SEA TURTLES
TECHNICAL TERMS AND PRINCIPAL MEASUREMENTS
(Straight-line distances)

- head length
- prefrontal scales
- precentral scute
- central (neural) scutes (C1-C5)
- lateral (costal) scutes (L1-L5)
- total length
- marginal scutes
- postcentral scutes
- carapace width

Dorsal view of a juvenile sea turtle (Family CHELONIIDAE)

Dorsal view of a sea turtle (Family DERMOCHELYIDAE)

Ventral view of a juvenile sea turtle (Family CHELONIIDAE)
**Caretta caretta** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names**: En - Loggerhead turtle; Fr - Tortue caouane; Sp - Tortuga cahuama.

**Size**: 125 cm (carapace length), common to 110 cm.

**Habitat**: enters brackish water estuaries, but also found in the open sea; migratory.

**Remarks**: adults, nestlings and eggs protected by law in many countries.

**Loc. name(s)**:

- more than one pair of prefrontal scales

**Chelonia mydas** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names**: En - Green sea turtle; Fr - Tortue verte; Sp - Tortuga blanca.

**Size**: 105 cm (carapace length), common to 90 cm.

**Habitat**: shallow coastal waters over vegetated bottoms.

**Remarks**: adults, nestlings and eggs are protected by law in many countries.

**Loc. name(s)**:

- 1 pair of prefrontal scales

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**SEA TURTLES**

**CHELONIIDAE**

- 2 claws
- 5 lateral scutes
- 3 inframarginal scutes without pores

- 1 claw
- 4 lateral scutes
- 4 inframarginal scutes without pores

- lower jaw
- head
- carapace
- plastron
**Eretmochelys imbricata** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names:** En - Hawksbill turtle; Fr - Tortue caret; Sp - Tortuga de carey.

**Size:** 90 cm (carapace length), common to 80 cm.

**Habitat:** Coastal waters, including shallow vegetated bottoms as well as bays and lagoons with muddy and coralline bottoms lacking extensive beds of submarine vegetation.

**Remarks:** Adults, nestlings and eggs are protected by law in some countries.

**Loc.name(s):**

**Lepidochelys olivacea** (Eschscholtz, 1829)

**FAO names:** En - Olive ridley turtle; Fr - Tortue olivâtre; Sp - Tortuga golfina.

**Size:** 75 cm (carapace length).

**Habitat:** Shallow coastal waters as well as in the open sea forming schools.

**Remarks:** Adults, nestlings and eggs are protected by law in many countries.

**Loc.name(s):**
**Dermochelys coriacea coriacea** (Linnaeus, 1758)

**FAO names** :
- **En** - Leatherback turtle; **Fr** - Tortue luth; **Sp** - Tortuga laud.

**Size** : ca 260 cm (carapace length), common to 180 cm.

**Habitat** : pelagic and highly migratory.

**Remarks** : adults, hatchlings and eggs are protected in some countries.

**Loc.name(s)** :
- no scales
- dorsal ridges
- head
- carapace
- plastron