Sea Turtle Identification Guide

Leatherback

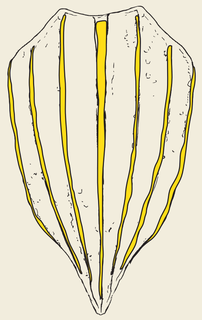
Dermochelys coriacea

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
140 – 190 CM (4.5 – 6.5 FEET)

WEIGHT: 300 – 700 KG

HEAD:
NO HEAD SCALES,
DEPIGMENTED PINK SPOT
ON THE HEAD

CARAPACE:
LEATHERY SHELL,
NO HARD SCUTES,
7 LONGITUDINAL RIDGES

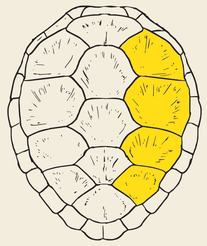


Green

Chelonia mydas

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
90 – 120 CM (3 – 4 FEET)

WEIGHT: 100 – 250 KG



HEAD:
1 PAIR OF PREFRONTAL SCALES,
ROUNDED HEAD WITH SERRATED
JAWS

CARAPACE:
4 PAIRS OF LATERAL SCUTES,
BROADLY OVAL

Loggerhead

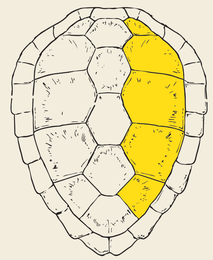
Caretta caretta

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
80 – 110 CM (2.5 – 3.5 FEET)

WEIGHT: 90 - 180 KG

HEAD:
2 PAIRS OF PREFRONTAL
SCALES, LARGE TRIANGULAR
HEAD

CARAPACE:
5 PAIRS OF LATERAL SCUTES,
LONGER THAN WIDE
CARAPACE

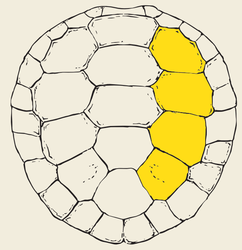


Flatback

Natator depressus

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
80 – 95 CM (2.5 – 3 FEET)

WEIGHT: 70 - 100 KG



HEAD:
1 PAIR OF PREFRONTAL SCALES,
ROUNDED HEAD WITH
SERRATED JAWS

CARAPACE:
4 PAIRS OF LATERAL SCUTES,
BROADLY OVAL

Hawksbill

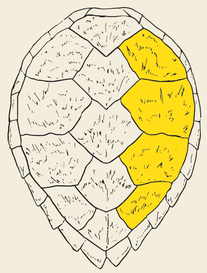
Eretmochelys imbricata

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
70 – 90 CM (2.3 – 3 FEET)

WEIGHT: 45 - 90 KG

HEAD:
2 PAIRS OF PREFRONTAL
SCALES, NARROW HEAD WITH A
SHARP HOOKED BEAK

CARAPACE:
4 PAIRS OF LATERAL
OVERLAPPING SCUTES AND
SERRATED POSTERIOR MARGIN

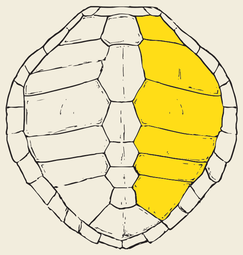


Olive Ridley

Lepidochelys olivacea

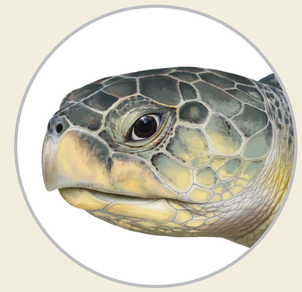
CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
60 – 75 CM (2 – 2.5 FEET)

WEIGHT: 35 - 55 KG



HEAD:
2 PAIRS OF PREFRONTAL SCALES,
TRIANGULAR HEAD WITH A SMALL
BIRD LIKE BEAK

CARAPACE:
6-9 PAIRS OF LATERAL SCUTES OFTEN
ASYMMETRICAL, NEARLY CIRCULAR



Kemp's Ridley

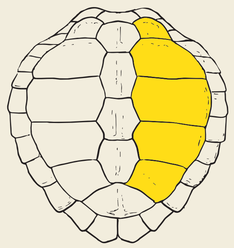
Lepidochelys kempii

CURVED CARAPACE LENGTH:
60 – 70 CM (2 – 2.3 FEET)

WEIGHT: 30 - 50 KG

HEAD:
2 PAIRS OF PREFRONTAL
SCALES, TRIANGULAR HEAD

CARAPACE:
5 PAIRS OF LATERAL SCUTES,
SOMETIMES 6,
NEARLY CIRCULAR



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