

# Molokai 2016 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey

## Participants

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## 2016 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey Kawa'aloa Bay, Moloka'i

This survey was done by a group of volunteers (Molokai Turtle Trackers) on behalf of Nature Conservancy of Hawaii Molokai, under direction of George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu.

The 2016 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey was carried out from April 22 until October 23. Volunteers checked the beach in the morning up to 7 days a week, depending on expected activity, weather, and road conditions.

On May 3 all seasonal location markers were refreshed. The procedures for identifying and recording the last excavation of each nesting trip on shore was done by using landmarks and measurements to a stake marking the center of the body pit.

There were 74 trips on shore, 60 false crawls and 14 that produced excavations.

Of the 14 nesting trips 4 hatches were observed. After at least 3 days after the last hatchling had been observed to emerge those 4 nests were dug up.

The contents of these nests were as follows:

	Nest	Successful Hatches	Undeveloped	Hatchlings		Total Eggs Laid
				Dead	Live	
Hatch 1	8	93	4			97
Hatch 2	10	92		2	9	94
Hatch 3	12	74	6		2	80
Hatch 4	14	87	3	4	1	94
		346	13	6	12	365

The 12 live hatchlings found in Nests 10, 12 and 14 were released to the ocean.

The undeveloped eggs and the dead hatchlings recovered from the nests were frozen and given to George Balazs October 23.

Three of the 60 false crawls crawled high up onto the beach and 57 stayed below the high tide line. The 57 that were below the high tide line were found at the western end of the beach and most likely resulted from turtles basking.

Of the 14 nesting trips, 4 were dug at the water's edge and were washed away, 2 others were repeatedly washed over by high tides.

Nesting activity was not concentrated in any one area of the beach.

On July 22 George Balazs and Marc Rice placed a satellite tag ID 68335 on a basking female turtle.

This turtle had a deformed left hind flipper and had been previously tagged # 470B220A61 in 2007 when nesting at French Frigate Shoals.

On July 23 George Balazs and Marc Rice placed a satellite tag ID 71913 on a second basking female turtle. This turtle had not been previously tagged.

Satellite feedback since tagging has shown neither turtle travelled away from Kawa'aloa.

Indicating that they live and feed in the vicinity of Kawa'aloa and are not migrants that come from elsewhere within the Hawaiian Islands to nest at Kawa'aloa.

No Green sea turtle nesting activity was found on the Beaches to the West of Kawa'aloa.

A dead juvenile turtle was found washed up on the western Preserve Beach. There was no visible sign of cause of death.

The top shell measured 19 7/8 inches along the longest point at the mid line.

Tissue samples were taken and given to George Balazs October 23.

Submitted by:

Lil Macmillan

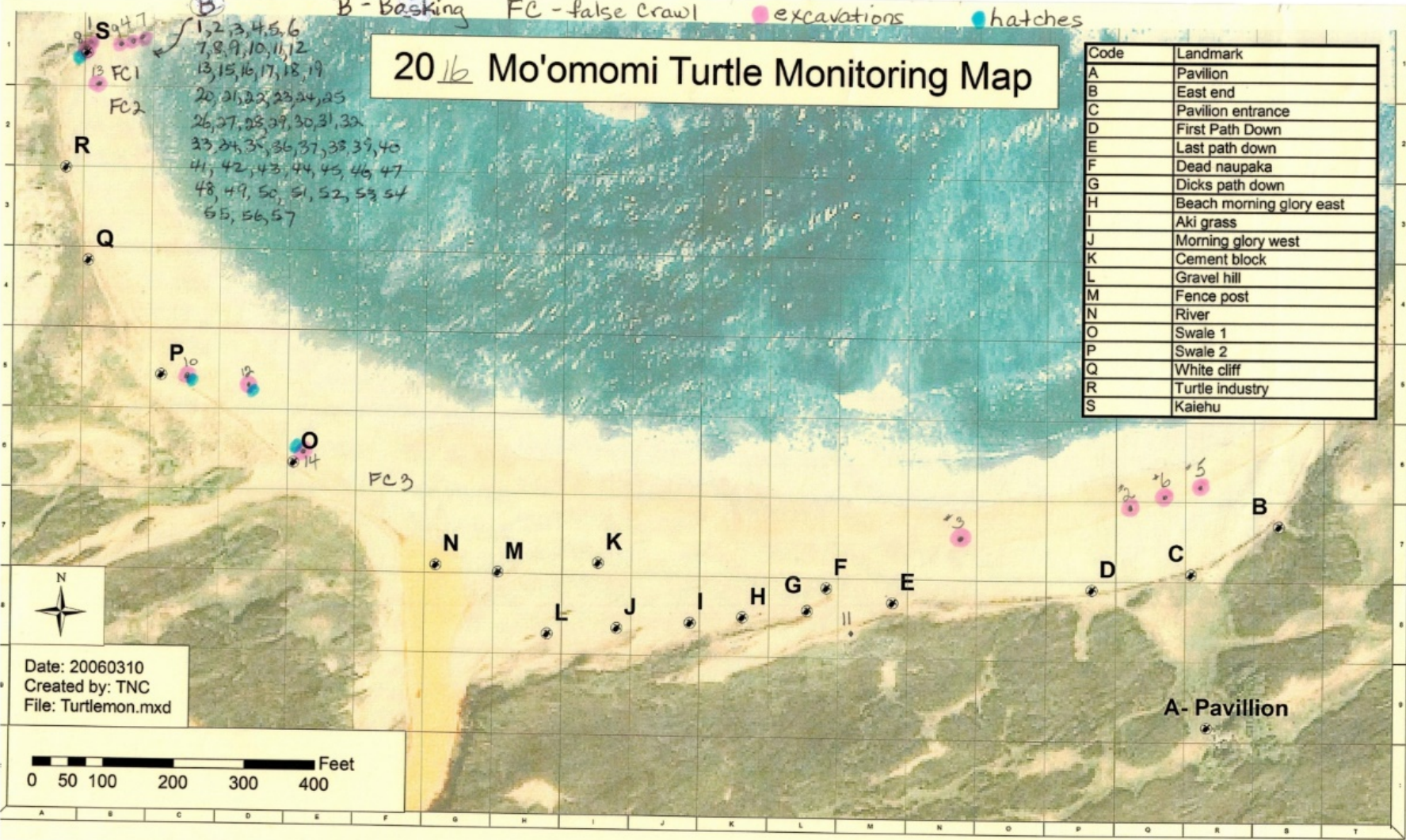
TNC Molokai Turtle Trackers

# 2016 Mo'omomi Turtle Monitoring Map

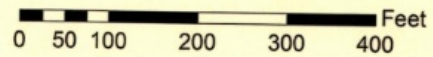
B - Basking FC - false crawl excavations hatches

Code	Landmark
A	Pavilion
B	East end
C	Pavilion entrance
D	First Path Down
E	Last path down
F	Dead naupaka
G	Dicks path down
H	Beach morning glory east
I	Aki grass
J	Morning glory west
K	Cement block
L	Gravel hill
M	Fence post
N	River
O	Swale 1
P	Swale 2
Q	White cliff
R	Turtle industry
S	Kaiehu

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19  
 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25  
 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32  
 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40  
 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47  
 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54  
 55, 56, 57



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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T