

ILLEGAL TURTLE MEAT

Illegal take is **high** relative to the size of the wild turtle population:

Among consumers, 8% of resident households bought illegal turtle meat during the last year, representing at least 195 households



Photo: DoE

NEXT STEPS

Action must be taken to:

- **Safeguard the Cayman Islands wild turtle population from illegal take**
- **Continue monitoring turtle meat sales and illegal take to inform future management efforts**

Results of this study will be used to develop a Sea Turtle Species Conservation Plan under the National Conservation Law.

Questions, comments and feedback about these results greatly appreciated!

Contact information:

Dr. Ana Nuno - A.M.G.Nuno@exeter.ac.uk
Department of Environment - DoE@gov.ky

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was conducted by the University of Exeter, for the Department of Environment, and was funded by the Darwin Initiative.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in this survey, both being interviewed and collecting data.



Socioeconomic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands



AIM OF THIS PROJECT:

The project “*Socioeconomic aspects of turtle conservation in the Cayman Islands*” aims to provide robust information on the role of the Cayman Turtle Farm in wild turtle conservation.

WHO WAS SURVEYED?

We interviewed more than 1000 people:

- 26 representatives of several **organizations**
- 597 **resident households** (randomly selected based on Economics and Statistics Office’s household register)
- 174 high school **students**
- 204 international **tourists**
- 39 **restaurant** owners, managers and cooks.

CONSUMPTION OF TURTLE MEAT

The following people ate turtle meat at least once during the least year:

- 30% of resident households
- 41% of high school students
- 6% of cruise ship tourists
- 2% of stay-over tourists.



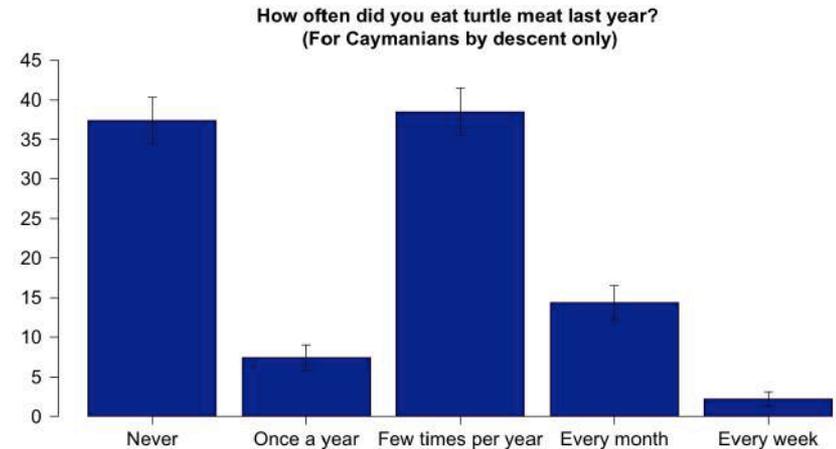
Key **reasons** given for eating turtle: taste, tradition and culture, and celebrating special occasions.

At least **41 restaurants or informal food businesses** served turtle dishes. More robust data is needed but we estimate around 30 300 - 95 900 turtle meals have been consumed in restaurants last year.

TURTLE CONSUMERS

People were more likely to have eaten turtle during last year if they were **Caymanians by descent** (i.e. had a Caymanian grandparent).

62% of Caymanians by descent consumed turtle meat at least once during last year, with most of them eating it a **few times a year** (see figure below).



Among Caymanians by descent, young people (<35yrs) were **less likely** to have eaten turtle recently.

CONSUMER PREFERENCES

In general, the consumer population prefers (by order of importance):

- cheapest prices
- farmed turtle instead of wild turtle
- having turtle a few times per month instead of a few times per year or every week
- travelling small distances
- high numbers of nesting turtle population.

This suggests that consumers will choose the cheapest turtle meat, regardless of its source.