

# HPA/NOAA SEA TURTLE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

## Laniakea

### Once again, we are attempting to follow an adult green turtle to French Frigate Shoals

2/28/14 TO 3/2/14

We put two satellite and TDR (time-depth recorder) tag combinations on two male turtles basking on a beach just to the east of Laniakea beach. The first male measured 96 cm. curved carapace length and received a ST 24 and MK9 TDR placed in tandem on its second central scute. In this attachment we used epoxy cement and completed the attachment while the turtle was sleeping (totally unrestrained and at night). Because it was daylight when we did the second male, we used UV sensitive polyester resin and placed the satellite tag on the second central scute and the TDR on the 3rd central scute. The two are not directly attached to each other so that if one comes off, the other will not necessarily be affected. Both male turtles went back into the water after an extended voluntary stay on the beach and are currently being picked up by the Argos satellite system. We will "patiently" wait to see if either of them decides to go to FFS.

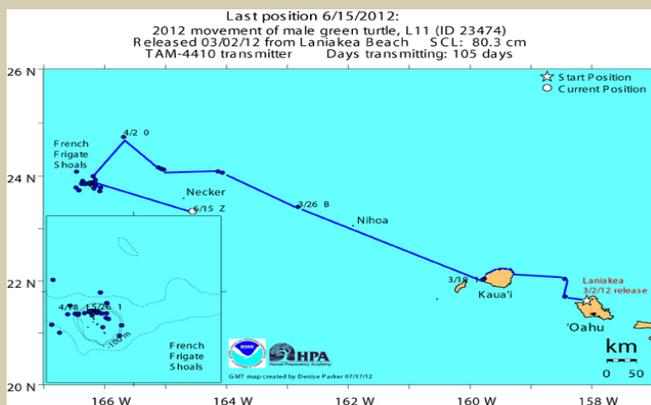
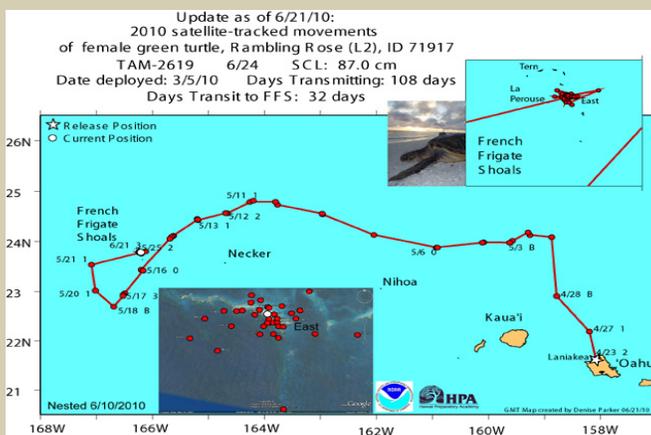
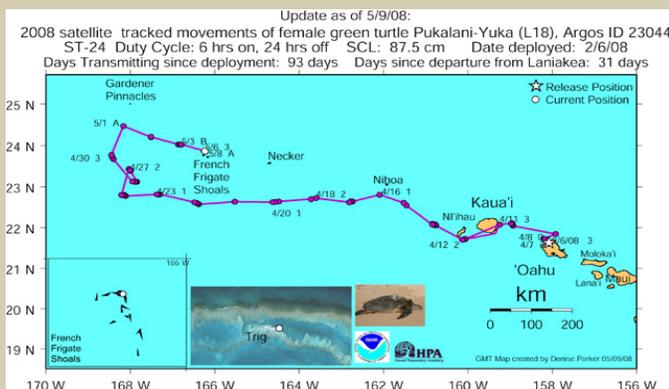
[Pictures of the tag deployment](#)

#### HISTORICAL TAGGING STORY

The 2014 nesting season is fast approaching and migrating adults will be starting out for [French Frigate Shoals](#) (FFS). Some will be leaving around the middle to the end of march and on into April.. Since 2004, we have had 5 different turtles carry out migrations to FFS (2 males and 3 females) from the Laniakea area. L1, L7 and L4 were carrying time-depth recorders (TDRs) when they all migrated in 2004. The data recorded by the three turtles (2 males and 1 female respectively) showed an unexpected and unexplained diving pattern during their migration ([Rice and Balazs, 2008](#)). In subsequent years, George Balazs and Marc Rice attached satellite tags and TDRs to a number of turtles in the hopes that they too would migrate and we could determine their path to FFS and correlate it with their diving behavior. In 2008 L18 (Pukalani-yuka) was outfitted with a satellite tag and a TDR and migrated to FFS ([see her track](#)). Unfortunately, L18 was attacked by a shark and lost her right front flipper. She was seen around the nesting beaches for a few weeks after the attack, but she never returned to Laniakea and is presumed to have perished through predation. In 2010, after a year in which none of our tagged turtles migrated, L2 (Hiwahiwa) was tagged and migrated to FFS and returned to Laniakea ([Hiwahiwa's track](#)). In 2014 we were able to attach satellite tags and time-depth recorders (TDRs) to L# (Sapphire) and L11 (Genbu). Sapphire disappointed us by remaining in the vicinity of Laniakea but Genbu made the round trip from Laniakea to FFS and back. We have a nice track for him all the way up and for a short portion of the trip back.. the satellite tag stopped transmitting shortly after Genbu

started his return trip. Unfortunately, Genbu stopped briefly at Lanikaia when he returned and then disappeared only to show up without any of its tags just recently. This means that we were unable to retrieve the TDR and diving data which is a shame.

## Below are the three previously recorded tracks



[More information on the History of Laniakaia Turtles](#)

