Science, Service, Stewardship

China – US Research Partnership for the Study of Marine Turtles in the Pacific Ocean

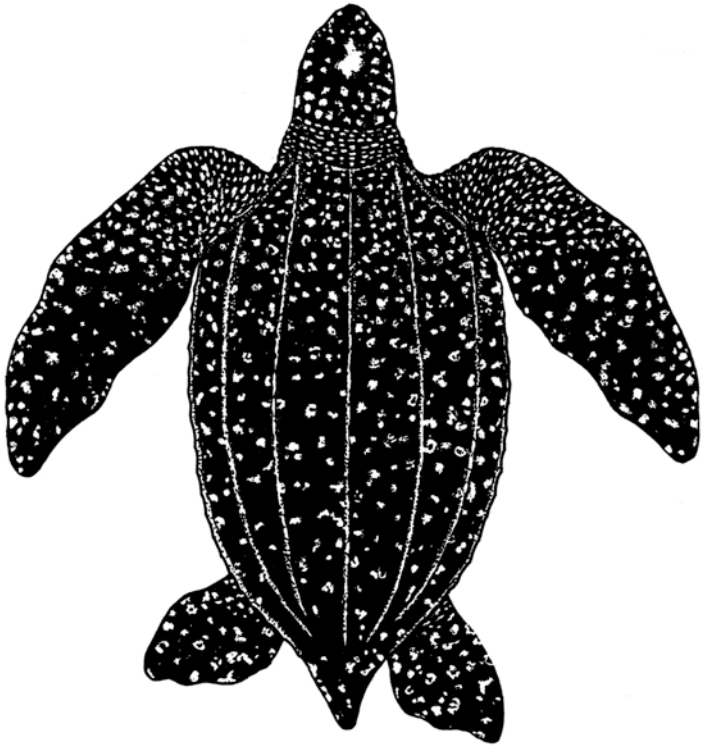
NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

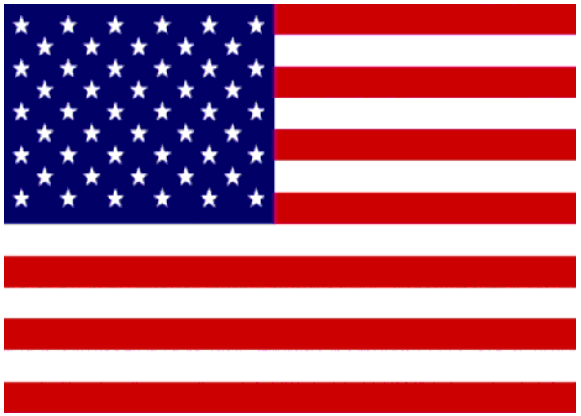
Jeffrey Seminoff & George Balazs

Collaborators: Thierry Work (USGS) & John Wang (JIMAR)

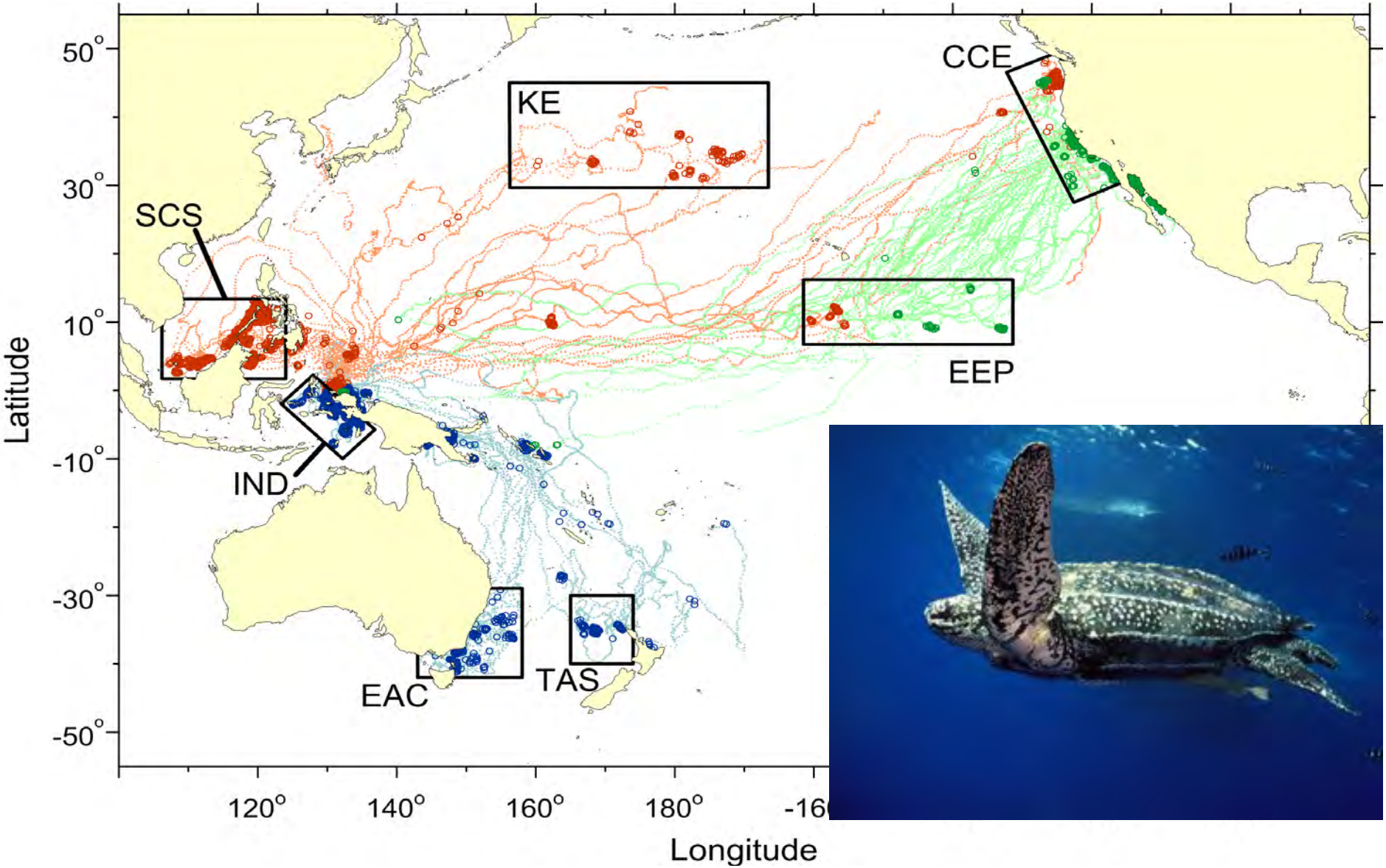
Pacific Sea Turtles

a shared resource between China and the United States



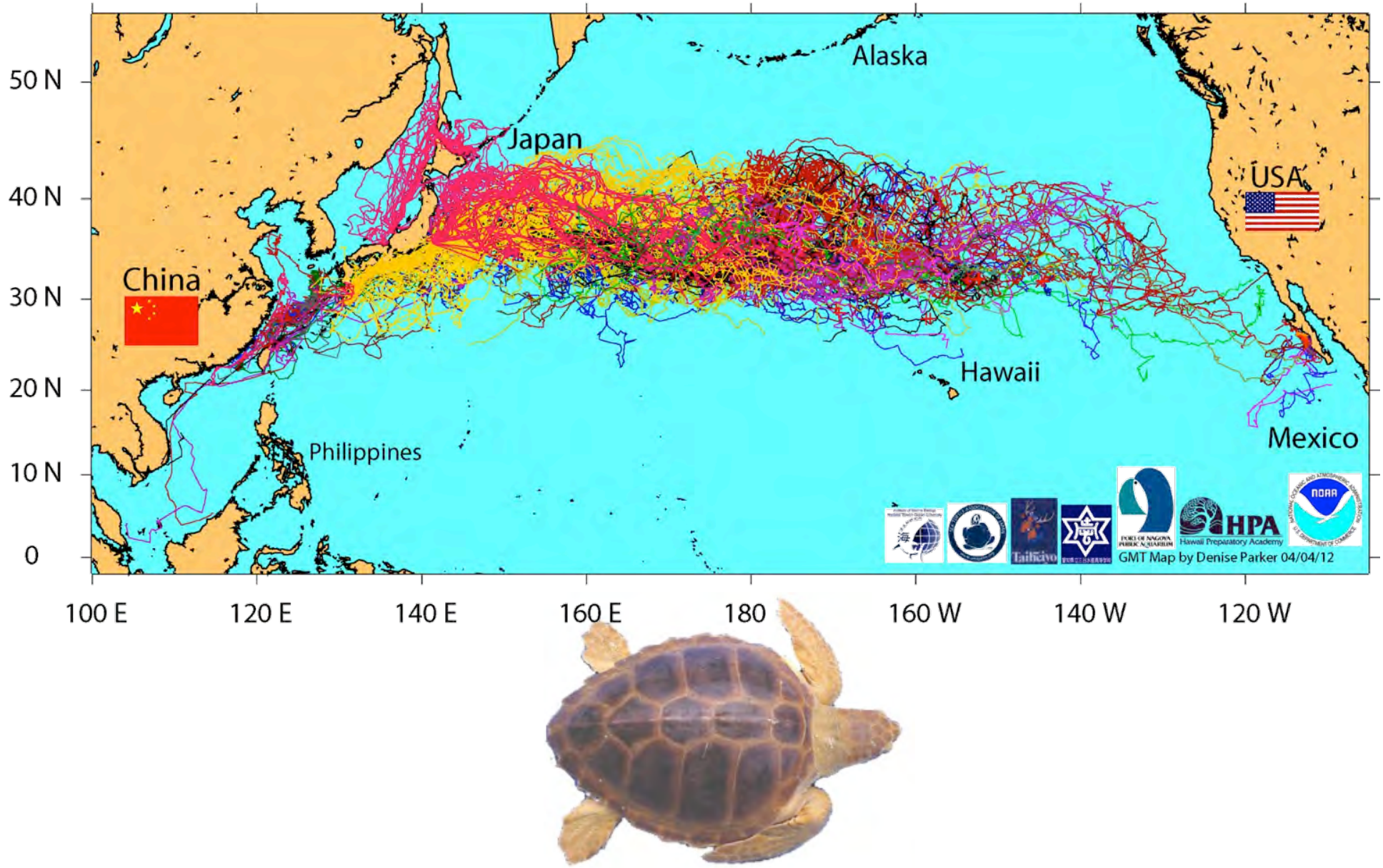


126 telemetry tracks of leatherback turtles. Circles indicate foraging behavior; dots indicate transiting behavior.



red = summer nesters, blue = winter nesters, green = deployments at central California foraging grounds.

Satellite tracks of loggerhead turtles in the North Pacific (1997-2012)



Releasing turtles at Daya Bay, Xunliao, Guangdong Province PRC to mark annual closed fishing period

Releasing Turtles for Research
海龟放流的研究机会

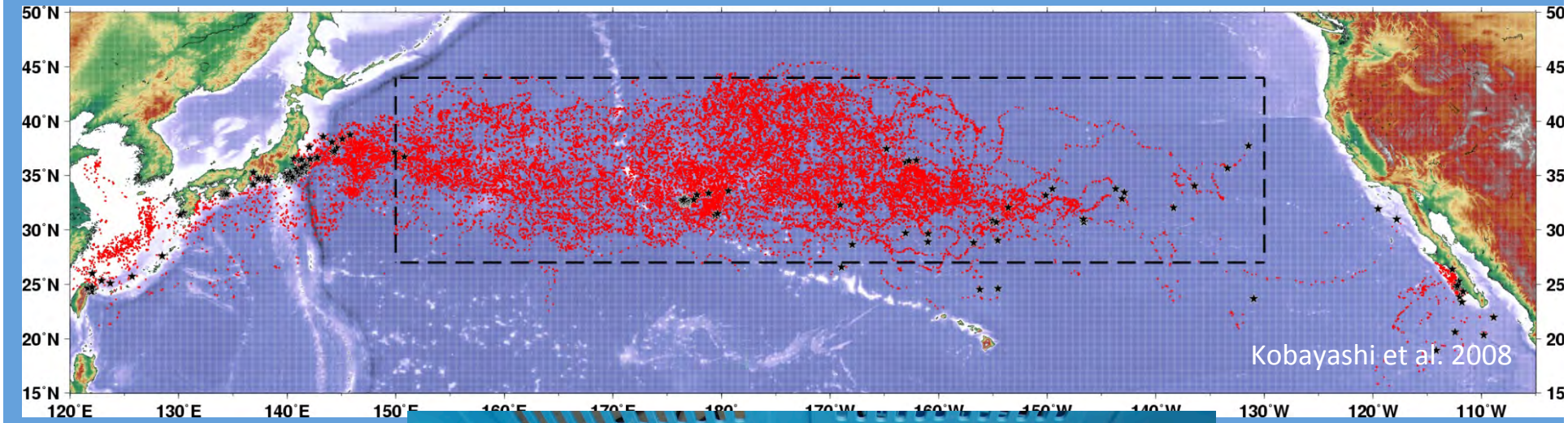
PIFSC MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH
太平洋島嶼漁業科學中心的海龜研究

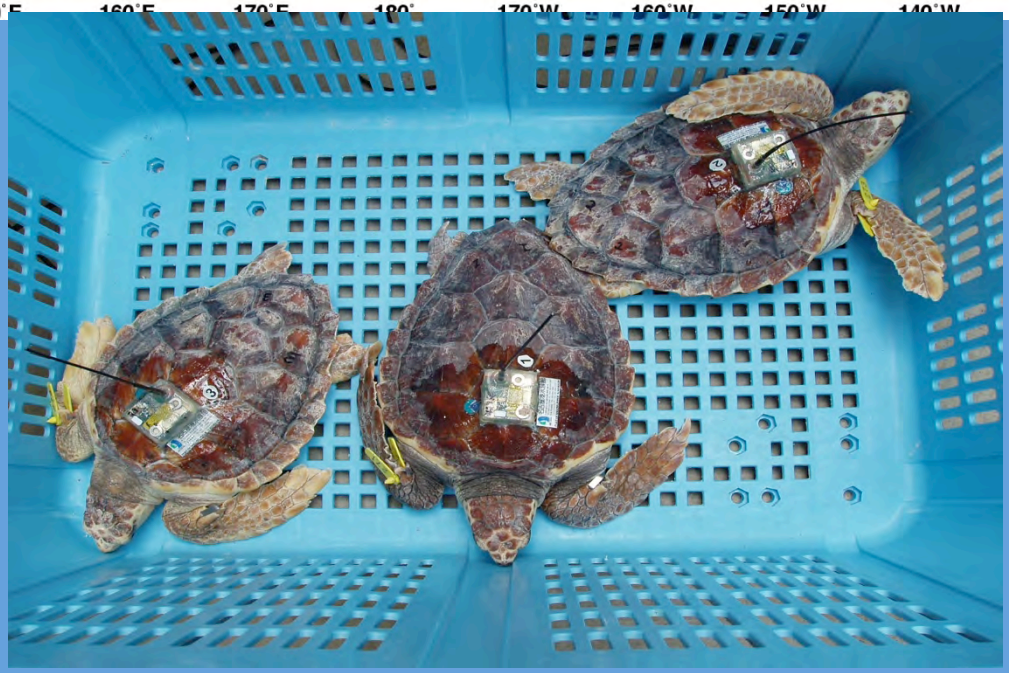
Focus of Investigations and Activities
調查與活動的重點

- Pacific Islands sea turtle biology, ecology and life history
  太平洋島嶼海龜的生物學、生態學與生命史

Satellite tracking of North Pacific Loggerheads

Principle investigator: Don Kobayashi*





Tracking with miniature transmitters

*** Dr. Donald R. Kobayashi, Research Fishery Biologist in the Ecosystems and Oceanography Division at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, NMFS/NOAA US Department of Commerce.**

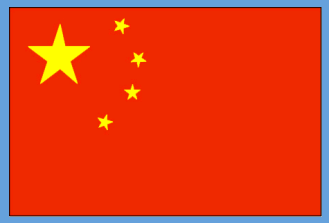
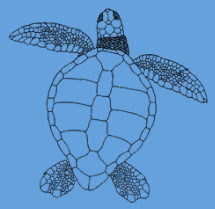
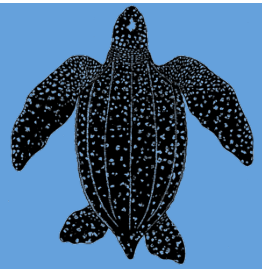
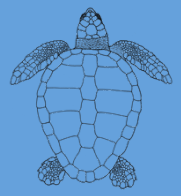
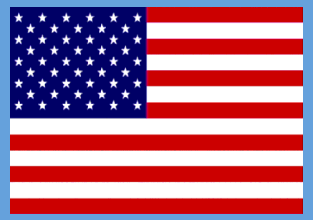
PIFSC MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH
太平洋島嶼漁業科學中心的海龜研究

- Stranding, salvage and necropsy research for long term population dynamics data collection
  擱淺、搶救與解剖研究，以長期蒐集群體的動態資料

A long-term collaboration with Dr. Thierry Work, USGS

SWFSC, La Jolla, California
Multifaceted research on leatherback turtles in the Pacific

607 kg leatherback captured during NOAA research near Monterey CA, Sep 2007

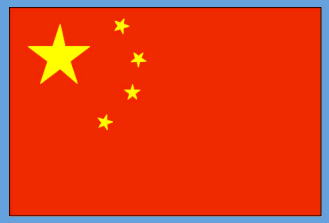
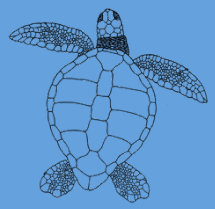
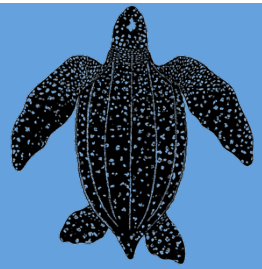
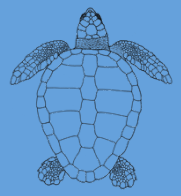
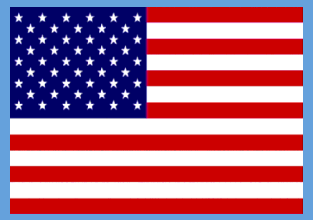
History of China-US LMR Sea Turtle Collaboration

- From 13-15 June 2011, the 8th U.S.-China LMR Panel meeting was held at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, USA.
- U.S. Turtle Scientists participated via video conference
- Dr. HUANG Honghiu presented about work of China with emphasis on the Huidong Gangkou National Sea Turtle Reserve
- During the meeting there was much discussion about China-US sea turtle research collaboration

China-U.S. Sea Turtle Workshop

Under the China-U.S. Living Marine Resources Panel

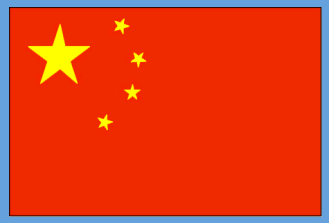
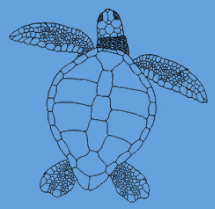
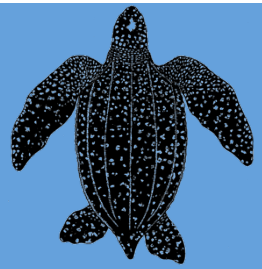
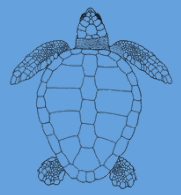
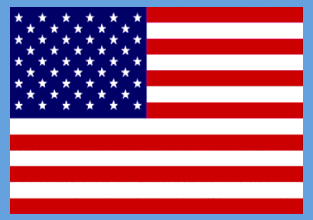
East China Sea Fisheries Research Institute
10 April 2012, Shanghai, China

China-U.S. Sea Turtle Workshop

Shanghai, China, 12 April 2012

1. Theme 1: Sea turtle conservation strategies and management issues
2. Theme 2: Sea turtle research progress and case studies
3. Discuss potential research collaborations
4. Established of a joint Sea Turtle Working Group (U.S. Leads: Jeffrey Seminoff (SWFSC) and George Balazs (PIFSC); Chinese Leads: Huang Honghui (SCFRI), and Zhang Feiyan (Gangkou Sea Turtle Reserve)

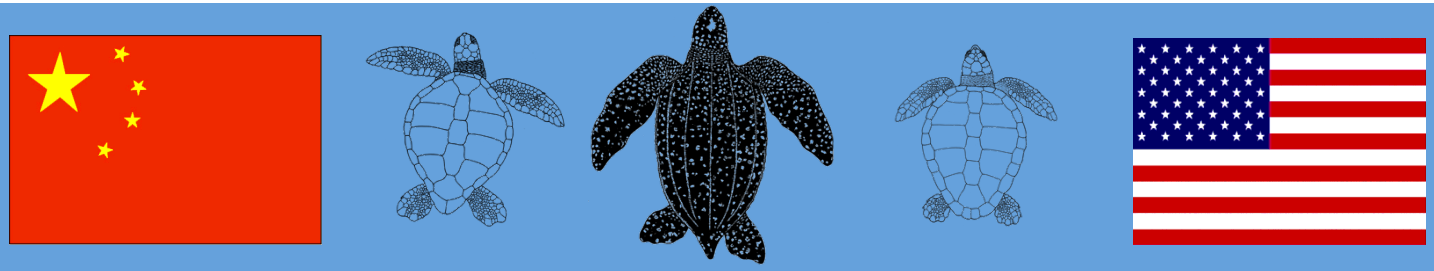






Scientist Exchange

September 2012

- In September 2012 Zhang Feiyan (Gangkou Sea Turtle Reserve, China) visited Honolulu, HI as part of a scientist exchange effort under the China-US Living Marine Resources (LMR) Sea Turtle Initiative.

- She was hosted by George Balazs and took part in a variety of activities including sea turtle necropsies, sea turtle capture, visiting important green turtle foraging areas, etc.

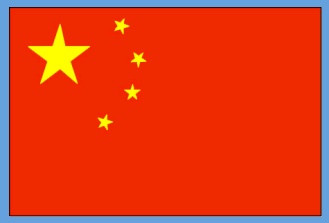
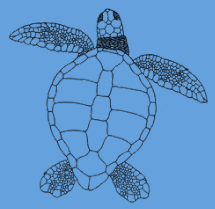
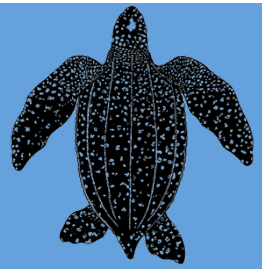
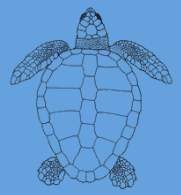
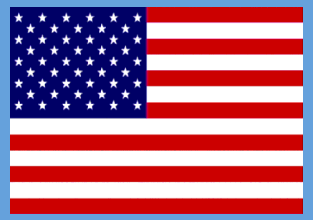


Next Steps

- We propose a joint **USA/China Living Marine Resources Workshop on Sea Turtle Foraging Ecology and Health Assessment**
- August/September 2014 for 4 days in Honolulu, Hawaii
- A variety of themes will be pursued, and among these will be training in sea turtle lavage techniques and the assessment of sea turtle health and disease, which will provide the foundation for furthering collaborative studies of sea turtle foraging ecology in China.
- We expect that additional potential collaborations will be identified that may be pursued in the future under the China-US Living Marine Resources Initiative.

Working Side by Side

A proposed USA/China Living Marine Resources Workshop on Sea Turtle Foraging Ecology and Health Assessment

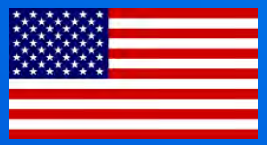






Workshop Objectives

- Methods for studying foraging ecology
- Methods used to investigate sea turtle health
- Importance of strandings and inter-agency collaborations
- Clinical assessment
- Necropsy
- Development of laboratory tools

Reef fish cleaning a green turtle

珊瑚魚正在為綠蠵龜清洗



The End

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