

NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Mission Report

Mission Number: MP-18-04

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

Small Boat ID/Type: Double Hooked, 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 27 – December 8, 2016

1. Schedule

27 November	Fly to Pago Pago, AS
28 November	Meet with USFWS/DMWR, mission prep/logistics, and inspect boats
29 November	Delayed due to weather, turtle necropsy training
30 November	Transit to Rose Atoll; 0400 depart harbor; Captive Russ Cox
30 November - 6 December	Conduct in-water and land-based surveys/capture of turtles
6 December	0700 depart Rose Atoll, transit to Pago Pago
7 December	Breakdown/clean gear from boat, and pack equipment
8 December	Meet with PIRO and DMWR staff
8 December	Depart Pago Pago, AS/arrive next day at HNL

2. Mission Results

30 November	Survey Rose Island for nesting turtle tracks and counted 51 paired tracks Examine and collect samples from 1 dead adult turtle Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitters to 8 nesters
-------------	---

- Deploy temperature data loggers and count eggs in 4 nests
- 1 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 44 paired tracks and 264 body pits
Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitter to 8 nesters
Deploy temperature data loggers and count eggs in 5 nests
Examine and measure 8 hatchlings
- 2 December Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 15 nesters
Apply satellite transmitter to 1 nester
Deploy temperature data logger and count eggs in 7 nests
Examine and measure 32 hatchlings
- 3 December Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 15 nesters
Deploy temperature data logger and count eggs in 6 nests
- 4 December Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 13 nesters
Deploy temperature data logger and count eggs in 1 nests
Examine and measure 1 hatchling
- 5 December Transit to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 4 paired tracks
Identify, collect skin samples and morphometrics, and apply metal/PIT tags to 21 turtles
- 6 December Depart Rose at 0700 and return to Pago Pago 1430

3. Field Party

Name	Role	Organization
Mrs. Shawn K. K. Murakawa	Chief Scientist	NOAA PIFSC
Dr. Camryn Allen	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 Sio, Brian Peck (USFWS Refuge Manager), Kim Trust (USFWS), Mark MacDonald (DMWR), and Puamanogi Leasoon (DMWR).

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 satellite transmitter to her carapace.

5. Approvals

Submitted by: _____ Date _____
Shawn K. K. Murakawa
Chief Scientist
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

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