

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: **Scott Robert Benson**

ORGANIZATION: NOAA/NMFS/Southwest Fisheries Science Center
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive,
La Jolla, California 92037-1508

CONTACT INFORMATION: Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Program
Marine Mammal and Turtle Division, SWFSC
7544 Sandholdt Rd, Moss Landing, CA 95039
Phone: 831-771-4154; e-mail: Scott.Benson@noaa.gov

PRESENT POSITION:

2002-present, Research Fishery Biologist (ZP-III), NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center.
Perform research on the ecology of leatherback turtles, primarily at U.S. west coast foraging grounds and at western Pacific nesting beaches. Includes the design and implementation of research projects; extensive field work conducting aerial surveys, satellite telemetry studies, and nesting beach monitoring; training western Pacific collaborators; quantitative analyses of data and synthesis to meet management objectives; and publication of results in peer-reviewed journals, technical reports and at international conferences.

DISCIPLINE:

Applied Marine Ecology

EDUCATION:

2002 **M. S. in Marine Science**, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, San Jose State University.
Thesis Title: " Ecosystem Studies of Marine Mammals and Seabirds in Monterey Bay, CA, 1996-99"
1981 **B. A. in Journalism**, San Diego State University.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Research Affiliate, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State Universities
Co-investigator, Tagging of Pacific Pelagics Project (Sea Turtle Group)
Member, International Sea Turtle Society

SELECT PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

Harrison, A.L., Costa, D.P., Winship, A.J., **Benson, S.R.**, Bograd, S.J., Antolos, M., Carlisle, A.B., Dewar H., Dutton, P.H., Jorgensen, S.J., Kohin, S., Mate, B.R., Robinson, P.W., Schaefer, K.M., Shaffer, S.S., Shillinger, G.L., Simmons, S.E., Weng, K.C., Gjerde K.M. & Block, B.A. 2018. The political biogeography of migratory marine predators. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, Vol 2, p. 1571–1578.

Hazen, E. L. Scales, K. L., Maxwell, S.M., Briscoe, D.K., Welch H., Bograd S.J., Bailey H., **Benson, S.R.**, Eguchi T., Dewar H., Kohin, S., Costa, D.P., Crowder, L.B., Lewison, R.L. 2018. A dynamic ocean management tool to reduce bycatch and support sustainable fisheries. *Science Advances* 30 May 2018 : eaar3001

Eguchi T, **S.R. Benson**, D.G. Foley, K.A. Forney. 2016. Predicting overlap between drift gillnet fishing and leatherback turtle habitat in the California Current Ecosystem. *Fisheries Oceanography*, doi:10.1111/fog.12181.

- Okuyama J., Seminoff J.A., Dutton P.H., **Benson S.R.** 2016. Fine-scale monitoring of routine deep dives by gravid leatherback turtles during the internesting interval indicate a capital breeding strategy. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 3, 166. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2016.00166
- Benson, S.R.**, Tapilatu, R.F., Pilcher, N., Santidrián Tomillo, P., and Sarti Martinez, L. 2015. Leatherback turtle populations in the Pacific. P. 110-122 *In*: Spotila, J. and Santidrián Tomillo, P. (Eds.), *The Leatherback Turtles: Biology and Conservation*. The Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Curtis, K.A., Moore, J.E., **Benson, S.R.** 2015. Estimating Limit Reference Points for Western Pacific Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the U.S. West Coast EEZ. *PLoS ONE* 10(9): e0136452. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0136452
- Howell, E.A., Hoover, A., **Benson, S.R.**, Bailey, H., Polovina, J.J., Seminoff, J.A., and Dutton, P.H. 2015. Enhancing the TurtleWatch product for leatherback sea turtles, a dynamic habitat model for ecosystem-based management. *Fisheries Oceanography* 24(1):57-68.
- Roe, J. H., S. J. Morreale, F. V. Paladino, G. L. Shillinger, **S. R. Benson**, S. A. Eckert, H. Bailey, P. S. Tomillo, S. J. Bograd, T. Eguchi, P. H. Dutton, J. A. Seminoff, B. A. Block, and J. R. Spotila. 2014. Predicting bycatch hotspots for endangered leatherback turtles on longlines in the Pacific Ocean. *Royal Society Proceedings B* 2014 281, 20132559.
- Maxwell, S.M., Hazen, E.L., Bograd, S.J., Halpern, B.S., Nickel, B., Breed, G., Teutschel, N.M., Block, B., **Benson, S.**, Bailey, H., Kappes, M.A., Kuhn, C., Weise, M.J., Mate, B., Shaffer, S.A., Hassrick, J., Henry, W., Irvine, L., McDonald, B., Robinson, P., Samantha Simmons, S., and Costa, D.P. 2013. Pelagic predator distributions and anthropogenic (Human) effects impacts: implications for effective spatial management in the California Current. *Nature Communications* 4:2688 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms3688 (October 2013).
- Gaspar, P., **Benson S.R.**, Dutton, P.H., Réveillère, A., Jacob, G., Meetoo, C., and Fossette, S. 2012. Oceanic dispersal of juvenile western Pacific leatherback turtles: Going beyond passive drift modeling. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 457: 265–284 (doi: 10.3354/meps09689).
- Seminoff, J., **Benson S.R.**, Arthur, K.E., Dutton P.H., Tapilatu, R., and Popp, B.N. 2012. From satellites to stable isotopes: tracking endangered leatherback turtles in the Pacific Ocean. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 7(5): e37403 (doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0037403).
- Benson, S.R.** and Dutton, P.H. 2012. Sea turtles of the U.S. West Coast: life in the higher latitudes. *In*: Seminoff, J.A. and B.P. Wallace (Eds.), *Sea Turtles of the Eastern Pacific Ocean: Research Advances, Conservation Challenges, and Signs of Success*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.
- Benson, S. R.**, Eguchi, T., Foley, D. G., Forney, K. A., Bailey, H., Hitipeuw, C., Samber, B. P., Tapilatu, R. F., Rei, V., Ramohia, P., Pita, J., & Dutton, P. H. 2011. Large-scale movements and high-use areas of western Pacific leatherback turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*. *Ecosphere* 2, art84. (doi:10.1890/ES11-00053.1).
- Block, B. A., Jonsen, I. K., Jorgensen, S. J., Winship, A. J., Shaffer, S. A., Bograd, S. J., Hazen, E. L., Foley, D. G., Breed, G. A., Harrison, J. E., Ganong, A., Swithenbank, M., Castleton, H. Dewar, B. R. Mate, G. L. Shillinger, K. M. Schaefer, **S. R. Benson**, M. J. Weise, R. W. Henry & D. P. Costa. 2011. Tracking apex marine predator movements in a dynamic ocean. *Letters to Nature* 475, 86–90. (doi:10/1038/nature10082).
- Harris, H. S., **Benson S.R.**, Gilardi K.V., Poppenga, R.H., Work, T.M., Dutton, P.H., and Mazet, J.A.K. 2011. Comparative health assessment of western Pacific leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) foraging off the coast of California, 2005-2007. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* 47(2): 321-337.
- Benson, S.R.**, Forney, K.A., Harvey, J.T., Carretta, J.V., and Dutton, P.H. 2007. Abundance, distribution, and habitat of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) off California, 1990-2003. *Fishery Bulletin*, 105(3):337-347.
- Benson S.R.**, Dutton, P.H., Hitipeuw, C., Samber, B., Bakarbesy, J., and Parker, D. 2007. Post-nesting migrations of leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) from Jamursba-Medi, Birds Head Peninsula, Indonesia. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology* 6(1):150-154.