



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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F/SWC2:ghb

PROTOCOL FOR COLLECTING GREEN TURTLE EGGS AT SEA LIFE PARK FOR
USE IN RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY THE DISEASE-CAUSING AGENT RESPONSIBLE
FOR FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS

Cooperative study involving: Sea Life Park Hawaii
National Wildlife Health Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The following basic steps should be followed to collect eggs at
Sea Life Park's captive nesting facility:

- Eight eggs should be taken from a nest during or immediately after oviposition, prior to the turtle using her hind flippers to cover the nest.
- The eggs should immediately be placed side-by-side into a styrofoam cooler (supplied by NMFS) containing about four inches of moist nesting beach sand on the bottom. Do not wash or wipe off the mucous coating off the eggs. Suitable moist sand should be obtainable at depth in Sea Life Park's artificial nesting beach.
- Place about four inches of moist nesting beach sand over the eggs. Place a damp clean cloth over the sand. Place the lid on the container, secure lid with small pieces of scotch tape, and store in an ambient-temperature room (one without air conditioning). Avoid additional movement of the container.
- Telephone 943-1276 to notify NMFS personnel (Shawn Murakawa or Denise Ellis). This phone line has an answering machine allowing a message to be left in the middle of the night. On weekdays, someone will check the machine as early as 6:30 am. On weekends and holidays, telephone George Balazs at 395-6409 anytime after 6:30 am.
- The container will be picked up by NMFS personnel at the earliest possible time after notification. The container will be gently transported to the Honolulu Laboratory to incubate for several weeks prior to shipment to the National Wildlife Health Laboratory.
- In the unlikely event that NMFS people are not available (i.e., George Balazs on weekends due to out-of-state travel), the container should remain undisturbed until the next working day when personnel at 943-1276 will be able to respond.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON TURTLE MONITORING AT EAST IS.-
by G. Balazs

- Minimal or no disturbance to monk seals - especially mother/pup and pregnant females.
- Minimal daytime movement on the island (ie sleep days, work nights).
- Minimal disturbance to nesting turtles within the limits of getting the job done.
- When possible, 4 tags on all turtles (includes one on each hind flipper).
- Carefully read and record all tag numbers, using sufficient light and scraping of tag (with butter knife) to reveal full number. Imbedded tags can be left unread (but presence and position noted), if there is at least one certain reading of another tag on the same turtle.
- Whenever possible, take both curved and straight carapace length measurements.
- Examine each turtle thoroughly and record presence of tumors.
- Missed nights and missed segments of nights will be damaging to population modeling because of shortness of coverage. Strive to get ideal coverage.
- Use lysol (or alcohol) to treat engraver bit of mototool after each engraving.
- Have pliers, wire cutters, and sharp knife available on rounds.
- At Tern, maintain a handwritten list of the tag number(s) and engraved mototool number of all turtles encountered that have old tags. Please relay to me when I call on the radio.
- Maintain special attention to computer data entry and precision - what you bring back is the "bottom line".
- No Coleman lanterns or other brilliant light sources to illuminate the East Island tent. Use dim lighting only, such as neon at minimum level necessary.

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