

# Anguilla's Sea Turtles

## Sea Turtles: the facts

- Sea turtles date back millions of years: the oldest sea turtle fossil found dates back about 150 million years.
- Sea turtles travel thousands of miles every year - leatherbacks can travel over 10,000 miles in a year.
- The largest turtles are leatherbacks - growing to over 6ft in length and weighing over 2,000lbs.
- Depending on the turtle species, females will lay up to 150 eggs every time they nest and they can nest up to 8 times in a single year. Turtles don't lay eggs every year though - their nesting cycle is between 2 and 5 years. But only 1 in a 1000 hatchlings will make it to adulthood.
- During egg incubation, sex is determined by the temperature of the surrounding environment. Warm temperatures tend to produce more female hatchlings while cooler temperatures result in more males.
- Humans are the greatest threat to sea turtles, from entanglement in nets, habitat loss, and consumption of their eggs and meat. All three species of sea turtles found in Anguilla's waters are endangered.

## Anguilla's Dinosaurs of the Ocean

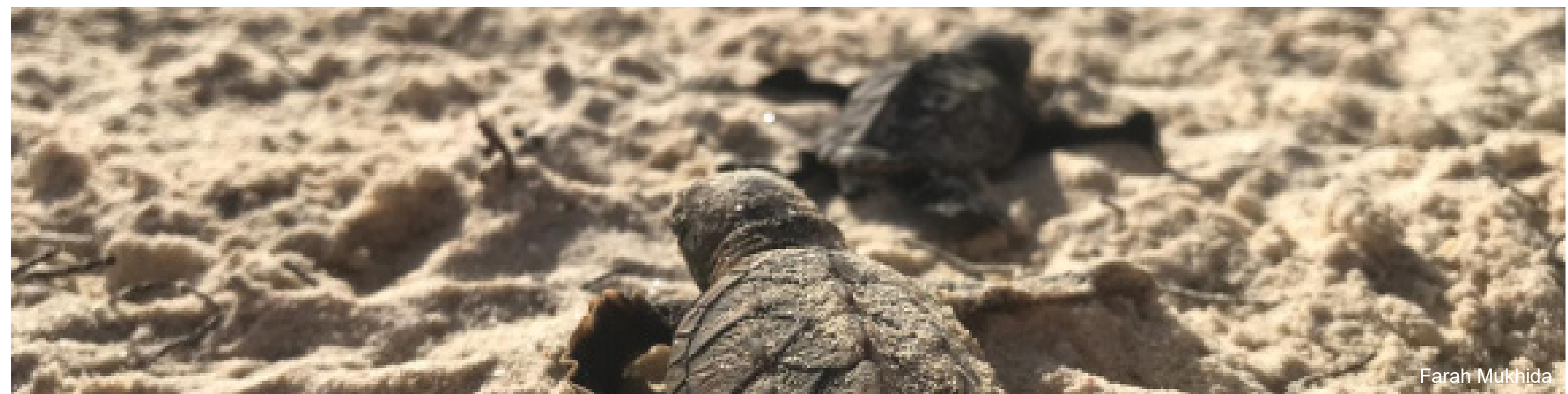
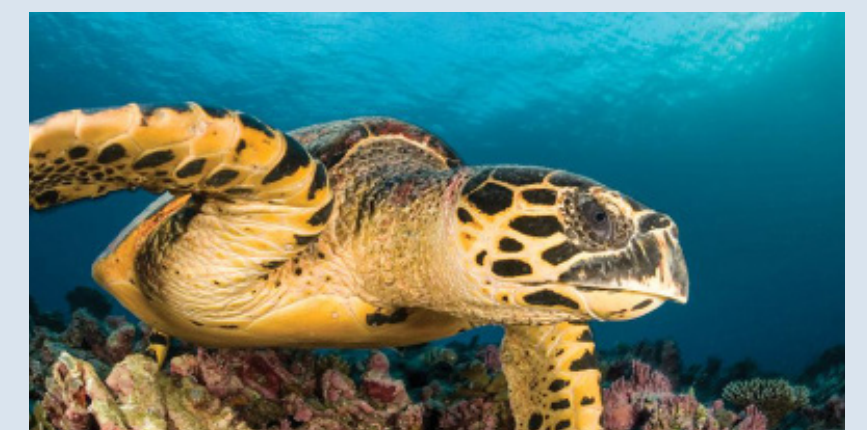
**Leatherback sea turtle *Dermochelys coriacea***  
The largest of all the turtles - they can grow up to 2m long and when fully grown are heavier than 11 adult humans! Their favourite food is jellyfish.



**Green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas***  
This species can grow up to 1.2m in length and are named for the green layer of fat that grows under their shells. Their favourite food is seagrass.



**Hawksbill sea turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata***  
One of the smallest turtles - they grow up to 0.9m in length. They are named for their beak-like mouth that they use to graze on sponges growing on coral reefs.



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