

NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Mission Report

Mission Number: MP-14-17

Operator-in-Charge: Captain Russ Cox

Small Boat ID/Type: *Bonavista II*, 37ft sport fishing troller

Mission Title: Monitoring and tagging of marine turtles at Rose Atoll, NWR

Mission Area: Rose Atoll NWR

Mission Dates: November 24-December 6, 2014

1. Schedule

24 November	Fly to Pago Pago
25 November	Boat/field preparation
26 November	4am depart/transit to Rose Atoll
26 November - 1 December	Conduct in-water surveys for juveniles and land based surveys/capture of nesting turtles
2 December	6am depart/transit to Pago Pago
3 December	Debrief, breakdown gear from boat, pack equipment
4 December	Meet with NPS, USFWS and DMWR staff
5 December	Depart Pago Pago/arrive next day at HNL

2. Mission Results

26 November	Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 3 new nesters, and recover 1 dead hatchling
27 November	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting tracks and count 95 possible turtle nesting pits Conduct in-water surveys in Rose Atoll lagoon Identify 0 nesters, no resightings
28 November	Conduct in-water surveys of coral pinnacles surrounding Rose Atoll Assist 1 nester incidentally stuck behind low coral formation Collect bird feathers and guano Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 4 new nesters

29 November Conduct in-water surveys in Rose Atoll lagoon
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 2 new nesters

30 November Collect algae samples around Rose Atoll
Collect high tides GPS waypoints around Rose Atoll
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 4 new nesters, resight 1 nester, and recover 1 dead hatchling

1 December Transit to Sand Island to survey and count 9 confirmed turtle tracks. Found 106 possible turtle nesting pits.
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitter to 1 new nester, resight 2 nesters, and recover 1 dead hatchling

3. Field Party

Name	Role	Organization
Mrs. Shawn K. K. Murakawa	Chief Scientist	NOAA PIFSC
Dr. Frank A. Parrish	Sea Turtle Scientist	NOAA PIFSC

Other participants: There will be a total of 7 personnel on the mission, the 2 NOAA employees listed above and — Russ Cox (Charter Captain), the first mate, Jean Kenyon (Acting USFWS Refuge Manager), Mark MacDonald (DMWR Biologist), and Carlo Caruso and Ricky Misa’alefua (NPS).

4. Attachments



Figure1. Rose Atoll NWR, American Samoa



Figure2. First nester encountered at Rose Atoll NWR, temporarily identified as A1, after application of a Spot5 satellite transmitter to her carapace.

5. Approvals

Submitted by: Shawn K. K. Murakawa December 24, 2014
(Print name here, sign above) Date
Chief Scientist
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Approved by: _____ _____
Ned Cyr Date
Acting Science Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center