

Hawksbill Sea Turtle

(photo by Lauren Holman of the Roundhouse)



Description: Hawksbill turtles have flattened bodies, long flippers, sharp curving beaks and ridged shells. They can grow up to three feet and can weigh up to 175 pounds! Because they eat some venomous jellies, their flesh can be toxic. Hawksbill turtles are found in tropical waters, however, the Roundhouse has one (it is not alive) that we use to teach about the dangers of pollution.

Feed on: Hawksbill turtles primarily eat sponges, algae and jellies (aka jellyfish).

Defense: Hard shell. Unlike popular belief, sea turtles cannot hide in their shell like land turtles.

Status in the Ocean: Every single species of sea turtle is critically endangered. Hawksbill turtle shells are used for decorative tortoise shell material. Many sea turtles die from eating balloons and plastic bags, thinking they are jellies.

WOW! Hawksbill Turtles are critically endangered. They are on the verge of becoming extinct.