



Middle and Upper School Students Assist with Project in Nagoya, Japan

For the eighth year, HPA students assisted in a satellite tagging project in cooperation with NOAA and the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium.

Student team members were seventh graders Hideyoshi Akai, Eliana Kaplan, and Maiah Police; eighth graders Bo Bleckel, Kimi Cantyne, and Caylin Kojima; and sophomore Abigail Wolfenberger. George Balazs, leader, Marine Turtle Research Program, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA; Marc Rice, director of the HPA Sea Turtle Research Program; and Laura Jim, HPA Middle School science teacher, directed the students' work April 1-10, 2010.

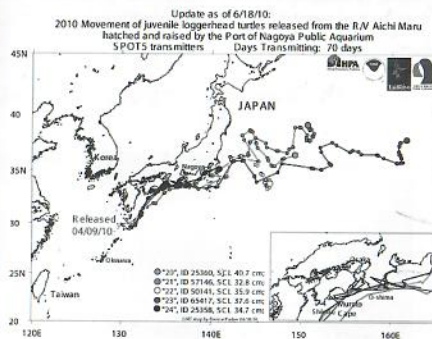
The team attached 29 wildlife computer SPOT 5 satellite tags to juvenile loggerhead turtles raised at the aquarium. These turtles are part of a continuing study to determine the pelagic migratory paths of the Japanese loggerhead turtles in the North Pacific Ocean.

Nineteen of the 29 juvenile loggerhead turtles were outfitted with a Spot 5 tag set on a duty cycle of 4 hours on and 92 hours off. Six more loggerheads were outfitted with Spot 5 tags with a duty cycle of 4 hours on and 44 hours off. The theory behind this is that the 4/92 tags will have a longer battery life because they use less power.

After their work sessions at the aquarium, students had an opportunity to tour Nagoya with former classmate Sho Mehring. The group also took the bullet train to Kyoto, where they visited Sanjusangendo Temple, Kiyomizu Temple, and the stunning Golden Pavilion. The Akai family also hosted the group for a tour of Nara, including the Todaiji Temple, and a visit to Osaka.

The turtles were released at 9 a.m. on April 9, 2010 into the Kuroshio current to the south of Japan near Okinawa from the Miya Fisheries School training vessel *Aichi Maru*.

For the latest tracking information, visit <http://akepa.hpa.edu/~mrice/turtle/nagoya10/nagoyatracks2010.html>. ■



Clockwise from top left: The team visits the *Aichi Maru* to say *aloha* to the turtles and wish them a safe journey; Former HPA classmate Sho Mehring (front, left), who now lives in Japan, met the group at the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium; The team outside the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium; Team leader Marc Rice and the students share information about their work at the aquarium during a videoconference with Kristin Tarnas' fifth grade class and Lisa Van Kirk's sixth grade math class; Team members enjoy a meal at a local sushi restaurant; A recent satellite tracking chart shows movements of five juvenile loggerhead turtles.