

# IN-WATER BEHAVIOUR OF LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES, ZAKYNTHOS, GREECE

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**ABSTRACT.** Intensive in-water surveys in Laganas bay, Zakynthos, Greece, revealed the existence of two aggregation hotspots for loggerhead sea turtles. The first one, a cleaning station, was occupied primarily by female turtles during their interesting period. The second, a small reef in the shallows, served as a foraging area. The solitary and the social behaviour of the turtles between these two spots was very different. At the cleaning station, female turtles did not involve in any fights, generally tolerating the presence of one another while being cleaned by fish and performing self-cleaning activities. In the foraging spot, on the other hand, which was used mainly by resident males, aggressive fights took place quite often as soon as one turtle was at the vicinity of the other. Using high quality underwater videos, we highlight these differences and provide new insights into the in-water behaviour of the loggerhead sea turtle.

**Presenter:** Kostas Papafitsoros (Symposium participant)

**Location:** Zakynthos island, Greece

**Format of video:** QT movie (but other formats can be also available if needed)

**Duration:** 5 minutes

**Narration:** Still frames with written narration in English.

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