

NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Mission Report

Mission Number: MP-17-03

Operator-in-Charge: Captain Russ Cox (Pago Pago Charters)

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: November 28 – December 9, 2016

1. Schedule

28 November	Fly to Pago Pago, AS
29 November	Meet with USFWS/DMWR, mission prep/logistics, and inspect boats
30 November	Transit to Rose Atoll [stopping at Ofu to pick-up National Park Service (NPS) personnel]; 0400 depart harbor; Captive Russ Cox
30 November - 6 December	Conduct in-water and land-based surveys/capture of turtles
6 December	0600 depart Rose Atoll, transit to Pago Pago (stopping at Ofu to drop-off NPS personnel)
7 December	Debrief, breakdown/clean gear from boat, and pack equipment
8 December	Meet with USFWS and DMWR staff
9 December	Depart Pago Pago, AS/arrive next day at HNL

2. Mission Results

30 November	Survey Rose Island for nesting turtle tracks and counted 6 paired tracks Survey Sand Island for nesting turtle tracks and counted 10 paired tracks Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 2 nesters Examine, measure, sample, and release 2 live hatchlings
1 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 1 paired track Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 4 nesters Deploy temperature data loggers and count eggs in 4 nests
2 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 7 paired tracks Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 3 nesters Apply satellite transmitters to 2 nesters Deploy temperature data logger and count eggs in 1 nest Examine, measure, and sample remains of 2 hatchlings
3 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 1 paired track Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 4 nesters Deploy temperature data logger and count eggs in 1 nest Examine, measure, sample, and release 1 live hatchling
4 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 1 paired track Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 4 nesters Deploy temperature data loggers and count eggs in 2 nests
5 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 1 paired track Identify 14 new nesters
6 December	Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 0 paired tracks

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 Chris Goodwin, Brian Peck (USFWS Refuge Manager), Steve Barclay (USFWS Honolulu), Ricky Misa’alefua (NPS), and John Mua Utuga (NPS).

4. Attachments



Figure 1. Rose Atoll NWR, American Samoa



Figure 2. First nester encountered at Rose Atoll NWR, temporarily identified as A1, after the application of a Spot5 satellite transmitter to her carapace.

5. Approvals

Submitted by: _____ Date _____
(Dr. T. Todd Jones)
Chief Scientist
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Approved by: _____ Date _____
Michael P. Seki, Ph.D.
Science Director
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center