

## Category WDA: Wildlife Conservation and Endangered Species

### Prevalence of internal tumor in Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) affected by Fibropapillomatosis in Brazil: preliminary data

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Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) seriously affected by external Fibropapillomatosis (FP) may present visceral tumors. Mainly affected organs are lungs, kidneys, heart, liver, and the gastrointestinal tract. Tumors may be classified as fibromas, low-malignity fibrossarcomas and myxofibromas. Reports of such internal tumors are not common in Brazil. Our survey aimed to verify prevalence of internal tumors in green turtles with external Fibropapillomatosis. Analysis were performed using TAMAR´s necropsy reports from Santa Catarina, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo, Bahia, Sergipe, and Ceará states. In order to select specimens to be analyzed, the following keywords were used: masse, nodules, cyst and tumor. Samples from selected cases were obtained for histopathological tests. Overall, 476 *Chelonia mydas* individuals were diagnosed with external FP. After necropsy, 127 animals presented internal tumors and therefore were subjected to confirmatory histopatological exams. Preliminary results showed fibromas in esophagus, lungs, stomach, left ventricle and kidney from one specimen from Bahia state. Tumors locations corroborate with the literature. For instance in Florida, the internal tumors were more frequently found in lungs (77%), kidney (69%), heart (38%), gastrointestinal tract (31%) and liver (23%). In Costa Rica, lungs and kidney represent 41% of affected organs. Further samples from the other selected cases of our study still to be submitted to confirmatory histopatological diagnostics. The present study, even in its initial phase, has been strengthened by the confirmation of an internal tumor case. The real prevalence internal tumors in Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) affected by Fibropapillomatosis in Brazil, and the main organs affected by visceral Fibropapillomatosis may be confirmed with continuous tests.