

SCUBA News

SCUBA News (ISSN 1476-8011)

Issue 251 - May 2021

<https://www.scubatravel.co.uk>

Welcome to SCUBA News - thank you for subscribing.

Contents:

What's new at SCUBA Travel?

Creature of the Month: Loggerhead Turtle

Diving news from around the World

[Download as a pdf file](#)



What's New at SCUBA Travel?

Panama: oceans of contrast



With the Pacific ocean on one side and the Caribbean Sea on the other, Panama has plenty of diving. For the big stuff - sharks, mantas, whales, etc - hit the Pacific. For gentler diving dip into the Caribbean.

[LEARN MORE...](#)



What you need to know about diving Mauritius

Wrecks, caves, rays and sharks - but which parts of the Mauritius have the best dive sites?

[LEARN MORE...](#)



The 5 Best Biodiverse Destinations for Divers

Pick of the top biodiverse dive destinations in the coral triangle

[LEARN MORE...](#)

Bahamas Aggressor...

Conservation Adventure with the Sea of Change Foundation



Sharks, Coral & Conservation week in the Exuma Cays: measure sharks underwater with lasers.

[Get Deal...](#)

Creature of the Month: Loggerhead Turtle, *Caretta caretta*

Loggerheads are the most common turtle in the Mediterranean, but you also find them world wide. They are named for their large heads, they are in fact one of the largest turtles - second only to the soft-shelled leatherback. Sadly they are endangered or threatened throughout their range. You can identify a loggerhead by its heart-shaped shell.



Photo credit: Matt Kieffer, (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Plastic Meals

When babies Loggerheads are omnivores. As they age though, they stop eating sea grass and stick mostly to animals like crabs, whelks and jellyfish. Their liking for jellyfish is now causing them problems, as to a turtle a plastic

bag looks a lot like a jellyfish, and can even smell like one too. The smell can make the turtles seek out the plastic and they eat every sixth item of plastic that they encounter. This can leave them feeling full so they die of starvation. 80% of juvenile loggerheads in the Western Mediterranean¹¹ had evidence of plastic ingestion in a 2018 study. The more plastic they eat, the more likely they are to die. But there is a 22% chance of dying when eating just one item plastic.



Photo credit: Brian Gratwicke, (CC by 2.0)

More Plastic Problems

It's not just eating plastic which is a problem for the turtles. The accumulation of plastic debris on nesting beaches leads to baby turtles getting entangled so they can't reach the sea. Turtles also get caught up in abandoned fishing nets.

Nests and Babies

Like all turtles, adult females lay their eggs on beaches - usually on the same stretch of coastline at which they themselves were born. Some females lay as many as six clutches ranging over six miles during the breeding season. During their 50-year lifetime, a single female loggerhead will produce around 4,200 eggs and could scatter them at 40 different sites to increase the chance that some of their offspring will survive.

When the babies hatch, they scramble off the beach towards the sea. Hatchlings and juveniles spend the first 7 to 15 years of their lives in the open ocean. Then they migrate to nearshore coastal areas where they will forage and continue to grow for several more years. Adult female loggerhead turtles, at 20 (USA) to 35 (Australia) years, migrate hundreds or thousands of kilometres from there to their nesting beaches. They find their way back to nesting beaches by looking for unique magnetic signatures along the coast. Turtles likely go to great lengths to find the places where they began life because successful nesting requires a combination of environmental features that are rare: the right temperature, few predators and an easily accessible steeply sloping beach.





Protecting the Turtles

We all love to see a turtle on a dive. Luckily many more efforts are now being made around the world to protect them. We can all help be [reducing our plastic use](#) and taking part in beach and sea litter picking. But we need governments to do their bit as well.

Further Reading

[Where do baby loggerhead turtles go in their lost years?](#)

[Loggerhead turtles lay eggs in several locations to help hatchlings survive](#)

[Loggerhead turtles home in on nests magnetically](#)

[Sea turtles feeding habits influence reaction to marine debris](#)

[Why plastic is a deadly attraction for sea turtles](#)

[A quantitative analysis linking sea turtle mortality and plastic debris ingestion](#)

Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



Galapagos Darwin's Arch collapses

Darwin's Arch, a rock formation south-east of Darwin Island and popular dive site, has collapsed due to natural erosion, Ecuador's environment ministry said.



Sharks use Earth's magnetic fields to guide them like a map

A shark can swim 20,000 kilometers round trip in a three-dimensional ocean and get back to the same site



SHEBA unveils world's largest coral restoration program



Cat food brand SHEBA has begun work on the world's largest coral restoration program, which aims to restore more than 185,000 square meters of coral reefs around the world by 2029.



Orcas stripping long-line fishers of catch in the Southern Ocean

Once an occasional nuisance, the largest member of the dolphin family is now consistently finding, following, and feasting on fish brought in by long-line fishing vessels.



Tiny self-propelling submarines could help clean up toxic waste

Tiny tubes about 10 micrometres long can propel themselves using only sunlight and can be steered by magnetic fields. These microrobots could be useful for cleaning up toxic waste.



Vital Step to Protect Oceanic Whitetip Sharks

Critically endangered oceanic whitetip sharks would benefit from gear restrictions for longline fisheries in the Pacific.



Sea Squirts help study microplastics in the ocean

Scientists use marine sea squirts to detect, count and characterise nanoplastics.

SCUBA News is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Unported License. This means we are happy for you to reuse our material for both commercial and non-commercial use as long as you: credit the name of the author, link back to the SCUBA Travel website and say if you have made any changes. Some of the photos though, might be copyright the photographer. If in doubt please get in touch.

Photo credits: Tim Nicholson, Jill Studholme

Previous editions of SCUBA News are archived at <https://www.scubatravel.co.uk/news.html>

UNSUBSCRIBING

Visit [%%unsubscribelink%%](#) to remove yourself from the mailing list. Any problems contact news@scubatravel.co.uk.

ADVERTISING

Should you wish to advertise in SCUBA News, please see the special offers at

<https://www.scubatravel.co.uk/newsad.html>

Other advertising opportunities are at

<https://www.scubatravel.co.uk/advertising.html>

CONTACTING THE EDITOR

Please send your letters or press releases to:

Jill Studholme

SCUBA News

The Cliff

Upper Mayfield

DE6 2HR

UK

news@scubatravel.co.uk

PUBLISHER

SCUBA Travel Ltd, 5 Loxford Court, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6AF, UK