Bycatch Reduction

Bycatch is a common problem in fisheries worldwide. The loggerhead sea turtle is among the turtle species most adversely affected by fishing gear, such as gillnets, longlines, and trawls. In the Pacific Ocean, the loggerhead sea turtle is particularly vulnerable due to its migratory habits and the overlap of its feeding and nesting grounds with areas of high human activity. This results in high levels of bycatch, which can threaten the survival of the population.

The PRO CAGUAMA project, supported by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC), has implemented a bycatch reduction program in the Pacific Ocean to mitigate the impact of bycatch on loggerhead sea turtles. The objectives of the project include:

1. Reducing the take of loggerhead sea turtles in the fishery.
2. Developing and implementing improved fishing practices that reduce bycatch.
3. Enhancing public awareness and education about the issue of bycatch and its impact on loggerhead sea turtles.

The project has been successful in reducing bycatch mortality in various fisheries, including the halibut gillnet fishery. Bycatch reduction efforts have been supported through various initiatives, such as the implementation of more selective fishing gear, improved monitoring and reporting systems, and community-based conservation efforts.

Furthermore, the project has involved stakeholders from various sectors, including fishermen, local communities, environmental organizations, and governments. These partnerships have led to the development of innovative solutions to reduce bycatch and promote sustainable fisheries management.

Conservation Research

The PRO CAGUAMA project has also focused on conservation research to better understand loggerhead sea turtle populations and their interactions with fisheries. This research includes the development of tools to improve bycatch monitoring and the implementation of outreach and education programs to raise public awareness about the importance of conservation efforts.

The project has collaborated with various institutions and organizations to carry out research activities, such as satellite tracking of loggerhead turtles, monitoring turtle populations, and conducting educational outreach programs. These efforts have contributed to a better understanding of loggerhead sea turtle behavior and population dynamics, which is crucial for effective conservation strategies.

Educational Outreach

The PRO CAGUAMA project has also emphasized the importance of public education and outreach to raise awareness about the issues related to bycatch and conservation. This includes the development of educational materials, workshops, and community events to engage stakeholders and promote conservation actions.

Community Networks

The PRO CAGUAMA project has established networks with local communities and stakeholders to foster collaboration and support conservation efforts. These networks involve fishermen, local organizations, and government agencies to work collectively towards addressing bycatch issues.

The project has implemented various activities to engage communities, such as workshops, training sessions, and public events. These efforts have helped strengthen community networks and promote a culture of conservation among local populations.

Overall, the PRO CAGUAMA project has made significant progress in reducing bycatch and promoting conservation of loggerhead sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean. The project’s success is a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation in achieving conservation goals.
**ProCAGUAMA Project Components**

**Community Networks**

We had local community leaders working closely with scientists, engaging local women’s groups, using the festival as a tool for education. These conservation efforts are complemented through workshops, report meetings, and dissemination campaigns.

**Bycatch Reduction**

Bycatch reduction is a major cause of sea turtle deaths. The halibut gillnet fishery is the largest single cause of bycatch of sea turtles. A concerted effort by the WPRFMC, Sea Turtle Conservancy, and Sea Turtle Conservancy – ProCAGUAMA project to conserve the north Pacific loggerhead turtle.

**Consortium’s Funding**

The Consortium for the Reduction of Oceanic Mortality (CROM) is one of eight councils in the United States established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Consortium is a non-profit organization that provides leadership in sea turtle conservation throughout the U.S. by reducing the impact of fishing activities on sea turtles.

**Conservation Research**

This project is funded through a number of organizations and institutions, including the Turtle Hospital, the Reef Check Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund.

**Conferences and Events**

Regularly held conferences and events offer a space for sharing information and best practices, and fostering collaborations among researchers, managers, and stakeholders.

**Contact Information**

For more information, visit www.grupotortuguero.org.

**Funding Agency**

WPRFMC, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, is one of eight Councils in the United States established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Council is the funding agency of the Bycatch Reduction Project (ProCAGUAMA) and of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is responsible for managing sea turtle populations in the Western Pacific region.

**Sea Turtle Protection**

Sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act and are considered a species of special concern by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Sea Turtle Mortality**

The threat of sea turtle mortality comes from a variety of sources, including habitat loss, overfishing, and pollution. This project focuses on reducing sea turtle mortality in the north Pacific, which is one of the most important nesting and feeding grounds for this species.

**Sea Turtle Conservation**

This project is supported by a consortium of organizations, including the Turtle Hospital, the Reef Check Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund.

**Sea Turtle Populations**

Sea turtle populations are declining globally, and the north Pacific is one of the few areas where populations are stable.

**Sea Turtle Research**

This project uses a variety of research methods, including satellite tracking, habitat mapping, and population modeling, to study sea turtle populations.

**Sea Turtle Recovery**

The objective of this project is to reduce sea turtle mortality in the north Pacific, which has led to a decline in population size.

**Sea Turtle Conservation Network**

The Sea Turtle Conservation Network is a partnership of organizations dedicated to the conservation of sea turtles worldwide.