

Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Caretta caretta



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Species Description

The Loggerhead Sea Turtle is a marine turtle with a large head and beak and a heart-shaped shell. Its head and top shell are reddish-brown, its flippers are brown with yellow edges, and its undersides and bottom shell are a light cream. On average, adults are slightly less than 1 m in length, however, most turtles observed in Atlantic Canadian waters are juveniles ranging in size from 30-70 cm. Males have long, thick tails that extend beyond the shell, while female tails are short.



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Juvenile

Key ID Features: * large head and beak * reddish-brown shell

STATUS



Endangered COSEWIC

Not Listed

SARA

Navigate the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans to feed and nest. They are observed in offshore Atlantic Canadian waters from May to October. Sighting hotspots include the Scotian Shelf, Scotian Slope, Georges Bank and the Grand Banks.

Population Range



Interesting Points

- The only hard-shelled marine turtle to regularly occur in Canadian waters.
- A shallow diver that is mostly found near the water's surface.
- Eats crustaceans, fish and jellyfish.



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Turtle release

Threats

- Threats in Canadian waters:
- Commercial fishing bycatch (primarily pelagic longline).
- Marine debris.
- Offshore oil and gas production.
- Climate change.

Learn how you can help on page 136.



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Contacts, Information, Sighting Reports & Stewardship Opportunities

Contact: DFO Species at Risk 1-866-891-0771 or xmarsara@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Info: www.sararegistry.gc.ca, www.seaturtle.org

Sighting Reports: Canadian Sea Turtle Network: 1-888-729-4667

Stewardship: Canadian Sea Turtle Network: www.seaturtle.ca