TURTLES

FRIENDLY PREHISTORIC CREATURES

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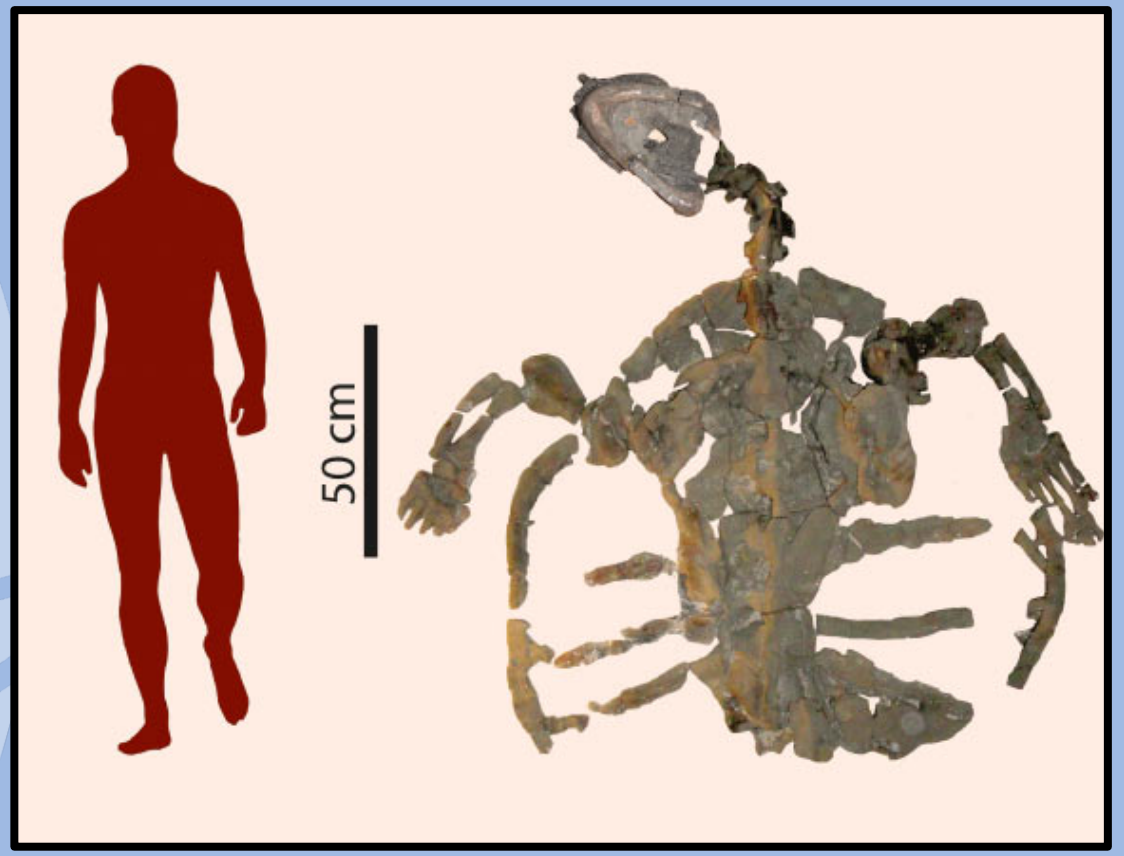
ORIGIN OF TURTLES

Earliest relative of the current existing sea turtles - *Desmatochelys padillai* from the early Cetaceous period (fossil aged at 120 million years old)

This fossil was discovered in Colombia in 2007



(Edwin Cadinas 2015)

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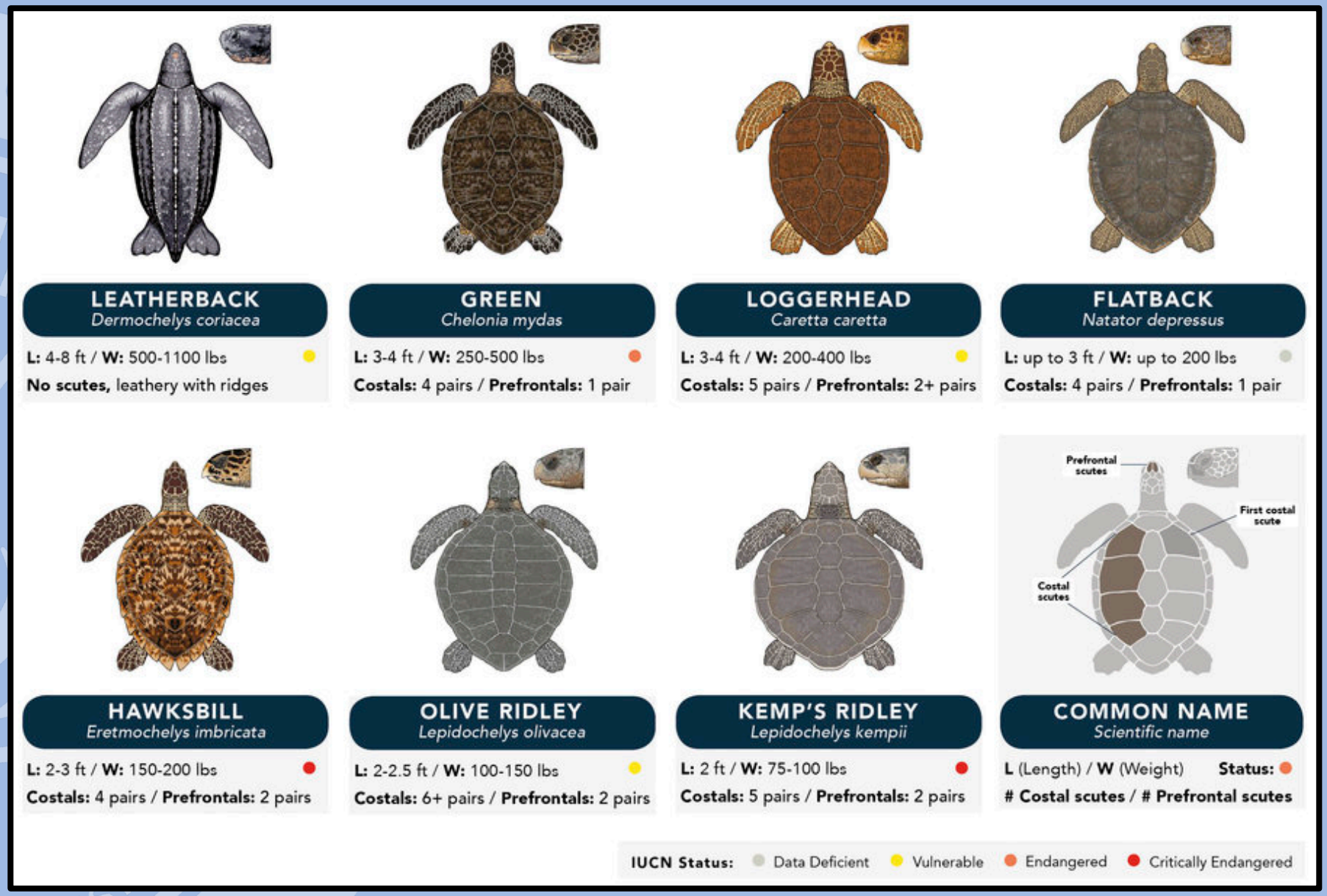
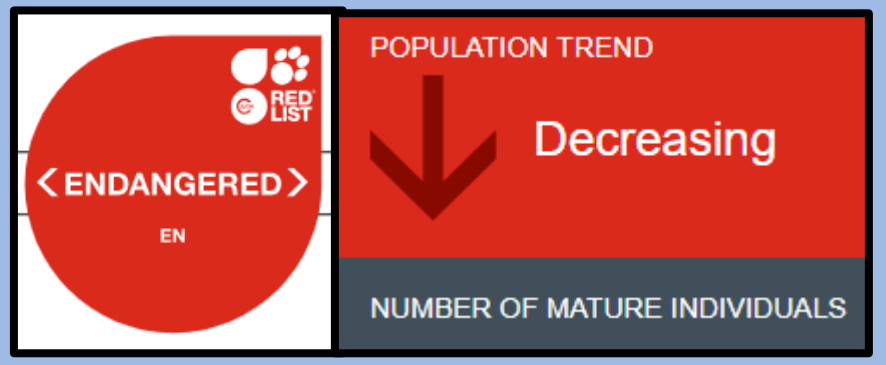
7 TYPES OF TURTLE



(diversforturtles 2019)

GREEN SEA TURTLE (*Chelonia mydas*)

- Can grow up to 1.5m in size and weigh 300 pounds
- Named after the greenish hue of their skin – comes from their adult diet of sea grass
- Omnivorous when younger
- Can reach speeds of 35mph (56km/h)
- Can hold their breath for hours – cold blooded so temperature affects their ability to hold their breath.



(Natgeo Kids, 2019, IUCN Red list 2019)

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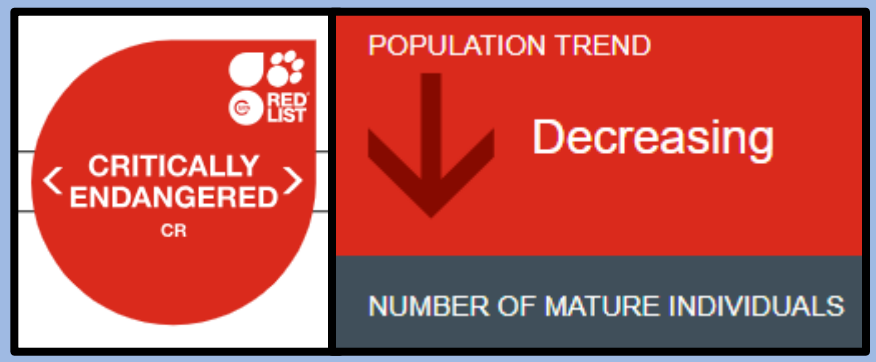
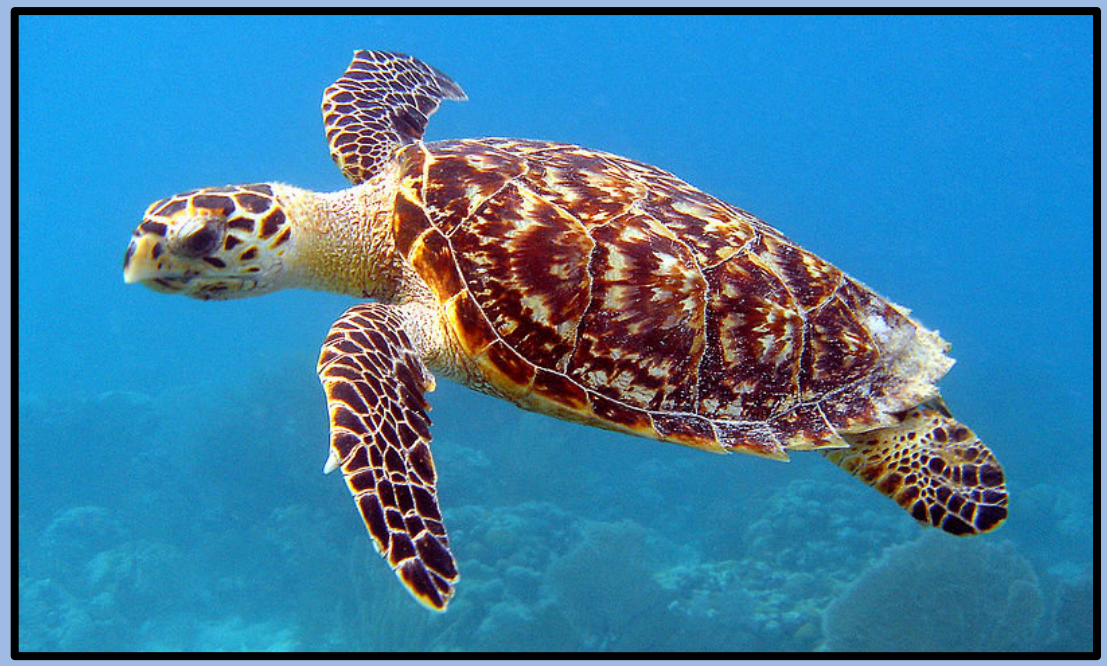
HAWKSBILL TURTLE (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

- One of the smaller turtles – can grow up to 1m in size and weigh 100-200 pounds
- Pointed shell and pointed beak
- Lay around 140 eggs per nest – can lay up to 200!
- Due to their sponge diet, eating a hawksbill turtle can be toxic for humans





(Wikimedia commons 2018, IUCN Red list 2019)

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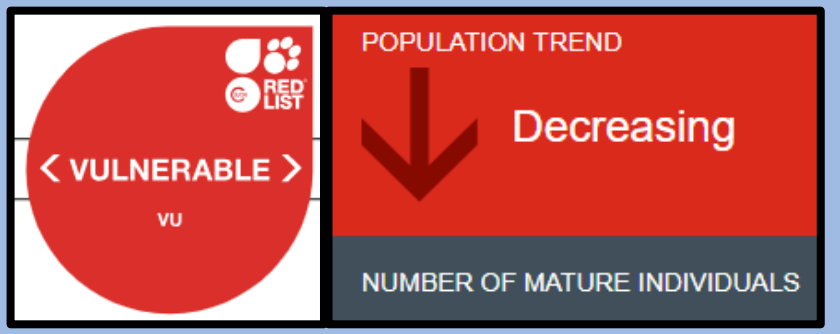
OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE (*Lepidochelys olivacea*)



- Second smallest and one of the most abundant sea turtles in the world.
- Named due to the olive green colour of the carapace.
- Shell is heart shaped
- Rarely weigh over 100 pounds
- Males have larger and thicker tails

(Bernard Gagnon, 2006, ICUN Red List 2019)

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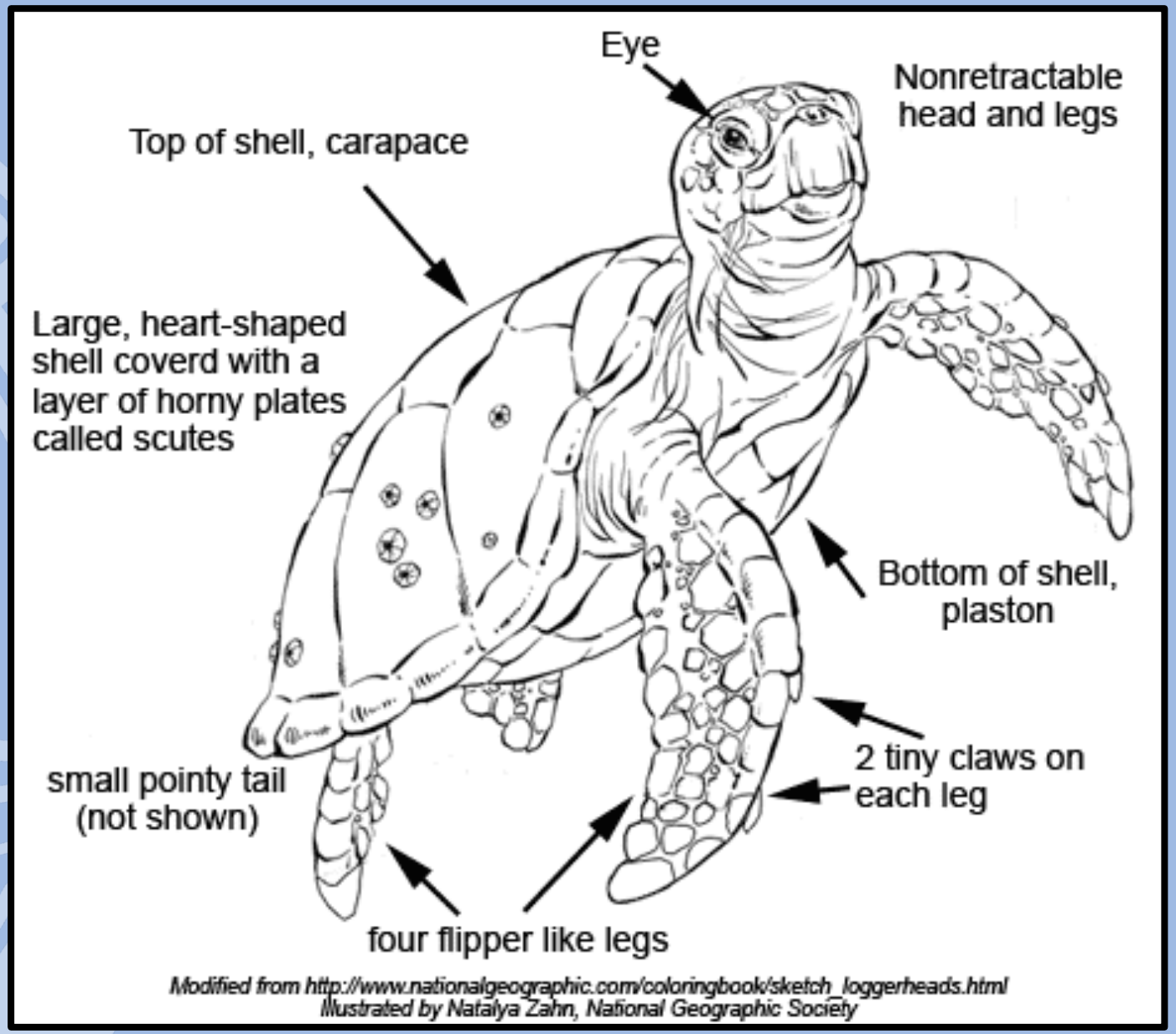
ANATOMY OF SEA TURTLE



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DIET OF TURTLES IN THE MARINE PARK

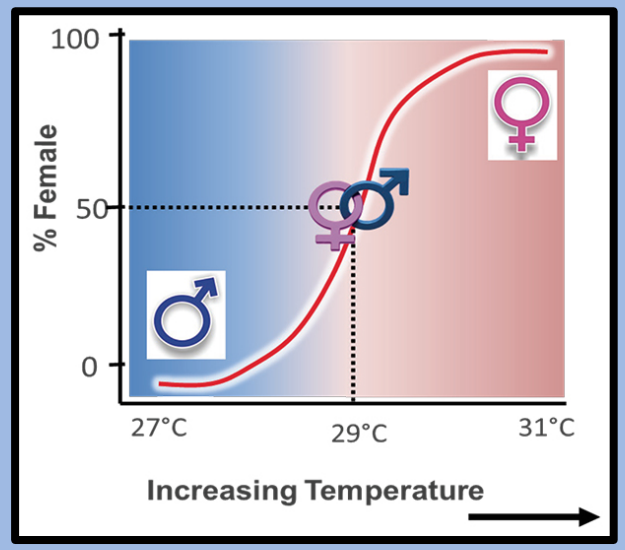
Green sea turtles start off omnivorous and become herbivores as they mature

Hawksbill turtles are omnivorous their whole lives – they can eat jellyfish, sponges, algae and crabs ect.

(Nelleke de Weerd 2019)

ALL THE SINGLE LADIES…

- Male sea turtles have longer thicker tails containing sex organs.
- Males also have additional claws on front fins to help grasp females during reproduction.
- Number of males hatching is declining – gender of hatchlings depends on temperature of nest.



(J. Wyneken & B. Tezak) *(Gaby Carias Tucker)*

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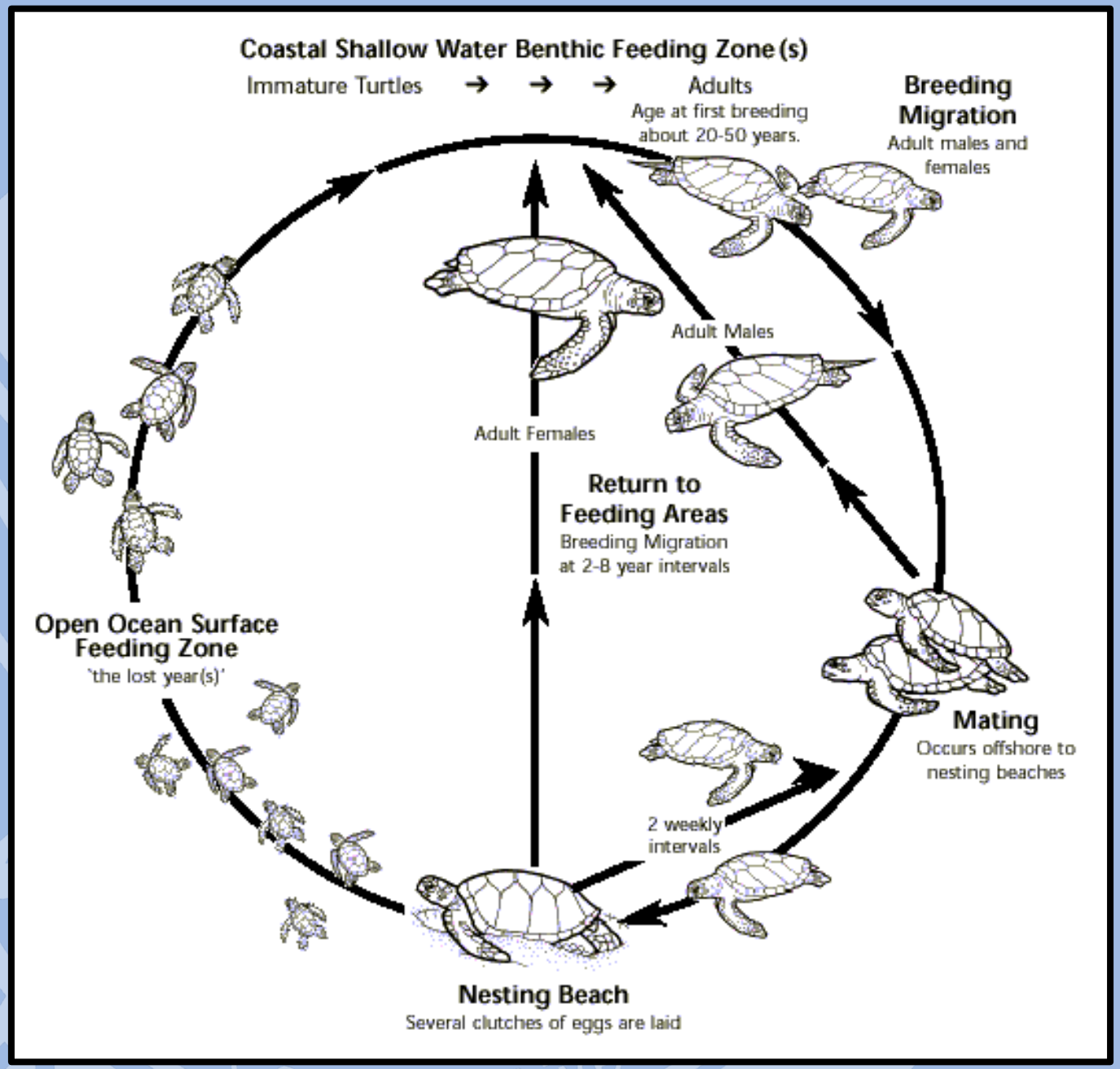


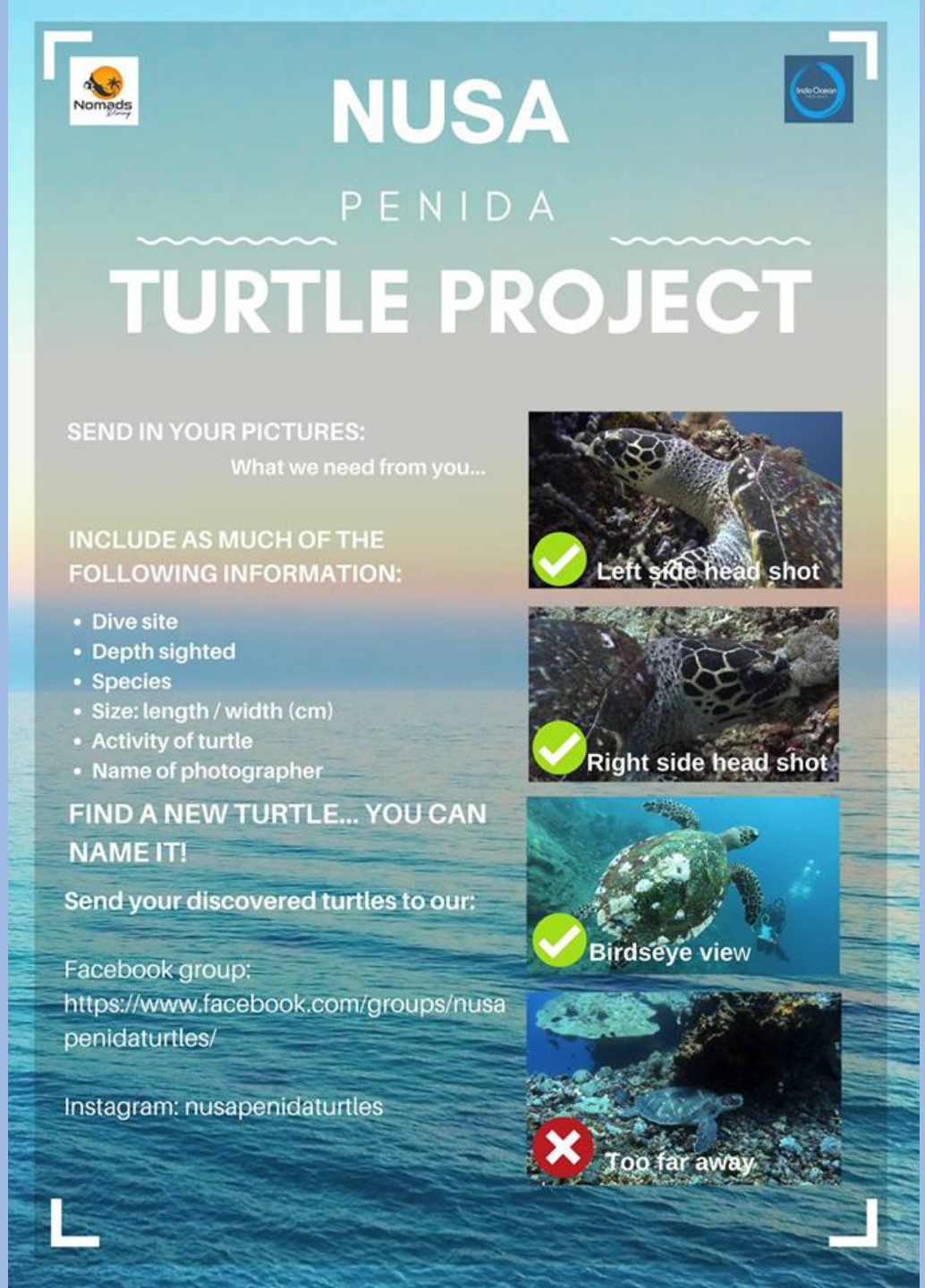
(GBRMPA 2019)

- The temperature of the nest during incubation determines the sex of hatchlings. Warm, dark sand produces mostly females. Eggs laid in cool, white sand result mostly in males and generally take longer to hatch.
- After about seven to 12 weeks the eggs hatch. The hatchlings take two to reach the surface where they emerge as a group, usually at night.
- Use the light of the moon to orientate to the ocean
- Once in the ocean, hatchlings are believed to enter regions where ocean currents meet. Here they feed on tiny sea animals are rarely seen again for 5-10 more years

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Reporting turtle sightings can aid with research!

Helps track health, numbers and lifestyle of turtles.



MEET SOME OF THE LOCALS

Beto

Wahab

Join the Nusa Penida turtle group on Facebook and submit your turtle pictures – you could possibly have the chance to name a turtle!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/nusapenidaturtles/

THREATS VS. ACTION

• Destruction of habitat	- Rebuilding projects for coral reef and mangrove
• Illegal trade of meat	- Police raids (last year Marine police in Bali seized 1540 pounds of meat
• Poaching of eggs	- Relocation of turtle eggs to hatcheries

THREATS VS. ACTION

Protected now by law, administered under the recent declaration of a Marine Protected Area (June 2014) covering Nusa Penida islands group – the nesting sites at Atuh Beach are checked regularly for any signs of these endangered marine turtle species by staff and volunteers at the FNPF Sea Turtle Monitoring Station.

Additional protection of nesting sites allows more successful hatching

(FNPF.org)

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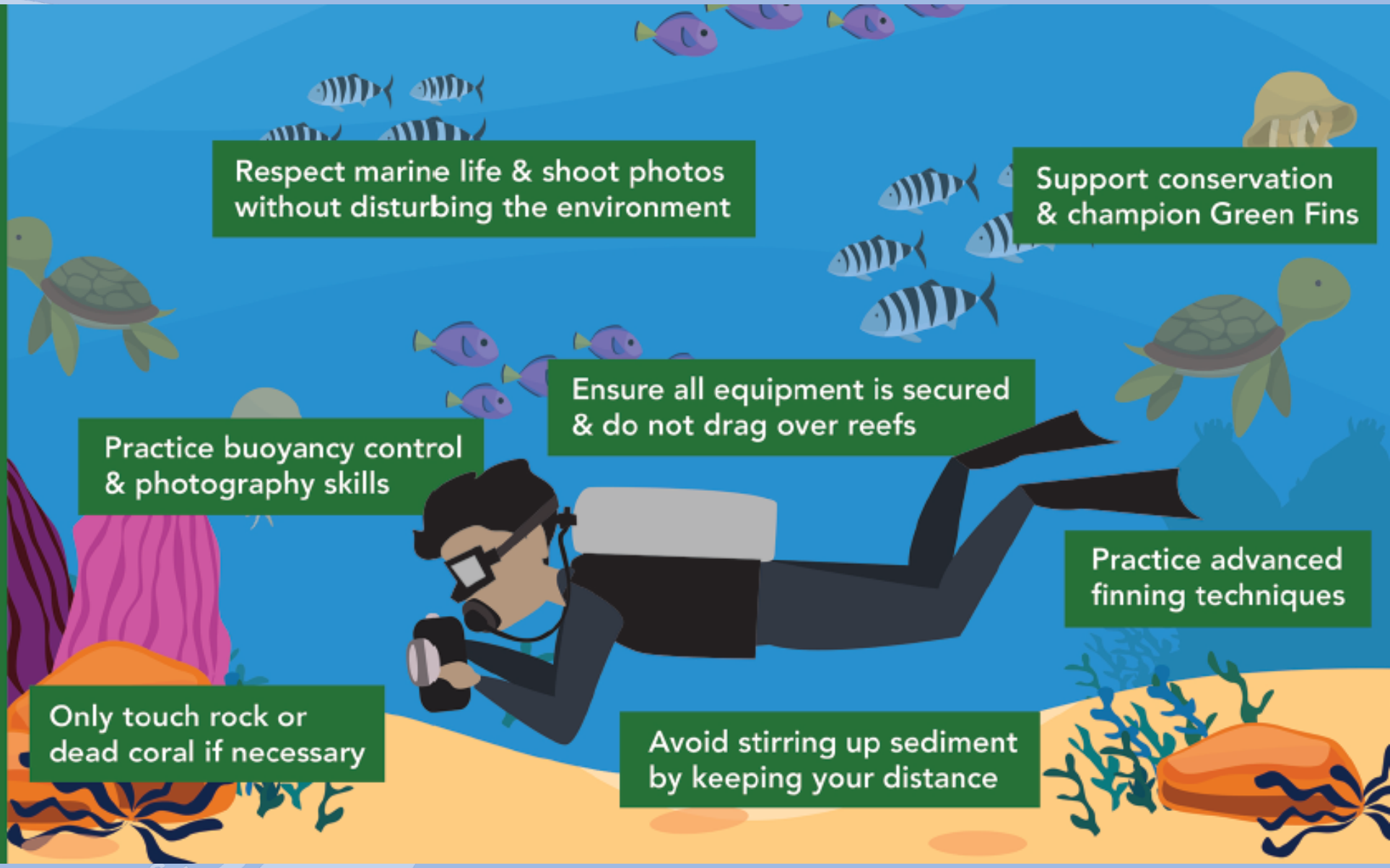
7 THINGS DIVERS MUST DO



(The Green Fins)

7 THINGS DIVERS MUST NOT DO X

(The Green Fins)

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

- https://www.facebook.com/groups/nusapenidaturtles/
- https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/world-sea-turtle-day
- https://blog.education.nationalgeographic.org/2018/01/10/all-the-single-ladies/
- https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/4615/11037468 – Green
- https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/8005/12881238 – Hawksbill
- https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/11534/3292503 – Olive Ridley

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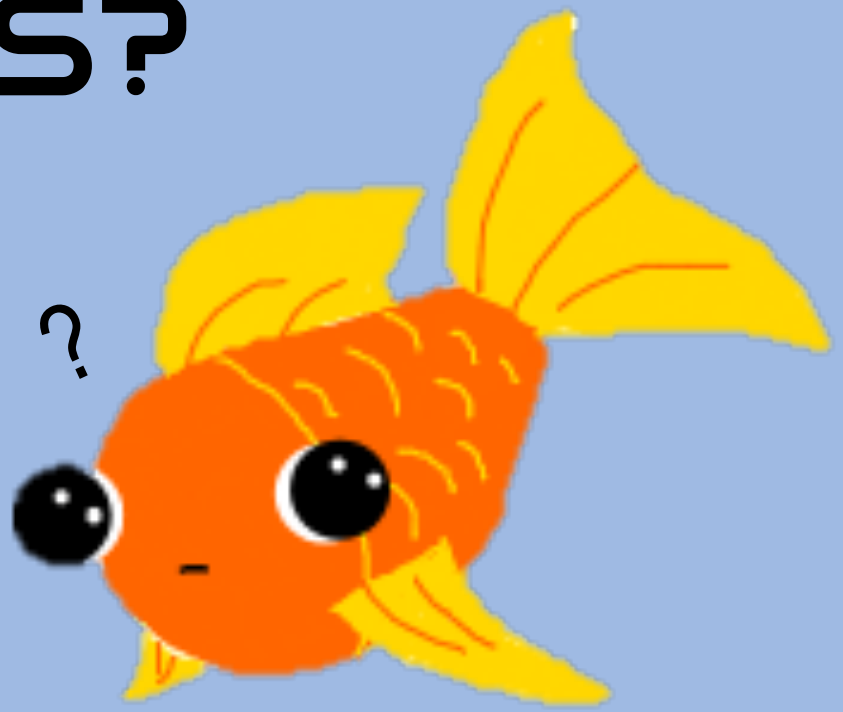
ANY QUESTIONS?



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