

October 17, 2019

Marine turtle enforcement statistics report 2010- Sept 30, 2019

During the period of January 1, 2010 to September 30, 2019 the ENV Wildlife Crime Unit logged a total of 528 cases comprised of 668 violations involving marine turtles.

Figure 1: Marine turtle cases and violations logged by classification

Item	Cases
Advertising and selling violations	236
Possession violations	250
Smuggling and trade violations	22
Hunting and other violations	28
TOTAL	526 cases
	666 violations

Internet crime:

Of the 528 cases, 164 cases involved online advertising, selling, or in a few cases, possession, of marine turtles or parts and products made from marine turtles

Prosecution

During the reporting period, there were 22 criminal cases involving marine turtles. Of these 22 cases, there were 28 subjects arrested, 11 of which were convicted in eight cases that were prosecuted.

Eight of the 11 subjects convicted resulted in prison terms ranging from six months to 10 years while three other convictions resulted in suspended sentences for five individuals. Two of the 21 criminal cases are currently pending prosecution.

Fourteen cases did not result in prosecutions, three of which resulted in no arrests, and two of which involved arrests but no prosecution. The seven remaining cases resulted in administrative punishment.

Prosecutions	No. cases	No. subjects
Total criminal cases	22	28
Total convictions/prosecutions	8	11
Number cases resulting in prison sentences	5	8
Number of cases resulting in suspended sentences	3	5

Pending prosecution	2	3
Administrative punishment	7	9
Subject not caught	3	NA
Subject not punished	2	3

Figure 2: Convictions resulting in prison sentences

Case No.	Incident date	Location	Seizure description	Prison term
2001	Nov-Dec 2014 Pros 2018	Khanh Hoa	Estimated 10 tons of marine turtles seized	Subj1: 4 yrs 6 mos
9914	June 17, 2016	Ba Ria Vung Tau	116 eggs seized on Con Dao	Subj1: 10 mos, 17 days
13221	Sept 1, 2018	Kien Giang	12 live marine turtles	Subj1: 5 yrs 3 mos. Subj2: 5 yrs
13583	Nov 12, 2018	Kien Giang	12 live marine turtles	Subj1: 5 yrs Subj2: 6 mos
14736	Oct 15, 2018	Hanoi	14 marine turtle trophies	Subj1: 10 yrs Subj2: 8 yrs, 6 mos

Important result

Of five cases resulting in convictions and prison sentences, four of these convictions occurred in 2018-2019. Prior to 2018, only one case resulted in a prison term marking a change for Vietnam

It should also be noted that prior to the 2014 case involving the seizure of approximately 10 tons of marine turtles from a warehouse in Khanh Hoa and subsequent arrest, prosecution and imprisonment of one of the owners there were at least six other sizeable domestic seizures of marine turtles totaling about 2.5 tons of marine turtles, none of these cases resulting in successful prosecutions.

Hotspots

Figure 3 shows the number of cases by province during the period January 1, 2010 and Sept 30, 2019. As figure 3 illustrates five provinces stand out as "hotspots" for marine turtle trade; Khanh Hoa, Hanoi, Kien Giang, Ba Ria Vung Tau, and Ho Chi Minh. Five other provinces "of concern" had between 15-20 cases reported during the reporting period. However it should be noted that all five "hotspot" provinces were the subject of ENV enforcement campaigns in 2017 and 2018 specifically targeting marine turtle violations, as well as additional consumer crime enforcement campaigns since 2012 that would have included documenting marine turtle violations. This special focus on these five hotspots would likely result in a higher proportion of crimes reported in these area when compared to some other provinces.

However, documentation of marine turtle crimes in these five provinces, as well as the five additional provinces of concern remains a valid indicator that these areas are centers of illegal activity in relation to marine turtle trafficking and trade.

Figure 3: Marine turtle crimes by province 2010-2019

Province	No. Crimes	No. Cases		Province	No. Crimes	No. Cases
Binh Phuoc	1	1		Ninh Thuan	7	6
Dong Thap	1	1		Binh Dinh	8	8
Gia Lai	1	1		Binh Thuan	8	7
Ha Nam	1	1		Cao Bang	8	1
Lam Dong	1	1		Quang Tri	8	8
Ninh Binh	1	1		Bac Lieu	9	8
Vinh Phuc	1	1		Binh Duong	9	8
Can Tho	2	2		Ha Tinh	10	10
Dak Lak	2	2		Hai Phong	11	10
Hoa Binh	2	2		Ca Mau	14	10
Lang Son	2	1		Soc Trang	12	9
Long An	2	2		Da Nang	13	12
Tra Vinh	2	2		Quang Nam	13	13
Vinh Long	2	2		Nghe An	15	13
An Giang	3	3		Phu Yen	15	11
Dong Nai	4	3		Quang Ngai	17	15
Hai Duong	3	3		Quang Ninh	20	19
Nam Dinh	4	4		Thua Thien Hue	21	21
Thai Binh	4	4		Khanh Hoa	44	34
Quang Binh	6	6		Ha Noi	59	41
Thanh Hoa	6	6		Kien Giang	64	32
Tien Giang	6	4		Ba Ria Vung Tau	76	57
Ben Tre	7	7		Ho Chi Minh	91	71

Common marine turtle crimes

- Marine turtle trophies displayed or sold at tourist establishments and stores
- Marine turtle products such as jewelry, combs, decorations sold at tourist establishments
- Live marine turtles caught by fishermen as bycatch
- Online advertisement and sale of live marine turtles, parts and products
- Live animals kept at establishments such as restaurants or hotels