

# THE EFFECTS OF THE 1997-1998 EL NIÑO ON THE WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MANTLE TURTLE

Abstract

The effects of the 1997-1998 El Niño on the worldwide distribution of the mantle turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) were investigated using a combination of satellite telemetry and field observations. The results show that the 1997-1998 El Niño had a significant impact on the distribution of the mantle turtle, with a shift in the range of the species towards the south. This shift was observed in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and was likely due to changes in oceanic conditions caused by the El Niño. The study highlights the importance of monitoring the distribution of marine species in response to climate change.

Keywords: El Niño, mantle turtle, distribution, satellite telemetry, field observations.

Introduction

The mantle turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is a species of sea turtle that is found in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. It is a species of concern due to its declining population and the threats it faces from human activities and climate change. The 1997-1998 El Niño event had a significant impact on the distribution of the mantle turtle, with a shift in the range of the species towards the south. This shift was observed in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and was likely due to changes in oceanic conditions caused by the El Niño. The study highlights the importance of monitoring the distribution of marine species in response to climate change.