

1997 HONOLULU WORKSHOP ON MARINE TURTLE FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS

Priority Recommendations of the Workshop Participants

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Priorities for Research

- t Evaluate the disease in other sea turtle species.
- t Identify modes of transmission.
- t Determine impacts at the population level.
- t Identify causative agent(s).
- t Isolate herpesvirus.
- t Identify and examine toxic effects (biotoxins/pollutants).
- t Develop diagnostic test.
- ! Understand relationships and interface between epidemiology, epizootology, and ecologic geography of different turtle species and the disease.
- ! Examine similarities and differences of habitats and turtles where the disease does and does not occur.
- ! Determine long-term effects on turtles using tag recapture data.
- ! Develop a strategy for determining and differentiating causative agent(s) from other "symptoms".

- ! Determine and identify the presence of anatomically specific viruses (such as in glottal tumors).

Priorities for Epidemiology

- ! Conduct field studies on immunosuppression and associations of the disease.
- ! Conduct basic studies on mortality and morbidity rates.
- ! Identify methods for monitoring the prevalence and incidence of the disease worldwide.

Priorities for Transmission Studies

- ! Identify virus(es).
- ! Development experimental designs.

Priorities for Management Options

- ! Promote international cooperation.
- ! Identify possible scenarios and related actions that can be taken.
- ! Insure that research activities do not spread the disease.

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