



NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-503

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM ON SEA TURTLE
BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION**



M i a m i . U S A

4 to 7 April 2002
Miami, Florida, USA

Compiled by:
Jeffrey A. Seminoff

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149 USA

August 2003

Hatchlings in Peru: the first headstarting experience

Camelia Manrique Bravo¹, Shaleyla Kelez², and Ximena Vélez-Zuazo²

¹ Grupo de Tortugas Marinas - Perú, UNALM

² Grupo de Tortugas Marinas - Perú, APECO

Peru harbors four species of sea turtles: *Chelonia mydas agassizi*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. *L. olivacea* is more abundant to the north of Peru due to the warmer conditions of the ocean but it has been found as far as Pisco (Lat. 13°45'S, 76°15' O). Sea turtles use Peruvian waters as migratory routes as well as feeding and development habitats. However in 1979, a nest of 80 eggs of the olive ridley (*L. olivacea*) was found at Punta Malpelo beach (3° 30'S). It was transplanted from its original site by a local fisherman. Twenty-one years later, in August 2000, the finding of a new nest by a fisherman was a high surprise. It was found at La Cruz inlet (3°35'S - 80°36'W). Fifty-seven hatchlings emerged

from an artificial nest and were transported to a provisional wildlife farm of FONDEPES (Fondo Nacional para el Desarrollo Pesquero) at Puerto Pizarro, Tumbes (3°31' S – 80°25'W). Nine months later, in April 2001, the 35 individuals that survived were biologically evaluated, biometrics data were taken, the largest individuals were tagged and all individuals were released in the sea, one hour offshore, pictures were taken and their surroundings were video recorded. This research will help increase the data on this migratory species movements and the discovery of this possible nest suggests that northern beaches of Tumbes are suitable places for nesting activities and have adequate environmental conditions for the success of the eggs.