

Sea Turtle Dives

Introduction



South Carolina
Aquarium

Sea Turtles are Reptiles

- Air breathers, lay eggs, have scaly skin and are cold blooded
- Top shell – carapace, bottom shell - plastron
- Do not pull limbs inside for protection like other turtles
 - > **Have very large pectoral muscles taking up space inside**
 - > **Use pectoral muscles to swim away from danger**
- Get very large due to living in water for buoyancy
- Front flippers large for propelling
- Back flippers act as rudders for steering

Sea Turtle Species (7 worldwide)

- Flatback
- Green
- Hawksbill
- Kemp's Ridley
- Leatherback
- Loggerhead
- Olive Ridley

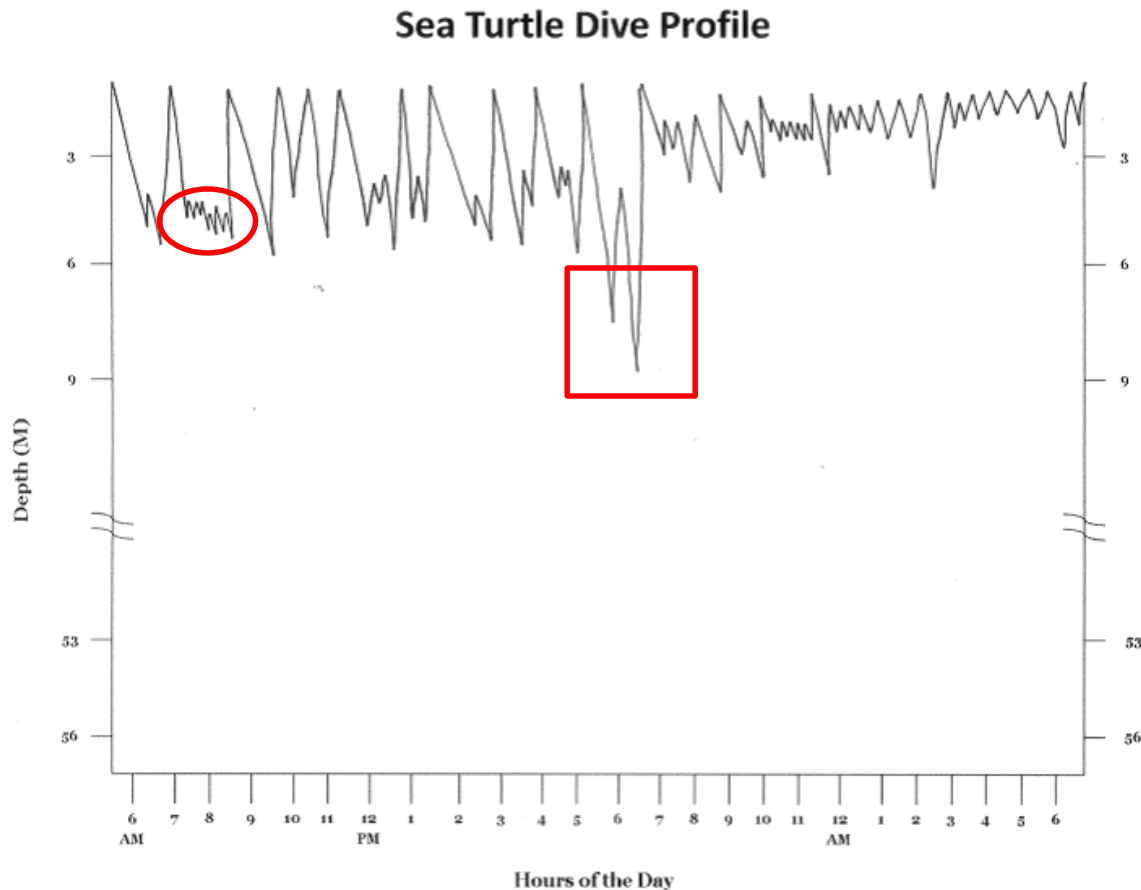


Sea Turtle Research

- Scientists have been studying sea turtles for years
- There is still much to learn in order to protect them
- Sea turtles can be studied using satellite tag data
 - > **Analyze dive profiles**
 - > **Gives info on life habits as well as foraging**

Sea Turtle Dive Profiles

- X-axis gives hours of the day (24 hour period)
- Y-axis gives depth of the ocean (in meters)
- Downward points give dive depth per dive



- Highlighted box shows deepest dive (foraging)
- Highlighted oval shows turtle resting (not eating)
- Also good to know what type of habitat is below the water (coral reef, sand, grasses,...)