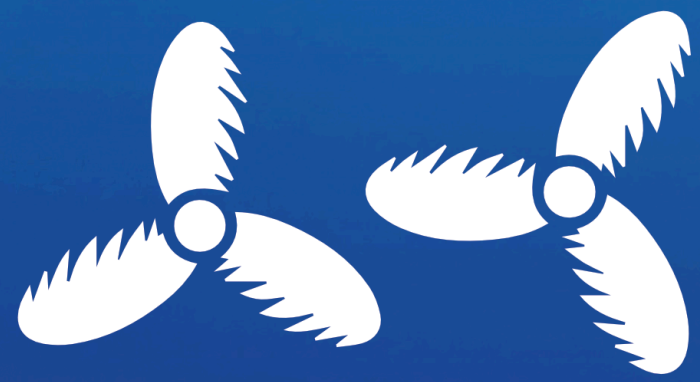




SEALIFE

Sydney

Threats for Sea Turtles



Boat strike

When a boat, or a propeller from a boat, hits a turtle on the head, it can cause serious injury. Not all turtles hit by boats survive.

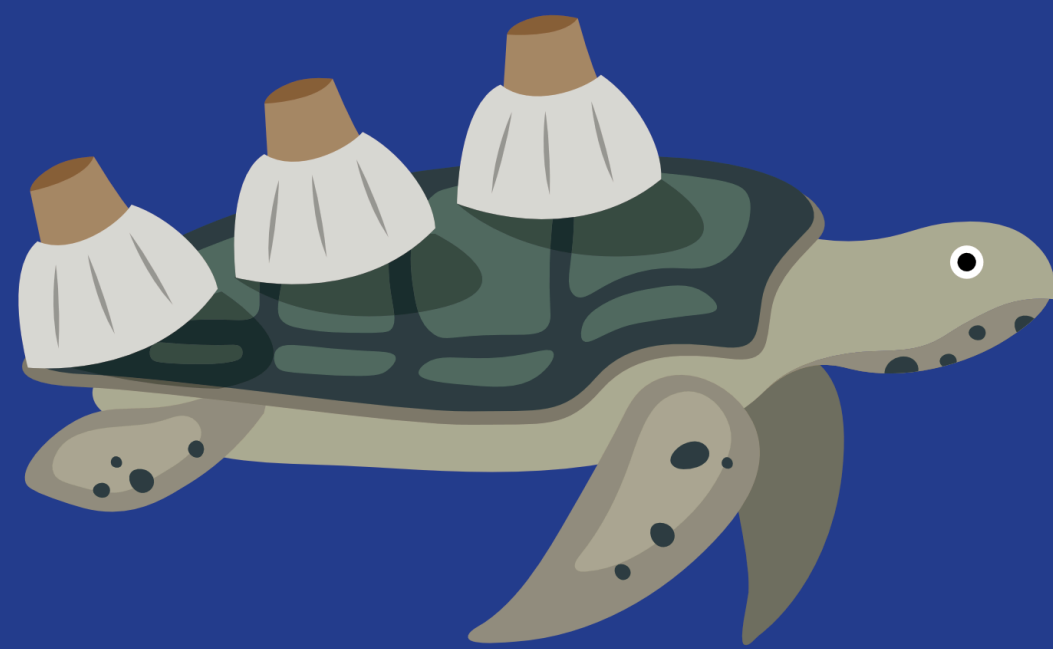


50% of turtles have ingested plastic waste at some point in their lives



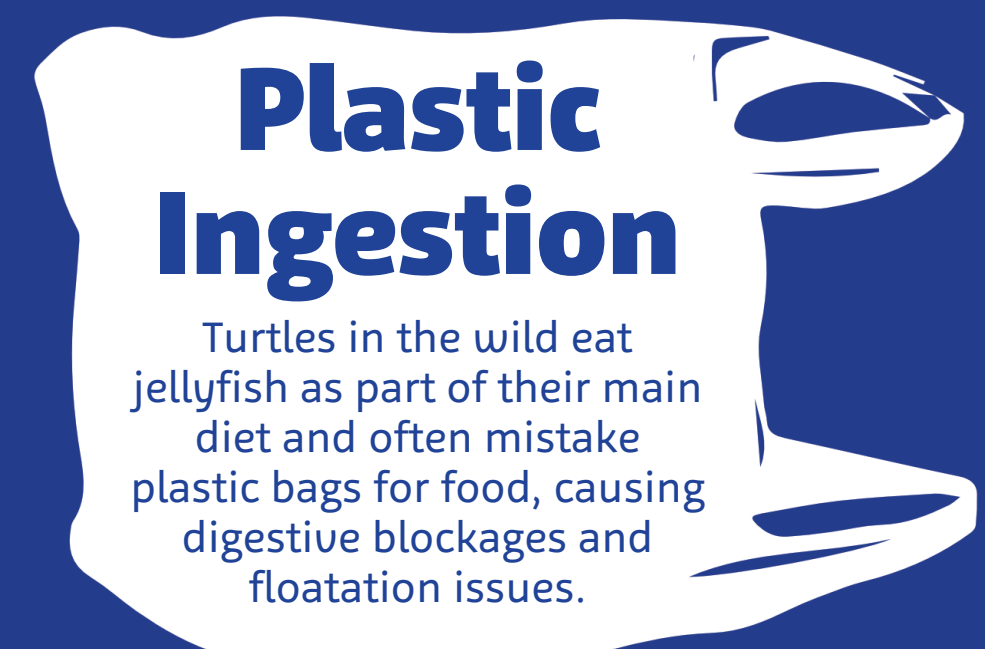
Exhaustion & cold shock

During the colder months, it is very common for migrating turtles to get caught in cold water when the temperature changes. They can also get caught in currents, leaving them exhausted and unable to swim.



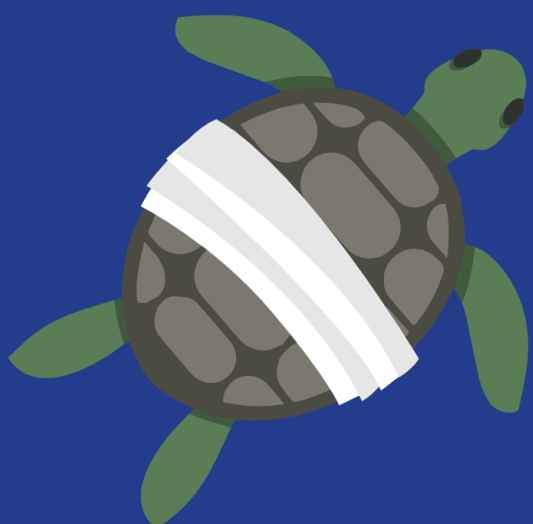
Barnacle growth

All wild turtles have a few barnacles growing on them. However, if there are too many, the barnacles create drag on the turtle's shell, making it much harder for them to swim and find food. Sometimes the barnacles can even grow over their eyes and nostrils and make them unable to breathe!



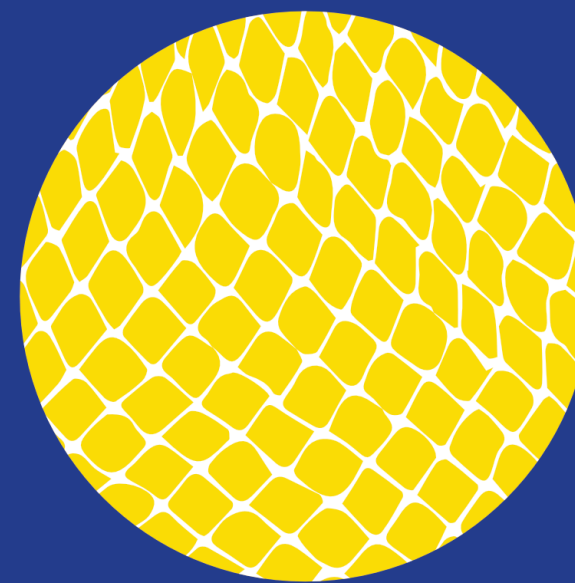
Plastic Ingestion

Turtles in the wild eat jellyfish as part of their main diet and often mistake plastic bags for food, causing digestive blockages and floatation issues.



Illness & disease

Like all animals, turtles can sometimes get sick with illnesses like pneumonia or develop infections from injuries or wounds. We can easily treat them with a course of antibiotics and treat any injuries that may have caused it.



Entanglement

Sometimes turtles and other marine life will get stuck in shark nets or fishing lines. Turtles can usually hold their breath for a couple of hours when they are resting, but if they are struggling, it is only a few minutes.

Sometimes the injuries caused by fishing lines are very severe that we might have to remove an infected flipper.

How you can help protect our sea turtles



Always put your **RUBBISH IN THE BIN**



DON'T USE PLASTIC BAGS

They are likely to end up in a turtle's tummy

Be careful when DIGGING IN THE SAND

on beaches where turtles lay their eggs!



ALWAYS SAY NO TO STRAWS WITH YOUR DRINK

USE REUSABLE BAGS, COFFEE CUPS & CONTAINERS



Tell your friends how they can help the turtles too!

At SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium, we love being able to tell you how you can help. Help us by spreading the word!