

**Marine turtle strandings documented by PIFSC/PSD/MTRP
from Laie Point to Makahoa Point, Oahu,
during 1983-2012 (N=120)¹**

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Marine Turtle Research Program
Protected Species Division
NOAA / Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

March 2012

For nearly 30 years, the Marine Turtle Research Program (MTRP) has documented marine turtle strandings around the Hawaiian Islands in a continuous long-term database. A stranding is defined as any injured, sick, dead, or abnormally behaving sea turtle ashore or in shallow water close to shore. When a member of the public or a collaborating agency sights a stranded turtle, they report the case to MTRP. Although it is not always possible to retrieve the animal, it is standard protocol to collect any data and information that may be provided regarding the case. The information summarized in the accompanying table is intended to offer background on sea turtle strandings that have occurred in the Laie Bay area on the island of Oahu for the “Oahu Target Island Project” implemented by the Army Corps of Engineers and its contracting company, Native Hawaiian Veterans.

There have been a total of 120 sea turtle strandings documented in the Laie area between Laie Point (21.6490° N, 157.9142° W) and Makahoa Point (21.6737° N, 157.9328° W), Oahu from 1983- March 2012. Of these cases, 2 were reported hawksbill hatchling mortalities during the years 1986 and 1990. There was one olive ridley found dead entangled in a net. The remaining 97% of the strandings were green turtles. Fibropapillomatosis (FP), a debilitating and tumor forming disease, was the leading cause of strandings, N=26 (21.5%), while fishing net entanglement (N=14, 11.7%) and fishing line entanglement (N=10, 8.3%), were the second and third leading causes, respectively. Although other causes of strandings were identified, the number of cases in each category were minimal (1-2). This excludes the 49.2% of strandings where the cause was unknown. Out of the 120 cases, 31 turtles were female, 22 were male, and the sex was undetermined for the remaining 67 turtles.

In reference to possible sea turtle nesting activity in the area, the US Fish and Wildlife Service performs annual nesting surveys approximately 2-3 miles north of the Laie project area at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Kahuku, Oahu). The nesting season typically ranges from May – September, so the Oahu Target Island Project will be occurring during this time. Any injuries to sea turtles should be immediately reported to the NMFS Marine Turtle Research Program stranding line, (808) 983-5730.

¹ PIFSC Internal Report IR-12-013
Issued 6 April 2012

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PSD Marine Turtle Research Program
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 2570 Dole Street
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396
 March 2012

EVENT DATE	ISLAND	LOCATION	SPECIES	SEX	SCL_CM	CCL_CM	WEIGHT_KG	INIT TURTLE STATUS	END TURTLE STATUS	TUMOR RANK	CAUSE OF STRANDING
23-Jun-83	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Net/line entanglement
11-Jul-83	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	75.4	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
21-Jan-85	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Monofilament net entanglement
25-Sep-86	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	5.5	-	-	D	D	0	Plastics in intestines
22-Nov-86	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	EI	U	4.6	-	-	A	D	0	Hatchling mortality
23-Nov-86	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	49.3	-	-	D	D	0	Gunshot
18-Oct-87	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Monofilament net entanglement
1-May-88	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	FP
25-Mar-89	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	LO	M	63.5	67	-	D	D	0	Net entanglement
29-Mar-89	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	37.5	40.5	-	D	D	0	Trauma
20-Apr-89	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	F	-	32.2	-	D	D	U	Unknown
7-Aug-89	OAHU	Laie (Bikini Beach)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
23-Mar-90	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
22-May-90	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Line entanglement
20-Aug-90	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	U	50.6	-	-	D	D	3	FP
29-Aug-90	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	50.8	54	-	D	D	0	Line entanglement
19-Sep-90	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
8-Nov-90	OAHU	Laie	EI	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Hatchling mortality
24-Jun-91	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
24-Jun-91	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	43	46	-	D	D	U	Unknown
2-Oct-91	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
1-Oct-92	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Park)	CM	F	45.6	47.5	7.7	D	D	2	FP/Trauma
12-Oct-92	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	F	41.2	43.5	8.2	D	D	0	Monofilament net entanglement
1-May-93	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	M	49.4	52	8.2	D	D	2	FP
17-May-93	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	M	39.2	41.5	7.3	D	D	0	Monofilament net entanglement
16-Jul-93	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
1-Dec-93	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	M	40.1	42.5	7.7	D	D	0	Unknown
28-Jul-94	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	M	45.3	49	12.7	D	D	1	Monofilament net entanglement
1-Sep-94	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Net entanglement
13-Sep-94	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	0	Unknown
16-Nov-94	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
8-Dec-94	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
23-Jan-95	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
3-Feb-95	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	F	86.3	91.5	-	A	D	3	FP/Vascular fluke infection
24-May-95	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	43.5	46.5	12.3	D	D	0	Monofilament net entanglement
24-May-95	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	58.6	63.5	28.2	D	D	1	Monofilament net entanglement
26-May-95	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
23-Jul-95	OAHU	Malaekahana	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
11-Sep-95	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	F	46.1	49.5	13.6	D	D	2	FP
3-Apr-96	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	57.6	60.5	-	D	D	2	FP
11-Mar-97	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
30-Dec-97	OAHU	Laie Bay (Lua Landing)	CM	U	56.6	60	22.7	D	D	0	Line entanglement
16-Apr-98	OAHU	Hukilau Park	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
23-Aug-98	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	M	42.6	45.5	10.9	D	D	0	Net entanglement
25-Aug-98	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	39.6	42.3	-	D	D	0	Spear
3-Sep-98	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown

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 Laie Point to Makahoa Point, Oahu, 1983-2012 (N = 120)

EVENT DATE	ISLAND	LOCATION	SPECIES	SEX	SCL CM	CCL CM	WEIGHT_KG	INIT TURTLE STATUS	END TURTLE STATUS	TUMOR RANK	CAUSE OF STRANDING
2-Mar-99	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
8-Mar-99	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	44.3	47	12.3	D	D	0	Unknown
9-Mar-99	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	45.2	48	8.2	D	D	2	FP/Line entanglement
8-Jun-99	OAHU	Hukilau Park (Laie)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
13-Aug-99	OAHU	Malaekahana	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
23-Oct-99	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
27-Oct-99	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	41.1	43.3	8.2	D	D	0	Fish hook/Line entanglement
28-Oct-99	OAHU	Malaekahana	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
4-Dec-99	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
16-Mar-00	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	92.3	99	-	D	D	3	FP
16-Sep-00	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec.	CM	M	40.6	42.5	9.7	D	D	0	Line entanglement
20-Mar-01	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	36.9	40	6.9	D	D	0	Line entanglement
30-Apr-01	OAHU	Temple Beach (Laie)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
2-May-01	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
8-May-01	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	54.5	58.5	18.2	A	D	3	FP/Vascular fluke infection
27-Jun-01	OAHU	Hukilau Beach (Laie)	CM	M	41.2	43.5	8.0	D	D	0	Unknown
15-Sep-01	OAHU	Goat Isl (Malaekahana)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
17-Sep-01	OAHU	Laie (Temple Beach)	CM	U	43.5	45.5	10.0	D	D	0	Unknown
30-Jan-02	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Grounds)	CM	F	43.6	46	12.3	D	D	0	Unknown
8-Mar-02	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	50.3	53.8	-	D	D	1	Unknown
22-May-02	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	F	47.2	50.5	13.3	D	D	0	Unknown
20-Aug-02	OAHU	Malaekahana Bch Pk	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
5-Oct-02	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	M	46.2	49	12.8	D	D	0	Line entanglement
29-Nov-02	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	43.5	-	D	D	U	Unknown
12-Apr-03	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach Park	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
21-May-03	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	44.2	46.5	11.7	D	D	0	Unknown
22-Oct-03	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Net entanglement
3-Nov-03	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	46.1	50	12.4	D	D	1	Unknown
21-Jan-04	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Beach Park)	CM	F	45.2	48	10.5	D	D	2	FP
23-May-04	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	81.7	87.5	-	D	D	0	Shark attack
10-Jun-04	OAHU	Malaekahana St. Rec. Area	CM	F	67.6	72.5	40.0	A	D	3	FP/Vascular fluke infection
13-Jul-04	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
2-Mar-05	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area A	CM	F	47.8	51	12.1	D	D	2	FP
6-Mar-05	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	F	40	44	8.4	D	D	2	FP
29-Mar-05	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	F	45.8	49	13.1	D	D	0	Unknown
29-Mar-05	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	M	35.5	37.5	6.2	D	D	0	Unknown
19-Apr-05	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	41.2	44.5	9.5	D	D	0	Unknown
4-Jun-05	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	43.2	46	-	D	D	0	Unknown
13-Jun-05	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Line entanglement
21-Aug-05	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	M	68.6	73	41.3	D	D	1	FP
15-Sep-05	OAHU	Malaekahana SRA (Kalanai Pt)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Net/line entanglement
26-Sep-05	OAHU	Laie (Bikini Beach)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	D	U	Line entanglement
11-May-06	OAHU	Malaekahana Bch. Pk.	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
27-May-06	OAHU	Malaekahana	CM	F	44.4	46.5	8.6	A	D	2	FP
3-May-07	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	42.3	45	9.4	D	D	0	Unknown
19-Jun-07	OAHU	Laie (Temple Beach)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	0	Unknown
19-Aug-07	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	M	50.3	52.6	14.5	D	D	2	Unknown
15-Sep-07	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	40.7	43.5	8.9	D	D	0	Unknown
10-Jan-08	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Unknown
17-Jan-08	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	Monofilament net entanglement
13-Mar-08	OAHU	Laie (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	FP
4-May-08	OAHU	Laie (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	FP

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2-Jun-08	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
23-Jun-08	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Beach Park)	CM	M	36.5	38	5.3	D	D	2	FP
22-Jul-08	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	FP
13-Sep-08	OAHU	Malaekahana Bch. Pk.	CM	F	29.8	31.5	-	D	D	0	Shark attack
30-Sep-08	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	47.3	49.8	11.4	A	D	2	FP/Vascular fluke infect./Line ing.
1-Nov-08	OAHU	Laie Bay (Goat Island)	CM	F	60.5	64.5	21.3	A	D	2	FP/Vascular fluke infection
28-Nov-08	OAHU	Laie Point	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
31-Mar-09	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	U	Unknown
28-Sep-09	OAHU	Malaekahana State Rec. Area	CM	U	-	-	-	A	A	U	FP
9-Feb-10	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	49.1	52	11.9	D	D	3	FP
31-May-10	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	38.3	41	7.5	D	D	0	Unknown
11-Aug-10	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	46.3	49	13.8	D	D	0	Fish hook
9-Oct-10	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	46.5	49	13.2	D	D	2	FP
11-Oct-10	OAHU	Laie	CM	F	50.1	53.5	20.1	D	D	0	Unknown
1-Jan-11	OAHU	Laie	CM	U	82.4	88	94.9	D	D	0	Unknown
30-Apr-11	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Beach Park)	CM	M	57.1	60.5	23.0	D	D	3	FP
17-May-11	OAHU	Malaekahana	CM	F	47.2	51	15.1	D	D	0	Unknown
31-Aug-11	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Unknown
11-Sep-11	OAHU	Laie	CM	M	46.1	49.5	12.3	D	D	1	Line entanglement
11-Nov-11	OAHU	Malaekahana Beach Park	CM	U	6.1	6.5	-	A	D	0	Trauma
18-Jan-12	OAHU	Laie (Laie Point)	CM	U	-	-	-	D	D	0	Line entanglement
2-Feb-12	OAHU	Laie (Hukilau Beach Park)	CM	U	-	40	-	D	D	0	Unknown

Cause of Stranding	N	Percent
Fibropapilloma (FP)	19	15.8%
FP/Vascular fluke infection	4	3.3%
FP/Vascular fluke infection/Line ingestion	1	0.8%
FP/Line entanglement	1	0.8%
FP/Trauma	1	0.8%
Net entanglement	14	11.7%
Fishing line entanglement	10	8.3%
Fish hook	2	1.7%
Gunshot	1	0.8%
Hatchling mortality	2	1.7%
Plastics in intestines	1	0.8%
Shark attack	2	1.7%
Spear	1	0.8%
Trauma	2	1.7%
Unknown	59	49.2%
Total	120	100.0%

Sex	N	Percent
Female	31	25.8%
Male	22	18.3%
Unknown	67	55.9%
Total	89	100.0%