

Project Update: February 2011

Sea turtle nesting beach surveys for 2010 began in Nevis in March and finished in mid-December. Thirty one sea turtles were encountered on the beaches with the vast majority seen on Lovers Beach. Of these, 20 were new arrivals. Most of the sea turtles that were found on the beach were hawksbills along with a few greens and one leatherback. Several leatherbacks nested on the beach but only one was observed nesting on a night patrol. The hawksbills were generally seen several times nesting on the beach since the beach patrols were stepped up during the peak hawksbill nesting period of July to October. Leatherback nesting occurs mainly between March and June when night patrols may not be as frequent as later in the year.

Lovers Beach is the main rookery on the island but sea turtles nest on several other beaches that include Jack's Bay and the Cotton Ground to Cades Bay sector of Pinney's Beach. These are the three main beaches that are monitored. A number of reasons may account for the fact that nesting is not as great at other beaches around the island. These may be due to factors such as light pollution, coastal development and high rates of poaching.

Date	Tag Number		Beach	Type of Turtle
	Front Left	Front right		
31/05/10	WH 3343	WH 3344	Lovers (Seahaven)	Hawksbill
16/06/10	WH 3208	WH 3204	Lovers	Hawksbill
22/06/10	WH 3346	WH 3345	"	"
10/07/10	WH 941	W H 908	"	"
09/08/10	WH 3348	WH 3349	"	"
17/08/10	WH958	WH914	"	"
19/08/10	WH3225	WH3224	"	"
20/08/10	WH3226	WH3227	"	"
02/09/10	WH3233	WH 3232	"	"
02/09/10	WH3235	WH3234	"	"
03/09/10	WH 989	WH 996	"	"
03/09/10	WH3238	WH3237	"	"
03/09/10	WH3239	WH3240	"	"
06/09/10	WH3348	WH3349	"	"
06/09/10	WH339	WH3242	"	"
21/09/10	WH3287	WH3286	"	Green
21/09/10	WH3250	WHWH3249	"	Hawksbill
23/09/10	WH3400	WH3350	"	"
08/11/10				

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