

A US\$10 fee was charged for registration, and the proceeds will help defray costs of communications during the organization before the reunion, as well as the printing and distribution of a final report containing the national summaries and results from each of the discussion groups.

In addition to the usual organizational aspects, a protocol for the resolution of conflicts was developed by the reunion coordinator. The meeting was a huge success, greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all those participants dedicated to the formation of networks and regional collaboration for the promotion of sea turtle conservation.

The Latin American group has built a major regional network, and it has grown to have a significant political force at the Symposium (for the past four years, this group has been a primary generator of resolutions). Plans for the VII Reunion, to be held immediately before the 20th Annual

Symposium in Orlando, Florida, are now afoot, and should soon appear in this Newsletter.

The reunion will be coordinated by Hedelvy Guada (Venezuela), Hector Horta (Puerto Rico) and Lesbia Montero (Puerto Rico); and six committees will be headed by the following volunteers: finances - Didiher Chacón (Costa Rica); communications - Alejandro Fallabrino (Uruguay) and Vicente Vera (Venezuela); equipment - Anabella Barrios (Guatemala) and Roxana Silman (Peru); registration - Cecilia Gutierrez (Nicaragua) and Marco Garcia (Venezuela); facilitation - Alfonso Aviles (Belize); and proceedings - Ana Barragan (Mexico).

Hopefully, specialists from other regions, such as the Mediterranean and Asia, will have similar success by taking advantage of time immediately before the Annual Symposium to promote regional cooperation and networks.

GIS Workshop

Michael S. Coyne¹ & Andrea Mosier²

¹*National Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20902, USA (E-mail: mcoyne@seaturtle.org)*

²*Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Marine Research Institute, 100 8th Ave. SE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701, USA (E-mail: MOSIER_A@epic7.dep.state.fl.us)*

On the 4th of March 1999, as part of the 19th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation in South Padre Island, Texas, about 50 participants gathered for an informal workshop regarding the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in sea turtle research and conservation.

This meeting was organized in order to bring together GIS users to discuss available software and resources. It was intended for those currently using GIS, who know what it is and what they can do with it, but need to know about some of the latest tools. Participants were encouraged to bring examples of their work and share experiences with the application of GIS to sea turtle research.

An overall conclusion of the session was that most people working with sea turtles and GIS either use or are most familiar with ESRI's (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.) ArcView GIS and mapping software. Hence, a large part of the workshop was devoted to demonstrating several extensions to ArcView. These included: Spatial Analyst, which allows robust spatial modelling and

the creation of raster-based (gridded) surfaces from point data; 3D Analyst, which allows for creating, analyzing and visualizing data in three dimensions; and Animal Movement, a free extension from the US Geological Survey which includes several methods for calculating home ranges and many other functions that those working with tracking data might find extremely useful. Also discussed were ESRI's new Tracking Analyst and Image Analysis extensions.

As a follow-up to the workshop a GIS resources page has been created at [seaturtle.org](http://www.seaturtle.org/gis/) <<http://www.seaturtle.org/gis/>>. The page includes links to online resources including software, ArcView extensions and scripts, mapping services, data sources and GIS publications.

A recent addition includes a bulletin board-like forum for discussing problems, tips and other issues related to sea turtles and GIS. This page will continue to grow and with user participation provide an excellent resource for those using GIS to study and conserve sea turtles.