leatherback weighing 445 kg was caught on 20 June when it became tangled in "typical Japanese-type longline gear" set by 2 Kapingise fishermen off Param Reef, Ponape. The men "subdued" the turtle and landed it on the western side of Takatik Island.

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Anonymous. 1980. Lepidochelys kempi, Atlantic ridley sea turtle, taken on longline. SEAN Bulletin (Smithsonian Institution), 5, 11:28.

A 43-cm Atlantic ridley was caught alive by longline gear at Smith Island, Virginia USA (approximately lat. 37°07'N, long. 75°54'W) on 16 October 1980. The turtle was taken to the Virginia Institute for Marine Sciences at Gloucester Point for observation. On October 29 it was "radio-tagged" and released at Smith Island.