

Turtle Troubles: Sea Turtle Example

Green Sea Turtle

- Narrow, streamlined shell
- Large flippers instead of feet



Turtle Troubles: Land Turtle Example

Box Turtle

- Domed shell
- Feet not flippers
- Box turtle has hinge on plastron so can close up tight like a box
- Land turtles sometimes called tortoises especially if live in dry areas and desserts



Turtle Troubles: Freshwater Turtle Example

Painted Turtle

- Streamlined shell (faster swimming than walking)
- Often seen basking on logs
- Turtles that live in brackish water sometimes called terrapins



Turtle Troubles

Leatherback turtle

- Endangered turtle that visits Maryland waters
- Named for its soft, leathery shell

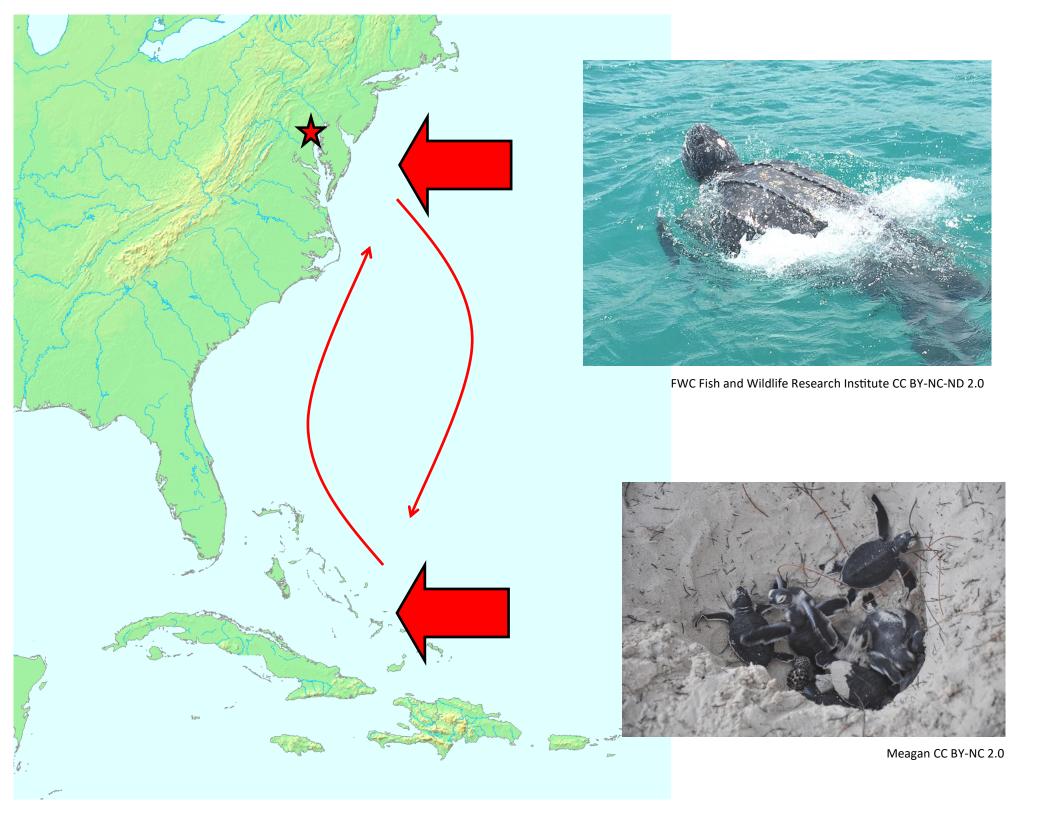


Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Turtle Troubles

Bog Turtle

- Endangered turtle that lives in wet marshy places or bogs
- Distinctive orange patch on neck
- Populations of bog turtles are estimated at 2000-10000. Maryland probably contains more than a third of the total population.



Turtle Troubles: Migration

- Leatherbacks spend the winter in the Caribbean and off the coast of Florida
- In spring they swim north, some traveling as far as Nova Scotia
- During the spring, summer and fall leatherbacks hunt jellyfish. They can be seen in Maryland at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and off the coast of Ocean City.



Image: Sea Turtle Conserveration Bonaire.org

Turtle Troubles: Threats

Plastic Pollution

 Turtles, including leatherbacks, will eat plastics that they mistake for jellyfish