Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System Overview

Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System

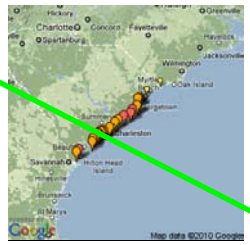
South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program (edit)

Select a Beach: Kiawah Island **Reports**

Program Description

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Turtle Conservation Program is responsible for managing and protecting sea turtles in the state of South Carolina, USA. This program has several all encompassing components: management, monitoring, research, and education. More specifically, this program provides technical expertise on anthropogenic activities that have the potential to impact sea turtles (i.e., nourishment, dredging), locates and protects sea turtle nests (>300 km of coastline), documents strandings, performs necropsies on fresh dead strandings, works with the SC Aquarium to provide rehabilitation for live strandings, monitors nearshore waters for leatherbacks, and provides as much education, outreach and exchange of scientific information as time allows.

The SCDNR began monitoring sea turtle nesting activities and strandings in the late 1970s. Information gained from this program contributes to ongoing sea turtle nest management and protection projects on all of the state's beaches.There are approximately 300 kilometers of ocean fronting sandy beaches in South Carolina that provide suitable nesting habitat for sea turtles. To date, loggerheads, green turtles, leatherbacks and rarely Kemp's ridleys sea turtle nests have been recorded on South Carolina beaches. By far the most common nesting species is the loggerhead. In South Carolina, nesting surveys and nest protection measures are carried out by a variety of public agencies such as the SCDNR, USFWS, South Carolina Department of Parks and Recreation and Coastal Carolina University. Several private organizations and numerous volunteers are also actively involved with sea turtle protection work.Altogether, more than 800 individuals participate in nest monitoring activities in South Carolina each year. Results from all South Carolina sea turtle nesting beach projects are submitted to the SCDNR and compiled for the State and made available to federal agencies. These data are crucial in monitoring populations, formulating protective regulations, making management decisions, and maximizing reproduction for recovery.



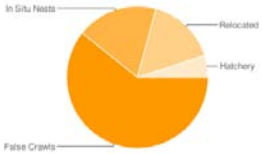
The data presented here should be considered preliminary in nature. All data, figures and maps on this website remain copyright of the project coordinators and may not be used or referenced without the explicit written consent of the data owners.

Summary

Nests: 2187
Lost: 175 (8%)
In Situ: 1031
Relocated: 879 (40.1%)
Hatchery: 277 (12.6%)
Incomplete: 1
False Crawls: 3384

Estimated Eggs to Date: 237559
Eggs Lost: 10517 (4.4%)
Lost to Probing: 245
Hatched Eggs: 163382
Emerged Hatchlings: 154117
Mean Incubation Duration (all): 53.9 days
Mean Clutch Count: 116.4 eggs

Activity



Public

Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System

Daufuskie Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Survey Log | Activity Log | Map | Reports | Edit Beach

tion

Daufuskie Island has approximately 5.8 kilometers of beach and is more remote than Hilton Head. The coastal habitat and wildlife are not that different from what you can see at Hilton Head. Daufuskie experienced a beach nourishment project in December 1998. The project in Daufuskie started in 2006 and is managed by local residents.

click for detailed map

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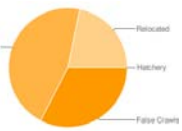
Activity



0 (32.2%)
15

gs to Date: 3678
1 (0.2%)
g: 1
s: 2306
tchlings: 1999
ation Duration (all): 55.5 days
Count: 129.7 eggs

Success: 61.4%
nce Success: 52.5%
: 77.4%
s: 67.3%

: 2010-01-07 09:17:38 (21.1 days ago)

Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System

Folly Beach

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Survey Log | Activity Log | Map | Reports | Edit Beach

Beach Description

Folly Beach is a residential community south of Charleston Harbor with 11 km of beach. After the completion of the Charleston jetties in 1895, the natural , erosional retreat of the island accelerated. Rock groins are in place along the length of the beach. Folly beach was renourished in 2007. The program averages less that 50 nests per season but had 63 nests in 2008.

click for detailed m

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Summary

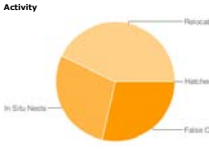
Nests: 35
Lost: 2 (5.7%)
In Situ: 14
Relocated: 21 (60%)
False Crawls: 14

Estimated Eggs to Date: 3859
Eggs Lost: 139 (3.6%)
Lost to Probing: 5
Hatched Eggs: 2647
Emerged Hatchlings: 2512
Mean Incubation Duration (all): 52.7 days
Mean Clutch Count: 117.7 eggs

Mean Hatch Success: 67.3%
Mean Emergence Success: 64.1%
Nest Success: 94.2%
Beach Success: 71.4%

Last Updated: 2010-01-14 17:43:48 (13.7 days ago)

Activity



Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System

Kiawah Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Survey Log | Activity Log | Map | Reports | Edit Beach

Beach Description

Kiawah island is a private, residential resort with 16 km of ocean fronting beach. The beach is wide, flat and fairly stable. Sea turtle monitoring activities have taken place on the island since the early 1970's. There are well developed dune fields, and homes are required to be located away from the beach. There are two golf courses on the island that have links that are directly behind the beach. In these sections, lighting on the beach is not a problem since homes are either absent or are located on the landward side of the greens and fairways. However, golf course sprinklers promote vegetation growth on the dunes that often interferes with hatch success through root penetration of the eggs. The regular application of water from the sprinklers influences sand temperature, making these areas unsuitable for nest relocation. In other areas, the beach is backed by multi-story condominiums and the Kiawah Inn. The southern most part of the beach is a county park with a paid public access. There are no beachfront structures in the park. Kiawah Island averages 150 nests per season

click for detailed map

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Summary

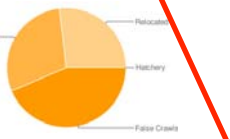
Nests: 128
In Situ: 67
Relocated: 61 (47.6%)
False Crawls: 39

Estimated Eggs to Date: 14262
Eggs Lost: 60 (0.4%)
Lost to Probing: 8
Hatched Eggs: 11344
Emerged Hatchlings: 10086
Mean Incubation Duration (all): 54.8 days
Mean Clutch Count: 114.6 eggs

Mean Hatch Success: 79.9%
Mean Emergence Success: 71.4%
Nest Success: 96.8%
Beach Success: 56.3%

Last Updated: 2010-01-08 16:30:10 (19.8 days ago)

Activity



Private

Survey Log

Cape Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Summary Page | Activity Log | Map | Reports

Values highlighted in red are calculated from the Activity Log
Values highlighted in orange indicate mismatch between Survey Log and (Activity Log)

	Date	False Crawls	Nests	Nest Emergences	Distance Surveyed	Hours Surveyed	Start Time	Stop Time	Night Survey
submit	2010-01-28				km		HH:MM	HH:MM	
edit delete	2009-08-31	0	0	12	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-30	0	1	34	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-29	0	0	12	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-28	0	0	8	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-27	0	0	4	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-26	0	0	3	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-25	0	0	7	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-24	0	0	6	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-23	0	0	3	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-22	0	0	0	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-21	0	1	10	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-20	0	0	9	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-19	0	5 (1)	16	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-18	2	0	10	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-17	1	1	12	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-16	0	2	16	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
edit delete	2009-08-15	0	0	2	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	

Activity Log

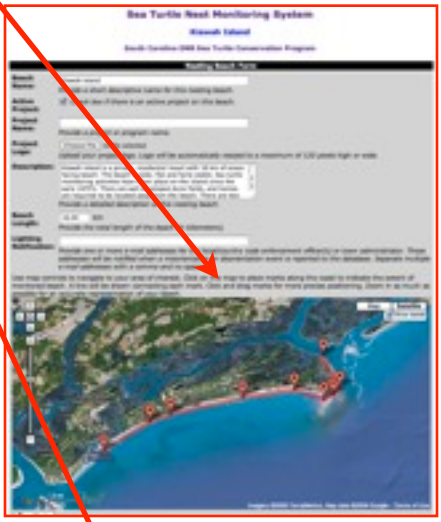
Kiawah Island

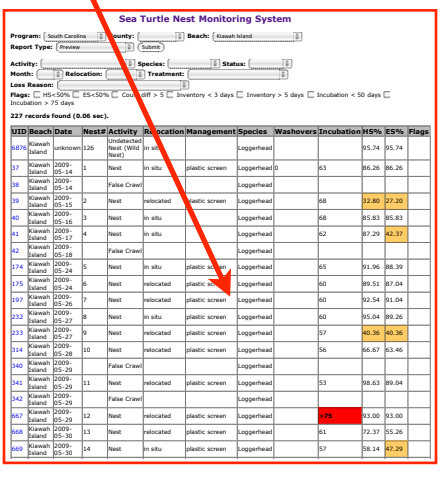
South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Summary Page | Survey Log | Map | Reports | Lock All | Unlock All | New Activity

Clutch counts highlighted in red indicate a discrepancy between relocation count and (inventory count).

	Act	Nest #	Ref #	Date	Activity	Species	Type	Clutch Count	Emerge Date	Incubation	Inventory Date	Status	Hatch Success	Emergence Success
	226	126	17.SWN01	unknown	Undetected Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	94	2009-08-21		2009-08-24	complete	95.7%	95.7%
	225		13.35	2009-08-08	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	224	125	33.45	2009-08-08	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	108	2009-10-06		2009-10-09	complete	88.8%	88.8%
	223	124	20.55	2009-08-07	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	104	2009-09-29	53	2009-10-02	complete	84.6%	83.6%
	222	123	34.6	2009-08-04	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	91	2009-10-03	60	2009-10-07	complete	73.6%	72.5%
	221		11.1	2009-08-03	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	220		27	2009-08-02	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	219		09.3	2009-07-29	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	218	122	30.63	2009-07-28	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	105	2009-09-17	51	2009-09-21	complete	88.5%	85.7%
	217	121	38.1	2009-07-27	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	110	2009-09-23	58	2009-09-26	complete	34.8%	32.1%
	216	120	35.7	2009-07-27	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	90	2009-09-17	52	2009-09-21	complete	91.1%	91.1%
	215	119	16.7	2009-07-26	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	112	2009-09-19	55	2009-09-22	complete	93.7%	93.7%
	214	118	22.2	2009-07-26	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	107	2009-09-15	51	2009-09-18	complete	79.4%	78.5%
	213	117	28.1	2009-07-26	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	83	2009-09-18	54	2009-09-21	complete	90.3%	90.3%
	212	116	15.41	2009-07-25	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	104	2009-09-15	52	2009-09-18	complete	97.1%	82.6%
	211		11.05 SS16	2009-07-25	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	210		13.4 SS15	2009-07-25	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	209		13.95	2009-07-25	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	208	115	26.6	2009-07-25	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	103	2009-09-18	55	2009-09-21	complete	73.7%	73.7%
	207	114	36.8	2009-07-25	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	114	2009-09-15	52	2009-09-19	complete	90.3%	89.4%
	206	113	24.95	2009-07-23	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	90	2009-09-16	55	2009-09-19	complete	87.7%	83.3%
	205	112	35.65	2009-07-23	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	81	2009-09-14	53	2009-09-17	complete	95%	95%
	204	111	14.9	2009-07-22	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	152	2009-09-18	58	2009-09-21	complete	90.7%	90.1%





UID	Beach	Date	Nest#	Activity	Relocation	Management	Species	Washovers	Incubation	HS%	ES%	Flags
6876	Kiawah Island	unknown	126	Undetected Nest (Wild in situ Nest)			Loggerhead			95.74	95.74	
37	Kiawah Island	2009-05-14	1	Nest	in situ	plastic screen	Loggerhead	0	63	86.26	86.26	
38	Kiawah Island	2009-05-14		False Crawl			Loggerhead					
39	Kiawah Island	2009-05-15	2	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		68	32.80	27.20	
40	Kiawah Island	2009-05-16	3	Nest	in situ		Loggerhead		68	85.83	85.83	
41	Kiawah Island	2009-05-17	4	Nest	in situ		Loggerhead		62	87.29	42.37	
42	Kiawah Island	2009-05-18		False Crawl			Loggerhead					
174	Kiawah Island	2009-05-24	5	Nest	in situ	plastic screen	Loggerhead		65	91.96	88.39	
175	Kiawah Island	2009-05-24	6	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		60	89.51	87.04	
197	Kiawah Island	2009-05-26	7	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		60	92.54	91.04	
232	Kiawah Island	2009-05-27	8	Nest	in situ	plastic screen	Loggerhead		60	95.04	89.26	
233	Kiawah Island	2009-05-27	9	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		57	40.36	40.36	
314	Kiawah Island	2009-05-28	10	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		56	66.67	63.46	
340	Kiawah Island	2009-05-29		False Crawl			Loggerhead					
341	Kiawah Island	2009-05-29	11	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		53	98.63	89.04	
342	Kiawah Island	2009-05-29		False Crawl			Loggerhead					
667	Kiawah Island	2009-05-29	12	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		775	93.00	93.00	
668	Kiawah Island	2009-05-30	13	Nest	relocated	plastic screen	Loggerhead		61	72.37	55.26	
669	Kiawah Island	2009-05-30	14	Nest	in situ	plastic screen	Loggerhead		57	58.14	47.29	

http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/

Data Entry

The Sea Turtle Nest Monitoring System is an entirely web-based data management system. Using your login credentials, you can access your data from anywhere in the world. No special software or hardware are required. All you need is a relatively modern web-browser and an internet connection. All data are backed up on a daily basis to multiple locations.

The STNMS includes two options for entering data. Projects may use the survey log, the activity log, or both. The system features a hierarchical data access structure that allow individual control over what each person is able to to view or edit. These include:

- Program Administrator - has full access to all data in a particular program
- Beach Manager - has full access to data from one beach within a program
- Beach Member - may enter new records, edit their own records, and view all records for a beach

Survey Log

Cape Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Summary Page | Activity Log | Map | Report

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	Date	False Crawls	Nests	Nest Emergences	Distance Surveyed	Hours Surveyed	Start Time	Stop Time	Night Survey
submit	2010-01-28				km		HH:MM	HH:MM	
edit delete	2009-08-31	0	0	12	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	
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edit delete	2009-08-15	0	0	2	12.87	4.00	07:00	11:00	

Survey Log

The survey log is for entering daily nest numbers, including number of false crawls, nests and emergences. Programs that record only daily nest and false crawl counts may wish to use the survey log alone. Distance and number of hours surveyed, start and stop time may also be entered to help capture effort data.

If a project is using both the survey and activity logs, the system will highlight discrepancies between the two datasets.

Activity Log

Kiawah Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Summary Page | Survey Log | Map | Reports | Lock All | Unlock All | New Activity

Clutch counts highlighted in red indicate a discrepancy between relocation count and (inventory count).

	Act #	Nest #	Ref #	Date	Activity	Species	Type	Clutch Count	Emerge Date	Incubation	Inventory Date	Status	Hatch Success	Emergence Success
	226	126	17.5WN01	unknown	Undetected Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	94	2009-08-21		2009-08-24	complete	95.7%	95.7%
	225		13.35	2009-08-08	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
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	219		09.3	2009-07-29	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	218	122	30.63	2009-07-28	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	105	2009-09-17	51	2009-09-21	complete	89.5%	85.7%
	217	121	38.1	2009-07-27	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	112	2009-09-23	58	2009-09-26	complete	34.8%	32.1%
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	212	116	15.41	2009-07-25	Nest	Loggerhead	relocated	104	2009-09-15	52	2009-09-18	complete	97.1%	82.6%
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	210		13.4 SS15	2009-07-25	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	209		13.95	2009-07-25	False Crawl	Loggerhead								
	208	115	26.6	2009-07-25	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	103	2009-09-18	55	2009-09-21	complete	73.7%	73.7%
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	204	111	14.9	2009-07-22	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ	152	2009-09-18	58	2009-09-21	complete	90.7%	90.1%

Activity Log

The activity log is for entering detailed information about each emergence recorded, including nests, false crawls and possible nests. The activity log provides up to the minute status of all nests during the season, with links to edit existing records or enter a new activity record.

Data entry for activity data features a hierarchical form. The form starts with the minimum required fields and expands to include more fields based on options selected by the user. See the next page for more details on the data entry form.

Data Entry Form

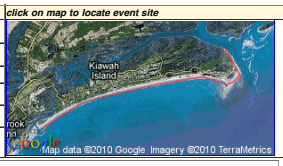
Kiawah Island

South Carolina DNR Sea Turtle Conservation Program

Instructions | **Add New Activity** | Cancel | Submit

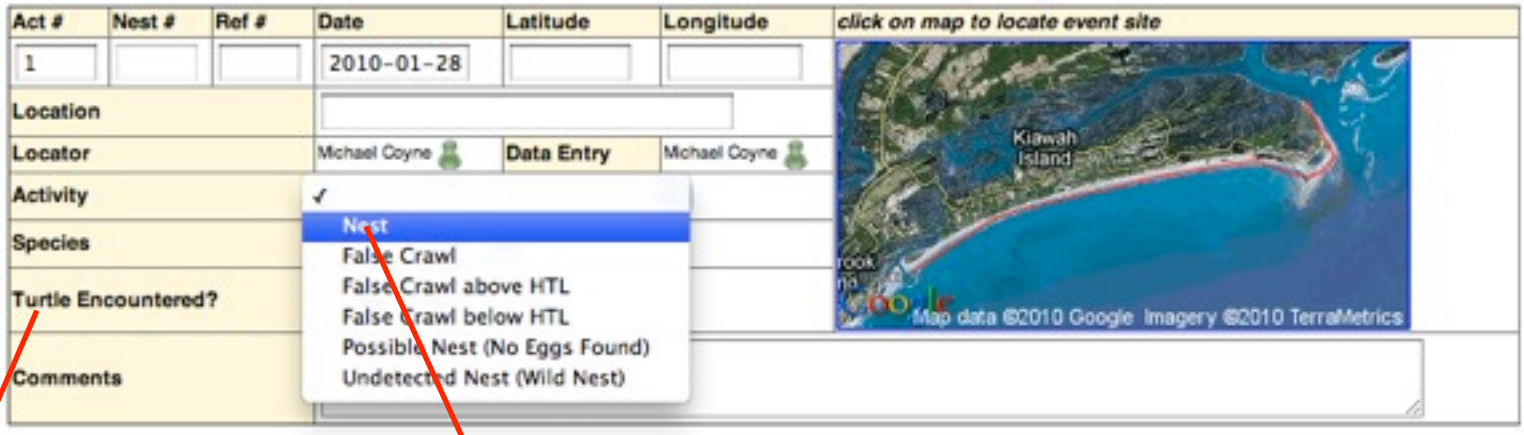
Act #	Nest #	Ref #	Date	Latitude	Longitude	*click on map to locate event site*
1			2010-01-28			

Location			
Locator	Michael Coyne	Data Entry	Michael Coyne
Activity			
Species			
Turtle Encountered?	Yes / No		
Comments			

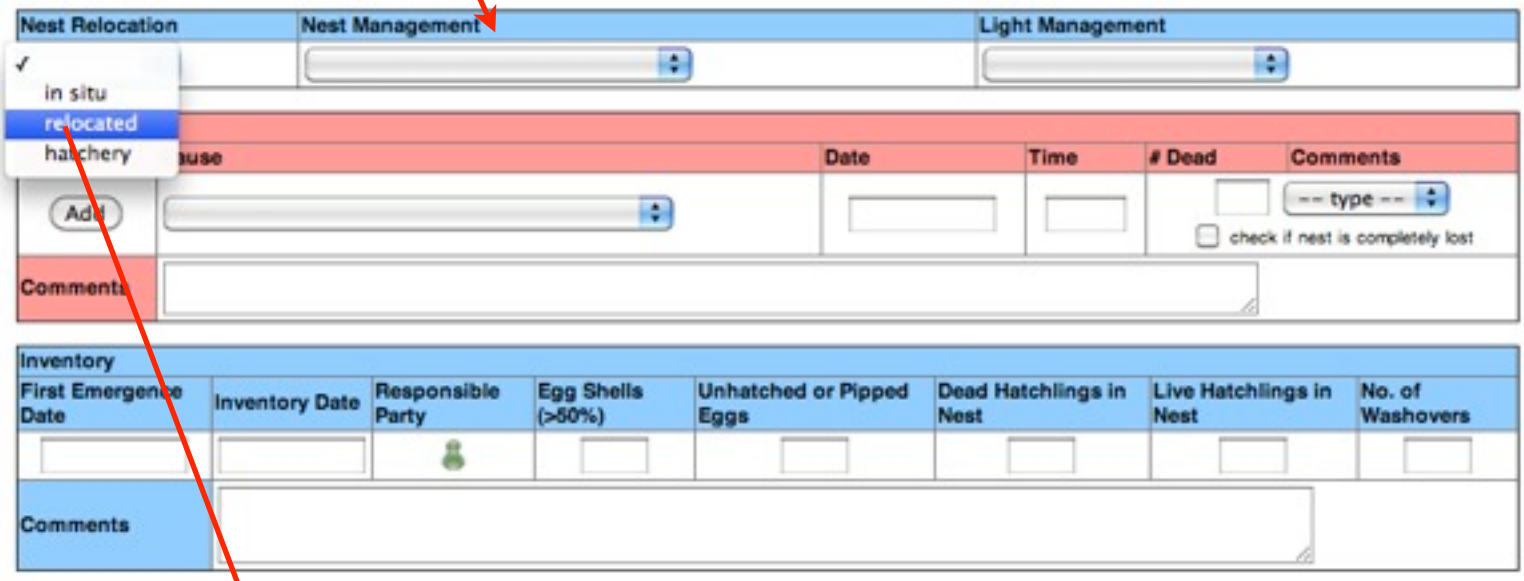


Activity Entry Form

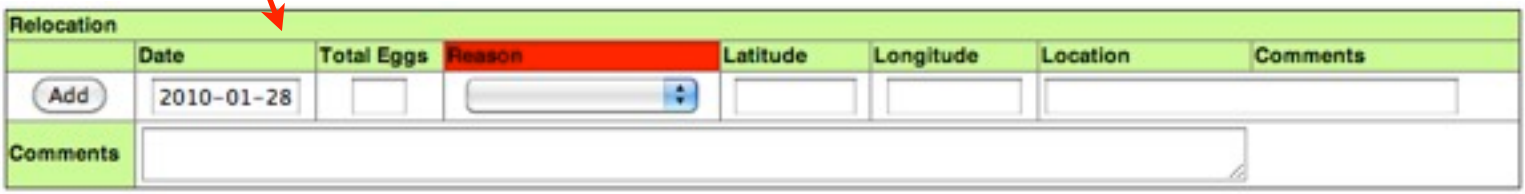
The activity entry form is used to enter detailed information about each reported activity. The initial entry form includes only basic fields required for any type of recorded activity. Latitude and longitude are automatically placed on the map for reference, or if coordinates where not recorded, click on the map to automatically estimate the latitude and longitude of the activity.



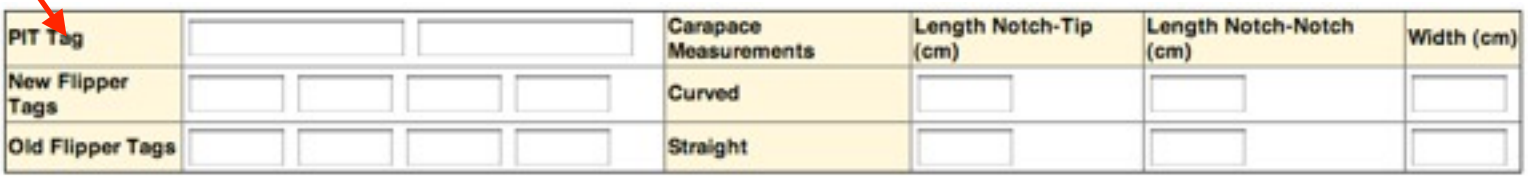
If the user selects a nest activity type, the form automatically expands to include additional nest-specific fields.



For nests that are relocated or moved to a hatchery, the form automatically expands to include additional relocation-specific fields.



If the user indicates that the turtle was encountered, the form automatically expands to include additional tag and morphometric fields.



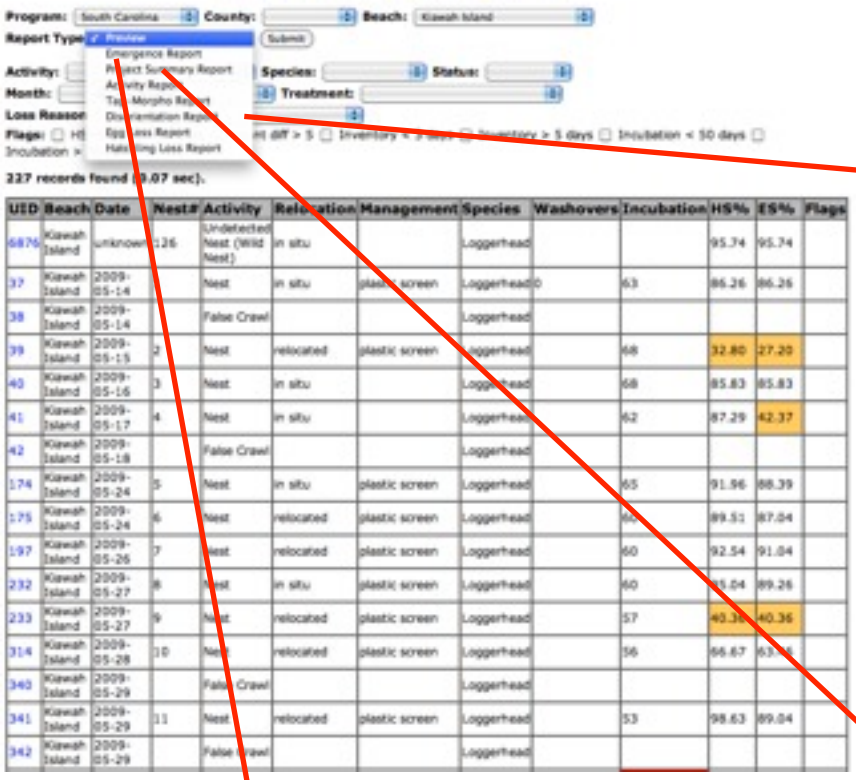
Integrated Error Checking
All data are checked for a number of common data entry errors before being accepted to the database.

Customization
All menu options may be customized to meet the needs of individual programs, and labels can be translated to accommodate local languages.

http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/

Reports and Exporting

The reports page includes are wide range of query, report generation and data export options. There are also a number of data validation routines that flag suspect data to aid in error checking.



CSV Reports

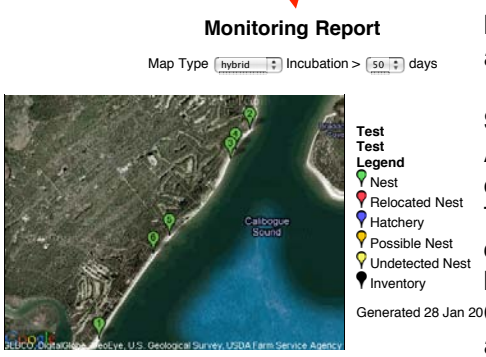
A number of reports can be exported in comma-separated values (CSV) format. These include an Activity Report, Tag-Morphometrics Report, Disorientation Report, Egg Loss Report and Hacthling Loss Report. Additional reports and export options will be developed or may be requested.

UID	Year	Beach	County	Activity #	Activity	Nest #	Ref #
6876	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	226	UN	126	17.5WN01
37	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	1	N	1	10.3
38	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	2	FC		15.2
39	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	3	N	2	34.8
40	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	4	N	3	32.8
41	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	5	N	4	19.7
42	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	6	FC		16.4
174	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	7	N	5	32.4
175	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	8	N	6	10.5
197	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	9	N	7	10.25
232	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	10	N	8	31.9
233	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	11	N	9	30.45
314	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	12	N	10	28.45
340	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	13	FC		22.1
341	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	14	N	11	11.45
342	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	15	FC		3.4
667	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	16	N	12	23.1
668	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	17	N	13	10.55
669	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	18	N	14	37.1
670	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	19	FC		19.5
671	2009	Kiawah Island	Charleston	20	N	15	14.49

Sample shows only a subset of all available data

Monitoring Report

A monitoring report can be generated at any time during the season, providing a snapshot of pending emergences and nests that are ready to be inventoried. The report includes a reference map to help field teams find nests that require attention.



Summary Report

A summary report can be generated for each beach at the end of the season. The summary report includes final error checking to help detect data errors before data are finalized for the season. Once the summary report is accepted, activity data are locked to all users except the administrator.

Year 2009 Project Summary Report

Beach / Island: Kiawah Island

Survey S or W Boundary	The Beach Club		
Survey N or E Boundary	The Beach Club		
Length of Daily Survey (km)	9.6	Total Kilometers Surveyed	1392
Total Days Surveyed	145	Days per Week Surveyed	7
Time of Day Surveyed	06:00	Number of Participants	163
Date Surveys Begin	2009-05-10	Date Surveys End	2009-10-2
Date of First Crawl	2009-05-14	Date of Last Crawl	2009-08-21
Date of First Nest	2009-05-14	Date of Last Nest	2009-08-08
Total Nests	128	Nesting Density (nests/km)	13.33
In Situ	68	Undetected	1
Relocated	61 (47.6%)	Disoriented/Misoriented	0
Hatchery	0	Washed Away Tide/Storm	0
False Crawls	99	Depredated	6
Mean Clutch Count	114.6	Incubation Duration (All)	54.8
Hatchlings Produced	11344	Incubation Duration (*In situ*)	55.5
		Incubation Duration (Relocated)	54.1

MEAN HATCH SUCCESS		MEAN EMERGENCE SUCCESS		NEST SUCCESS		BEACH SUCCESS	
79.9%		**71.4%**		**96.8%**		**56.3%**	
79.1% *IN SITU*	80.8% RELOCATED	69.9% *IN SITU*	73.1% RELOCATED	95.5% *IN SITU*	98.3% RELOCATED	128 TOTAL NESTS	227 TOTAL CRAWLS

Eggs Lost (Total Eggs Lost = 60)			
Raccoon	16	Broken eggs - top	13
Ghost Crab	11	Broken eggs - bottom	8
Probing	8	Unknown	2
Other	2		
Hatchling Loss (Total Hatchling Loss = 5)			
Other	3	Ghost Crab	2

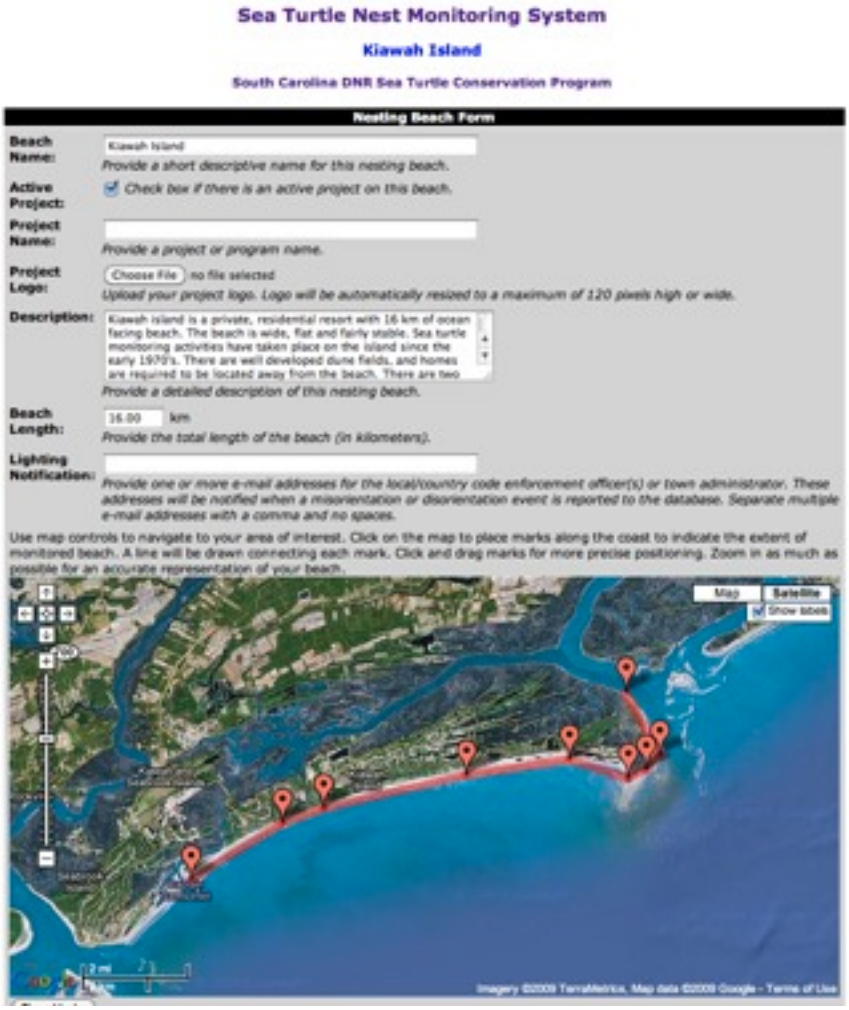
Pending Emergences

	Act #	Nest #	Ref #	Date	Activity	Species	Type	Clutch Count	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Incubation	Emerge Date
1	21	16		2009-11-24	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		right of Nichols (BP)	32.0835	-80.8717	65 days	
2	20	15		2009-11-24	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		right of beach club	32.1195	-80.8410	65 days	
3	25	18		2009-11-27	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		melrose cottage 3550	32.1143	-80.8451	62 days	
4	32	21		2009-12-07	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		melrose cottages	32.1160	-80.8440	52 days	
5	34	22		2009-12-08	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		oakridge close to susan	32.1013	-80.8574	51 days	
6	36	23		2009-12-09	Nest	Loggerhead	in situ		oakridge	32.0982	-80.8607	50 days	

http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/

Map

All activities that include a latitude and longitude are displayed on an interactive Google map. Registered users can use the map controls to zoom in and out, or click on a pin to see basic information and a link to edit each record.



Background information may be entered for each beach/project to help the public learn more about your nest monitoring efforts. An interactive Google map is available to delineate the extent of beach monitoring efforts and provide a reference map.

http://www.seaturtle.org/nestdb/