



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: Predicting Vulnerability of Southeastern Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches to Climate Change

Headline Title (2-5 words): Sea Turtle Vulnerability Assessment

Brief Summary (Abstract): This project is aimed at understanding the vulnerability to climate change of coastal habitats and nesting grounds for loggerhead and other endangered sea turtles.

Project Location: Florida

Partners: Researchers are from the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Florida.

Background: Sea-level rise, increased storm frequency, and altered temperature and humidity associated with climate change may reduce the suitability of nesting and foraging habitats used by federally threatened and endangered species, such as the federally threatened loggerhead sea turtle.

Project Goals: The goal of this project is to produce a vulnerability assessment of coastal habitats representing important nesting grounds for loggerhead and other endangered sea turtles (e.g. Kemp's ridleys, green turtles, and leatherbacks). This project will build upon work already being done to develop vulnerability maps under a number of current and future climate scenarios. These maps will provide management guidance and will serve to identify knowledge and data gaps as primary sources of uncertainty.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 4, Strategy 4.2, Action 4.2.3.: Conduct vulnerability and risk assessments for habitats and priority species (threatened and endangered species, species of greatest conservation need, and species of socioeconomic and cultural significance).