

CASE NUMBER: 21293

SUBMITTER: Mr. George Balazs  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-286-2899  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: george.balazs@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (1)

Location: Makai Pier  
Area: Honolulu  
State: Hawaii  
Country: United States

DateCollected: 6/28/2009  
DateSubmitted: 7/7/2009  
DateReceived: 7/7/2009  
DateExamined: 7/7/2009

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Frozen

HISTORY: This turtle was found with missing head and front flippers at Makai Pier. Person reporting turtle saw a monk seal interacting with a green turtle ca. 1 mile north of the site and believes this particular turtle was the same one.

FINDINGS: Accession 1-green turtle immature male in fair body condition. This animal was missing both front flippers, the left rear flipper and the head. There was also bleeding in deep skeletal muscle and clotted blood near the stomach wall. The nature of the trauma indicated maceration of skeletal muscle with absence of evidence of classical shark-induced trauma such as jagged clean cuts of flesh and parallel scrape marks on the carapace.

MANAGEMENT:

COMMENTS: Gross lesions pointed to predator-induced trauma as cause of death. The nature of the lesions were not compatible with shark bite as evidenced by lack of clean lines of severance of tissues, lack of parallel scrape marks on the carapace, and lack of parallel scrapes on bones. The appearance of the tissues were more akin to a maceration-type action that would be effected by a large mammal (dog, seal). The fact this was a benthic non-nesting turtle and the absence of dogs in the immediate area argues against a dog being responsible for this trauma. The immediate history of seal-turtle interaction surrounding this death would implicate monk seal predation as the most likely cause of death.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Trauma-Predation.  
REPORT COPIED TO:

CASE NUMBER: 25213

SUBMITTER: Mr. George Balazs  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-286-2899  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: george.balazs@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (1)

Location: Makaha Beach Park  
Area: Honolulu  
State: Hawaii  
Country: United States

DateCollected: 7/29/2014  
DateSubmitted: 6/24/2015  
DateReceived: 6/29/2015  
DateExamined: 6/29/2015

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Thawed

HISTORY: This turtle was spotted thrashing in the water just offshore at Makaha Beach Park, Oahu on 29 July 2014. It was brought to shore and had many scrapes and bruises on the ventral and front head, both ventral front flippers and on the carapace. The turtle expired by the time MTRP personnel arrived. It is thought that this is the same turtle that was attacked by a monk seal two days prior. The MTRP ID date is 7/29/14.

FINDINGS: Accession 1-green turtle immature female in excellent body condition. Significant findings included multiple scratches and abrasions on the dorsal head and both front flippers. Internally, lungs were collapsed and histology revealed collapsed airways with accumulations of fluid.

MANAGEMENT:

COMMENTS: The animal had collapsed lungs suggesting of forced submergence but there was no immediate history of entanglement. There was evidence of external trauma (multiple scrapes) the origin of which could not be confirmed. Although it was thought this animal had interactions with monk seals previously, this could not be confirmed on necropsy.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Forced submergence suspect.  
REPORT COPIED TO:

CASE NUMBER: 25461

SUBMITTER: Dr. Todd Jones  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-725-5341  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: todd.jones@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (1)

Location: Hanauma Bay  
Area: Honolulu  
State: Hawaii  
Country: United States

DateCollected: 4/14/2017  
DateSubmitted: 4/15/2017  
DateReceived: 4/15/2017  
DateExamined: 4/15/2017

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Chilled

HISTORY: This turtle was one of two found floating dead in Hanauma Bay on 14 April 2017. Identification: Right hind flipper pit tag - 982000190370608, left hind flipper pit tag - 982000167891161, right front flipper metal flipper tag - PI1062, MTBAP ID date - 4-14-17D.

FINDINGS: Accession 1-green turtle immature female in good body condition. Significant gross lesions included lacerations of the throat and left neck, multiple perforations of dorsal front flipper with granulation tissues and ablation of caudal edges of front flippers.

MANAGEMENT: Adverse interactions between endangered species is a management issue best tackled by PIRO.

COMMENTS: Gross lesions pointed to trauma as cause of death, most likely predator (monk seal).

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Trauma-Predation.

REPORT COPIED TO:

Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)

CASE NUMBER: 25462

SUBMITTER: Dr. Todd Jones  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-725-5341  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: todd.jones@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (1)

Location: Hanauma Bay  
Area: Honolulu  
State: Hawaii  
Country: United States

DateCollected: 4/14/2017  
DateSubmitted: 4/15/2017  
DateReceived: 4/15/2017  
DateExamined: 4/15/2017

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Chilled

HISTORY: This turtle was one of two found floating dead in Hanauma Bay on 14 April 2017. The MTBAP ID date is 4-14-17C.

FINDINGS: Accession 1-green turtle immature female in excellent body condition. Significant findings included traumatic ablation of ventral neck along with trachea, larynx, and esophagus and multiple areas of ablation of dorsal front flippers.

MANAGEMENT: See recommendations for Case 25461.

COMMENTS: Gross lesions pointed to predation (monk seal) as cause of death.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Trauma-Predation.  
REPORT COPIED TO:  
Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)

CASE NUMBER: 25468

SUBMITTER: Dr. Todd Jones  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-725-5341  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: todd.jones@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (1)

Location: Kahala Beach  
Area: Honolulu  
State: Hawaii  
Country: United States

DateCollected: 04/26/2017  
DateSubmitted: 4/27/2017  
DateReceived: 4/27/2017  
DateExamined: 4/27/2017

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Chilled

HISTORY: This turtle was found washed ashore fresh dead at Kahala Beach on 26 April 2017. The MTBAP ID date is 4-26-17A.

FINDINGS: Accession 1-green turtle immature male in good body condition. Significant gross finding included bleeding of mandible and around esophagus, bleeding in the brain, and reddening of proximal intestinal wall.

MANAGEMENT: If monk seals are traumatizing turtles, this is an issue to be addressed by PIRO.

COMMENTS: Gross lesions pointed to trauma as cause of death. It was not compatible with shark attack or boat strike, and the trauma around the throat leads one to suspect possible monk seal interaction.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Trauma.  
REPORT COPIED TO:  
Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)

CASE NUMBER: 25477

SUBMITTER: Dr. Todd Jones  
ADDRESS: 1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
CITY: Honolulu  
STATE: Hawaii  
POSTCODE: 96818  
SUBMITTERPHONE: 808-725-5341  
SUBMITTEREMAIL: todd.jones@noaa.gov

Turtle: Green (4)

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED: Carcass-Frozen

HISTORY: These green turtles were found dead between 4 March and 22 April 2017 on Oahu.

FINDINGS:

MANAGEMENT: Continued vigilance for animals with characteristic flipper lesions to better characterize monk seal turtle interactions.

COMMENTS: One turtle (4) likely died from shark predation. Two turtles (1 and 3) had lesions on the front flipper (partial traumatic laceration or amputation of caudal edge) compatible with those seen in other cases of monk seal interaction. The last turtle (2) had trauma but the lesions were not as characteristic as those of monk seal or shark interactions.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS: Accession 1-Trauma-Predation; Accession 2-Trauma; Accession 3-Trauma-Predation; Accession 4-Trauma-Predation.

REPORT COPIED TO:

Mr. George Balazs (NOAA)