

**Biological Information about  
Virgin Islands Turtle Resources**

DAVID A. OLSEN AND RALF BOULON  
Aquarian Research, Inc.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**ABSTRACT**

Tag-recapture studies of Green and Hawksbill turtles in the U.S. Virgin Islands from 1981 to 1985 have provided estimates of growth and mortality. Since turtles are protected by the Endangered Species Act, these estimates of mortality can be assumed to approximate natural mortality. Information is also provided regarding nesting and recruitment which is used to estimate potential production of turtle resources by yield-per-recruit analysis. Caribbean turtle fishery regulations are analyzed and recommendations are made regarding management of the region's turtle resources.