

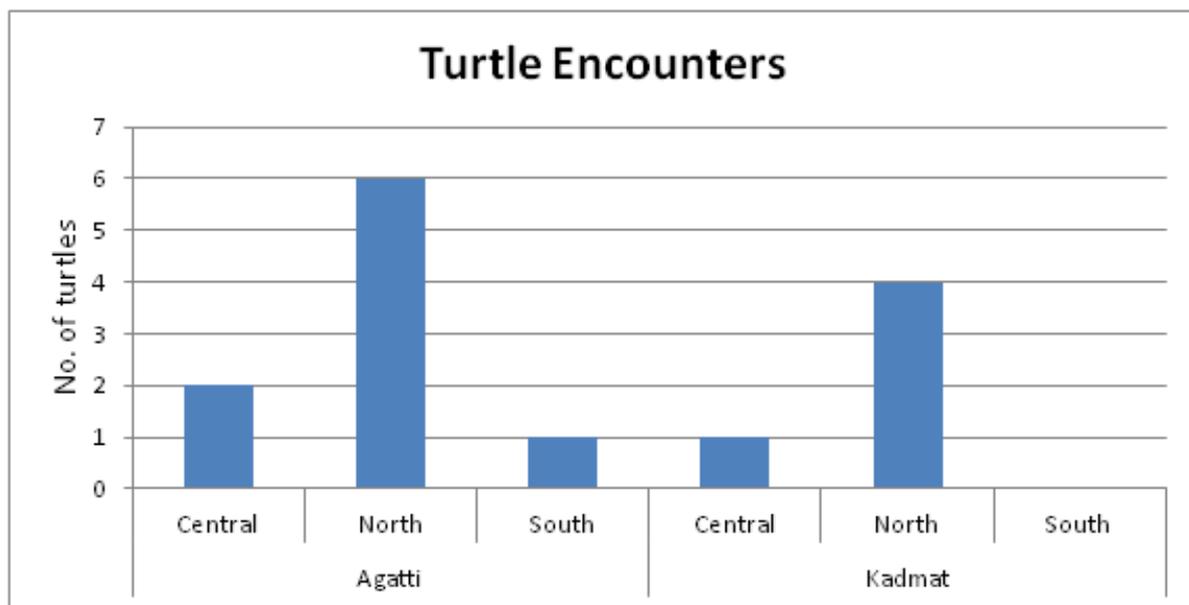
## Project Update: May 2018

Due to unforeseen delays in receiving research and entry permits to the Lakshadweep Islands, fieldwork began on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

Data collection for Agatti and Kadmat Islands has been completed for the season.

Due to the lack of permits to tag turtles, alternate methods to look at turtle-seagrass interactions were initiated, this includes determining seagrass presence and turtle densities in lagoons.

Turtle densities in both islands were observed to be low. Seagrass study showed presence of *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Syringodium isoetifolium* and *Halophila ovalis* species in Agatti and, *Thalassia hemprichii* and *Cymodocea rotundata* in Kadmat. Moreover, fisher interviews showed very little to no resentment against turtles in both islands.



*No. of turtles observed in Agatti and Kadmat by boat transects*

Currently, I am conducting surveys at Kalpeni where higher densities of turtles and seagrass have been recorded in the past.



Scattered patches of *Thalassia* sp. In Kadmat