

## GARFO Master ESA Species Table - Sea Turtles

**General distribution:** Four species (loggerhead, green, Kemp's ridley, and leatherback) found throughout continental shelf and slope waters of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean; tropical to boreal waters, preferred temperatures greater than 10°C; northward and inshore movement into waters of the Greater Atlantic Region begins in the spring, with turtles arriving into Mid-Atlantic waters in mid-April/May and into Gulf of Maine waters in June; in the fall, this trend is reversed with most turtles leaving the region's waters by the end of November; outside of these times, sea turtle presence in the region's waters is considered unlikely aside from cold-stunned individuals that fail to migrate south (see below); a fifth species (hawksbill) is considered extremely rare in the region based on only a few documented occurrences and its affinity for tropical waters and coral reef type habitats

**Disclaimer:** the best available information on the presence of sea turtles in the Greater Atlantic Region is presented below; coastal/inshore areas of regular occurrence highlighted below are ones where we have information specific to sea turtle use of the area that would be helpful for action agencies reviewing proposed actions and their potential effects on turtles; however, they may occur in other coastal/inshore areas within this region for which we do not currently have specific information; for nesting individuals, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction over sea turtles when they are on land

State	Coastal / Inshore Areas of Regular Occurrence	Likely Presence	Life Stages Present	Behaviors Anticipated to Occur
ME/NH and MA (north of Cape Cod)	Cape Cod Bay	June to October/November (note: cold stunning of hard-shelled sea turtles occurs annually from October to January)		<b>Foraging</b> Loggerhead (Northwest Atlantic DPS) - Pelagic and benthic juveniles - omnivorous on bottom and surface - Sub-adults and adults - benthic invertebrates along the coast
MA (south of Cape Cod)	Buzzards Bay, Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds	May to November (note: cold stunning of hard-shelled sea turtles occurs annually from October to January)	Loggerhead (Northwest Atlantic DPS) - Pelagic and benthic juveniles, subadults, and adults	Green (North Atlantic DPS) - Juveniles - Omnivorous along coasts and in protected bays and lagoons - Adults - Herbivorous in nearshore areas
RI	Narragansett Bay and Block Island Sound		Green (North Atlantic DPS) - Juveniles and adults	Kemp's ridley - Juveniles - Benthic invertebrates in protected coastal areas
CT/NY	Long Island Sound and associated bays/estuaries (e.g., Peconic Bay)		Kemp's ridley - Juveniles only	Leatherback - Juveniles and adults - Primarily prey on jellyfish in offshore oceanic or coastal neritic areas
NY/NJ	Coastal waters off the New York Harbor Complex (e.g., Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays)		Leatherback - Juveniles and adults	
NJ/DE	Delaware Bay and other back bays (e.g., Barnegat Bay)			
DE/MD/VA	Coastal waters off Virginia Beach, coastal waters and back bays of the DelMarVa Peninsula, Chesapeake Bay, Tangier Sound, and lower portions of southern Chesapeake Bay tributaries (e.g., James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers)			

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Loggerhead (Northwest Atlantic DPS)	<b>Listing rule:</b> 76 FR 58868, September 22, 2011; <b>Recovery plan:</b> NMFS and USFWS 2008; <b>Additional references:</b> Shoop and Kenney 1992; Epperly et al. 1995a, 1995b, 1995c; Braun-McNeill and Epperly 2004; Morreale and Standora 2005; Braun-McNeill et al. 2008; Conant et al. 2009; Mansfield et al. 2009; NMFS NEFSC 2011; Griffin et al. 2013
Green (North Atlantic DPS)	<b>Listing rule:</b> 81 FR 20057, April 6, 2016; <b>Recovery plan:</b> NMFS and USFWS 1991; <b>Additional references:</b> Lahanas et al. 1994; Wynne and Schwartz 1999; Ruiz-Urquiola et al. 2010; Seminoff et al. 2015
Kemp's ridley	<b>Listing rule:</b> 35 FR 18319, December 2, 1970; <b>Recovery plan:</b> NMFS et al. 2011; <b>Additional references:</b> TEWG 2000; Morreale et al. 2007; NMFS and USFWS 2015
Leatherback	<b>Listing rule:</b> 35 FR 8491, June 2, 1970; <b>Recovery plan:</b> NMFS and USFWS 1992; <b>Additional references:</b> Bjorndal 1997; TEWG 2007; Fossette et al. 2008; Dodge et al. 2011; NMFS and USFWS 2013
Hawksbill	<b>Listing rule:</b> 35 FR 18319, December 2, 1970; <b>Recovery plan:</b> NMFS and USFWS 1992; <b>Additional references:</b> NMFS and USFWS 2013