

# Agenda Item 11

## Periodic Status Reviews: Leatherback Sea Turtle



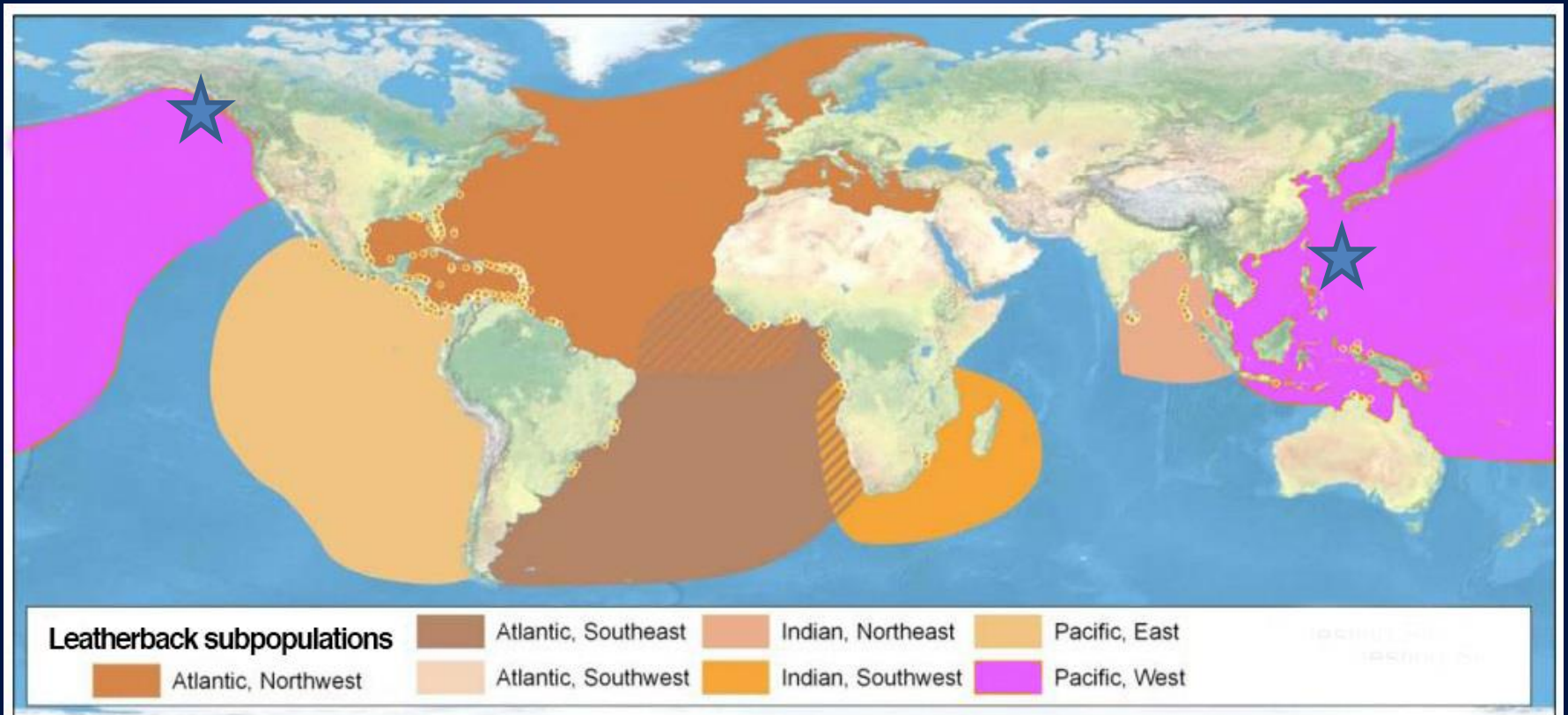
NOAA



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

Chris Sato  
Biologist, Diversity Division  
Wildlife Program

# Western Pacific Leatherback Population



Wallace et al. 2013

# Natural History

- Adapted for pelagic travel
- 7 feet long and 2000 pounds
- Males spend lives at sea
- Nest on beaches



NMFS

# Natural History

- Females reproduce every 2-5 years, 3-10 clutches of 60 to 90 eggs
- 13-32 years to maturity, reproduce for 25 years



Wikimedia Commons

# Natural History



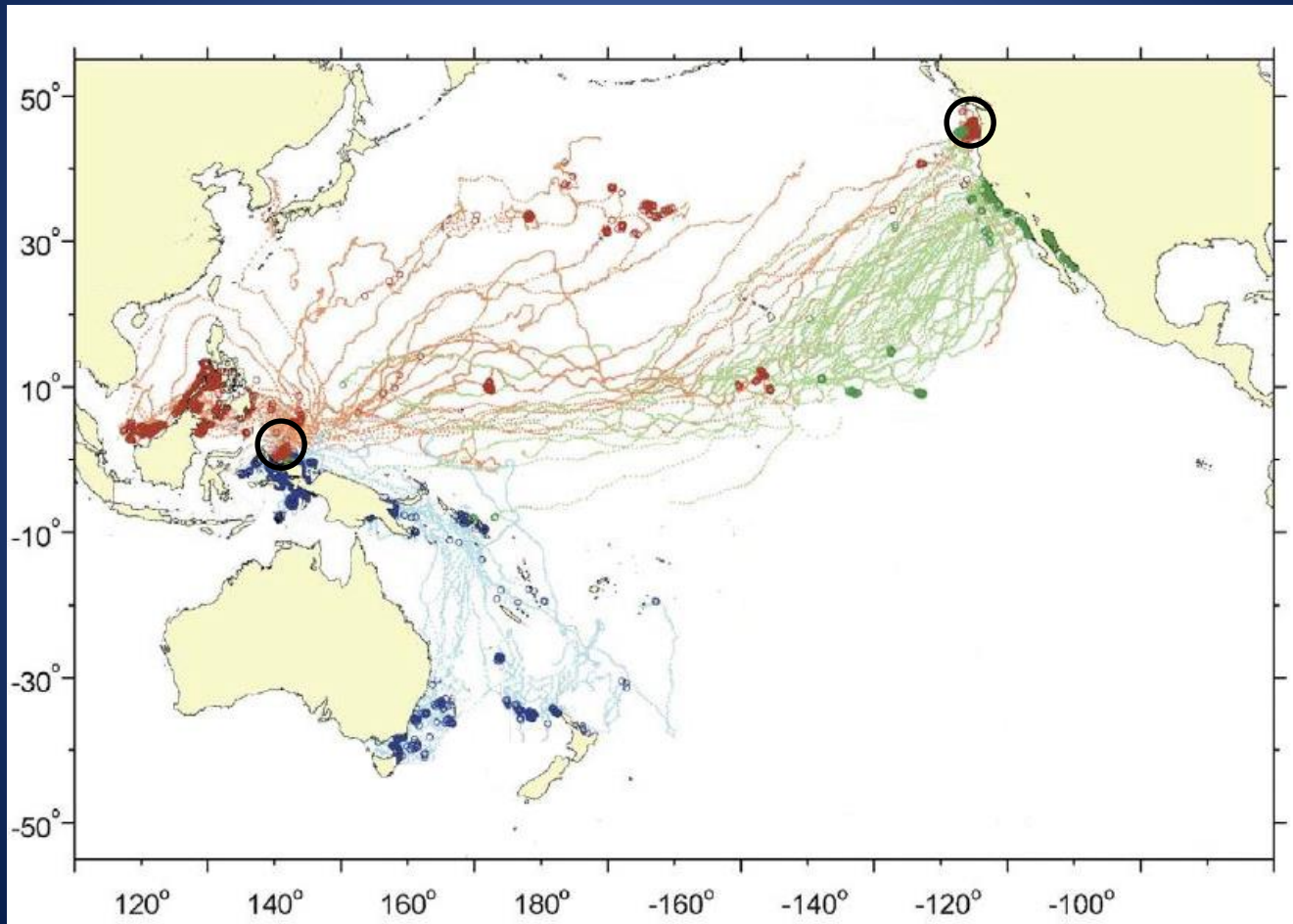
M. Manske

- Jellyfish - brown sea nettle, moon jellies
- Specialized adaptation for prey



K. Eckert

# Western Pacific Leatherback Migration Routes



Benson 2011

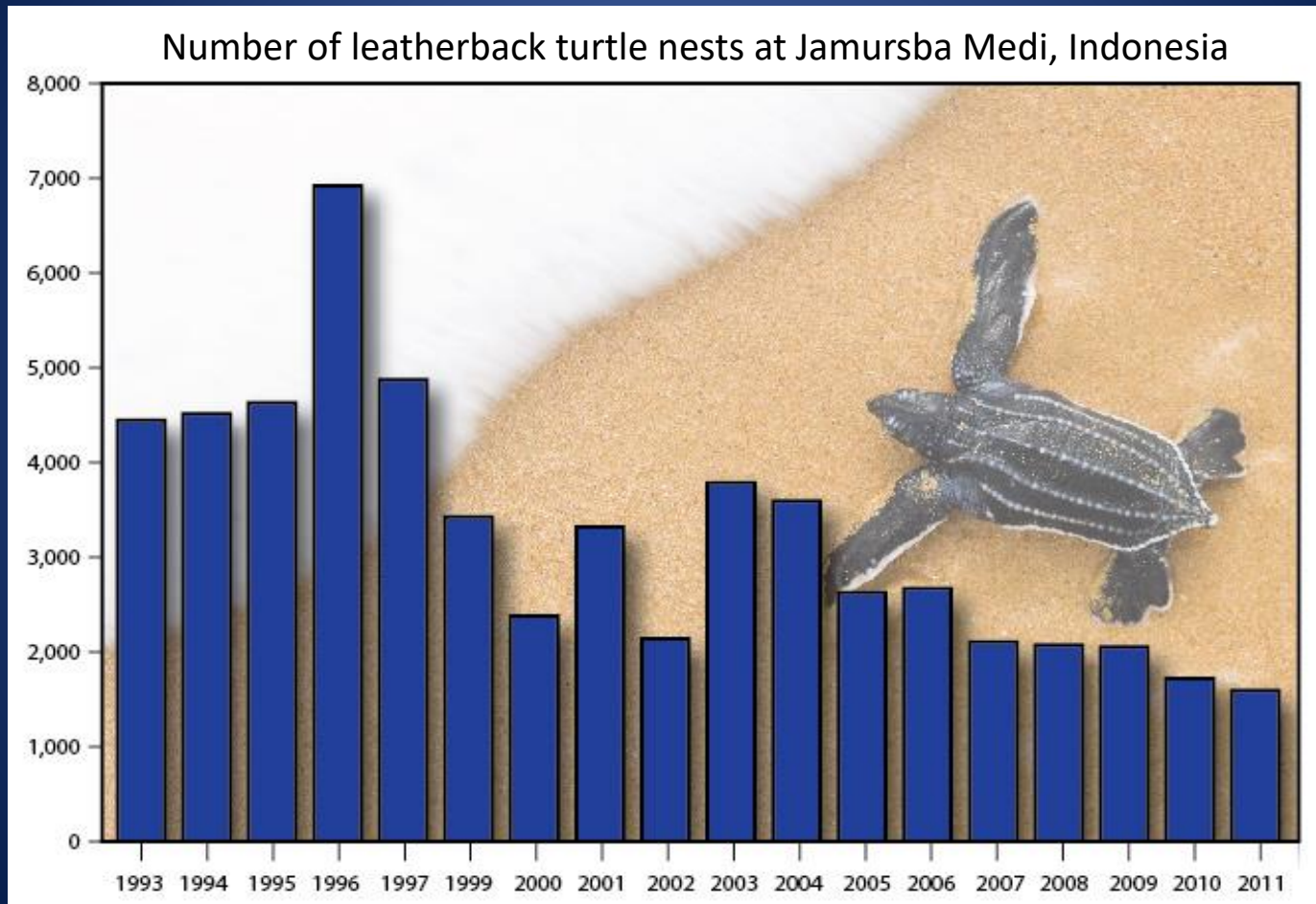
# Listing Status

- Federal: endangered, 1970
- Washington: endangered, 1981
- 2016-DPS at most risk of extinction
- Federal critical habitat in 2012



NMFS

# Western Pacific Population Decline



UAB Dept. Biology



# Leatherbacks in Washington



Vancouver Aquarium

# Factors Affecting West Pacific Population

- Human harvest and predation by feral animals
- Fisheries bycatch
- Marine debris



B. Skarry

# Climate Change

✓ Hot chicks, cool dudes



S. Katzer

# Conservation Actions



- U.S. Pacific Leatherback Conservation Area, 2001
- Bycatch regulations
- 2016 federal 5-year action plan

# Conservation Actions

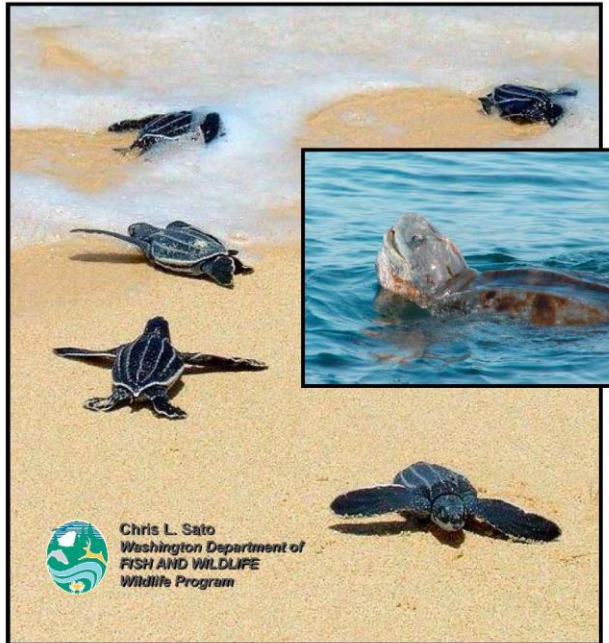


- Marine debris reduction
- Stranding and disentanglement networks
- Projects reduce harvest at nesting beaches

# Recommendation

STATE OF WASHINGTON February 2017

## Periodic Status Review for the Leatherback Sea Turtle



Retain Leatherback Sea Turtle as state endangered.

# Public Comment

- Support for continued endangered listing (7)
- Opposition (0)

# Questions?



N. Pilcher