



Sea Turtles

Want to learn about sea turtles, their habitat, why they are endangered, and what you can do to help? You came to the right place!

[Discover each species of sea turtle that can be found in U.S. waters!](#) All six of these species are listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered or threatened. Check out [Sea Turtles in Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.](#)

The leatherback sea turtle is the largest turtle in the world, with adults weighing up to 2,000 pounds! After reading about the leatherback sea turtle in the link above, [watch a video about the leatherback sea turtle](#) and see what researchers in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary are doing to help these incredible creatures. You'll even get a view of what it would be like to swim along on one of these giant's backs!



Photo: NOAA

Green sea turtles are found worldwide and are the largest hard-shelled sea turtle.

[Introduce yourself to the "honu"!](#) Next, explore Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary with a [virtual dive](#). Click and drag on the video to experience a 360° view of the underwater dive. Pair these videos with the [Species Exploration Document](#) to make your own brochure showcasing the green sea turtle!

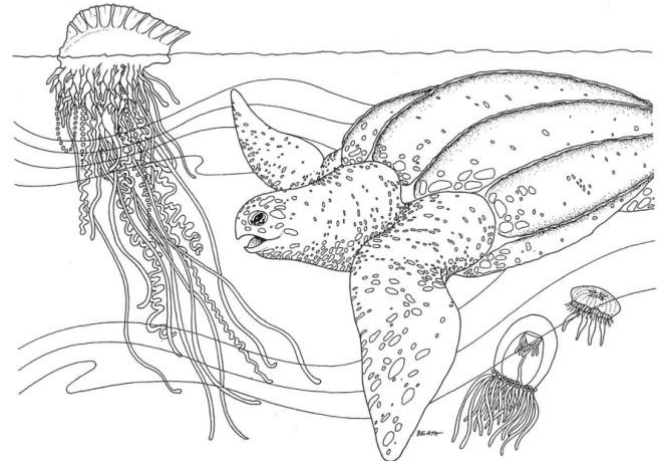
Did you notice the turtle cleaning station during your virtual dive? Watch [a quick video of the turtle cleaning station](#) to get a closer look! This is an example of a type of symbiosis called mutualism. That means that the relationship formed between the turtle and the fish helps them both! The turtle gets clean, while the fish get a healthy meal! [Click here to learn more about this symbiotic relationship.](#)



Photo: Matt McIntosh/NOAA

Marine Debris and Sea Turtles

In Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, an estimated 52 tons of fishing gear and other man-made debris washes ashore every year. Unfortunately, wild marine animals, like sea turtles and seals, can get tangled in this debris, making it difficult for them to swim. Watch [this video of a sea turtle rescue](#) to see a sea turtle swim to freedom after a team of divers and researchers detangle it from an old fishing net.



Love to Color?

Check out this [sea turtle themed coloring book](#)! Choose your favorite pages or print the whole book for lots of sea turtle themed fun! You can also try this [Why is Hawaii's ocean important activity book](#) centered around the importance of Hawaii's ocean!

Stories from an Expert

Curious to hear stories from the people who work at our National Marine Sanctuaries? [Read Emma Hickerson's 1,400 Dives and Counting article](#) to hear from the Research Coordinator for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. Completing countless dives and studying many marine animals, including several different species of sea turtles, Emma shares her journey and what led her to a career at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Protect our Wildlife!

Planning a trip to a park or marine sanctuary? Refer to these [Wildlife Viewing Guidelines](#) before you go to make sure you are protecting our wildlife and recreating responsibly!

[Download the ParkPassport App](#) to learn more about national marine sanctuaries. Take virtual tours, view live webcams, earn digital badges, and more.

All information in this document was adapted from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' resources. This collection was developed in partnership with the National Park Trust in support of the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary System. *The inclusion of links in this guide does not imply endorsement or support of any of the linked information, services, products, or providers.*



Photo: John Embesi/NOAA

