



DNR

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Marine Turtle Conservation Program is participating in a multi-state project along with Georgia and North Carolina to answer several basic loggerhead sea turtle nesting questions. The answers to these questions will help biologists better understand how the loggerhead population is doing. Currently, the actual number of loggerhead sea turtles that nest in South Carolina is not known. By collecting an egg from every single nest, we will use DNA genetic fingerprinting (CSI for sea turtles) to identify individual loggerhead nesting females. This information will provide a census of the actual nesting population.

In addition to estimating how many females are nesting in South Carolina each year, we also have the potential to answer the following questions:

- How many clutches of eggs does each nesting female lay in a year?
- Is the female nesting on more than one beach?
- How far apart are her nests?
- How many turtles are nesting in more than one state?
- Most individual females do not nest every year. How often does each turtle nest: every two years, three years, four or more years?
- How precisely does a daughter return to her hatching site to lay her eggs?
- For more specific information, please visit: <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/volres/genetics.pdf>



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