

Female loggerheads are considered sexually mature at 21-34 years*

frequency of 2 nests per female per season, this corresponds to approximately 1,822 nesting females per year. Average clutch size is 110 eggs and mean hatching success is approx. 58-86%.

Loggerheads are highly migratory, with adults capable of traveling hundreds to thousands of kilometres between foraging and breeding areas at the onset and end of the breeding season (April – September). An unknown proportion of the adult female and male turtles in the foraging areas prepare for reproduction in any one year. For most adult females this preparation can take more than a year. As they develop, juveniles initially move into the open sea where they feed on macro-plankton, then gathering in coastal feeding areas before they reach sexual maturity. Loggerhead turtles are protected throughout the Mediterranean but the level and nature of protection vary between countries. The IUCN Red List considers that the Mediterranean population is increasing and is catalogued as “Least Concern” although several conservation measures are needed to maintain this status.

MAIN THREATS TO LOGGERHEADS

Juvenile loggerheads forage throughout the Western Mediterranean in open deep waters and the shallow continental shelf. In the Eastern Mediterranean, adults tend to frequent the shallow continental platform of the Northern Adriatic and the Tunisian shelf, while juveniles remain more in open waters. The main threats to loggerheads include coastal development and associated activities as well as predation in all countries where nesting occurs. Killings of turtles are reported for all countries, highlighting the probably significant impact of small-scale fisheries in addition to semi-industrial and industrial fisheries. Boat strikes, marine debris pollution and chemical pollutants all constitute additional threats to this species.

Table 5. Changes in average nest numbers per year in main nesting sites of loggerheads in the Mediterranean Sea*.

Note that sparse or occasional nesting occurs in other Mediterranean beaches.

COUNTRY	NESTING SITE	AVERAGE NESTS YR-1 BEFORE 1990	AVERAGE NESTS YR-1 AFTER 2000	CHANGE (%)
Greece	Zakynthos (Laganas Bay)	1301.3	1084.4	-16.7
	Southern Kyparissia Bay	580.7	987	+70.0
	Rethymno, Crete	387.3	275	-29.0
	Lakonikos Bay	191.9	190	-1.0
	Bay of Chania, Crete	114.9	74.8	-34.9
	Messanas Bay, Crete	53.5	46.9	-12.3
Turkey	Dalyan	166	269	+63.0
	Dalaman	73	92.1	+26.2
	Fethiye	124	89.4	-27.9
	Patara	52.5	117.7	+124.2
	Cirali	34	66.3	+95.0
	Belek	129.7	638	+391.9
	Göksu Delta	64.6	123.8	+91.6
Cyprus	Akdeniz Beaches (Morphou Bay)	59.6	84.8	+42.3
	Alagadi (Alakati)	65.7	54.1	-17.7
	East coast	40.9	48.6	+18.8
	North coast	37	37.9	+2.4
	Tafliou (Akanthou)	30.9	36.6	+18.4
	Chysochou Bay	119.8	239.1	+99.6
	West coast	57.1	96.3	+72.2
Tunisia	Kuriat Island	10.2	13.5	+32.4
TOTAL		3693.6	4667.3	+26.4

(* Based on Hochscheid et al. 2018)