

**Loggerhead sea turtle (Caretta caretta)** - a species of reptile from the family of sea turtles (Cheloniidae), the only living representative of the genus Caretta Rafinesque, 1814.

**Description**

The head is covered with regularly spaced scutes. The jaws resemble a bird's beak. The carapace has 5 pairs of bony ribbed scutes (which distinguishes it from other species of turtles that have 4 pairs). The limbs are transformed into flat and wide paddles with 2 claws on the leading edges. The carapace is various shades of brown and the plastron is yellowish.

**Size**

The carapace can reach up to 120 cm in length.

Body weight up to about 100 kg, but individuals weighing around 500 kg are known.

**Diet**

Mainly fish and other small marine animals such as sponges, jellyfish, crabs, mussels, squid, and oysters. Thanks to their powerful jaws, they can handle the hard shells of their prey. Occasionally they eat algae and other plants such as seaweed.