

How The Endangered Species Act Is Helping Sea Turtle Populations Recover

“Yay!” The people cheered as the endangered turtles swam into the ocean, a trip most turtles don’t make. These turtles have been protected because of the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act contributes to sea turtle conservation by raising awareness, promoting conservation efforts and conservancies, and advertising how the public can help. Thus, the Endangered Species Act helps further the conservation efforts of sea turtles.

First, the Endangered Species Act aids the conservation of sea turtles by providing awareness. The Endangered Species Act, by putting sea turtles on the list of threatened species, encourages conservation and efforts to protect them. The Sea Turtle Conservancy tells me, "Sea turtles are given legal protection in the United States and its waters under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which lists the hawksbill, leatherback, Kemp’s ridley and green turtle as endangered; the loggerhead is listed as threatened,”(Information About Sea Turtles). Because of the Endangered Species Act, these turtles are protected by U.S. law, and wouldn’t be brought to the government's attention if it weren't for the Endangered Species Act. This law fends off the harassing of turtles as well as the permeation of turtle products, which is crucial to the population’s flourishing. Additionally, the Endangered Species Act raises awareness about sea turtles by establishing an indispensable connection between the laws protecting species and their habitats. An article on the World Wildlife Foundation says that governments on multiple levels, such as the federal, state, and local governments, all coordinate to further efforts to protect endangered animals (the US Endangered Species Act). The Endangered Species Act

promotes this connection by putting an animal on the endangered species list, knowing that governments in that region will be forced to market the protection of these species. In this case, since sea turtles are so widespread, governments across the nation are required to advance the efforts of sea turtle conservation. Thus, the Endangered Species Act helps protect sea turtles by raising awareness.

Next, the Endangered Species Act helps to preserve and protect sea turtles by promoting conservation efforts. The Endangered Species Act inspires various partnerships between governments and conservancies to protect sea turtles. For example, an article on the U.S. Department of State website tells me that select fisheries have been approved to "have adequate measures in place to protect these sea turtles,"(Schuldheisz). These fisheries have helped to conserve and protect sea turtle populations, working with the government to educate the public so that locals know how to have a safe encounter with the sea turtles so that these turtles are unaffected by human behavior. Furthermore, the government works with conservancies to promote growth in sea turtles' populations. The Sea Turtle Conservancy tells me that the government works with them to protect sea turtle nests, eradicating disruptions to them, and minimizing pollution in their habitats (Information About Sea Turtles). This is an example of efforts driven by the United States Federal Government, which is engaged with the Endangered Species Act, and these are just a few examples of how the government, connected to the Endangered Species Act, is making a direct impact on sea turtle population growth. In summary, the Endangered Species Act conserves and preserves sea turtle populations via promoting conservation efforts.

Last, the Endangered Species Act helps the conservation of sea turtles by advertising how

the public can help. The government is driven by the Endangered Species Act to approve fisheries with adequate resources to further the efforts to save them. These fisheries include the Sea Turtle Conservancy. Its website provides a vast variety of ways to get involved with sea turtles, from encountering them in the wild to ways to give money to conservation efforts (Get Involved In Sea Turtle Conservation). These actions allow the public to feel the striking experience of seeing sea turtles up close and personal. This helps gain sympathy from the public to help them realize why these incredible animals should be protected. Moreover, this conservancy provides educational experiences such as the Tour de Turtles, which enlightens the public about how important sea turtles are to their environment and why they should be protected (Sea Turtle Tracking Tour). The purpose of events like this is to inform the public about the potential effects if the sea turtles go extinct, as it will impact mankind negatively and due to a lack of predators, there will be an overpopulation of their prey, which can cause the whole ecosystem to collapse. Therefore, the Endangered Species Act works to conserve sea turtles by advertising how the public can help.

Consequently, sea turtles are positively affected by the Endangered Species Act because it raises awareness, promotes conservation efforts and conservancies, and advertises how the public can help. Ergo, the Endangered Species Act helps with the preservation and conservation of the sea turtle population. Sea Turtle Conservancies depend entirely on the public and outreach, so everyone who grazes the entrance of any sea turtle conservancy facility is making a HUGE difference.

Works Cited

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