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# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM**

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Mazatlán, Sinaloa MEXICO**

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## MONITORING AND NEST PROTECTION OF THE LOGGERHEAD COLONY NESTING IN KYPARISSIA BAY, GREECE, DURING 1997

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A major nesting area of the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta* in Greece is found along the 44-km Bay of Kyparissia, at the western coast of Peloponnesus. Pilot monitoring in the 1980s has revealed that most of the nests (more than 85%) are made in the southernmost 10-km part of the bay. Unlike the nesting regions of Zakynthos and northern Crete, development of the beach area is not a major problem. Nests suffer greatly from predation by foxes and dogs as well as from inundation caused by the strong prevailing

northwestern wind which brings waves high up the beach in summer. To counter these stresses on the nesting population, for several years an active management program has been carried out by the STPS. Activities include fencing of nests, relocation of clutches to avoid inundation and a public awareness program aimed at limiting damage caused by residents and visitors to the area. The present poster describes the work carried out during the 1997 nesting season.