



LOGGERHEAD, *Caretta caretta*

Mediterranean loggerheads are the smallest specimens of this species in the world, and their nesting ranges from the Western Mediterranean to the Levantine coast in the East, with an estimation of more than 8000 egg clutches laid annually.



Loggerhead turtle population abundance (including adults) is estimated to be 1,197,087 – 2,364,843 individuals. Available data shows a positive trend of nests counts for the species.

Loggerheads can be found throughout the Mediterranean but nesting is concentrated in the Eastern Mediterranean, with the highest numbers of nests in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. Libya is probably also important but there is no recent information available. Israel and Tunisia are of secondary importance as breeding grounds, as are other countries for which there are few or no recent data, such as Egypt and Lebanon. Loggerheads exhibit consistently low nesting activity levels at sites in the Western basin in France, Italy, Malta and Spain but numbers in the Eastern Mediterranean are increasing. Egg clutches are documented annually at 25 major and 72 minor nesting sites on 926.7 km of coast, considering major nesting sites those with >20 nests/yr and >10 nests/km²/yr and minor nesting sites are those with <20 nests/yr or <10 nests/km²/yr. With an estimated clutch