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REPRODUCTION. Mating by *Lepidochelys kempii* in the wild has not previously been documented. There are anecdotes of mating pairs in Mexican waters offshore from coastal Tamaulipas and Veracruz, before the nesting season commences (about 1 April) or during the nesting season (April-July) (R. Byles, pers. comm.). The first confirmed observation of *L. kempii* mating in Texas waters was made on 3 June 1991. Mr. Walt Kittleberger observed and photographed a pair of turtles in the Mansfield Channel, Willacy Co., Texas, ca. 230 m E of marker 22 (26°33'35"N, 97°22'25"). Mr. Kittleberger related that the pair was first observed at 1200 h. The male had mounted the female and both turtles were on their sides, at the surface, in the center of the channel. They soon turned so that their carapaces were upward, with the male located above the female. The pair submerged for 30 s periods and drifted N out of the channel with an outgoing tide. Diving depths could not be detected because of murky water conditions. They were last seen at 1315 hrs, still coupled and in water ca. 0.6 m deep within the lower Laguna Madre.

Mr. Kittleberger forwarded his photographs to me, and I identified the turtles as *L. kempii* based upon color, shape of the carapace, and size. Identity of the turtles was verified independently by R. Byles, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico. I could not determine whether they were wild or individuals from an attempt to establish a secondary breeding colony of this species at Padre Island National Seashore (Shaver 1990. Park Science 10(1):12-13), because tags, tag scars, or living tags could not be seen. No sea turtle nests were found along the Texas coast subsequent to the mating.

This is also the first documentation of this species within Willacy Co. inshore waters (including the Mansfield Channel and lower Laguna Madre) and the first observation of mating in inshore waters. The photographs were deposited in the collection at Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS 2520), Corpus Christi, Texas. I thank Richard A. Byles for his comments.

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LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPII (Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle).