Updates on Terrapin Research in Texas

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Study Areas - TAMUCC

San Antonio

Houston

Nueces Estuary

Mission - Aransas Estuary

Aransas River

Copano Bay

Aranas Bay

Nueces River

Nueces Bay

Nueces Delta
Past Terrapin Research at Center for Coastal Studies (Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

• Population Surveys
  • Nueces, Copano, Oso Bays

• Bycatch Reduction Studies
  • Nueces and Mission-Aransas Estuaries

• Physiological Stressors Study
  • Affects of salinity on stress
  • Nueces, Copano, Oso Bays

• Nesting Beach Identification Studies
  • Nueces and Mission-Aransas Estuaries

• Cold Weather Behavioral Study
  • Movements during winter months
  • Nueces Bay
Current/Future Terrapin Research at Center for Coastal Studies

• Continued population surveys
  • When funding/time permits
  • Limited sampling events of the past several years due to these restraints

• eDNA Study
  • Funded by Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program
  • Sampling to begin Spring 2021
  • Seeks to development an eDNA assay for detection of terrapins in Texas Coastal Bend.
Partners

Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program

Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Turtles
UHCL-EIH Terrapin Monitoring Program

- Entering 14th year (2008-present)
- Covers 9 counties & 5 major bay systems
- Over 1,000 marked turtles state-wide
- 6 grant funded studies (2008-2015; 2016-2017)
  - Population Study on Deer Island (HZA 2008)
  - Mid-Coast Complex Surveys (USFWS 2009)
  - Population Status & Demographics (Sea Grant 2010-2012)
  - By-Catch Study (TPWD & USFWS 2012-2014)
  - Mid- & Upper Texas Coast Surveys (TPWD SWG 2014)
  - Continued Monitoring (THS 2016-2017)

https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/research/current-projects/terrapin-life-history
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- 5 graduate theses (2011-2015)
  - Abundance & Movement (Haskett [Ondracek] 2011)
  - Activity & Habitat Selection (Clarkson 2012)
  - Genetic Variation (Glenos [Gynego] 2013)
  - Nesting Ecology (George 2014)
  - Diet, Habitat, & Prey Availability (Alleman 2015)

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Future Plans

• Continued population monitoring (unfunded)
• Potential nesting beach surveys (unfunded)
• Continued compilation of anecdotal and citizen science based reports (unfunded)

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Random Terrapin Captures (2008-2020) and Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE; 2014-2020)
Gulf Coast-Wide Terrapin Conservation Action Plan
Thank You!

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