



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

9 September 2008

Dr. Alan Bolten
Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research
University of Florida
PO Box 118525
Gainesville, Florida 32611 USA

Dear Dr. Bolten:

Thank you for asking me to review the Draft Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle – Second Revision. I have now completed this review and am attaching a summary of my comments. Overall, I found this document to be quite good. The northwest Atlantic population of loggerhead turtles face a myriad of threats, both in the marine environment and on nesting beaches and it is apparent that the population is in a downswing at the present time. Having a document such as this to help guide the development and implementation of conservation measures will help future recovery efforts targeting this threatened population.

I found the Recovery Plan to be very complete. It provides a very comprehensive analysis of the stock structure within this regional population, an understanding that is critical for maintaining genetic diversity of loggerheads in the northwest Atlantic. It contains substantial information on all the different threats to loggerhead turtles, and it clearly spells out the specific actions that are needed to address each of the threats to this population. At nearly 300 pages, this is an extremely long document. However, considering all the elements that are included, and the depth to which each of these elements are covered, the length of the plan is entirely acceptable.

Again, this is a fine document and one that should provide a measuring post for future Recovery Plans. Let's hope they are all this good! Please contact me at your convenience if you have any additional questions regarding my review.

Kindly yours,

Jeffrey A. Seminoff
Leader, Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Program
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