

NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Mission Report

Mission Number: MP-16-04

Chief Scientist: Dr. T. Todd Jones

Operator-in-Charge: Captain Russ Cox

Small Boat ID/Type: Double Barrel, 39' catamaran

Mission Title: Monitoring and tagging of marine turtles at Rose Atoll, National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Mission Area: Rose Atoll NWR

Mission Dates: December 2-8, 2015

1. Schedule

30 November	Fly to Pago Pago, AS
1 December	Meet with USFWS/DMWR, mission prep/logistics, and inspect boats
2 December	Transit to Rose Atoll [stopping at Ofu to drop-off and pick-up National Park Service (NPS) personnel]; 0400 depart harbor; Captain Russ Cox
2-8 December	Conduct in-water and land based surveys/capture of turtles
8 December	0600 depart Rose Atoll, transit to Pago Pago (stopping at Ofu to drop-off NPS personnel)
9 December	Debrief, breakdown/clean gear from boat, and pack equipment
10 December	Meet with USFWS and DMWR staff
11 December	Depart Pago Pago, AS/arrive next day at HNL

2. Mission Results

2 December	Survey Rose Island for nesting tracks and counted 19 paired tracks Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 1 new nester Rescue/release 6 live hatchlings (1 dead seen being taken by a crab)
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- 3 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting tracks and counted 7 paired tracks, one being fairly fresh
Examined remains of 1 nest and 1 dead turtle
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitter to 1 nester
- 4 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting tracks and none found
Conduct in-water surveys of coral pinnacles surrounding Rose Atoll
1 dead turtle found in middle of island during bird surveys
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 2 new nesters
Resighted 2 nesters
- 5 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting tracks and none found
Conduct in-water surveys of coral pinnacles surrounding Rose Atoll
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 3 new nesters
Resighted 1 nester
- 6 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting tracks and none found
Conduct in-water surveys of coral pinnacles surrounding Rose Atoll
Resighted 2 nesters
- 7 December Transit to Sand Island to survey and counted 1 paired track
Conduct in-water surveys of coral pinnacles surrounding Rose Atoll
Identify, collect skin sample and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 1 new nester and with the addition of a satellite transmitter to another new nester
Identify 2 new nesters
Resighted 1 nester
Examined remains of 2 dead adult turtles
- 8 December Transit to Sand Island to survey and counted 1 paired track

3. Field Party

Name	Role	Organization
Dr. T. Todd Jones	Chief Scientist	NOAA PIFSC
Mrs. Shawn K. K. Murakawa	Sea Turtle Scientist	NOAA PIFSC

Other participants: There were a total of 8 personnel on the mission, the 2 NOAA employees listed above and — Russ Cox (Charter Captain), the first mate David, Brian Peck (USFWS Refuge Manager), Mark MacDonald (DMWR Biologist), and Ricky Misa'alefua and Mua Utuga (NPS).

4. Attachments

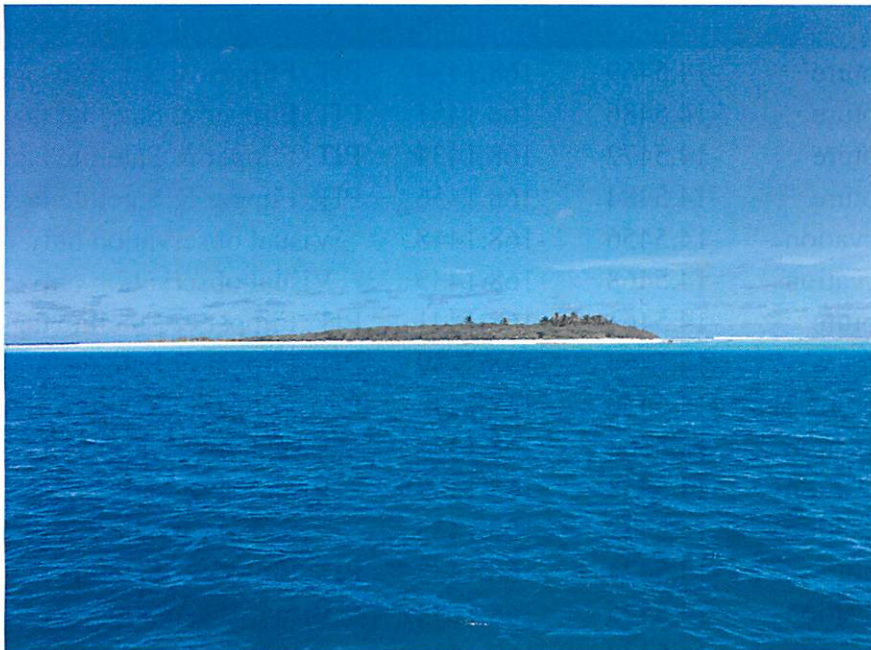


Figure1. Rose Atoll NWR, American Samoa

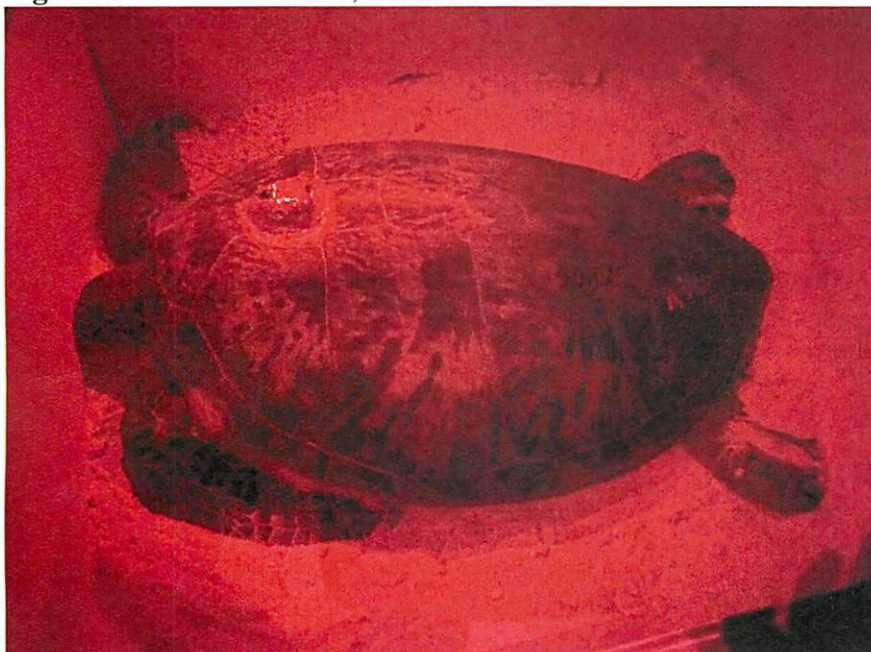


Figure2. First nester encountered at Rose Atoll NWR, temporarily identified as A1, after application of a Spot5 satellite transmitter to her carapace.