

Hawaiian Green Turtles as a Distinct Population Segment

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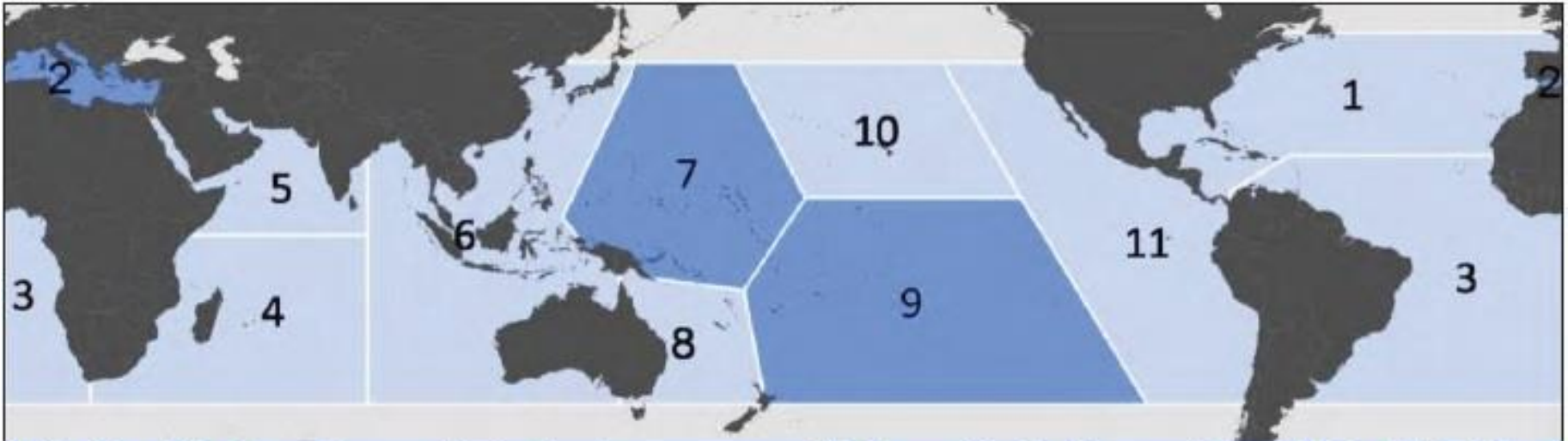
MARE 495

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Current Status of Green Turtles

- On March 23, 2015 NOAA issued a 12-month finding
- Hawaiian green sea turtle population constitutes a Distinct Population Segment (DPS)
 - Listed 8 DPSs as threatened
 - Listed 3 DPSs as endangered

11 Green Turtle DPSs



Distinct Population Segment	Nester Abundance	% at Largest Nesting Site	Proposed Status Under ESA
1. North Atlantic	167,528	79%	Threatened
2. Mediterranean Sea	492	25%	Endangered
3. South Atlantic	63,332	46%	Threatened
4. Southwest Indian	91,159	30%	Threatened
5. North Indian	55,243	33%	Threatened
6. East Indian / West Pacific	77,009	32%	Threatened
7. Central West Pacific	6,518	22%	Endangered
8. Southwest Pacific	83,058	37%	Threatened
9. Central South Pacific	2,677	36%	Endangered
10. Central North Pacific* (Hawaii)	3,846	96%	Threatened
11. East Pacific	20,112	58%	Threatened

What is a Distinct Population Segment?

- Portion of a species or subspecies population or range.
- Described geographically instead of biologically

Criteria for Designating a DPS

1. Discreetness of the population segment
2. Significance of the population segment to the species it belongs to
3. The population segment's conservation status

Population Discreetness

- A Population is considered discrete if:
 1. It is markedly separated from other populations of the same taxon

Or

2. It is delimited by international government boundaries

Population Significance

- Population significance is determined by considering:
 1. Persistence of population in an ecological setting unique for taxon
 2. Evidence that loss of population would result in a significant gap in the range of taxon
 3. Population represents only surviving natural occurrence of taxon
 4. Population differs genetically from other populations

Population Status

- If a population segment is discrete and significant:
 1. Classified as a DPS
 2. Evaluation of population status will begin

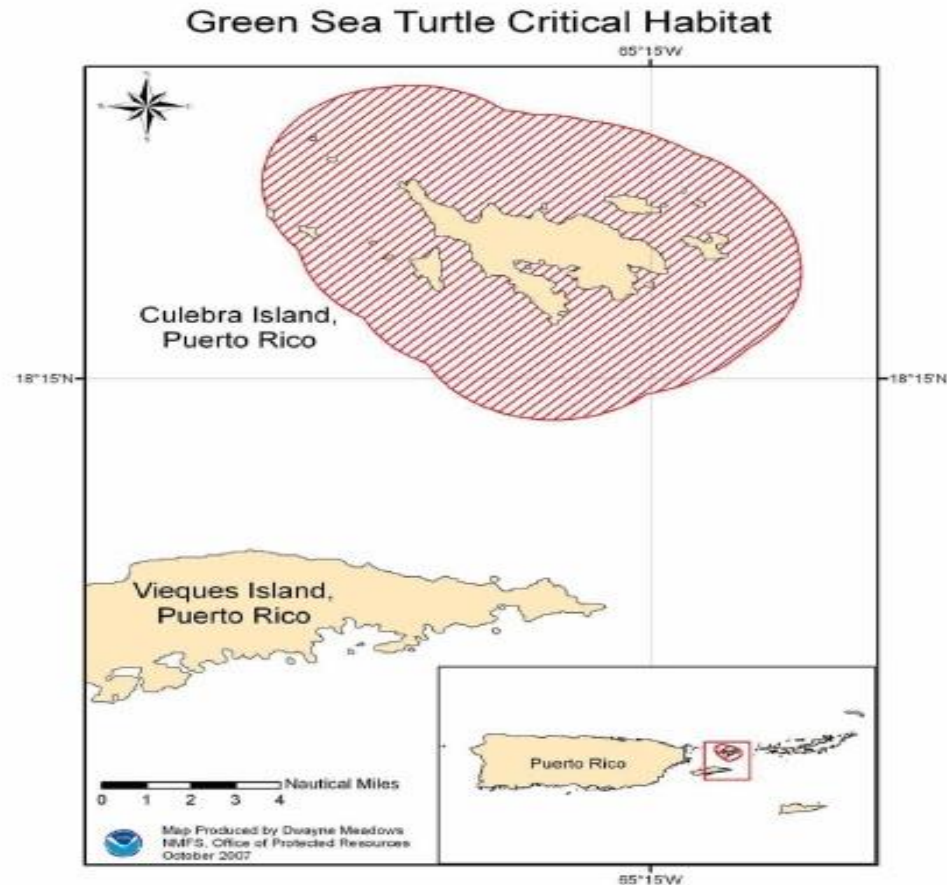


Why Classify a Population as a DPS

- Conservation efforts are more effective and less costly
- Applies the ESA's protections only to deteriorating portion of the population
- Specific threats can be addressed

What is a Critical Habitat

- Specific geographic area occupied by the species at the time it was listed
- May also include areas that were not occupied by the species but essential to its conservation



Criteria for Designating a Critical Habitat

1. Space for individual and population growth
2. Cover or shelter
3. Nutritional or physiological requirements
4. Sites for breeding and rearing offspring

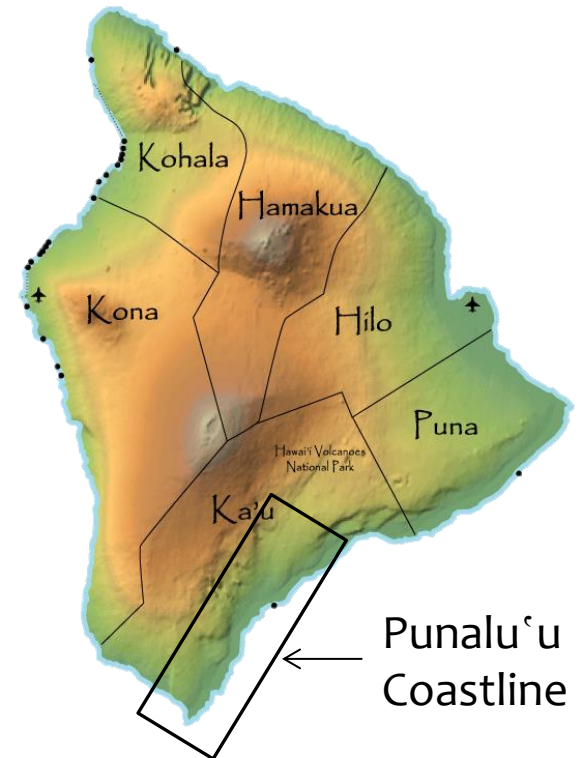


Purpose of Designating a Critical Habitat

- Does not establish a refuge or sanctuary for a species
- Guides Federal agencies in fulfilling conservation responsibilities



Critical Habitat in Hawaii



Conclusion

- Hawaiian green turtle population constitutes a DPS
- Critical habitat should be designated for Hawaii
 - French Frigate Shoals
 - Punalu'u coastline

Acknowledgements

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Mahalo!

Questions?

