

# SEA TURTLES OF THE WORLD



## LEATHERBACK *Dermochelys coriacea*

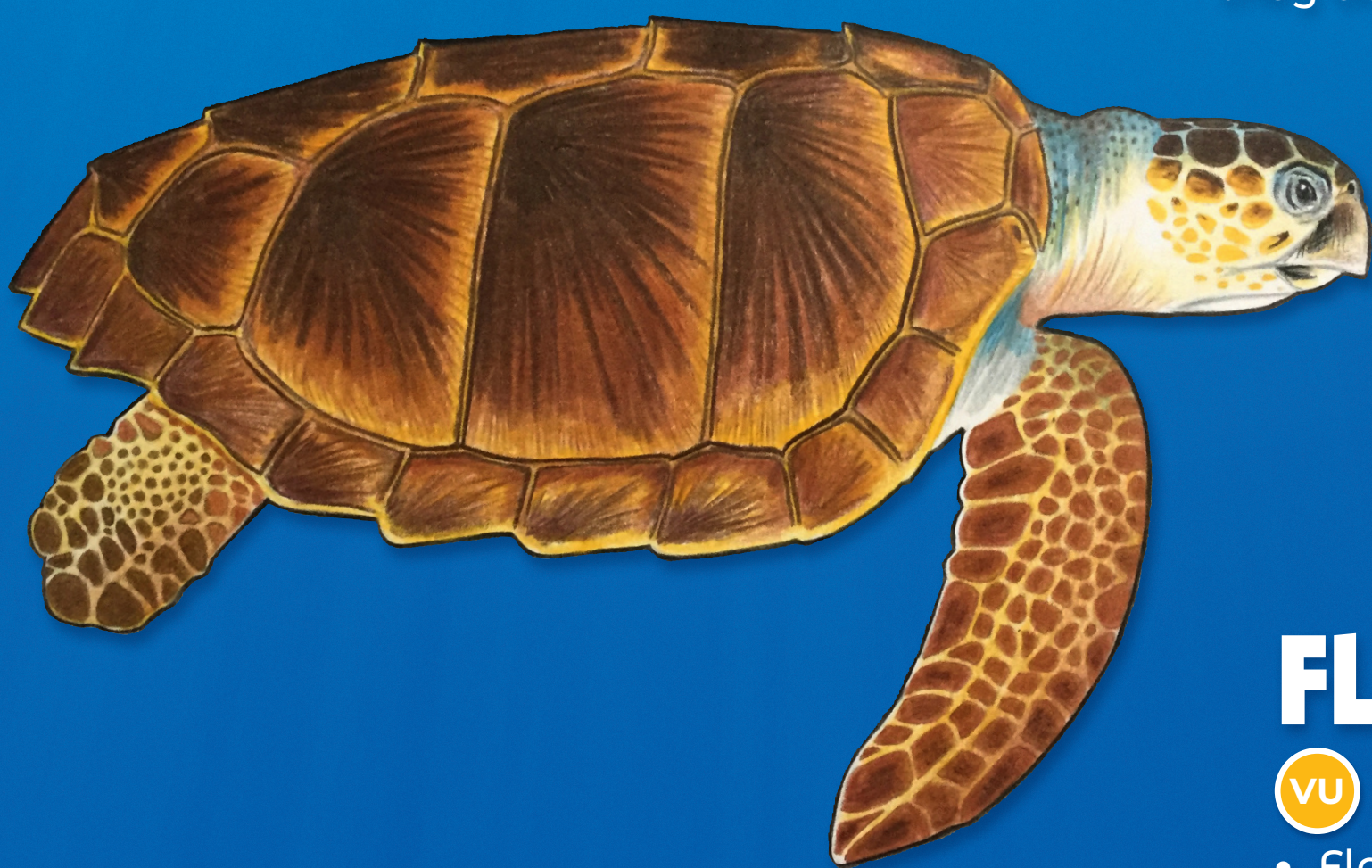
**VU** 121-213 cm (48-84 in) | up to 700 kg (1,540 lb)

- Leatherbacks eat jellyfish, consuming almost their own body weight each day.
- They are the deepest divers, able to reach 975 meters (3,200 feet).
- Leatherbacks have the longest migration of all sea turtles. One individual was recorded traveling more than 19,000 km (over 11,800 miles) between Indonesia and Oregon.
- Sometimes these turtles eat plastic bags which they confuse with jellyfish. Reducing your plastic waste makes a big difference for the plants and animals that live in the ocean!

## GREEN *Chelonia mydas*

**EN** 78-112 cm (31-44 in) | up to 190 kg (420 lb)

- Green sea turtles eat seagrass and algae.
- They are named for the green layer of fat under their shell, which is caused by their vegetarian diet.
- They cannot afford to be shy. Like all sea turtles, they cannot retract their heads into their bodies the way many turtles can.
- Greens have nesting sites in over 80 countries. It is a good thing they don't need a passport!



## LOGGERHEAD *Caretta caretta*

**VU** 71-93 cm (28-37 in) | up to 180 kg (400 lb)

- Loggerheads eat invertebrates such as horseshoe crabs, clams, and mussels.
- Their giant heads and strong jaws help them consume hard shellfish prey.
- Males and females look the same until they become adults.
- There are more loggerheads in U.S. seas than any other sea turtle species.

## FLATBACK *Natator depressus*

**VU** 76-96 cm (30-38 in) | up to 90 kg (200 lb)

- Flatbacks eat jellyfish, sea cucumbers, mollusks, and prawns.
- They have the smallest distribution of any turtles as they are only found in the waters of Australia and Papua New Guinea.
- They do not migrate in open ocean, usually staying in waters shallower than 200 feet.
- The largest reptiles on earth—saltwater crocodiles—eat flatbacks.



## HAWKSBILL *Eretmochelys imbricata*

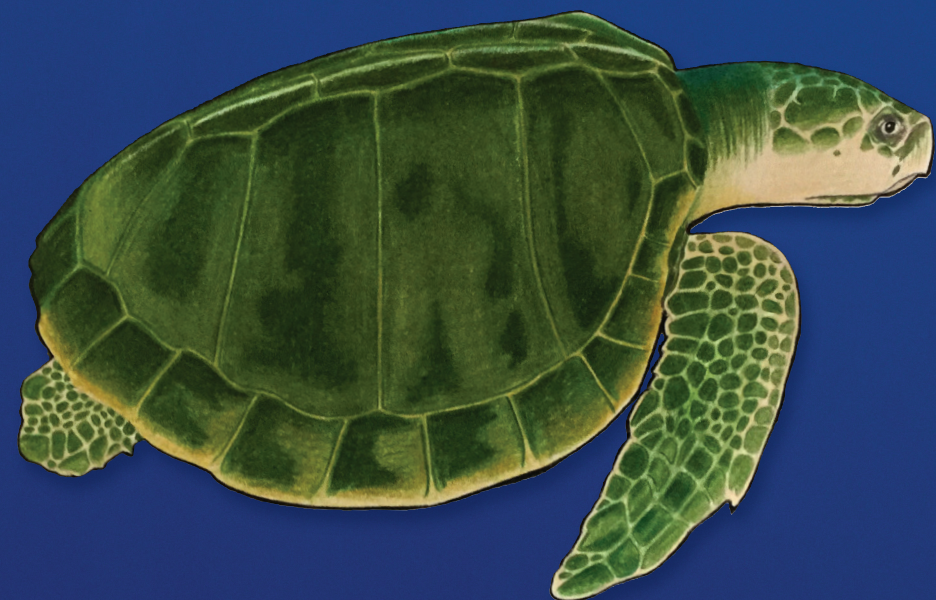
**CR** 76-100 cm (30-40 in) | up to 80 kg (180 lb)

- Hawksbill turtles eat sponges, anemones, squid, and shrimp.
- They use their narrow, bird-like beak to grab food from crevices and corals.
- Since sponges are toxic, hawksbills are some of the only animals that can consume them. This is a key service for their ecosystem!
- Their colorful shells make these turtles highly prized to create jewelry, even though sea turtle products are illegal in most countries.

## OLIVE RIDLEY *Lepidochelys olivacea*

**VU** 54-76 cm (21-30 in) | up to 46 kg (101 lb)

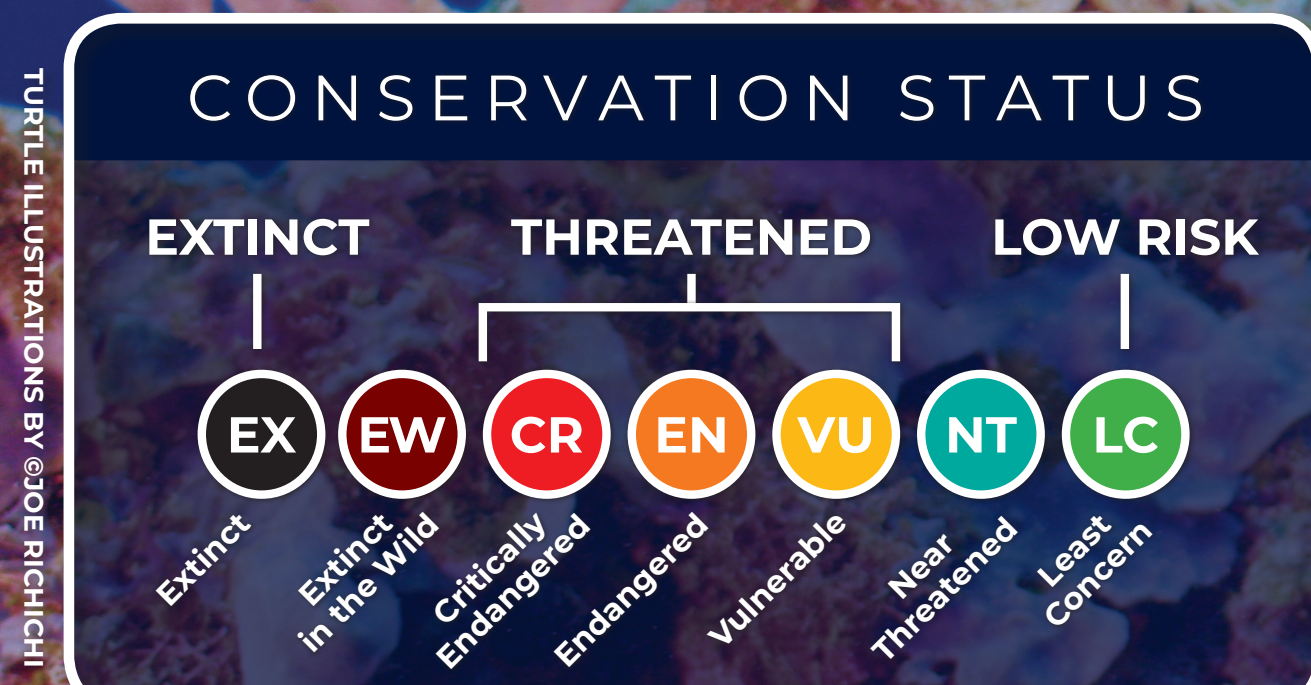
- Olive ridleys eat mollusks, tunicates, fish, crab, and shrimp.
- Their name—olive ridley—comes from their pale green shell.
- They nest in groups of up to 150,000 females called "arribadas" from the Spanish word meaning "arrival" (so do Kemp's ridley).
- These "arribadas" are mostly found in Costa Rica, Mexico, and India.



## KEMP'S RIDLEY *Lepidochelys kempii*

**CR** 60-70 cm (24-28 in) | up to 45 kg (99 lb)

- Kemp's ridley turtles eat crabs, mussels, fish, sea urchins, and jellyfish.
- They are the only species that nests mostly in the day.
- 95% of the Kemp's ridley nesting sites are in Mexico.
- They are named after Richard Kemp, a fisherman from Florida who helped discover and study them.
- They are the smallest sea turtle.



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