Management of turtle hatchery in Pulau Perhentian, Malaysia

Kamarruddin Ibrahim, Zahari Awang and Abd Halim Mat Noor

Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Center (TUMEC), Rantau Abang, 23050 Dungun, Terengganu, Malaysia.

Egg protection and hatchery production of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) remains active on the island of Pulau Perhentian, Terengganu, Malaysia. The Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DoFM), in collaboration with the state government of Terengganu initiated turtle hatchery on this island in 1989 and the operation continues until today. A total of 146,205 eggs of green turtles were incubated and 104,460 hatchlings released from 1989 until 2002. The emergence success varied among years with the values ranging 59.3 – 83.2% (averages of 71.4%) for 14 years. Due to its scarcity, only 290 eggs (3 clutches) of hawksbill turtles were incubated, out of which 152 hatchlings produced. The average emergence success of hawksbill turtles was 53.3% (range 22.0-77.8%). This paper also reports some important management issues facing managers during the implementation of this hatchery programme.