



## Sea Turtle Assessment in the Tobago Cays Marine Park

**[Clifton] (JULY 21, 2010)** The Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) and the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL) are pleased to announce that we have been awarded new funding from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to conduct a sea turtle assessment in the Tobago Cays Marine Park.

The assessment will be undertaken with our partner organisation the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), which is an international scientific network comprised of sea turtle experts, natural resource professionals and community-based conservationists in more than 40 Caribbean nations and territories.

In 1991-1993, WIDECAST facilitated the development of the Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines which investigated the status and distribution of sea turtles nationally. Since then, personnel from the Fisheries Division have been trained by WIDECAST in sea turtle biology and conservation.

Executive Director of WIDECAST, Dr. Karen Eckert, commented “We are excited about the opportunity to focus on the Tobago Cays Marine Park, and to share the latest in scientific knowledge and research practices related to the sea turtles to the park.”

The new project will assess not only the status of sea turtle populations in the park, but also the habitat used by the turtles. To this end, WIDECAST, together with the Barbados Sea Turtle Project, will train the staff of the Tobago Cays Marine Park in sea turtle research and conservation techniques.

The park’s marine biologist, Mr. Olando Harvey, explained “In the park we see green turtles, which are considered endangered worldwide, and some hawksbill turtles, which are considered critically endangered. These sea turtles, like all flora and fauna, are fully protected within the park and we look forward to implementing a long-term sea turtle monitoring programme.”

For more information about sea turtles and the Tobago Cays Marine Park please contact Sharon Gulick at 485-8191 or [tcmp191@hotmail.com](mailto:tcmp191@hotmail.com). Also see [www.widecast.org](http://www.widecast.org).



Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Tobago Cays Marine Park.  
Photo by Emma Doyle, WIDECAST.