

Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey, Moloka'i, 2007

Participants

Joan Aidem

Bill Feeter

Frances Feeter

Mike Grinnell

Joe Kitagawa

Lil Macmillan

Phyllis Murakami-Ciu

Scot Schafer

Kathy Tachibana

2007 Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey Kawa'aloa Bay, Moloka'i

This survey was done by a group of volunteers on behalf of Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Molokai.

The 2007 Green Sea Turtle nesting survey was carried out from April 21 until November 8. During this period, observers walked the beach from East to West each morning, with the exception of 2 days in October and 6 in November that access to the beach was not possible. A meeting was held May 22nd with George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the participating monitors. The procedures for identifying and recording the excavations were reviewed. It was decided to further aid in identifying the excavations beyond the current methods of landmarks and measurements National Marine Fisheries would supply two GPS units and a Metal Detector. The centers of the last excavation of each trip in would be recorded on a GPS, marked with a drift wood stick and a can would be buried beside it. The meeting was continued at the beach where landmarks were reviewed and where necessary new ones were put in.

Of the 41 trips on shore 28 produced excavations. Of these, there were 14 hatches observed and as in 2006 these nests were dug up at least 3 days after the last hatchling had been observed to emerge.

The contents of these nests were as follows:

	Nest	Successful Hatches	Undeveloped	Dead	Live	Total Eggs Laid
Hatch 1	1	45	2		1	47
Hatch 2	2	75	2			77
Hatch 3	6	60	4			64
Hatch 4	7	82	4			77
Hatch 5	8	78	2			80
Hatch 6	11	81	3			84
Hatch 7	14	77	1		1	78
Hatch 8	15	78	3			81
Hatch 9	22	80	1			81
Hatch 10	23	76	2			78
Hatch 11	24	70	2	2		74
Hatch 12	26	76	3		2	79
Hatch 13	27	82	2			84
Hatch 14	28	52	3	26	1	81
		1012	35	28	5	1073

The 5 live hatchlings found in Nests 1, 7, 12, & 14 were released to the ocean.

The 2 dead hatchlings found in Nest 24 appeared fully developed, but had not hatched out of their shells.

The 26 dead hatchlings found in Nest 28 were approximately 12-15 inches below the surface. Nest 28 hatched Nov 2nd, 3 more left the nest Nov 3rd. There was a very heavy rainfall Nov 4th and 5th. The nest was dug up Nov 8th.

The 35 undeveloped eggs, 28 dead hatchlings recovered from the nests and the 7 dead hatchlings found between the exit areas and the shoreline were frozen and given to George Balazs.

Unlike 2006, of the 13 false crawls made, there was only 1 that remained below the high water line and the rest crawled high up onto the beach. The nesting activity was in the area east of the river with the exception of excavations #2 and #10 which were found to the west of the river.

Monk Seal Activity (tracks & body impressions in the sand) was observed on 5 occasions between early June to mid October, with no seals sighted.

Submitted by Lil Macmillan.

Date	Nest #	Map Location	# of Pits	Est Hatch (60 days)	Hatch Date	Days Incubated	Hatch #	Dig Date	Dig Count	Spoiled	Dead	Live	Successful Hatches
05/10/07	1	F/G	4	7/8	July 17	67	1	07/24/07	48	3		1	45
05/22/07	2	Q	2	7/20	July 26	65	2	07/27/07	77	2			75
05/26/07	3	K	1	7/24									
05/27/07	4	G/H	3	7/25									
05/27/07	5	H	1	7/25									
05/28/07	6	I	2	7/26	Aug 1	65	3	08/05/07	64	4			60
06/09/07	7	K	1	8/7	Aug 7	62	4	08/12/07	86	4		1	82
06/13/07	8	K	1	8/11	Aug 16	64	5	08/20/07	78	2			78
06/18/07	9	F/G	1	8/16									
06/18/07	10	O/P	2	8/16									
06/19/07	11	H/I	1	8/17	Aug 16	58	6	08/20/07	86	3	2		81
06/29/07	12	E	2	8/27									
06/29/07	13	E/F	1	8/27									
06/30/07	14	H/I	2	8/28	Aug 29	61	7	09/05/07	78	1			77
07/03/07	15	H	2	9/1	Aug 30	59	8	09/05/07	81	3			78
07/16/07	16	E	2	9/14									
07/16/07	17	G	1	9/14									
07/16/07	18	H	2	9/14									
07/16/07	19	I	2	9/14									
07/17/07	20	F	2	9/15									
07/17/07	21	I	1	9/15									
07/18/07	22	J	2	9/16	Sept 13	57	9	09/17/07	81	1			80
07/31/07	23	I	1	9/29	Sept 29	60	10	10/03/07	78	2			76
08/01/07	24	M	1	9/30	Sept 29	59	11	10/03/07	72	2			70
08/15/07	25	G	6	10/13									
08/16/07	26	G/H	1	10/14	14-Oct	60	12	10/19/07	79	3		2	76
08/16/07	27	L	1	10/14	15-Oct	61	13	10/19/07	84	2			82
08/30/07	28	I/J	3	10/28	2-Nov	64	14	11/8/07	81	3	26	1	52
									1073	35	28	5	1012