

## **Reproduction and Nest biology**

### **Sex**

The sex of a turtle is easier to see in the case of adults.

Immature turtles can't be sexed based on external characteristics.

Mature males have long tails extending beyond the rear edge of carapace, curved claws on the flippers, and often a slightly concave plastron.

Estimate maturity for Green: 27-33 years (70 cm CCL).

Estimate maturity for Loggerhead: 13-30 years (60 cm CCL)

### **Nesting**

Nesting usually takes place every 14 days, but variations are frequent.

Loggerheads start laying at the end of May, and usually, finish by the end of August.

Greens start laying about two week later and finish by the end of August.

Pronged winter conditions can delay nesting.

### **Eggs**

The eggs are white, spherical and soft- shelled.

Freshly lay-eggs have translucent soft-shell

In about ten twelve days the whole egg becomes white

Infertile eggs remain translucent

Loggerhead eggs average 38,4 mm and 30 grams in weight

Green eggs average 41,5 mm and 38 grams in weight

A clutch is defined the number of eggs laid into the nest excluding yolk-ness eggs.

Loggerhead's clutch: 80-100 eggs

Green's clutch: 120 eggs

## **Incubation**

Incubation takes about seven weeks

The duration of the incubation varies according to the temperature

Incubation temperature determines the sex of the embryos

For Green turtle the “pivotal” temperature is between 28,75°C and 29,75°C. For Loggerhead 30°C.