

Project Update: May 2015

During these months we have keep on with the night patrolling and morning census and the nesting has been very low; during the last month, before closing the season, we have only observed and collected eggs from one leatherback. This could be because since leatherbacks are very pelagic and not always faithful to a certain beach that the females went to another beach to nest this year, as leatherback tracks have been reported on beaches adjacent to Ostional. It could also unfortunately mean there may be more of a decline in the population. Threats caused by humans are driving marine turtles to extinction: fisheries bycatch, climate change or ingestion and entanglement due to plastic debris in the ocean are some of the many hazards that this species are facing.

At the end of March 2015, hatchlings were emerging every few days, we were measuring and weighting a sample of turtles from each nest. We are still inputting data to determine hatchling success but several of our nests especially blacks have done well, with hatchlings numbering in the 60s. Also were months to do exhumations as after of a couple of days that the nests have hatched we were doing exhumations to see how the hatching success has been.

The project was definitely closed by end of April 2015.



Picture 1: Doing exhumation of one nest. Picture 2: Measuring baby hatchlings.



Picture 3: Leatherback hatching crawling to the sea. Picture 4: Local staff working at the hatchery.