

Sex Ratios of Hatchling Hawksbill Sea Turtles from Bahia, Brazil

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More than 90% of all hawksbill nests laid in Brazil are found in northern Bahia. In order to estimate the sex ratio of **hatchling** hawksbill sea turtles produced on these beaches, we collected **200** eggs from 2 clutches and incubated them at constant temperatures in the laboratory. From this we were able to determine the pivotal temperature (that temperature which results in equal numbers of males **and females=29.65°C**) and the pivotal incubation period (that incubation period which results in **equal** numbers of males and **females=62.8** days). Using data on incubation periods from 7 nesting

seasons (**1990/91-1996-97**), we calculated the seasonal and **overall** sex ratio for **hatchlings** produced on these beaches.

The overall sex ratio was more than 90% female, and from other data we suggest that an extreme female bias in hatchling hawksbills has been produced in Bahia for at least 20 years. We discuss the possible connection between this skewed sex ratio and other particular characteristics of this **population** of sea turtles, including a relatively **low** hatching success rate of the nests and the high incidence of hybridization between hawksbills and loggerheads in Bahia.