

Female age at maturity is unknown but average clutch size is 114 eggs and mean hatching success 70-77%

during the first half of the 20th century but monitoring data now show an increase in nesting activity consistent with an increase in the number of mature females.

Green turtles share the same threats as loggerhead turtles, including those from coastal development, pressure from fisheries and pollution. Green turtles are legally protected throughout the Mediterranean as is the case of other marine turtle species. The species is globally threatened and is classified as "Endangered" in the IUCN Red List of threatened species (see figure at page 16).

MAIN THREATS TO GREEN TURTLE

Main threats to green turtles are similar to those affecting loggerheads, exacerbated by their more limited range in the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition to widespread regional threats such as habitat degradation, pollution, and fishing bycatch, illegal trade of both species is particularly acute in Egypt. Trade in turtle products has been reported since the beginning of the 20th century and consumption is a tradition documented since at least from the 1970s to the present, predominantly in Alexandria and Port Said. There may also be some limited consumption in other countries.

Table 6. Changes in average nest numbers per year (YR-1) in main nesting sites of green turtles in the Mediterranean Sea*. Note that accidental or occasional nesting occurs in other Mediterranean beaches.

COUNTRY	NESTING SITE	AVERAGE NESTS YR-1 BEFORE 1999	AVERAGE NESTS YR-1 AFTER 2000	CHANGE (%)
Cyprus	Alagadi (Alakati)	46	86.1	+87.2
	Akdeniz Beaches (Morphou Bay)	46	48.1	+4.6
	North coast	19.3	13.1	-32.1
	West coast	44	70.8	+60.9
Turkey	Akyatan	323	319.1	-1.2
	Kazanli	149.2	255.8	+71.4
	Samandag	56	212.3	+279.1
TOTAL		683.5	1005.3	+47.1

(*) Based on Hocheheid et al. 2015

Excavation of nest Zakynthos, Greece



Collision boat propeller in Zakynthos, Greece

