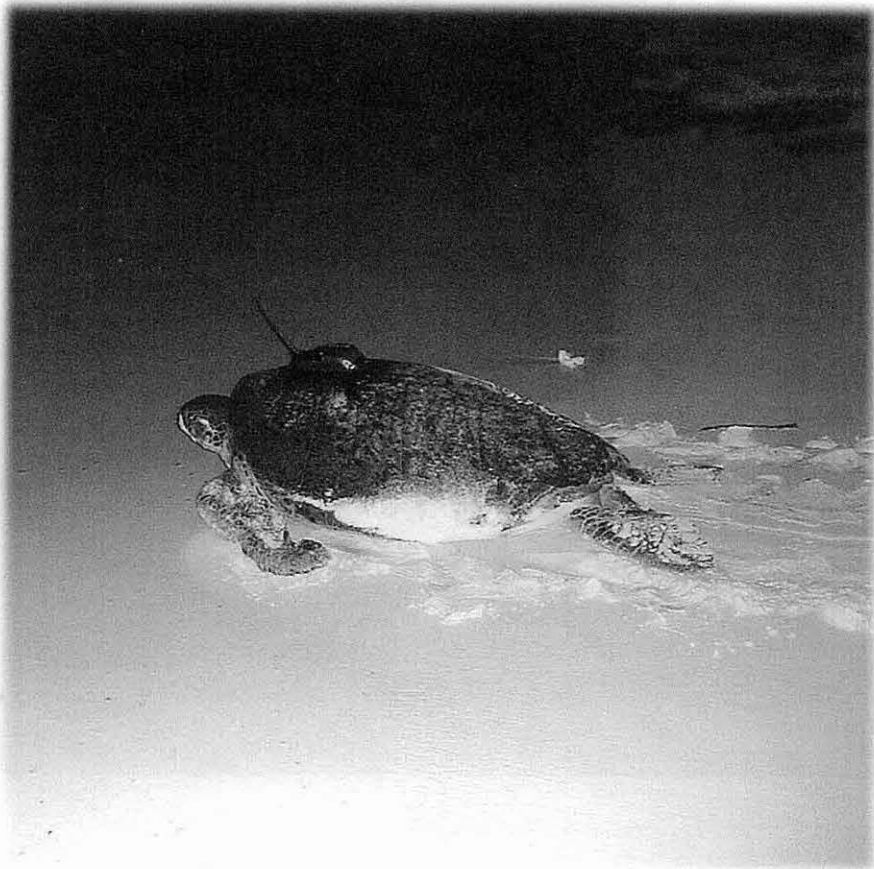


SEASTAR2000

(Southeast Asia Sea Turtle Associative Research)

Proceedings of the 3rd Workshop on SEASTAR2000

in
Bangkok, Thailand
16-19 December 2002



Edited by
Nobuaki Arai
Graduate School of Informatics, Kyoto University
December 2003

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FORWARD

By SEASTAR PROJECT DIRECTOR

SEASTAR 2000 Status Report

It has passed 4 years since this project began. In 1999, the Japanese-Thai cooperative research of sea turtle started by the fund of Kyoto University and Tokyo University. The project has been supported by A Grant-in-Aid of Ministry of Education, Sport, Science and Technology in Japan (JSPS) since 2001. From 1999 to 2000, the project mainly focused on the research of behavior and conservation of adult female green turtles during post nesting periods around the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, since immediate research was necessary for understanding the correlation between incidental catch of sea turtles by shrimp trawl and their migration paths. We could not find incidental catch of sea turtles by shrimp trawl. However the population of sea turtle is now decreasing. A prompt conservation plan is required.

Three different migration paths are found in the Gulf of Thailand through the satellite tracking. One is eastern going course along the east coast of the Gulf. And post nesting turtles arrive in two different feeding areas of the South China Sea and Sulu Sea, another is western going course from Malay Peninsula to the Jawa Sea. Those migration paths are extensively long within and outside of the region and the results showed the necessity of cooperation with various countries, such as Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei in eastern course, and Malaysia in western course. Malaysia was included in our project in 2000. Cambodia and Vietnam scientists were included in 2001. And to this extent, in 2002, we would like to welcome the Philippines, Brunei as well as India and Myanmar since the migration paths are extended to Myanmar and India in the Andaman Sea.

We could partly understand fundamental information about post nesting female green turtles in the last 4 years. However, we cannot understand the behavior of other growth stage of green turtles in the sea, such as, male, juvenile and new hatchlings. Where do they migrate? Behaviors are yet mysterious like the other species. These are very important information to make a conservation plan since our final goal is to establish collaborative conservation plans of sea turtles. Fortunately, preliminary biological information will be presented of the other sea turtles; loggerhead, olive ridley, hawksbill, and leatherback in this workshop.

This workshop will certainly encourage our collaborative research activities in various aspects and the conclusion enriches our future cooperation. I hope that this would also be the good time for more effective cooperation.

Wataru Sakamoto (Emeritus Professor of Kyoto University, Professor of Kinki University)