

KEMP'S RIDLEY RECOVERY!

With a little help from some friends!

Presented by

Carole H. Allen, Gulf Office Director
Sea Turtle Restoration Project (STRP)

Founder of HEART

(Help Endangered Animals-Ridley Turtles)

Head Start Project 1978-1993 Galveston NMFS Sea Turtle Facility



1986 HEART Open House!



Help from School Children



Teaching about the Kemp's ridleys



What is saving the Kemp's ridleys?

- Public Awareness!
- Protection of Mexican nesting beaches
- Continued release of hatchlings
- Passage of federal Turtle Excluder Device legislation and consistent law enforcement
- Public and federal vigilance including sea turtle conservation organizations

Finding eggs on Upper Texas Coast



“Smartie” goes home!



Dr. Andre M. Landry, Jr.

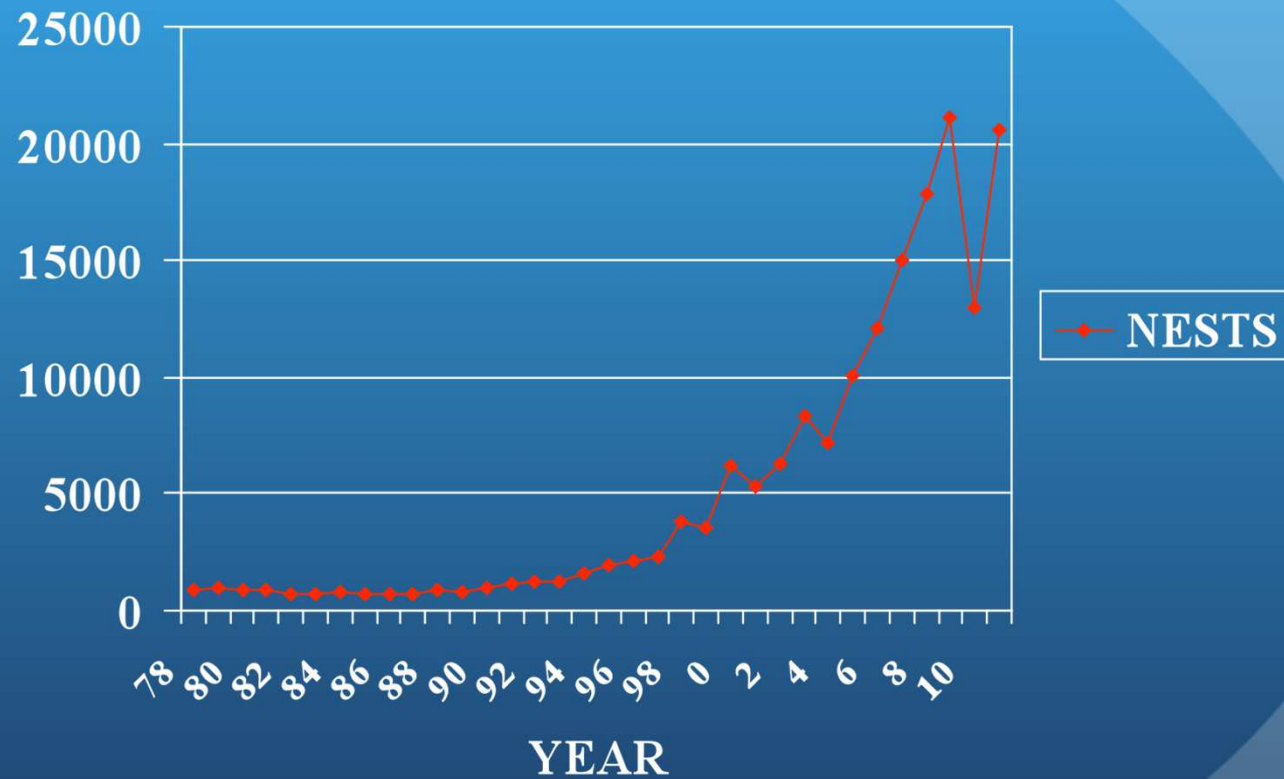




Photo courtesy of Irene Quiroga



Mexican nests 1978-2011



June 5, 2012 Mexican Arribada



Nesting increasing on the Upper Texas Coast!



STRP provides signs at Galveston beaches

Hatchlings are about 2 inches long and weigh less than 1 ounce.

Adults are 27 to 32 inches long and weigh 75 to 100 pounds.

Crying turtles aren't sad; they're releasing excess salt from glands near their eyes.

Kemp's ridleys usually nest during the daytime hours, preferring windy days.

Kemp's ridley sea turtles may live up to 100 years and don't reach sexual maturity until they are 18 to 15 years old.

With your help, she'll be back.

Lights Off
Kemp's ridley sea turtles nest during the day, but loggerhead and green sea turtles sometimes nest on the Gulf Coast. Nesting females avoid brightly lit areas. Newborn hatchlings are guided to the sea by moonlight. Please don't use artificial lighting on the beach at night.

Kemp's ridley sea turtles visit the Upper Texas Coast to nest. Females dig their nests, lay eggs, and return to the Gulf. The eggs take 45 to 60 days to hatch, at which time the baby turtles will crawl from the nest to the water.

Only one in 1,000 hatchlings will survive because of numerous natural predators, environmental threats, and human impacts such as plastics and beach traffic. Adult turtles are struck by boats and drown after becoming entangled in shrimp nets. Since we're sharing the beach with the turtles, let's help ease their journey. Vehicles must drive slowly so drivers can watch for turtles.

Look-But Don't Touch
Please don't disturb a sea turtle or her nest. If you see hatchlings on the beach or a live, injured, or dead sea turtle, immediately call 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535). You can talk with a sea turtle biologist or leave a message.

TRASH ON THE GROUND GOES INTO THE SEA AND HURTS ME

Take Away Everything You Bring Today
Trash creates lots of problems for sea turtles. They are always on the lookout for food, and a plastic shopping bag floating on the water looks to them like a jellyfish. We've found turtles with bags and other plastic debris lodged in their stomach. Even a toy left on the beach becomes a major obstacle for a tiny hatchling trying to make it to the sea.

Please help protect endangered sea turtles on Texas beaches.
During the nesting season, April through July, watch for nesting sea turtles or hatchlings. Call 1-866-TURTLE-5 (1-866-887-8535) immediately and protect the nester from traffic while allowing her to dig her nest, lay eggs, and return to the water. If possible, take photographs and stay nearby until a biologist arrives.

Thanks to the River Oaks Baptist School, Houston, Texas, for providing this sign.

866-TURTLE-5 Signs



What else?

- No more Deep Water Horizon oil spills!
- Regulations, preparations and more concern for sea turtles in case of another oil spill.
- Sea turtle rehabilitation facility on the Upper Texas Coast and coastal waters recognized as critical habitat.
- Federal agencies demand that the State of Louisiana enforce TED regulations in their state waters.
- Close loopholes in TED regulations by putting them on skimmer trawls and dropping tow times which are not enforceable.

Help Needed!



To reach me: Carole@seaturtles.org