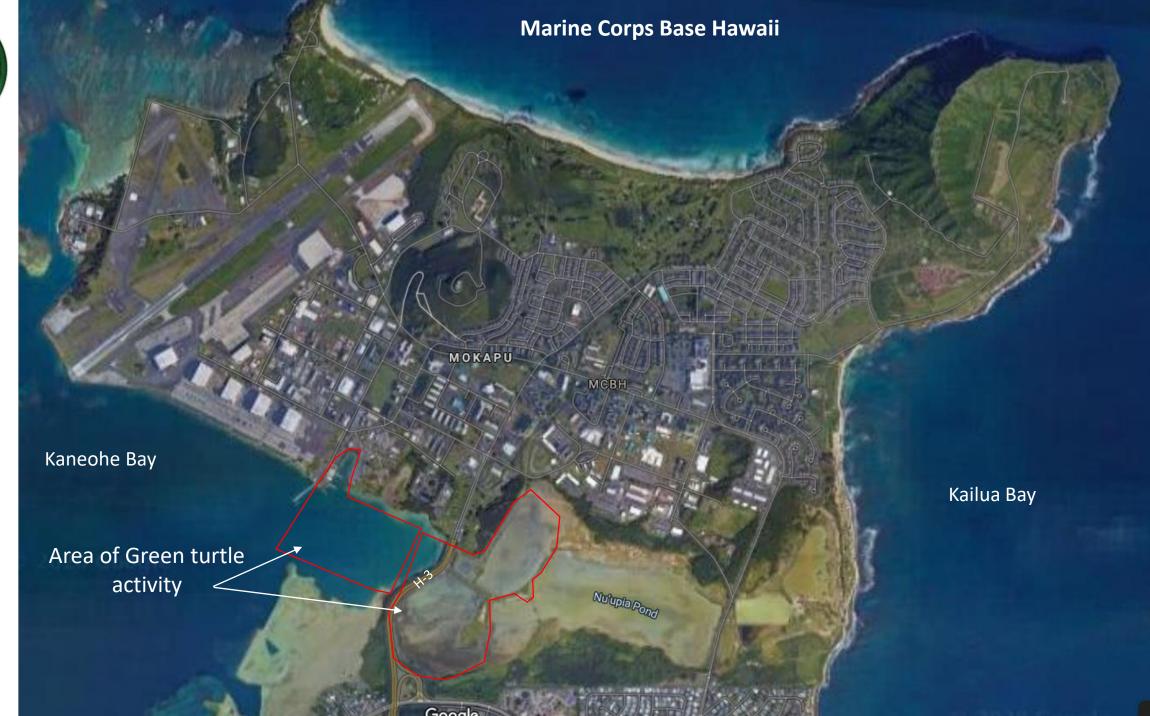


Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Green turtles on the move for food: Newly found foraging grounds in the Nu'upia Ponds

Presented by: Lance Bookless, MCBH Senior Natural Resources Manager







TIMELINE

- Gorilla ogo (*Gracilaria salicornia*) spreading throughout Nu'upia Ponds
- April 2017 First Reports of turtles in the Ponds
 - Over 70 turtles/day inhabiting the ponds and Mokapu Central drainage Channel
 - Foraged in Heleloa and Halekou ponds
- May 2017 Green turtles depart the ponds
- Greens returned in May 2018, but in lesser numbers
 - Greens departed in Jun; however 10 remained behind in Nu'upia 'Ekahi pond'
- Didn't return in 2019, but have counted up to 30 turtles in Nu'upia Ponds.

























Food Source?

- Very little Gorilla ogo in Nu'upia Ponds; do Greens eat pickleweed (Batis)?
- Nu'upia 'Ekahi has a native red algae Spyridia filamentosa
- In early 2019, large outbreak of Lynbya algae (swimmers itch)
- Is there a macro alage growing on bottom of pond?









Nature's Vacuum Cleaners



Before After

Green turtles arrived in the ponds



































