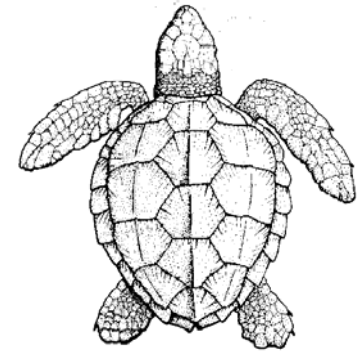
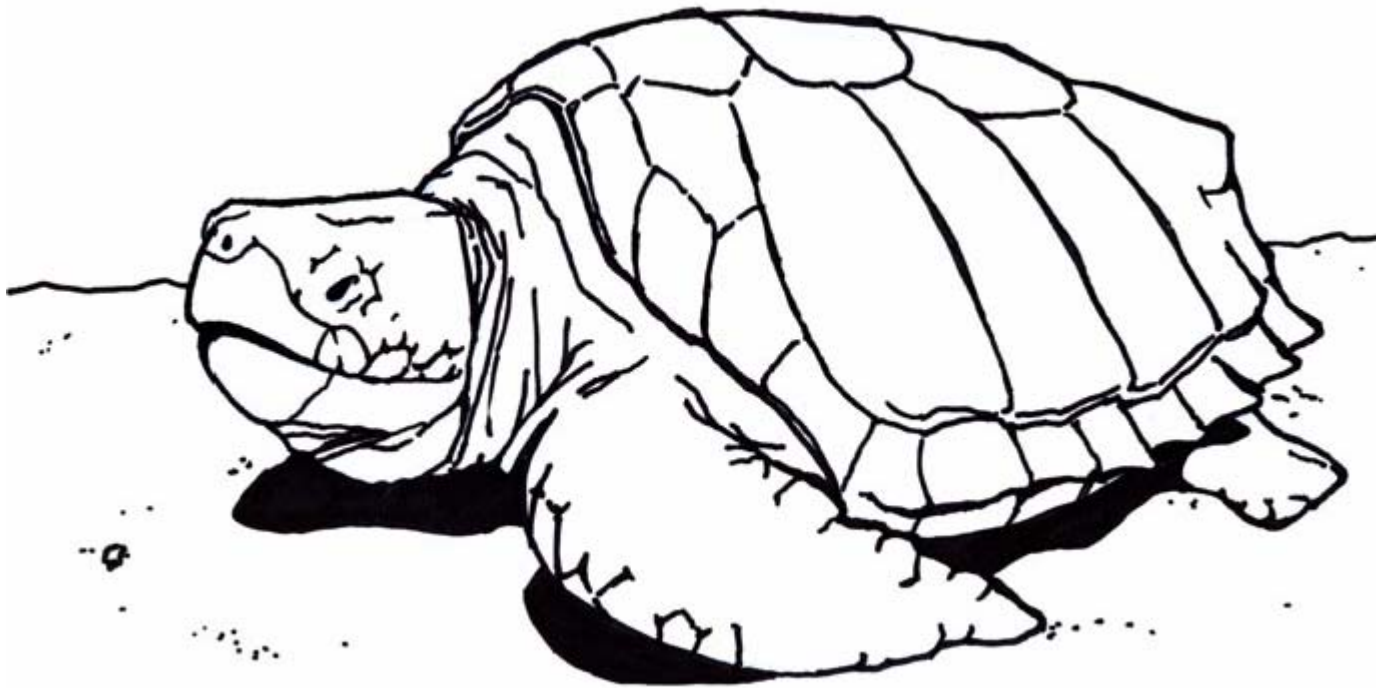


Loggerhead Turtle



Loggerhead Turtle

Status

Threatened - throughout its range

Taxonomy

Class: Reptilia

Order: Testudines

Family: Cheloniidae

Genus: Caretta

Species: caretta

The loggerhead is named for its large head which supports its blunt, powerful jaws. The *carapace* (top shell) and flippers are a reddish-brown color; the *plastron* (bottom shell) is yellow.

A loggerhead hatchling averages 1.8 inches (45 mm) in length and weigh approximately 0.04 pounds. Adults loggerheads grow to an average weight of about 200 pounds.

Loggerhead turtles like to feed on mollusks, crustaceans, fish, and other marine animals.

Loggerhead turtles live in temperate and tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans.

The Loggerhead is the most abundant species of sea turtle found in United States coastal waters.