

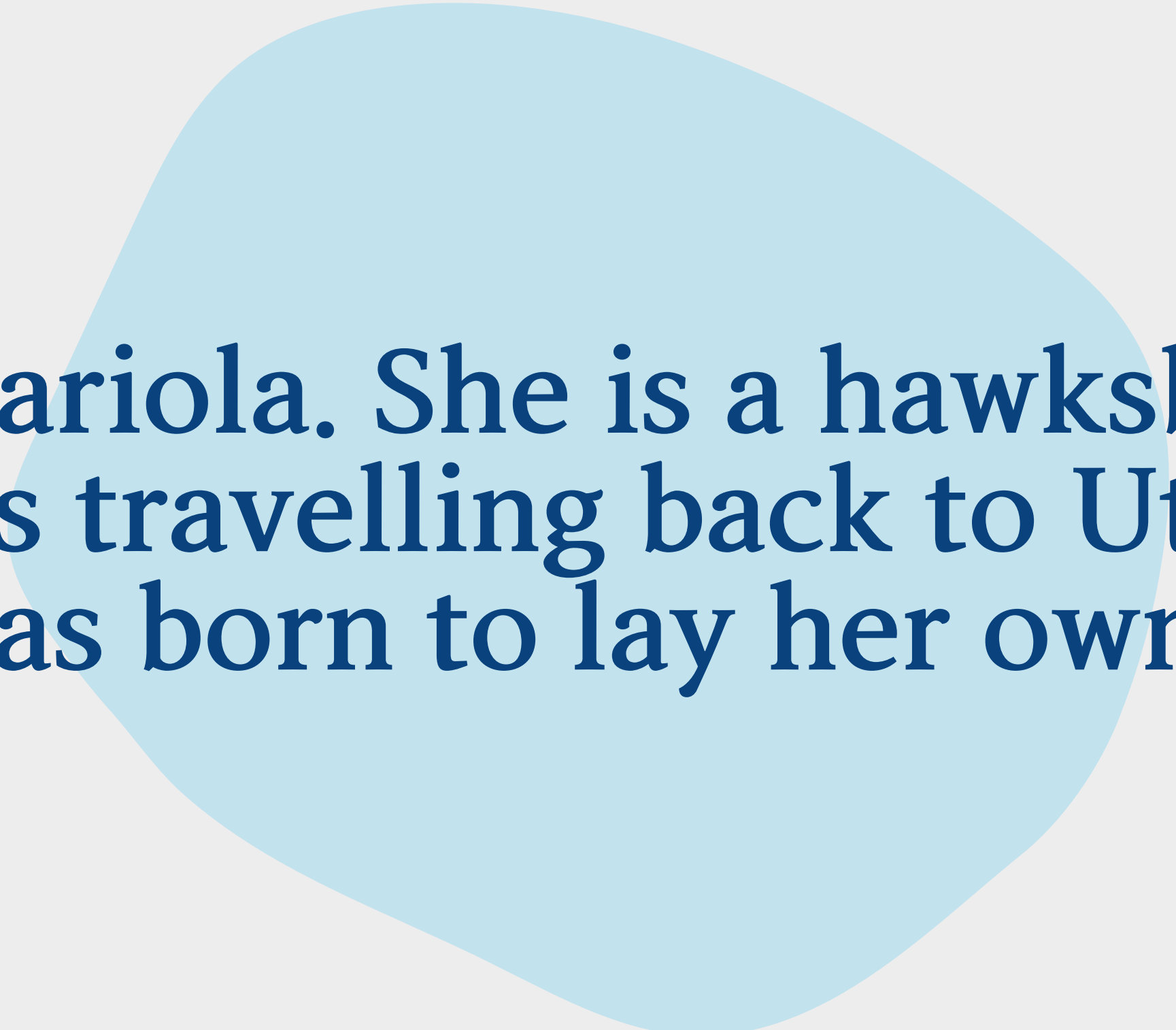


**THE JOURNEY OF MARIOLA'S  
BABY TURTLES**









**This is Mariola. She is a hawksbill turtle.  
Mariola is travelling back to Utila where  
she was born to lay her own eggs.**





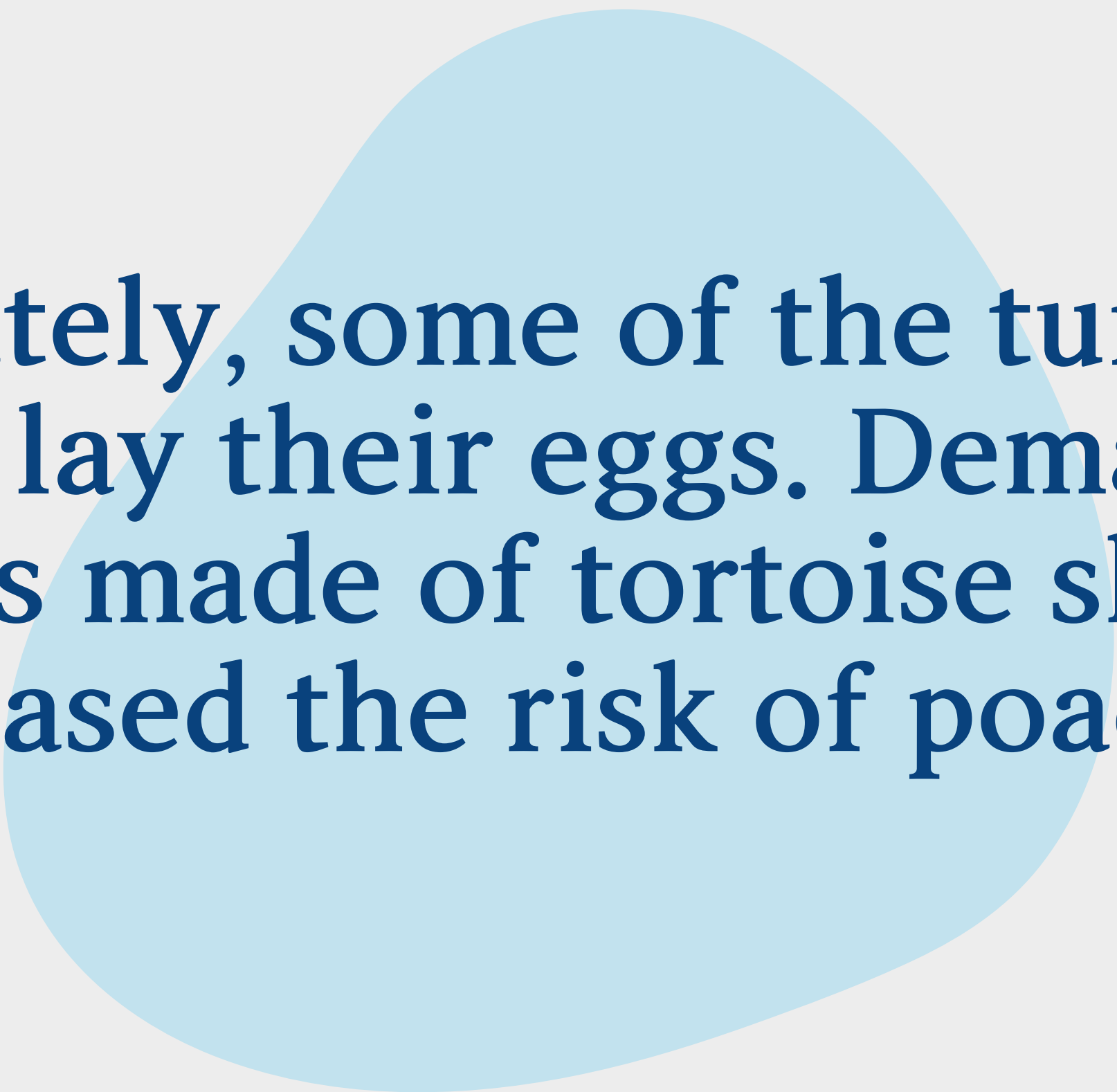


**Mariola joins the other hawksbill turtles on the beach to nest. She may lay up to 200 eggs. This is a very exhausting and potentially dangerous process for the mother turtles and they need our support.**









**Unfortunately, some of the turtles do not get to lay their eggs. Demand for products made of tortoise shell have increased the risk of poaching.**





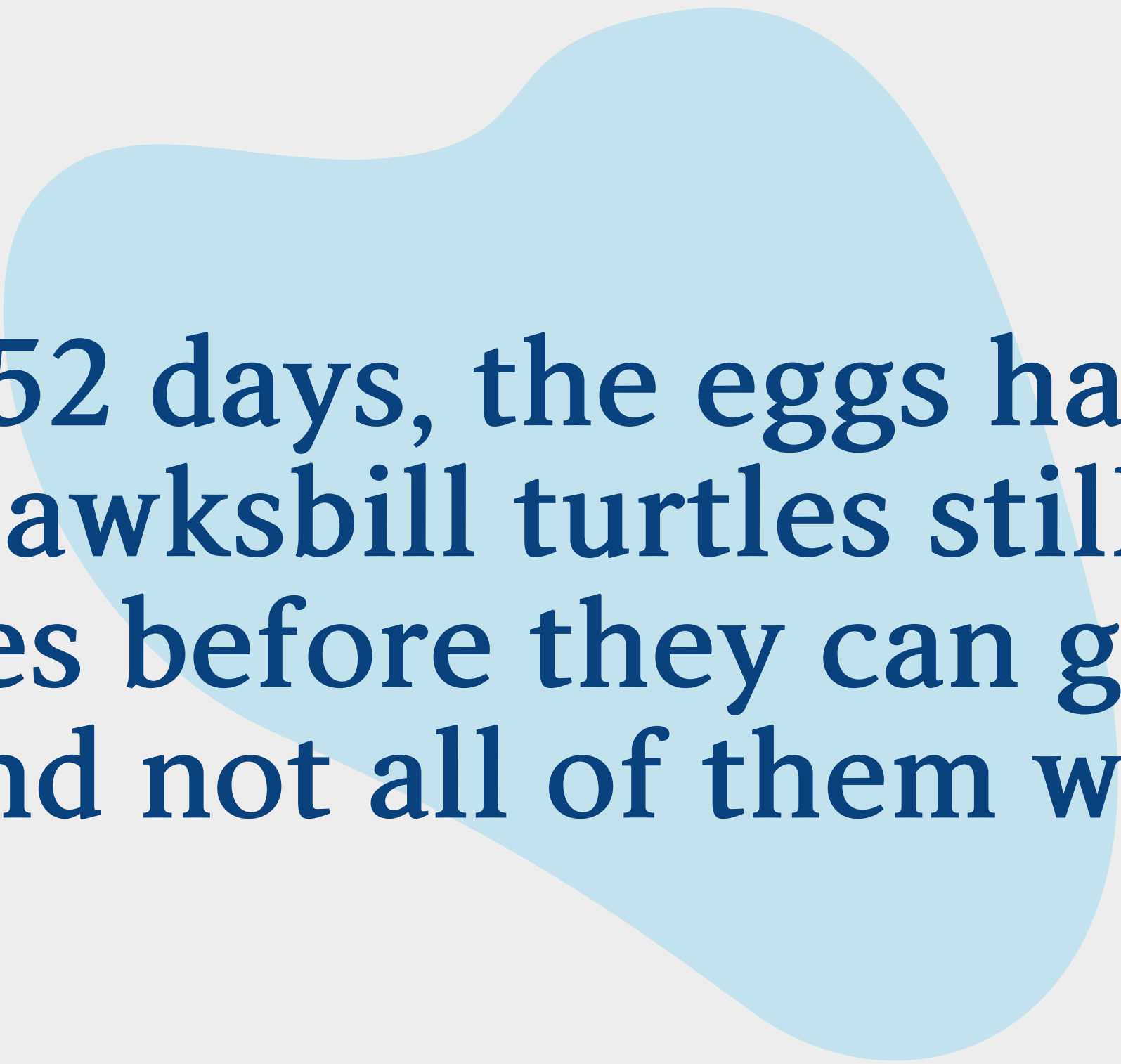


**Lights close to the beach cause confusion. Other disturbances such as noise and movement can scare the turtles and they may not get an opportunity to nest.**









**Before 52 days, the eggs hatch. The newborn hawksbill turtles still face many challenges before they can get back to the sea, and not all of them will make it.**







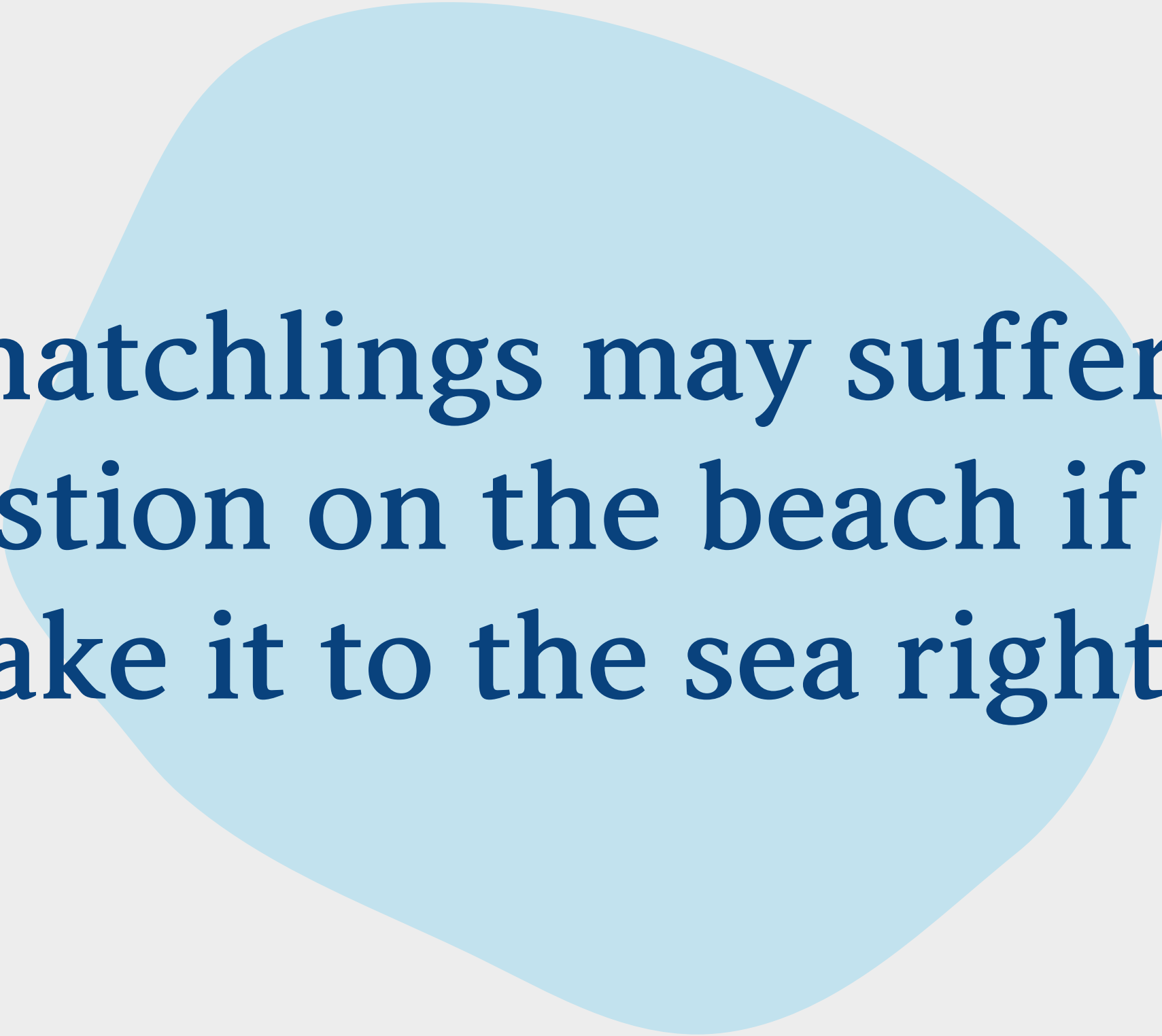


**Dogs, racoons, and coatls on the beaches  
pose a hazard for the hatchlings.**









**Some hatchlings may suffer from heat exhaustion on the beach if they can't make it to the sea right away.**







Once the hatchlings reach the ocean, they are in danger of becoming tangled in abandoned fishing gear and plastic debris.



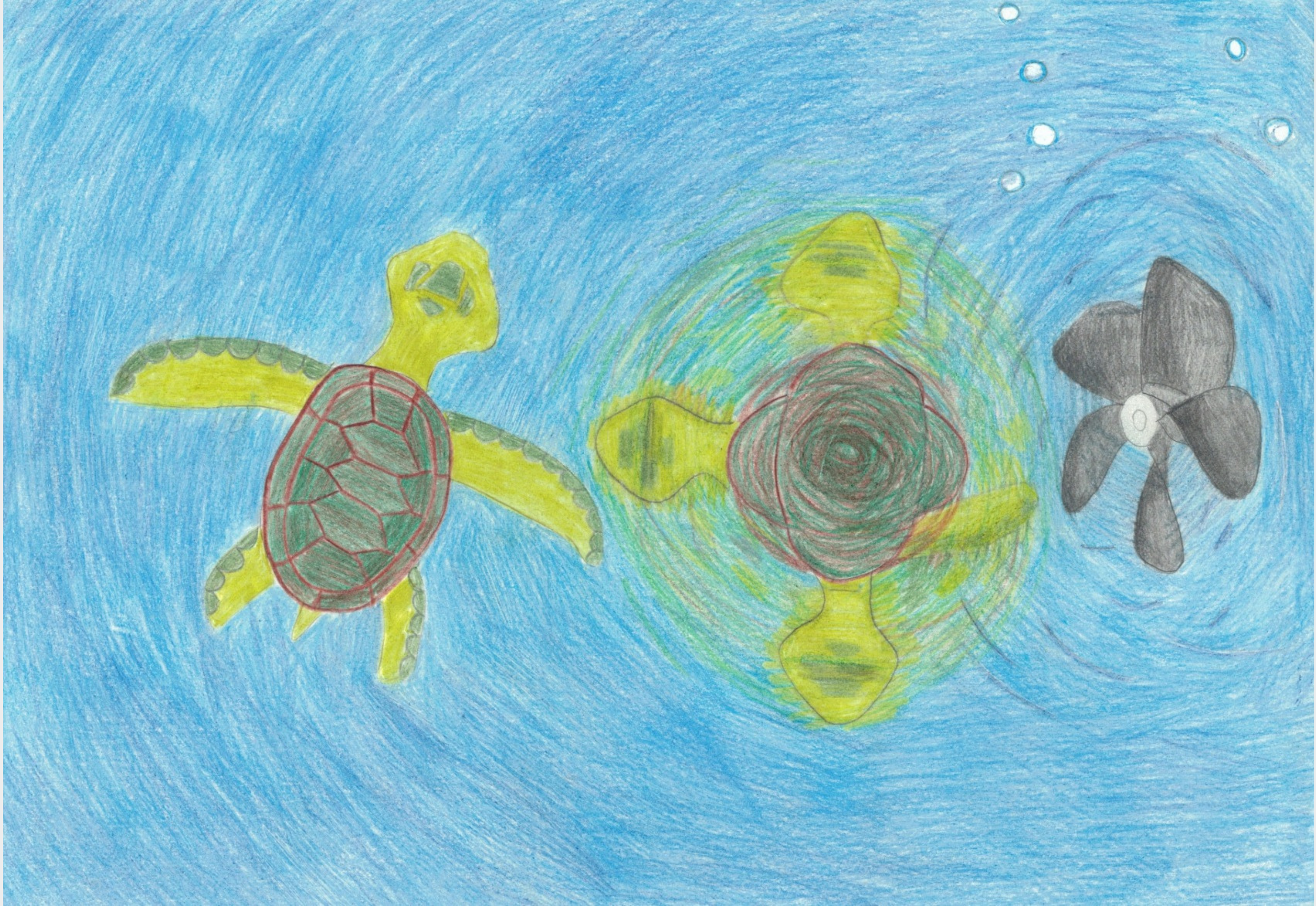




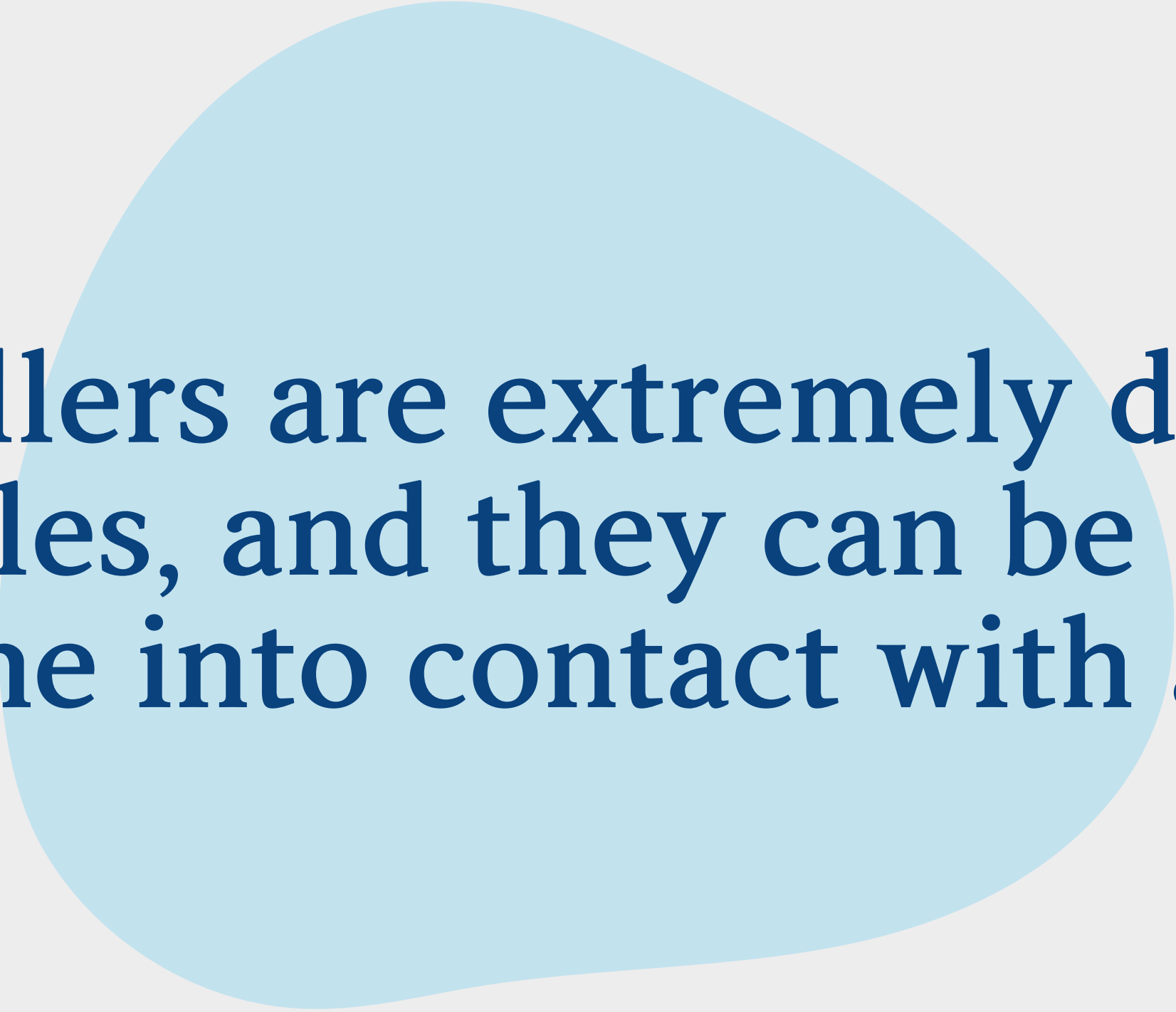


**Floating plastic bags look like jellyfish,  
one of a sea turtle's favorite meals.**









**Boat propellers are extremely dangerous for sea turtles, and they can be injured if they come into contact with a boat.**







**Thankfully, there are many people who want to help hawksbill turtles like Mariola. Volunteer patrols on the beaches scare away the dogs, raccoons, and coatls as well as the poachers. Volunteers take part in beach cleanups to remove plastic and other litter from the nesting sites.**







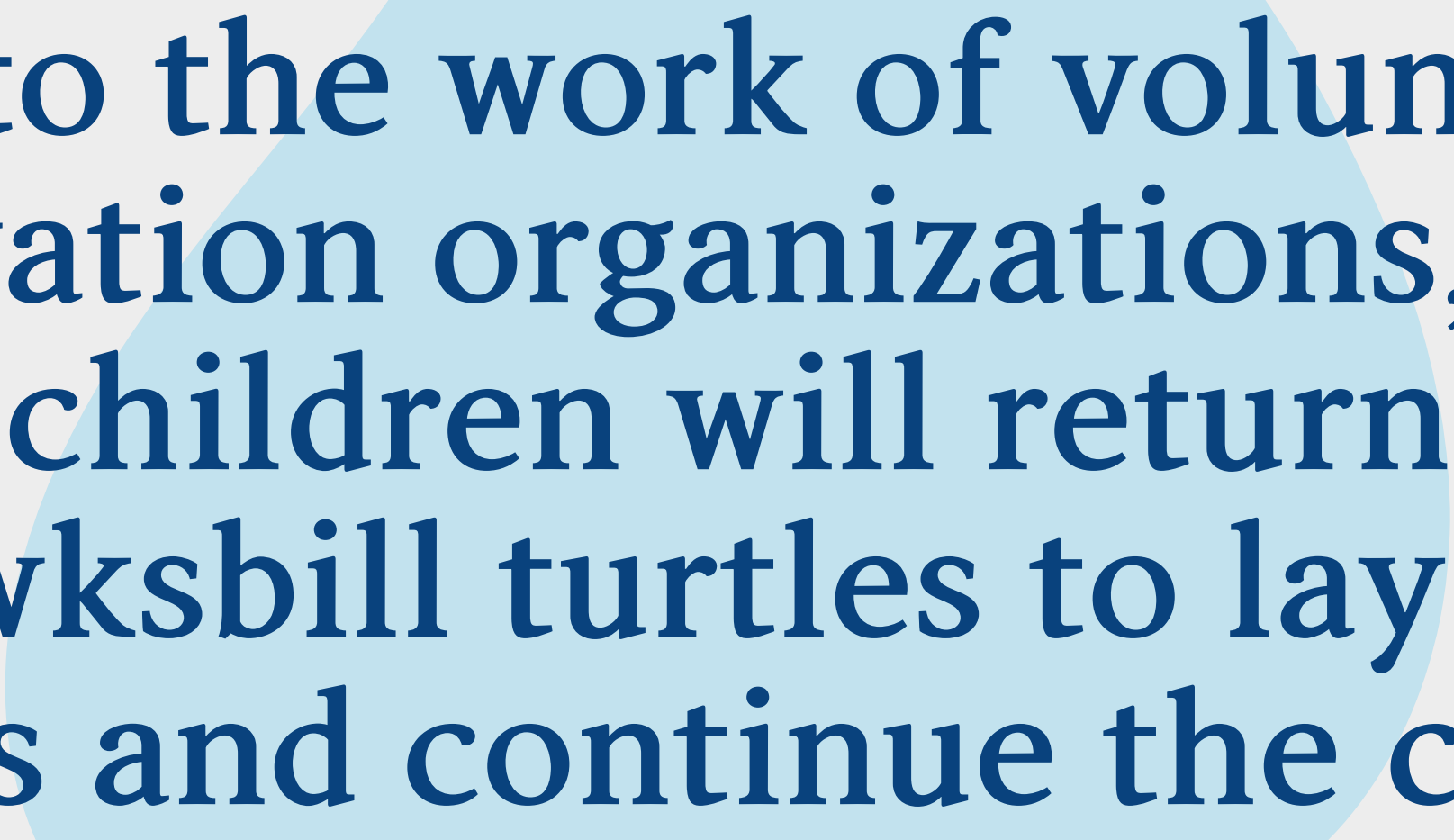


**Conservation efforts like these help increase the chances that more hawksbill turtles will survive.**









**Thanks to the work of volunteers and conservation organizations, one day Mariola's children will return to Utila as adult hawksbill turtles to lay their own eggs and continue the cycle.**





**HOW YOU CAN HELP SECTION:**



## **Light pollution:**

- Avoid lights that shine near or onto the beaches at night to prevent sea turtle becoming confused or scared.
- Dim your car lights when driving by nesting sites.

## **Dogs and feral animals:**

- Keep dogs off of beaches during nesting season.

## **Plastic:**

- Reduce plastic use and avoid single use plastic. Recycle plastic properly.
- Don't leave plastic on the beach, take all garbage you brought home with you.
- Participate in beach clean-ups to remove plastic debris.



## **Poaching:**

- Don't buy products that are made from tortoise shell.

## **Fishing gear:**

- If you see a ghost net, report it to a conservation organization or the authorities.

## **Boats:**

- Be vigilant when operating a boat and avoid boat strikes with all marine life.

## **Nest disturbance:**

- Keep off the beaches during nesting season (no bikes, no horses, no walking).
- Volunteer for beach patrols.
- Avoid touching sea turtles
- Avoid driving on sandy beaches.



