

and keys off the Central American coast. Nesting lasts from April through November and is at its peak in June and July.

The Pacific hawksbill nests on beaches on the eastern coast of Africa (December to February); the Seychelles Islands (throughout the year, with a peak from September to November); Ceylon (November to February); and in Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador (August to November).

Paul Kawamoto, aquatic biologist for the state of Hawaii, has sent us a copy of a recent report from the files of the Hawaii Division of Fish and Game (Turtle 321.08). The report follows:

On Tuesday, October 14, 1969, Mr. Michael Tancayo, Jr., of Kaunakakai, Molokai, came down to the Kaunakakai Wharf with his son to release two (2) young turtles (about 2-inch carapace length). Mr. Tancayo offered these turtles to Warden Ronald Kama who was on Molokai on assignment to dive for starfish, *Acanthaster planci*. The two turtles were accepted by Kama and thus this discovery and story was related to H. Sakuda and K. Ego.

Mr. Tancayo and his family visited Halawa Beach on Sunday, October 12, 1969 about 7:00 a.m. and found and collected 26 baby turtles on the beach. Upon digging in the nearby sand they were able to uncover a nest with about a dozen eggs. At home, Mr. Tancayo found that he could not keep and feed the two turtles as well as he would like to have, so he came down to the harbor to release the young turtles.

On Friday morning, K. Ego and Fish and Game personnel inspected the beach at Halawa and during our discussion, Warden Leroy Mollena of Molokai who as a young boy lived and grew up in Halawa Valley, mentioned that many years ago many young turtles were occasionally seen in the shore and beach at Halawa.

The two young turtles were brought back to Oahu and identified as Hawksbill turtles, *Eretmochelys imbricata* . . .

This is apparently the first report of the Pacific hawksbill nesting on Hawaii.

The females come onto the beach at night, and nesting takes about 1 hr. Carr *et al.* (1966) recorded nesting returns to Tortuguero, Costa Rica, of 3 years and 6 years, respectively, for two tagged females—which suggests that the hawksbill nests



188. Plastron of *Eretmochelys imbricata*.

TURTLES
OF THE UNITED STATES

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