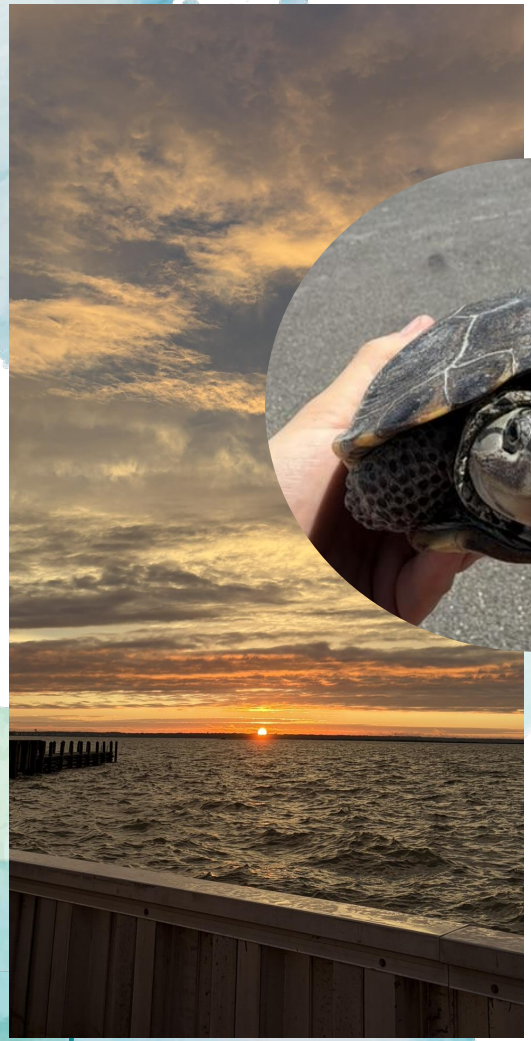






Monitoring of Nesting Diamondback Terrapins on Long Beach Island, NJ

Isabelle Cleaveland

****All information presented is based on my personal experience through Project Terrapin. Data sets and results are not presented.

Introduction



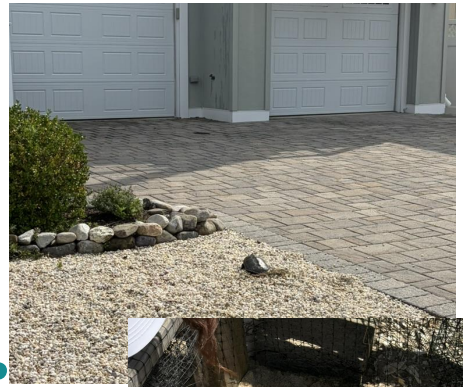
- Project Terrapin: outreach, conservation, education
- Holgate, LBI: Barnegat Bay
- Indicator of ecosystem health





- Brackish water
- Nesting season: May-July
- Clutch size average: 11-12 eggs
- Vulnerable to predation within first 48 hours
- Why conservation is needed: habitat loss, road mortality, over development

My Role







1 Monitoring

Daily patrolling, data collection contributions

2 Nest protection

Allowing nesting to happen, hatchery

3 Behind the scenes

Mordecai Island, BRDs, predation, site surveying, supplies

4 Outreach

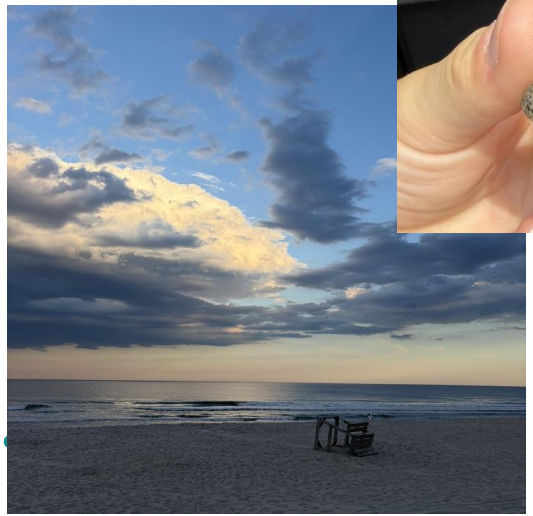
Terrapin tuesdays



Observations

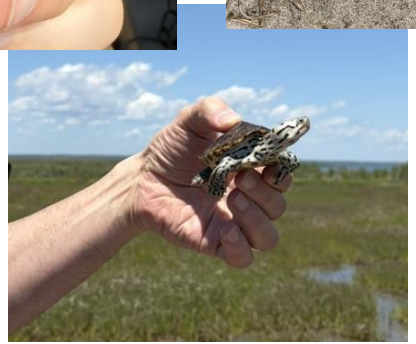
- Protection of eggs/ethical protocols
- Identification of nests
- Making predictions based on data
- Viability of eggs & conservation











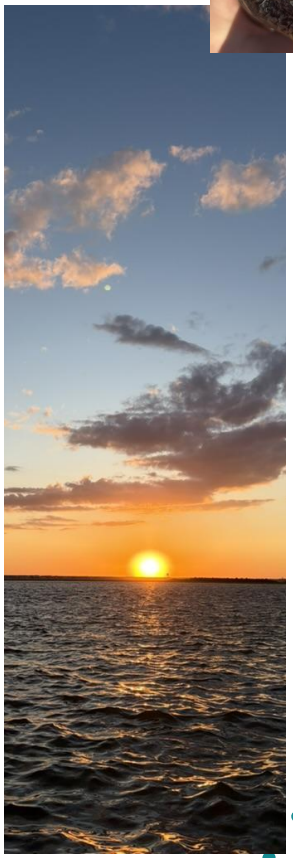
Skill development: technology transfer

- Overlapping populations in different locations
- Pit tagging: marking recapture rate, population monitoring
- Importance: applicable, pool of data expands, collaboration across states, reiterating doing what is best for the species

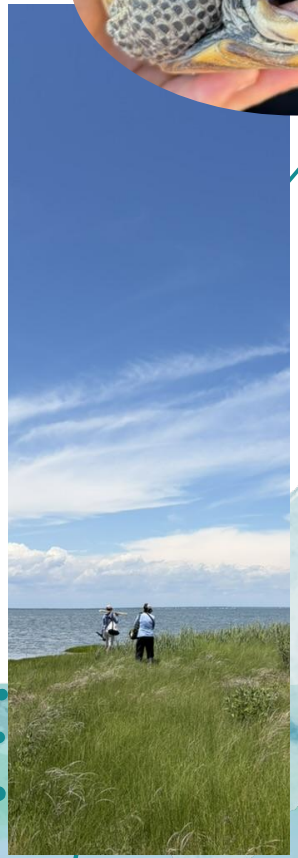


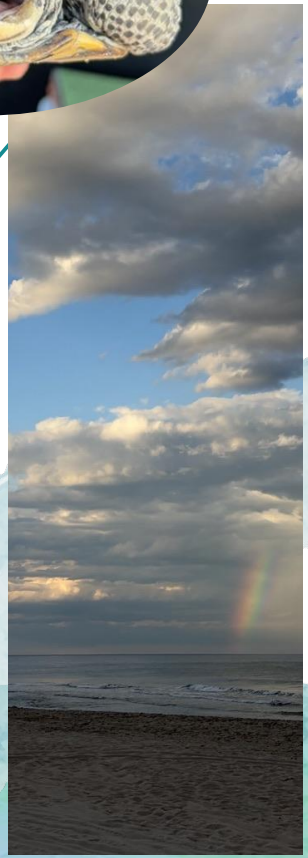












Significance

- Community members to raise environmental standards, citizen science
- Policy needs data
- Appreciation of species



