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Summary

The long-lived nature of marine turtles and their high trophic level may result in the bioaccumulation of organic and inorganic compounds within tissues, making these species important indicators for pollution in aquatic systems. In order to assess marine turtle health, particularly in heavily populated areas, it is important to characterize the adverse effects of contaminants found in turtles. This project aims to establish primary cell cultures from several types of turtle tissue to test the effects of known organic and inorganic contaminants. A battery of assays will be developed to investigate a range of endpoints and sensitivities, such as cell viability, genotoxicity and oxidative stress, to better discern the effects of contaminants.

Research Expertise

- Primary cell culture
- *In vitro* bioassays
- Ecotoxicology
- Marine biology