

## Checklist of Marine Turtle Species Recorded from Irish Waters

2025

#	Species	Taxonomic Name	Status	Habitats	Notes
1	Leatherback Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	M	P/S	1
2	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	V	P/S	2
3	Kemp's Ridley	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	V	P/S	
4	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	V	P/S	3
5	Hawksbill Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	V	P/S	4

### Status Type

- R Resident and breeding in Irish waters
- V Vagrant
- M Migratory - forages in Irish waters
- H Historically occurred in Irish waters

### Habitat Type

- A Abyssal waters
- C Coastal
- S Shelf Waters (<200m)
- OB Offshore Banks
- P Pelagic
- SC Slopes & Canyons

### Notes

1. Records of Leatherback Turtle in Irish waters have been decreasing since a peak average of 36.8 sightings per year 1980-1990 to an average of 7 sightings per year 2014-2024 (King et al. 2025).
2. Numbers of this species stranded on the Irish coast (usually cold-shocked juveniles) have been increasing in the past two decades and the last decade in particular.
3. Three records only (King et al. 2025).
4. A single record only (King et al. 2025).

### References

- **Doyle, T. K. (2007)** Leatherback Sea Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Irish waters. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 32. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland

- **Gabriel King & Simon Berrow, Rod Penrose and Other Sources**, Irish Marine Turtle Records, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Ireland, accessed 03 October 2025, <https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Dataset/114>
- **King, J.L., Marnell, F., Kingston, N., Rosell, R., Boylan, P., Caffrey, J.M., FitzPatrick, Ú., Gargan, P.G., Kelly, F.L., O'Grady, M.F., Poole, R., Roche, W.K. & Cassidy, D. (2011)** Ireland Red List No. 5: Amphibians, Reptiles & Freshwater Fish. *National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.*
- **King GL, Berrow SD.** Marine turtles in Irish waters. *The Irish Naturalists' Journal.* 2009 Jan 1;30:1-30.