Table 3. Research and conservation priorities for the population of marine turtles in the Mediterranean.
Based on Casale et al., 2018.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES	RANK	CONSERVATION PRIORITIES
Set up long-term in-water monitoring programmes in key foraging areas to assess sea turtles abundance and population trends	1	Year-round protection of key feeding and wintering grounds
Assess distribution and level of nesting activity in all countries, including for *Caretta caretta* in Libya*	2	Continue current conservation methods at nesting areas (in situ protection, relocations, light management, etc.) and enlarge efforts on those sites with weaker implementation
Quantify bycatch (including small-scale fisheries), rates and intentional killings in key foraging areas and migratory pathways	3	Educate fishers about best practice for on-board sea turtle handling
Understand how climate change might impact sex ratios, geographical distribution and phenology	4	Develop a seasonal protection scheme through main migratory corridors
Estimate/improve estimates of demographic parameters	5	Test and Implement bycatch mitigation approaches (e.g. use of TED in bottom trawlers or LED lights in set nets)
Improve population abundance estimates and understand the connectivity and demographic implications among Atlantic and Mediterranean sea turtle populations	6	Enhance the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the designation of large trans-boundary MPAs programmes for sea turtles (e.g. Adriatic region)*
Assess the movement patterns of adults from key breeding sites	7	Develop effective monitoring programmes in pelagic and near-shore fisheries operations on incidental take of sea turtles by all Mediterranean countries.
Identify development habitats of post-hatchling and small turtles, as well as dispersal and settlement patterns	8	Continue efforts on capacity building for marine turtle conservation
Assess the movement patterns of juveniles	9	

(*) Only for *Caretta caretta*

Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*

Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*