

*The following supplement accompanies the article*

# **Young sea turtles of the pelagic *Sargassum*-dominated drift community: habitat use, population density, and threats**

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**Supplement.** Additional information describing post-hatchling and juvenile sea turtles captured from pelagic *Sargassum* habitat in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.

Fig. S1. *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Eretmochelys imbricata* and *Lepidochelys kempii*. Sea turtles observed within the *Sargassum*-dominated surface-pelagic drift community. Images were recorded from the eastern Gulf of Mexico. (A) A loggerhead post-hatchling (68 mm straight carapace length, SCL), (B) a green turtle post-hatchling (55 mm SCL), (C) a loggerhead juvenile (168 mm SCL), (D) a green turtle juvenile (205 mm SCL), (E) a hawksbill juvenile (210 mm SCL), and (F) a Kemp's ridley juvenile (211 mm SCL)

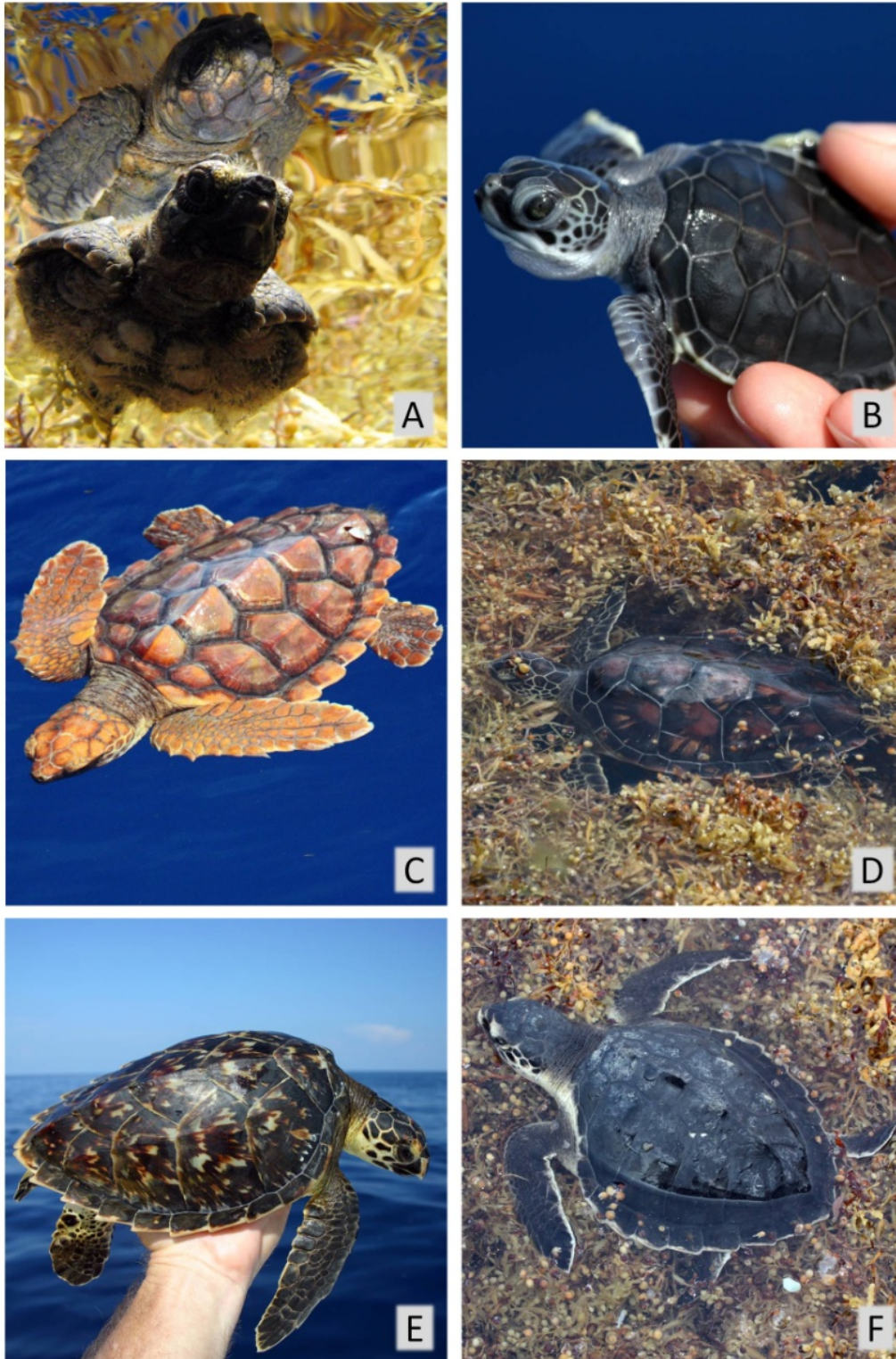


Table S1. *Caretta caretta*, *Chelonia mydas*, *Lepidochelys kempii* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Frequency of diet items (% of turtles) identified in esophageal lavage and fecal samples from surface-pelagic juvenile loggerheads, green turtles, Kemp’s ridleys, and hawksbills captured from pelagic *Sargassum* habitat off Florida, USA. Bold numbers are frequencies of a general item group. The frequency for ‘All species’ includes an additional hawksbill which provided a lavage sample only

| Diet item                    | Loggerhead (n = 3) |               | Green turtle (n = 18) |                | Kemp’s ridley (n = 20) |                | All species<br>(n = 42) |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
|                              | Lavage (n = 2)     | Fecal (n = 1) | Lavage (n = 15)       | Fecal (n = 14) | Lavage (n = 14)        | Fecal (n = 20) | Lavage or Fecal         |
| <b>Marine animals</b>        | <b>100</b>         | <b>100</b>    | <b>93</b>             | <b>100</b>     | <b>93</b>              | <b>100</b>     | <b>100</b>              |
| <i>Anemonea sargassensis</i> | 50                 | –             | 7                     | –              | 14                     | –              | 10                      |
| Hydroids                     | 50                 | 100           | 80                    | 79             | 57                     | 70             | 86                      |
| <i>Aequorea</i>              | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | 7                      | –              | 2                       |
| <i>Porpita</i>               | –                  | –             | 7                     | –              | 7                      | –              | 5                       |
| <i>Aurelia</i>               | 50                 | –             | –                     | –              | –                      | –              | 2                       |
| <i>Pelagia noctiluca</i>     | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | 7                      | –              | 2                       |
| Unknown cnidarian            | 50                 | –             | –                     | –              | –                      | –              | 2                       |
| <i>Scyllaea pelagica</i>     | –                  | –             | 7                     | –              | –                      | –              | 2                       |
| <i>Litiopa melanostoma</i>   | –                  | –             | 7                     | –              | 7                      | 15             | 12                      |
| Unknown gastropods           | –                  | –             | 7                     | 36             | –                      | 5              | 14                      |
| Nematode                     | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | –                      | 5              | 2                       |
| Serpulid polychaetes         | –                  | –             | 7                     | 14             | 7                      | 10             | 14                      |
| Errant polychaetes           | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | 7                      | 5              | 5                       |
| Harpacticoid copepods        | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | 7                      | –              | 5                       |
| Caprellid amphipods          | –                  | –             | –                     | –              | –                      | 10             | 5                       |
| Portunid crabs               | –                  | –             | 13                    | 14             | 14                     | 40             | 33                      |
| <i>Membranipora</i>          | –                  | –             | 40                    | 14             | 14                     | 10             | 29                      |

|                              |           |            |           |           |           |           |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Pyrosoma</i>              | –         | –          | 7         | –         | –         | –         | 2         |
| Fish eggs                    | –         | –          | 7         | –         | 29        | –         | 12        |
| Fish bones                   | –         | –          | –         | –         | –         | 5         | 2         |
| <i>Stephanolepis hispida</i> | –         | –          | 7         | –         | –         | –         | 2         |
| Unknown tissue               | 100       | 100        | 87        | 100       | 65        | 70        | 88        |
| <b>Animal, terrestrial</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>14</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| Insects                      | –         | –          | 7         | 14        | 14        | 20        | 21        |
| <b>Plant, marine</b>         | <b>50</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>93</b> | <b>86</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>83</b> |
| <i>Cladophora</i>            | –         | –          | 27        | 7         | 7         | –         | 14        |
| Coralline algae              | –         | –          | 13        | –         | –         | –         | 5         |
| <i>Sargassum</i>             | 50        | 100        | 87        | 86        | 21        | 70        | 83        |
| Unknown algae                | –         | –          | –         | 7         | –         | 5         | 5         |
| <b>Plant, terrestrial</b>    | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>–</b>  | <b>57</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>15</b> | <b>26</b> |
| Wood and charcoal            | –         | –          | –         | 57        | –         | 15        | 26        |
| Seeds                        | –         | –          | –         | –         | –         | –         | 5         |
| <b>Plant, unknown</b>        | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b> |
| <b>Mineral</b>               | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>–</b>  | <b>14</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| Pumice and grit              | –         | –          | –         | 14        | 7         | 5         | 10        |
| <b>Synthetic</b>             | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>47</b> | <b>79</b> | <b>36</b> | <b>65</b> | <b>67</b> |
| Fibrous plastic              | –         | –          | 33        | 21        | 43        | 15        | 31        |
| Rigid plastic                | –         | 100        | 27        | 64        | –         | 65        | 45        |
| Latex                        | –         | –          | –         | 7         | 7         | –         | 5         |
| Supple plastic               | –         | –          | 20        | 57        | 14        | 45        | 38        |

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