

Green Sea Turtle Nesting Survey, Moloka'i, 2011

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2011 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, under direction of George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Honolulu. The 2011 Green Sea Turtle nesting survey was carried out from April 10 until November 9. Volunteers checked the beach in the morning 3 to 7 days a week, depending on expected activity. April 14 all location markers were refreshed. The procedures for identifying and recording the excavations are those that were used in 2010. Recording & identifying the last excavation of each nesting trip on shore was done by using landmarks and measurements, gps waypoints, and a stake marking the center of the body pit.

Of the 45 trips on shore, 8 of the trips produced excavations. Of these, 4 hatches were observed. 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	68		1		69
Hatch 2	5	63	3	1	2	67
Hatch 3	7	70				70
Hatch 4	8	48	5			53
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		249	8	2	2	259

The 2 live hatchlings found in Nest 5 were released to the ocean.

The 8 undeveloped eggs and the 2 dead hatchlings recovered from the nests, were frozen and given to George Balazs

Of the 45 false crawls reported 2 crawled high up onto the beach and 43 stayed below the high tide line. 41 of those were found at the western end of the beach.

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

A Monk Seal was observed on 1 occasion – Aug 18, in surf.

Submitted by:
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