

How the **nuclear power industry**
destroys endangered marine wildlife and ocean habitat to save money.

Licensed TO KILL

LICENSED TO KILL: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: Nuclear reactors do not kill many sea turtles -- why not concentrate on the **shrimping industry, the biggest culprit in killing sea turtles?** The takes by nuclear plants are not biologically significant.

Answer: The nuclear industry specifically advertises itself as protecting sea turtles. Shrimpers and long-line fishermen do not claim to be providing sanctuary for sea turtles. It is our responsibility as watchdogs of nuclear power and the inhumane treatment of animals, to expose this kind of advertising as hollow propaganda.

You cannot look at sea turtle numbers in isolation and say the effects of nuclear power are insignificant because the deaths have a cumulative impact on the species. According to researchers in this field, the taking of large juveniles who have already survived the huge attrition rate of hatchlings, has greater impact on the population than the loss of hatchlings. The mortality among large juveniles must be reduced because they are the ones that determine the success or failure of the population.

The attrition rate of hatchlings is such that you would have to save 5,000 hatchlings to get one adult sea turtle. Therefore, when St. Lucie kills 16 sea turtles in one year as it did in 1995, that is the same as killing 80,000 hatchlings which negates their nest protection claims. The very fact that sea turtles are assailed from so many sides, including the shrimping industry, makes it imperative that these endangered animals, even if their numbers are starting to recover, must be protected. The trauma of entrainment, as well as the killings creates stresses on these animals whose consequences are unknown.

Question: Warm water has beneficial effects for manatees and American crocodiles. The nuclear plants are helping them thrive.

Answer: Electric utilities have taken full advantage of the presence of endangered manatees and endangered American crocodiles around their sites. They use the presence of these animals to promote tourism and to claim they provide wildlife sanctuaries as you saw in the film. In reality, the heated discharge water has created an artificial environment, causing manatees to stay

at these sites in Florida year-round, when they were only part-time residents before.

But while the utilities pretend to care about these animals when they are useful for propaganda, they are suddenly unwelcome when the company's pocket book is at stake. The following quote from FPL spokeswoman Winifred Perkins sums it up: "Our obligation is to provide power at the least cost to the customers. It's not our obligation to keep a plant on for manatees when it's no longer commercial." But you can't have it both ways. The utilities should not shirk the responsibility for the animals' well-being after luring them to an artificially created environment.

Question: Should nuclear reactors therefore be kept running to protect manatees?

Answer: SECC, NIRS and STAR endorse the phaseout of nuclear power in favor of renewable energy and energy efficiency alternatives. However, clearly nuclear utilities that have invited endangered species to their artificially warmed waters and boast about their presence, have a responsibility to work with conservation organizations in solving the problem that they alone have created. Phaseout of nuclear power must include the utilities' cooperation and financial participation in a solution to the problem of manatees and crocodiles and any other animals that have become habituated to warm waters around nuclear plants.

Question: Isn't this report simply an excuse to advance a hidden agenda as anti-nuclear organizations?

Answer: There is nothing hidden about the agendas of any of the groups present here today. Three of the groups represented here are watchdogs on nuclear power. Naturally our focus is going to be on the effects of nuclear power operation on wildlife, not the effects of another industry such as shrimp fishing or the fossil fuel industry. The Humane Society of the United States watchdogs the wellbeing of animals and the environment. Naturally, anything going on that is detrimental to wildlife is of concern to the Humane Society. This is why this is such a natural partnership.