

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE NMFS/HPA MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH PROJECT**

**OVERALL:** To ensure the long-term conservation and biological recovery of marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands and the habitats upon which they depend.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

1. To determine the approximate number of turtles and their size-classes, by species, resident to this location.
2. To determine the types of life-support activities undertaken by the turtles.
3. To ascertain the food sources utilized by the turtles.
4. To calculate growth rates and estimated ages at sexual maturity.
5. To determine adverse impacts to the turtles, both from humans (i.e., fishing nets, rubbish) and from natural factors (i.e., parasites, shark predation).
6. To estimate the recruitment rates of juvenile turtles to the Keawa Nui population from pelagic habitats.
7. To determine coastal movements and breeding migrations being undertaken by the turtles.
8. To examine the health status of the turtles with regard to the fibropapilloma (tumor) disease affecting other Hawaiian sea turtles.

**METHODOLOGY:** The above objectives will be accomplished by establishing a group of tagged turtles for longterm monitoring to compare with groups of tagged turtles currently under study elsewhere throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

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