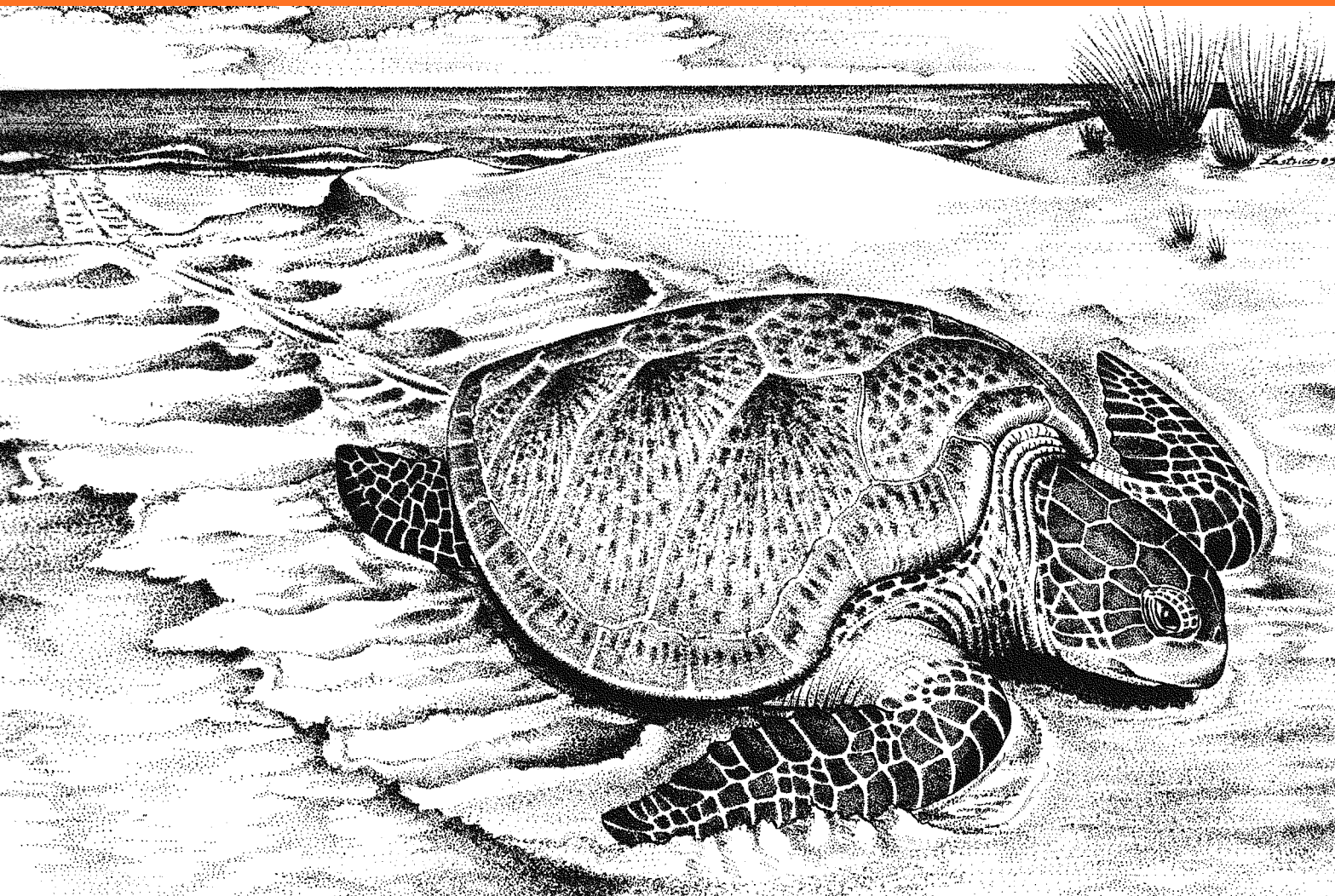




FAO SPECIES CATALOGUE

VOL. 11. SEA TURTLES OF THE WORLD

AN ANNOTATED AND ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE
OF SEA TURTLE SPECIES KNOWN TO DATE



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VOL. 11 SEA TURTLES OF THE WORLD

An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue
of Sea Turtle Species Known to Date

prepared by

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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Their high commercial value and traditional role as a basic protein source for many riparian peoples in tropical and subtropical areas place sea turtles among the marine resources groups of major interest to fisheries. On the other hand, they also have become part of the rapidly increasing group of marine animals that are seriously threatened by over-exploitation and other man-related disturbances.

The present catalogue is an attempt to present a global synthesis of the information on sea turtle species scattered in many specialized publication series and thus facilitate the work of fishery officers and environmentalists towards management, farming and protection of these fascinating and delicate animals.

The author has collaborated with FAO for many years in the preparation of species identification sheets for sea turtles from various marine fishing areas, e.g. the Western Central Atlantic, the Eastern Central Atlantic, the Western Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean/Black Seas. For the past 20 years, he has been actively engaged in research programmes, as well as in management, protection and farming activities, both in the framework of the IUCN and of the Instituto Nacional de la Pesca of Mexico. He is currently the Coordinator of the Mexican National Research Programme on Sea Turtles of the Secretaria de Pesca of México, member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the IUCN and President of the Ad Hoc Commission for the Investigation of the Sea Turtles of the American Pacific.

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ABSTRACT

This is the eleventh issue in the FAO series of worldwide annotated and illustrated catalogues of major groups of organisms that enter marine fisheries. The present volume includes 8 sea turtle species belonging to 2 families and 6 genera. It comprises an introductory section with general remarks on habitat and fisheries of the families, a glossary of technical terms used, an illustrated key to genera, and detailed accounts on all species. Species accounts include drawings, scientific and vernacular names, information on habitat, biology and fisheries, and a distribution map. Lists of nominal species in the families, a table of species by major marine fishing areas and colour plates follow the species accounts. The work is fully indexed and there is ample reference to pertinent literature.

Distribution

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FAO Fisheries Department
FAO Regional Fisheries Officers
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Selector Global Species Catalogues