

Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2003 19:41:04 +1200
From: Mike A. McCoy <mmc@aloha.net>
To: George Balazs in HNL <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>
Cc: Steve Kolinski NMFS <steve.kolinski@noaa.gov>,
Bill Puleloa on Molokai <puleloa@wave.hicv.net>
Subject: Turtles in Marshall Islands

[Part 1, Text/PLAIN (charset: ISO-8859-1 "Latin 1 (Western Europe)")]
[52 lines.]
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[The following text is in the "iso-8859-1" character set.]
[Your display is set for the "US-ASCII" character set.]
[Some characters may be displayed incorrectly.]

George,

I just returned today from my trip to the Marshall Islands. I need to gather my thoughts and the information I gleaned to try and put it into a coherent form for my report to PIRO. This will take place over the next couple of months, since I have some other tasks that need to get done as well.

Sorry we weren't able to hook up prior to my departure. I realize that during the weeks prior you were involved in the public hearings being conducted, and also had visitors to take care of in Honolulu.

On my last day in Majuro (after 2 weeks on an outer atoll gathering information on attitudes towards turtle usage in the Ralik chain of the Marshalls) I saw a former employee of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority whom I have known for many years, Virgil Alfred (also known as Ron Virgil).

He told me that he had 2 tags from one turtle that were sent in from an outer atoll that he had never gotten around to sending in. I begged him to bring me the tags, and upon my departure at the airport he materialized with the tags. They are the smaller Inconel variety, with the inscription "write HIMB University of Hawaii 96744". A scrap of paper in which the two tags (#6597 and #6598) were wrapped said "Aliej. Ailuk June 22, 1997". Virgil told me that the turtle was said to be a female, and was found nesting at Ailuk atoll. It is not clear if the date refers to the date the turtle was captured, or when the tags were given to him.

The numbers do not match up with the tag number series shown in an appendix of Bill Puleloa's report, so I assume that they weren't from that expedition. I would be VERY interested to learn where this turtle was tagged; perhaps it was one of Kolinski's in Yap?

I also interviewed one man from Likiep atoll who claimed to have also caught a tagged turtle, and had sent the tag in to the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority. The person told me the turtle was from "New Caledonia"; indicating that the tag was one of the early SPREP ones. Unfortunately, nobody currently at MIMRA had any recollection or record of such a tag being turned in and the person concerned did not retain the number.

Please let me know if you can trace the numbers above; I would like to try and reinforce the tag return efforts in the Marshalls, such as they are (when Virgil gave me the tags at the airport, I didn't know whether

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 6597

Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
6597	1/28/1983	1681	LFL
6598	1/28/1983	1681	RFL

Date	Type of Encounter	Location:	Tumor/Rank:	NestingAct:	Curved Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall		
						Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	Interval	Year	Growth-Rates
1/28/1983	Near Shore	Molokai, Kamalo, Between Kamahuehue and Harbor	0	-	81.0	---	---	---	---	---	---

*Red just below
pale back*

Date Tagged: January 28, 1983

Location Caught: Mouth of Kamalo River, between Kamahuehue Fishpond and Kamalo Harbor

Method of Capture: Mederios' nets

Number	Curved Length (cm)	Curved Width XXXXXX (cm)	Tag Number On Left Front Flipper	Tag Number On Right Front Flipper
★ <u>1</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>6597</u>	<u>6598</u> <i>few barns removed</i>
★ <u>2*</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>6599</u>	<u>6600</u> <i>fish chipped off into v shape ENTER No. 11</i>

Date Tagged: Feb. 8, 1983

Location Caught: Between Puhaloa & Ualapu'e Fishponds

Method of Capture: Mederios' Nets

★ <u>Number</u>	<u>Curved Length</u>	<u>Curved Length (cm)</u>
<u>1*</u>	<u>75½</u>	<u>70</u>

<u>Tag Number On Left Front Flipper</u>	<u>Tag Number On Right Front Flipper</u>
<u>6601</u>	<u>6602</u>



FOR G to examine while in

01 JUN 2005

Subject: Re: 'ea (fwd)

From: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 08:51:56 -1000 (HST)

To: Cody Hooven <chooven@mail.nmfs.hawaii.edu>

Molokai

George H. Balazs, Leader
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Kamiloloa Beach,
(Hotel Molokai)

Hawksbill

31.0cm CCL

emaciated (somewhat)

found dead

TS Ø

buried nearby

(GB will dig up in July for
skin sample for DNA)
+ humeri

Mahalo i ka nani o ke ao nei.
Mai ke kuahiwi a ke kai hohonu,
Mai ka la hiki a ka la kau.

Remembering 40 Years in Hawaii

"I am in deep gratitude for the beauty of the earth.
From the mountains to the deep blue sea,
From the place where the sun rises
to the place where the sun sets."

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Mon, 16 May 2005 08:08:20 -1000

From: Bill Puleloa <puleloa@wave.hicv.net>

To: George H. Balazs <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>

Subject: Re: 'ea

31.0 cm CCL; no pictures last night/too dark; I'll go back and dig around to get a piece for DNA...or can this be accommodated when digging up for the humerus?

On May 15, 2005, at 10:10 PM, George H. Balazs wrote:

Roger roger Bill. A carapace measurement CCL, a pencil-eraser size piece of skin in a small plastic ziplock-bag with 5 or so table-spoons of regular Morton's salt (for DNA analysis), and, some digital pictures (or other sort of camera) of the back and belly of the poor beast. Something killed it. Would be nice to know what but I don't think that's going to be possible in this instance. We can't get over there, but if you can collect one or more of the above, that would be great. When I get there in July maybe I can get a humerus bone from the front flipper (after the animals flesh has decayed away hopefully). We've offered in the past, I recall. But can suggest again- Can we buy you a 21 cuft lift-top freezer for just such a case? What you need is a place to put it, DLNR warehouse or something like that. Just a suggestion-- we have them in Maui with Skippy and the Sanctuary, in Hilo, in Waimea, and on Kauai. Delivered to your doorstep.

Have a good evening, Aloha, George

On Sun, 15 May 2005, Bill Puleloa wrote:

Aloha Keoki.....I usually don't bother you with the all too routine task of turtle stranding on Molokai. However, this one you should know about. I just got back from removing a dead hawksbill from in front of the Hotel Molokai restaurant. A lifeless carcass bobbing in the water does nothing to add to the ambiance of fine dining I'm afraid. I had to drag it out of sight, then buried

it as best I could. Surprisingly, tumors were not readily visible but the animal was somewhat emaciated. If there is a desire to do a more thorough investigation, I would suggest getting it done tomorrow. Any longer than that will be problematic. As of tonight, it did not smell too bad. Tomorrow will be another story I'm sure. What do you think?

N = 7 TAG Recoveries SCL growth DATA
 (35 CAPTURES)

PALAU
 MOLOKAI ITON 2005
 EXPEDITION JULY

4 WITH Tumors (1190)
 ALL Tumor Score I
 (lightly Tumored)

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 35721272
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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
35721272	7/5/1999	PIT	RHF
36314925	7/5/1999	PIT	LHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Tumor Rank	Nesting Act	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall			
						Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	
7/5/1999	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau A, Segundo	1	-	44.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7/18/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	0	-	59.2	72.0	6.0	0.2	72.0	6.0	0.2	2.5

Historical Information for Turtle Tag R274

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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
45274A7A68	7/20/2005	PIT	LHF
4528650F2F	7/20/2005	PIT	RHF
R274	7/30/1992	I681	RFL
R275	7/30/1992	I681	LFL
R276	7/30/1992	I681	LHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Turner Rank	Nesting Act	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall		
						Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo	Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo
7/30/1992	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau B	1	-	53.7	---	---	---	---	---	---
7/20/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	0	-	73.4	155.0	12.9	0.1	155.0	12.9	0.1
											1.5

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 36043B76

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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
36043B76	7/5/1999	PIT	LHF
3E530B73	7/5/1999	PIT	RHF
4413336812	7/20/2005	PIT	RHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Tumor Rank	Nesting Act	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall			
						Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo	Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo	
7/5/1999	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau A, Segundo	0	-	41.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7/20/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	1	-	57.9	72.0	6.0	0.2	72.0	6.0	0.2	2.8

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 4523363A0C

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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
4523363A0C	7/20/2004	PIT	LHF
45264A470E	7/20/2004	PIT	RHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Tumor Rank	Nesting Act	Straight	Garapape	Since Last Encounter			Overall				
							Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	Interval	Year	Growth-Rates		
							Month	Year	cm/mo	cm/yr	Month	Year	cm/mo	cm/yr
7/20/2004	Near Shore	Molokai, Palau A	0	-	54.7		12.0	1.0	0.1	1.2	12.0	1.0	0.1	1.2
7/21/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palau A	0	-	55.9									

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 41504D2E12

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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
41504D2E12	7/26/2002	PIT	RHF
443255434A	7/26/2002	PIT	LHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Tumor Rank	Nesting Act	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall			
						Interval	Year	cm/mo	Interval	Year	cm/mo	
7/26/2002	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau, Farther West	0	-	63.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7/21/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	0	-	70.2	35.0	2.9	0.2	35.0	2.9	0.2	2.3

Historical Information for Turtle Tag V611

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Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
44121F415C	7/21/2005	PIT	LHF
44143C0C15	7/21/2005	PIT	RHF
V611	7/21/1993	1681	RFL
V612	7/21/1993	1681	LFL
V613	7/21/1993	1681	RHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	TurnerRank	NestingAct	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall			
						Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	Interval	Year	Growth-Rates	
						Month	Year	cm/mo	Month	Year	cm/mo	cm/yr
7/21/1993	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau, N	1	-	56.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
7/21/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	0	-	74.9	144.0	12.0	0.1	144.0	12.0	0.1	1.6

Historical Information for Turtle Tag 452419431D

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7.

Tag Information:

Tag Number	Date	Tag Type	Tag Position
452419431D	7/20/2004	PIT	RHF
452421643F	7/20/2004	PIT	LHF

Date	Type of Encounter	Location	Tumor Rank	Nesting Act	Straight Carapace	Since Last Encounter			Overall		
						Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo	Interval Month	Year	Growth-Rates cm/mo
7/20/2004	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau A	0	-	72.3	12.0	1.0	0.0	12.0	1.0	0.0
7/21/2005	Near Shore	Molokai, Palaau	0	-	72.9	12.0	1.0	0.6	12.0	1.0	0.6