



# ***Baja California's Sea Turtles: Grassroots Efforts in Mexico***

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**ISSI 2024**



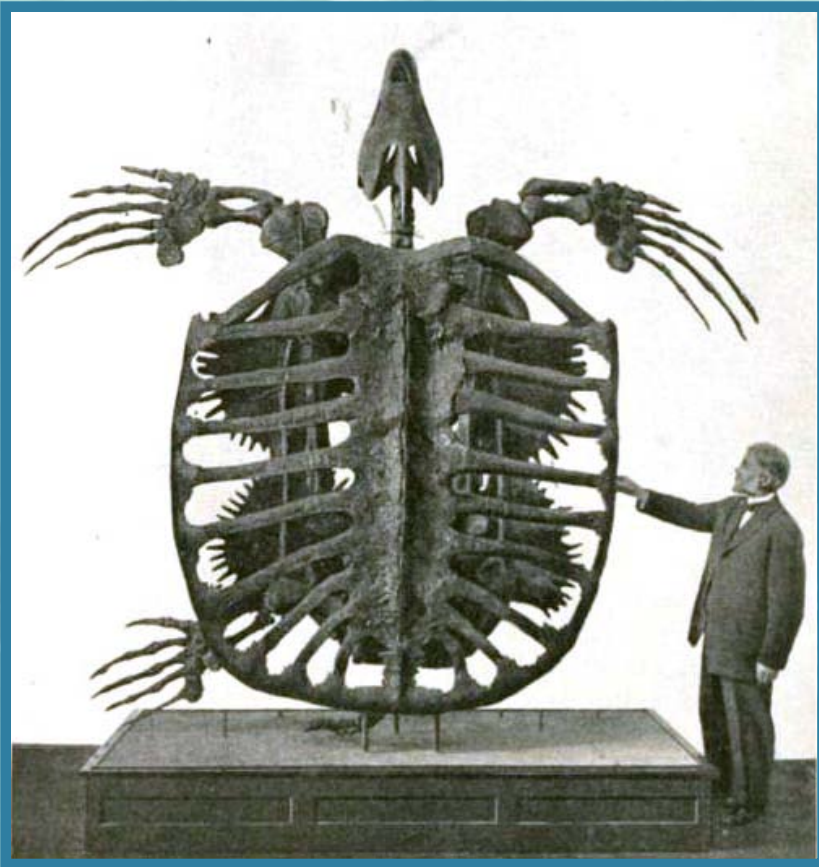


# Introduction

- Sea turtle natural history
  - Current status
  - *Sea Turtle Conservation: Grupo Tortuguero*
- 

# Turtles: Historically and Today

110 million years of evolution



***Archelon ischyros***


- 15 feet long, 4,500 pounds or more
- 74 million years old



2 to 9 feet long, between 50 and 2000 pounds

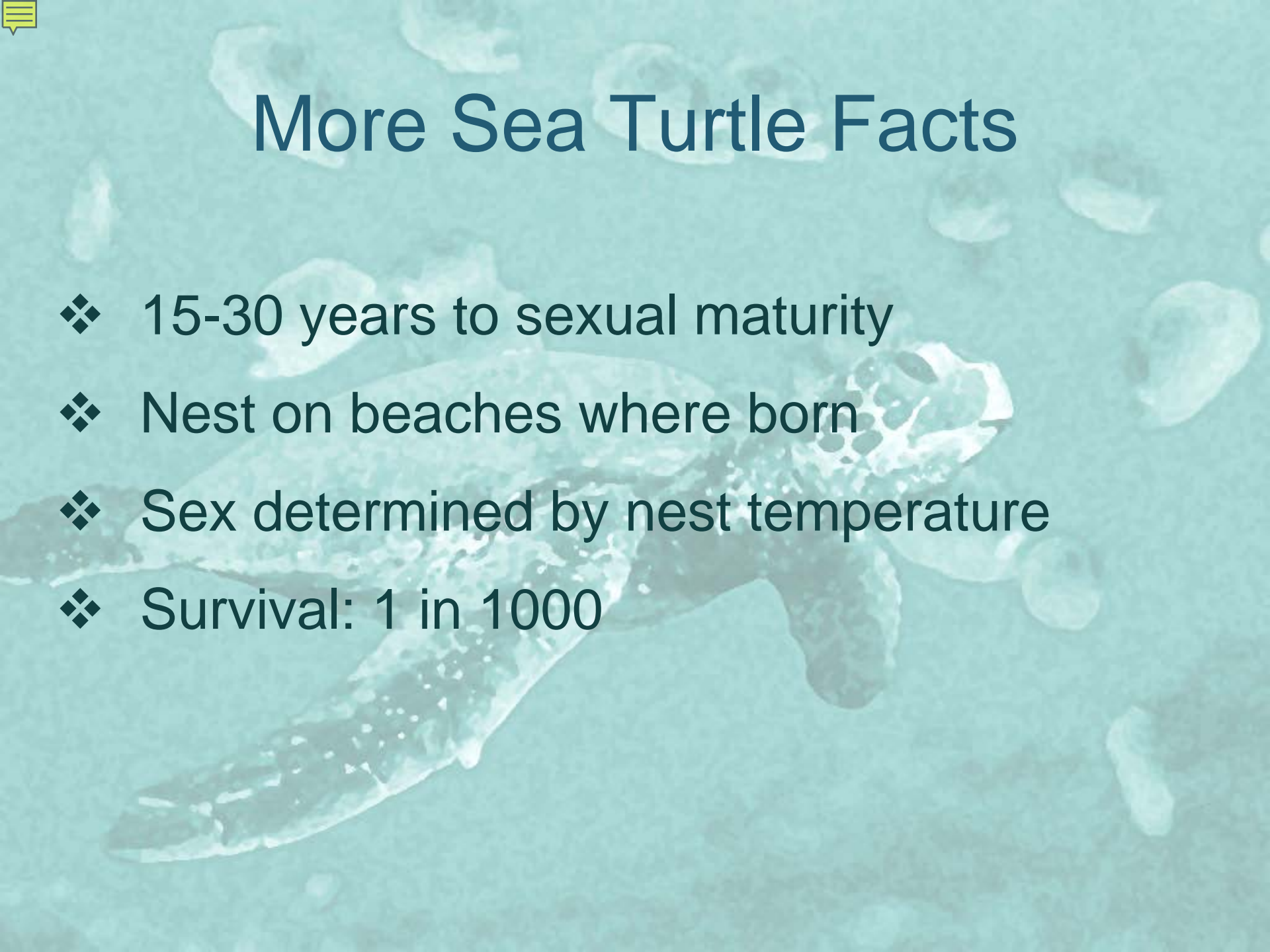


# Sea Turtle Facts

- ❖ Seven species worldwide
  - ❖ Marine reptiles
  - ❖ Outer shell (carapace), 4 flippers
  - ❖ Lifespan of 100 years or more
  - ❖ Varied diet
- 

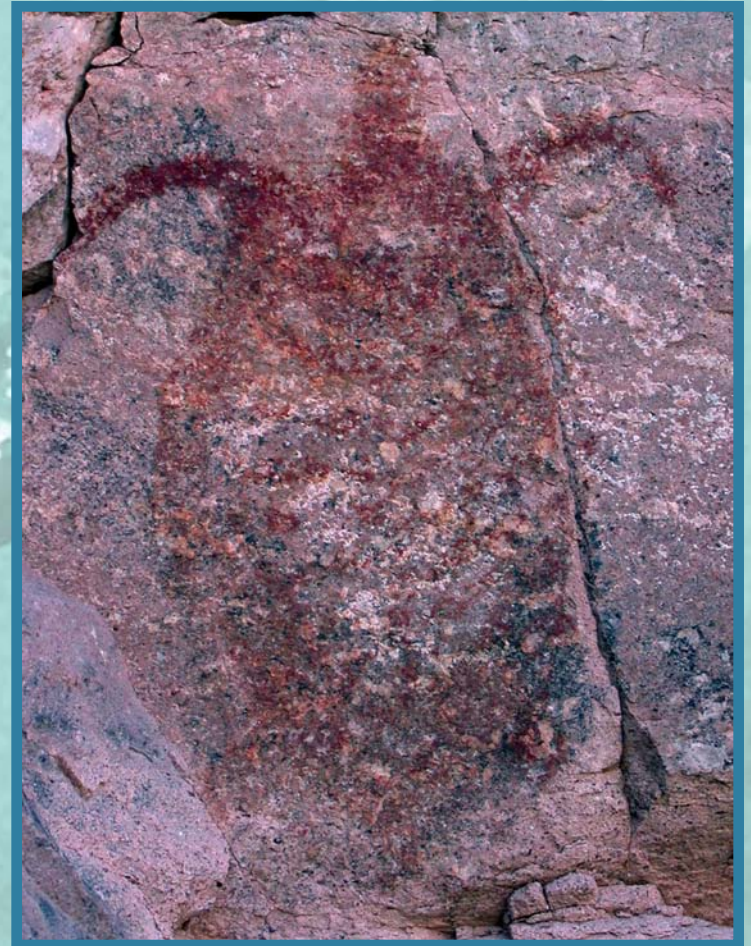


# More Sea Turtle Facts

- ❖ 15-30 years to sexual maturity
  - ❖ Nest on beaches where born
  - ❖ Sex determined by nest temperature
  - ❖ Survival: 1 in 1000
- 

# Baja's Sea Turtles

- Five species
- Feeding grounds
- Nesting beaches
- Cultural significance
- Traditional food source



*Cave painting—1000 to 1500 years old*

# Olive Ridley Golfina

*Endangered*

## *Lepidochelys olivacea*

- *most abundant species*
- *nest en masse—la arribada*



# La Arribada





# Loggerhead Caguama Tortuga Amarilla



*Endangered*

## ***Caretta caretta***

- Named for their large heads
- Japan-Baja connection



# Green (Black) Negra or Prieta

*Endangered*

## *Chelonia mydas*

- Most widespread species
- Named for the color of its body fat



# Hawksbill Carey

*Critically Endangered*



## *Eretmochelys imbricata*

- Named for its pointed beak
- Feeds primarily on sponges
- Shell highly sought after for jewelry





# Leatherback Laúd Siete Filos

*Critically Endangered*

## ***Dermochelys coriacea***

- *Largest species*
- *Can reach 2,000 lb. or more*
- *Carapace leathery, flexible*
- *Dives to greater than 3,000 feet*



[Leatherback Video](#)



# Conservation Status

- ❖ Endangered worldwide
- ❖ Protected worldwide under CITES
- ❖ Indicator species for ocean health
- ❖ Primary threat: Human activity



## By-Catch



# Poaching



  
**DREAM HOMES**  
OF CABO  
REAL ESTATE

**Puerto Los Cabos**

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- El Altillo Lot Plan (pdf)
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# Loss of Nesting Habitat

## Nest Compaction

## Coastal Lighting





# Pollution



# Turtle Population Decline

## Number of Green Sea Turtles Nesting at Colola, Michoacan

~ 25,000  
in 1970



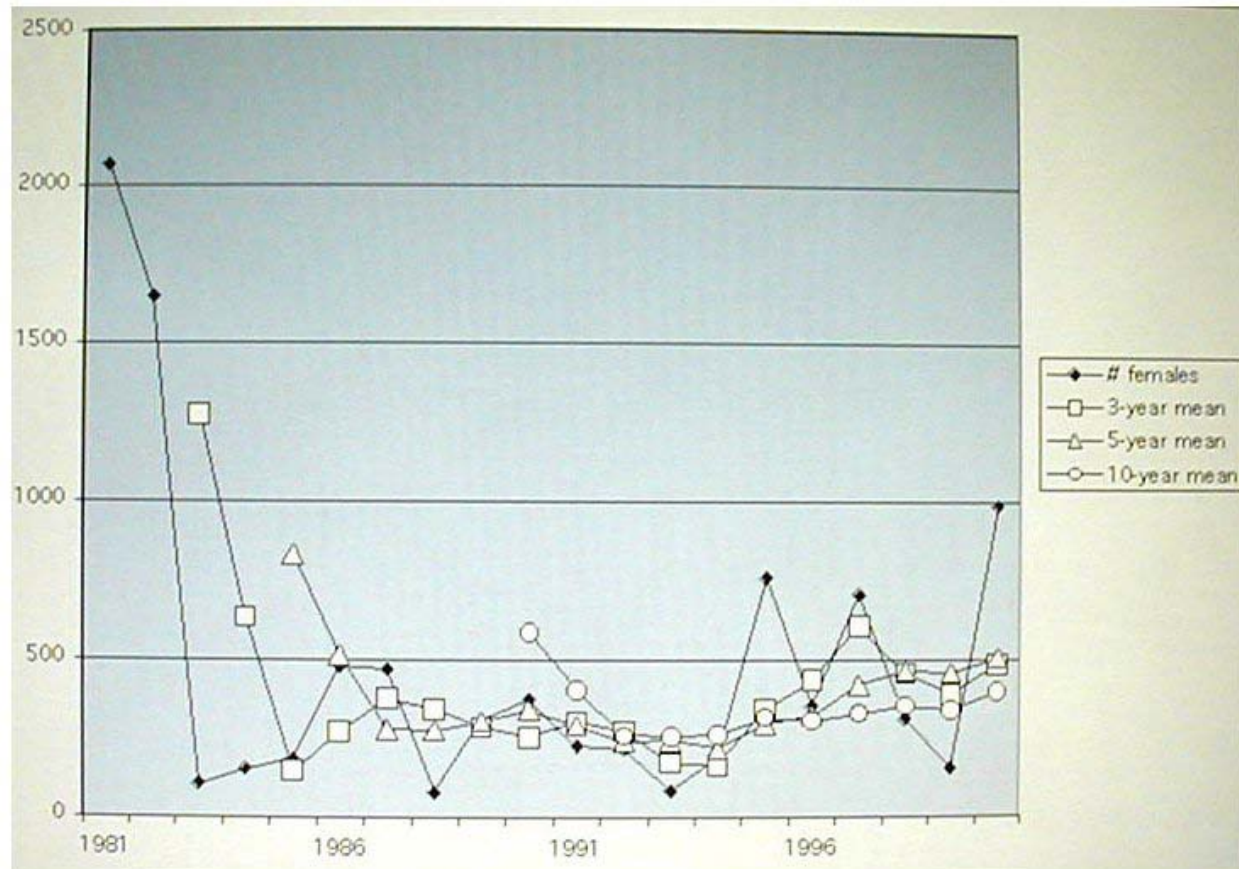
~ 7,000  
in 1979



~ 2,000  
in 1981

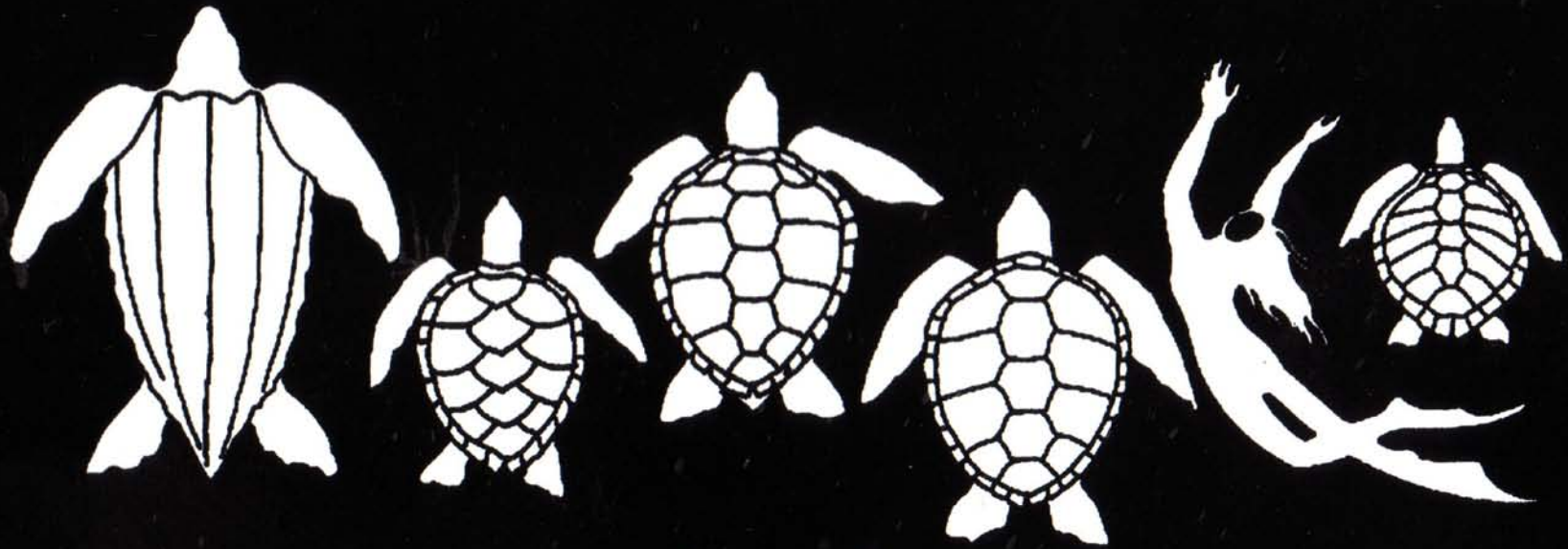


< 500  
in 2001



Source: Sea Turtle Conservation Network of the Californias, Loreto BCS, 2002

# GRUPO TORTUGUERO



[www.grupotortugero.org](http://www.grupotortugero.org)

# *Turtle Revolution*

- Founded 1999 in Loreto, BCS
- 50 communities in BCN, BCS, Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Colima, Jalisco, and California
- National and international NGOs
- Research institutions and universities
- Governmental agencies





# Research & Monitoring



# Monitoring Sites 2001-24



Six sites 2001

40 sites in 2014

59 sites in 2024

# Hoyt Peckham, Grupo Tortuguero



# ¿TE COMERÍAS UN PANDA?

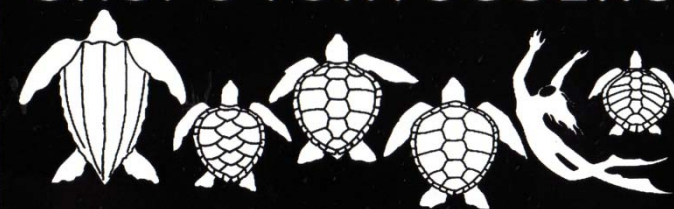
**¡NO COMAS TORTUGA MARINA EN PELIGRO DE EXTINCIÓN!**

Media Campaigns



COMER CAGUAMA TE HACE LENTO

GRUPO TORTUGUERO

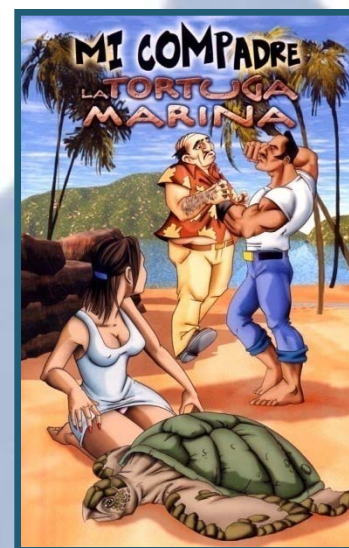
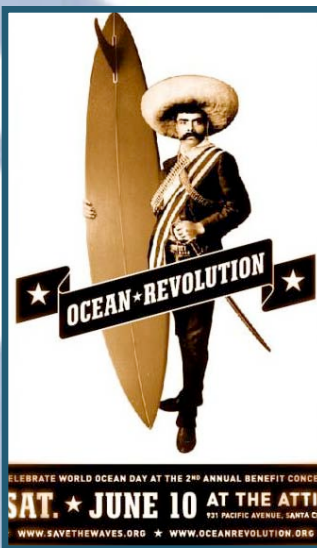
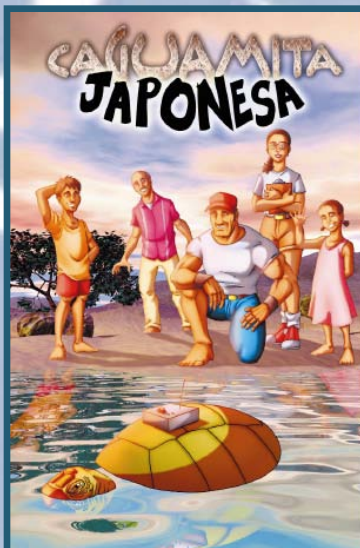


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OCEAN



REVOLUTION

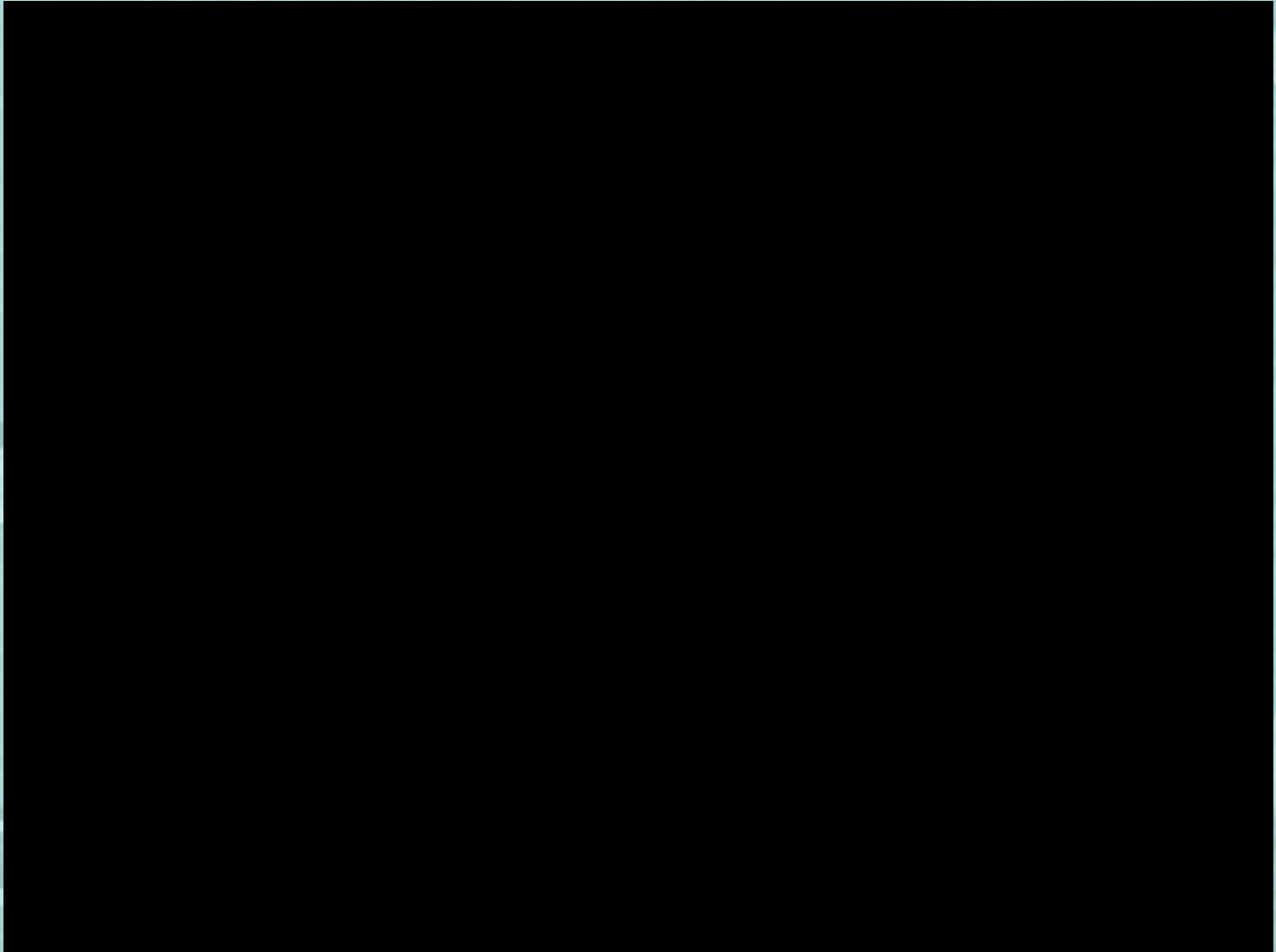







# Community Outreach & Environmental Education

**César López Reyes**





¡QUÉ VIVA LA  
TORTUGA!



**¡Gracias!  
See you in Baja!**

This presentation is available at:  
[www.lasecomujeres.org](http://www.lasecomujeres.org)

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