

# Pacific Leatherback Turtle

*Dermochelys coriacea*

Critically Endangered



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## Species Identification

- Largest of all sea turtles: adult weight 250-900 kg (550-2000 lbs), length 1.2-2.4 m (4-8 ft)
- Black/dark gray with white spots/patches that may appear pink with increased blood flow
- Leathery, hydrodynamic carapace with 7 longitudinal ridges (5 dorsal ridges and 2 on sides)
- Notched upper jaw with cusps adapted for feeding on soft-bodied prey like jellyfish
- Highly migratory and forages in open-ocean habitats or productive coastal habitats



## Be a Sea Turtle Spotter in 6 easy steps

1. Create your account on iNaturalist.org and join the Sea Turtle Spotter Project
2. Download the iNaturalist app on your phone or tablet and sign in
3. Learn to identify sea turtles in marine habitats you visit
4. Record your sea turtle sightings on Sea Turtle Spotter with:
  - Location coordinates
  - Clear photos
  - Species identification
  - Notes on behavior or condition
5. Upload your sightings when you have internet access
6. Feel great about your work as a citizen scientist!



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**Encourage your friends to become Sea Turtle Spotters too!**

*If you encounter a sick, injured, entangled, stranded or dead turtle, call NOAA's West Coast Regional Stranding Hotline at 1-866-767-6114*