

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES FOR SEA TURTLES IN ASINARA NATIONAL PARK: 2006–2025

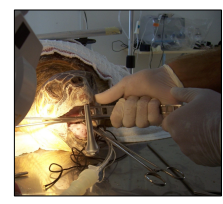
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INTRODUCTION

The **Asinara National Park**, located in northwestern Sardinia, plays a crucial role in marine biodiversity conservation in the western Mediterranean. Since 2006, the **CRAMA** Association has managed the Sea Turtle Recovery Center within the Marine Observatory at Cala Reale.

The Center operates as a node of the **Regional Network** for the Conservation of Marine Fauna, covering the coastal area from **Porto Ferro to Badesi**, and collaborates with the Marine Protected Area of **Capo Caccia** and **La Maddalena National Park** for the hospitalization and rehabilitation of marine fauna.



The **Association** priority activities are the **conservation** of sea turtles; the **recovery**, transport and **hospitalization** of specimens in distress; marking for recapture; and release. It also manages events related to the protection and management of **nests**.



Percentages of individuals recovered by area in Northern Sardinia

This work **aims** to present the results of sea turtle recovery and rehabilitation activities conducted between **2006 and 2025**, highlighting:

- The main anthropogenic threats affecting sea turtles in northwestern Sardinia;
- The outcomes of recovery, hospitalization, and release efforts;
- The contribution of these activities to regional conservation programs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

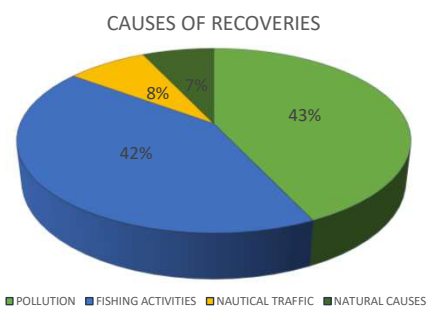
DATA WERE COLLECTED FROM 2006 TO 2025, INCLUDING RECOVERY CASES OF *CARETTA CARETTA* AND ONE SPECIMEN OF *CHELONIA MYDAS*.



- **Date and location of catches**
- **Type and cause of wounding**
- **Biometric measurements**
- **Rehabilitation outcome**

* Data from Corsica (2011–2020) were also included, thanks to collaboration with the CARI Association.

RESULTS AND CONSIDERATION



A total of 114 recovery cases were analyzed

Fishing activities (48) were identified as the predominant threat, mainly through bycatch and entanglement or ingestion of fishing gear.

Pollution (49) including intestinal impaction, entrapment in plastics, or other debris.

Boat collisions (9) caused fewer but often severe injuries, depending on impact site and intensity.

Natural causes (8)

- The **Asinara Recovery Center** has provided a long-term dataset (2006–2025) supporting **conservation** strategies
- Strengthening **collaboration** among marine protected areas and local communities is essential to reduce anthropogenic **threats**
- Continuous **monitoring** and **environmental** education remain key actions to enhance the conservation status of **sea turtle** populations

Special thanks to the Asinara National Park Authority, Regional Network for the Conservation of Marine Fauna, CFVA, Coast Guard, CARI Association, and all collaborators and volunteers involved in the recovery operations.

