

Date: Thu, 22 Oct 1998 15:35:07 -1000 (HST)  
From: Denise Ellis <dellis@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
To: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Tagged turtle at Makena

Tags K-12, K-13, K-14 (K-11 lost). Tagged 7/28/93 not recovered since.  
Tagged at Makena5, Maui 20 deg. 39'20" N, 156 deg 25'44" W.

SCL = 41.9 cm

SCW = 35.1 cm

notch = 41.6 cm

CCL = 45.0 cm

CCW = 40.0 cm

originally mototooled K11 on both 2nd laterals.

Seen by the 5-graves dive site in Makena this last week.

Also a second turtle tagged at 5 Graves  
Makena  
Maui  
K7, K8, K9, K10  
also 7/28/93  
SCL - 42.5 cm  
Makena

Date: Fri, 23 Oct 1998 22:38:09 -0400  
From: skippy@DAR.CCMAIL.compuserve.com  
To: "INTERNET:gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu"  
<gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Cc: "INTERNET:dellis@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu" <dellis@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Re[3]: Tagged Turtle

George,

She is a long-time dive instructor and has been able to approach this and other turtles. She reported the tags on this one specific animal. She is able to approach this one and read the tags which I relayed the information to Denise. She does not grab or restrain any of the turtles. (She is one of a handful of instructors that I trust.) This animal is reported near the Five Graves site in Makena. She said it appears healthy; no tumors, no barnacles, etc. Yesterday, she talked with Van when I was out and asked for the dimensions when you tagged it. I just relayed on my email her address that was on Van's note instead of calling.

She has an email address if you'd like to contact her; she can tell you about most turtle's in the area, their location, and their condition. She is very observant. This afternoon, she said she saw the Molokini hawksbill turtle at Reefs End in about 90 to 100 feet of water.

Ms. Debbie deBord email address:  
dive@maui.net

Skippy

=====  
Skippy, we would be pleased to do so. Can you please relay to me exactly what she reported to you. Did she in fact read each and every one of the three tags (seemingly a difficult task without restraining the turtle)? What other information did she supply? Mahalo, Many thanks, this is an important case. Aloha, Geo.

\*\*\*\*\*

On Fri, 23 Oct 1998 skippy@DAR.CCMAIL.compuserve.com wrote:

> George,

>  
> After Denise gave me some information on the tagged turtle, Debbie Debord  
> requested more information in writing.

>  
> Could you please send her some information about the tagged turtle  
> (K12;K13;K14) at the following address:

>  
> Ms. Debbie de Bord  
> 715 S. Kihei Road #120  
> Kihei, HI 96753  
> Telephone #(808)879-5949

> I had a talk with her about hooked turtles and a recent turtle tangled  
with

> fishing line. They said I had told the dive Company not to touch the turtle  
> which was true but they were also asking permission from me for authorization  
to

> capture the turtle. I explained that if the turtle is approachable, the lines  
> could be cut away without capturing the animal.

>  
> I also explained how the hook removal on the Maui Prince was written up by

Date: Fri, 23 Oct 1998 14:26:19 -0400  
From: skippy@DAR.CCMAIL.compuserve.com  
To: "INTERNET:gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu"  
<gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Tagged Turtle

George,

After Denise gave me some information on the tagged turtle, Debbie Debord requested more information in writing.

Could you please send her some information about the tagged turtle (K12;K13;K14) at the following address:

Ms. Debbie de Bord  
715 S. Kihei Road #120  
Kihei, HI 96753  
Telephone #(808)879-5949

*RoLoDex*

I had a talk with her about hooked turtles and a recent turtle tangled with fishing line. They said I had told the dive Company not to touch the turtle which was true but they were also asking permission from me for authorization to capture the turtle. I explained that if the turtle is approachable, the lines could be cut away without capturing the animal.

I also explained how the hook removal on the Maui Prince was written up by a writer that the Maui Ocean Center appeared to be the major organizer when only two of their divers was involved along with most of the personnel from the Maui Prince and Captain. The article did not explain that I had contacted the various agencies including DOCARE, dive operations and beach activity center to explain our attempt to remove the hook on another turtle. It did not say that other divers had cut away the line that was trailing from the hook.

I hope I explained what had been requested and our assessment of the situation. I have around ten turtles reported with hooks. Some of these reports could be repeat observations of the same animal.

Skippy

Date: Fri, 23 Oct 1998 09:22:26 -1000 (HST)  
From: Denise Ellis <dellis@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
To: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Re: Tagged turtle at Makena

Skippy called to say a turtle was being seen with K-12 on a front flipper, K-13 on LH and K-14 on RH in the 5-graves area of Makena. I asked him who the person was that reported the info and he said she was a dive instructor that did tours in the area but did not give me a name. Skippy wanted to know if this was a turtle you had previously mototooled and where it was tagged. I asked him if the person saw any mototooling on this turtle and he said no. I asked him when the turtle was seen, and he didn't know but sometime within the last week and regularly by the dive instructor.

On Fri, 23 Oct 1998, George H. Balazs wrote:

> I need the "seen" information as you received it- who from, name of  
> person, exactly what they saw (tag number).

> \*\*\*\*\*

> On Thu, 22 Oct 1998, Denise Ellis wrote:

> > Tags K-12, K-13, K-14 (K-11 lost). Tagged 7/28/93 not recovered since.  
> > Tagged at Makena5, Maui 20 deg. 39'20" N, 156 deg 25'44" W.  
> > SCL = 41.9 cm  
> > SCW = 35.1 cm  
> > notch = 41.6 cm  
> > CCL = 45.0 cm  
> > CCW = 40.0 cm  
> > originally mototooled K11 on both 2nd laterals.  
> > Seen by the 5-graves dive site in Makena this last week.

FROM ORIGINAL  
TAGGING FORM

Date: Wed, 28 Oct 1998 17:29:24 -1000  
From: Deborah deBord <dive@maui.net>  
To: "'gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu'" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Makena turtle

Maui  
Book



Aloha George,

Nice to hear from you. Yes, I see K12, etc. almost every time I dive at 5 Graves. She hasn't been there for very long, I've noticed her for only about 6-8 mos. She was not along the south Maui coast before that or I'd've seen her. Maybe she was on the west Maui side or another island, but she's a fairly new resident of 5 Graves.

She is pretty big. One of the larger of the turtles there, she seems to be fairly dominant. She makes the smaller turtles move from the cleaning station almost at will. There are larger turtles there, but she's one of the bigger ones.

She appears to be very healthy; no tumors, hooks, or scars of any kind. She doesn't even have any barnacles like so many of the bigger turtles do. She is, as with most of the turtles along this coast, very unaffected by divers' presence and is very easy to approach if it's done properly. I have never touched her, but it was easy to get the numbers off of her tags. She just lays there.

I will try to hold up my arm or something over her to get an approximate size measurement, but I'm very reluctant to touch her, even to measure. It would probably be better if you folks came down here and did it. Can you make any suggestion how I could measure her without changing her behavior? That's my creed...never cause the turtle to change what it's doing by my behavior.

There are currently at least 2 or 3, maybe 4, turtles at 5 Graves with hooks in them. At least 2 have big hooks in their mouths and at least one has a big hook with leader attached in her front flipper. One of the turtles looks to be unable to even close her mouth because of the hook. I wonder if she won't starve before the hook rusts out. There are also a couple of medium-sized turtles with tumors at this site.

There is one very large female at Pu'u Ola'i that is pretty severely wrapped in fishing line around her front flipper. It appears to have cut off the circulation to the flipper and the flipper looks quite unhealthy. There is also a turtle here with a few small tumors.

There is a very large female at Ulua Beach with tumors all over her. She is very near death. She is almost completely blind (I watched her crash face-first into the reef the other day). She lays on the bottom in extremely exposed places where a healthy turtle would never lay. The tumor over her right eye (I saw her today) is almost as big as a volleyball. She doesn't seem to have buoyancy problems though. It's soooooo sad to see this very large, beautiful turtle like that.

We did see the hawksbill at Molokini 2 weeks ago. She was at Reef's End in 20 ft. of water, feeding on that brown stuff growing on the dead coral inside the crater. She seems to be doing fine.

I will make myself available to you at any time to help with finding, capturing or tagging any turtle. I'm probably a pretty good source of information about the turtles at the dive sites along the south Maui coastline since I dive almost every day.

If I can give you any more information or be of help in any way, please contact me by email. Just remember what I do and where I do it...dive@maui.net. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Debbie deBord

P.S. Maybe you could pass the word along to the monk seal people that "Humpy" is back at Molokini. It is the same seal we've been seeing for 3 years, he has that same big spot over his right eye. He is behaving in the same rather aggressive way, wrapping his flippers around anyone he can get hold of. Naturally, all of the snorkel boats are bringing their customers over to swim with him; and one tourist was bitten twice last week, once on the hand and again on the neck.