

# NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

## Mission Report

**Mission Number:** MP-19-05

**Chief Scientist:** Shawn Murakawa

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

**Small Boat ID/Type:** *Double Hooked*, 49' catamaran

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

**Mission Area:** Rose Atoll NWR

**Mission Dates:** December 3–13, 2018

### 1. Schedule

3 December	Flew to Pago Pago
4 December	Met with USFWS/DMWR, mission prep/logistics, and inspected boats
5 December	Delayed departure due to weather, continued prepping
6 December	Transited to Rose Atoll; 0400 departed harbor; Captain Russ Cox, diverted to Ofu, Manua Islands due to weather conditions
7 December	Transited to Rose Atoll; 0500 departed harbor; Captain Russ Cox; 1500 arrived at Rose Atoll
8 – 12 December	Conducted in-water and land-based surveys/captures of turtles
12 December	0800 departed Rose Atoll, transited to Pago Pago. 1545 arrived Pago Pago
13 December	Debriefed, broke down/cleaned gear from boat, and packed equipment Met with USFWS and DMWR staff Departed Pago Pago/arrive next day Honolulu

## ***2. Mission Results***

- 8 December      Surveyed inner reef lagoon for turtles – none sighted  
Surveyed Rose Island for nesting turtle tracks and counted 13 paired tracks  
Examined and collected samples from 1 dead adult turtle  
Recovered 1 temperature data logger from an old nest  
Identified 2 adult turtles, one marked with temporary paint
- 9 December      Recovered 1 temperature data logger from an old nest  
Identified 2 adult turtles, one marked with temporary paint
- 10 December     Transited to Sand Island to survey for nesting turtle tracks and counted 14 paired tracks and 21 body pits  
Recovered 2 temperature data loggers from old nests  
Identified, collected skin samples and morphometrics, and applied metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitter to 1 nester
- 11 December     Identified, collected skin samples and morphometrics, and applied metal/PIT tags and satellite transmitter to 1 nester  
Sighted 1 adult turtle
- 12 December     Departed Rose at 0845 and returned to Pago Pago 1545

## ***3. Field Party***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Shawn Murakawa	Chief Scientist	PIFSC
Marylou Staman	Sea Turtle Scientist	JIMAR
Lindsey Bull	Sea Turtle Scientist	JIMAR
Jan Willem Staman	Sea Turtle Scientist	JIMAR

Other participant were as follows: A total of 8 personnel took part in the mission, 1 NOAA employee, 3 JIMAR employees, and Russ Cox (Charter Captain), the first mate Jerry, Elyse Sachs (USFWS), and Valentine Sina Vaeso (NPS).

**4. Attachments**



**Figure1. Rose Atoll NWR, American Samoa**



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

**5. Approvals**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shawn Murakawa  
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Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
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