

From: Karla McDermid Smith <mcdermid@hawaii.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 8:04 PM

To: honu world

Subject: Observations: Punalu'u Park, Hawaii Island 7/9/2018

Punalu'u Beach Observations 7/9/2018

During an approximately hour long (10am-11am) snorkel along the shoreline at Punalu'u in water depths 1m to 3 m, we saw 15-20 green turtles. Groups of 4-5 individuals were actively feeding together in small nearshore "rock amphitheatres" north of the main sandy beach entry where the turtle tagging tent was set up. Turtles were also observed near the boat ramp at the north end of the bay. No tumored turtles were seen. Turtles were foraging on *Pterocladia* in crevices. Distinct water temperature variation was noted (cool at surface, warmer on bottom).

Pterocladia capillacea was very short on exposed surfaces of the substratum, but in some places in crevices, narrow passages between rocks, etc. the thalli were ~5cm long, clean, and healthy red.

Near the boat ramp, the seaweeds were covered with diatoms and brown sediment.

Seaweed cover was 80-90% on rocks, but most species were short or even veneer-like. Some bleached cauliflower coral (*Pocillopora meandrina*) colonies were observed.

Most commonly observed seaweeds during snorkel:

Pterocladia capillacea

Codium sp. (green veneer on rocks)

Acanthophora pacifica (native, not to be confused with *Acanthophora spicifera*)- thalli intact, not grazed, but sparse in cover.

red filamentous cushions (to be identified)

crustose coralline algae

intertidal:

Ulva sp.

Enteromorpha (= *Ulva*) sp.

Ahnfeltiopsis concinna

Cladophora sp.

Karla J. McDermid, Ph. D.

Professor

Marine Science Department

University of Hawaii-Hilo

200 W. Kawili St.

Hilo, HI 96720

808-932-7599 phone

808-932-7588 fax