

LANIAKEA HONU IDENTIFICATION BOOKLET

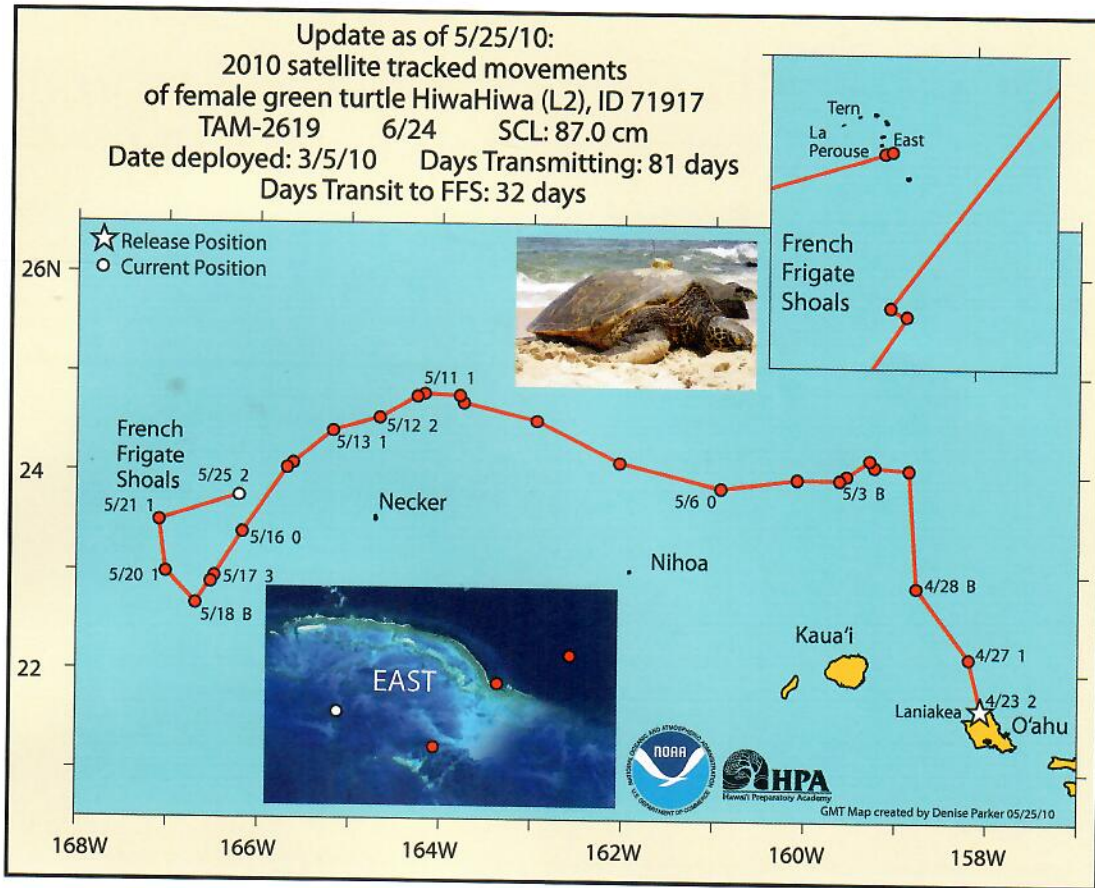
Second Edition November 2013



Mission Statement:

*To protect the Hawaiian green sea turtle through education,
public awareness and conservation in the spirit of Aloha.*

Hiwahiwa Tracking Map



Pukalani Tracking Map

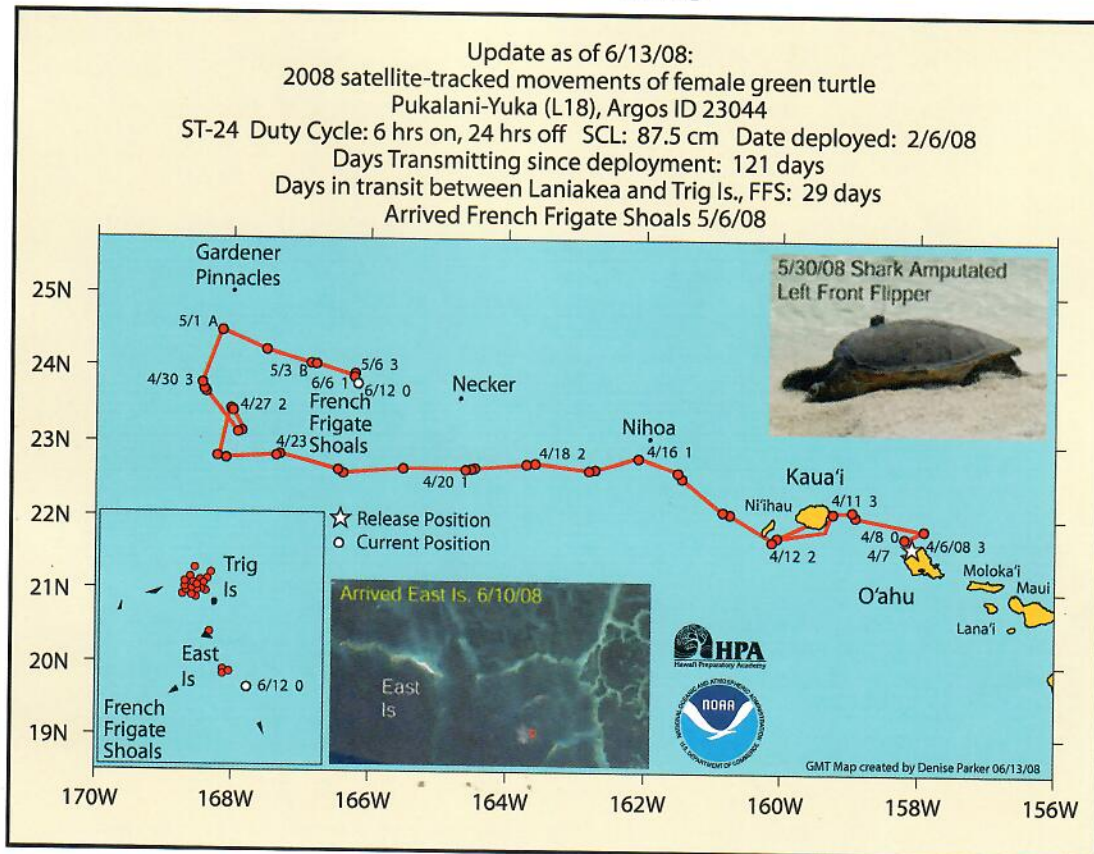




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BASKERS DIVIDED BY GENDER

MALE

L-1 Brutus; Nalukai *
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 L-21 Punahale *
 L-25 Clawdette; Kainani
 L-28 Hao *

IN MEMORIAM

L-18 Pukalani
 L-20 Honey Girl; Hone U'I

L-1Name: **BRUTUS**Hawaiian Name: *NALUKAI* – *endured the storms of life*
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 500E072F73 and 41356C4857

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES**

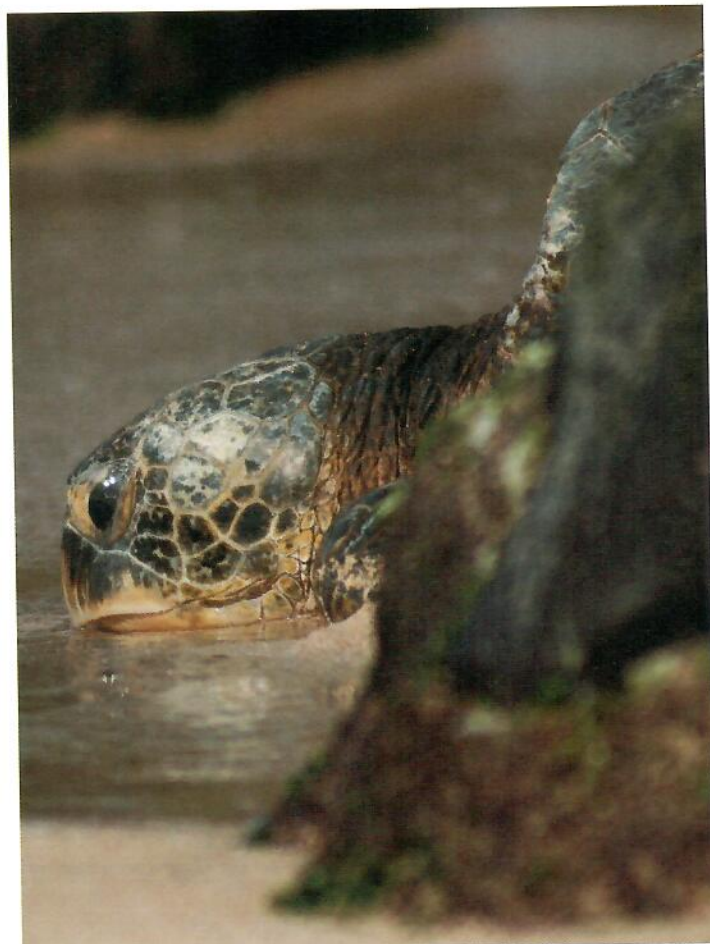
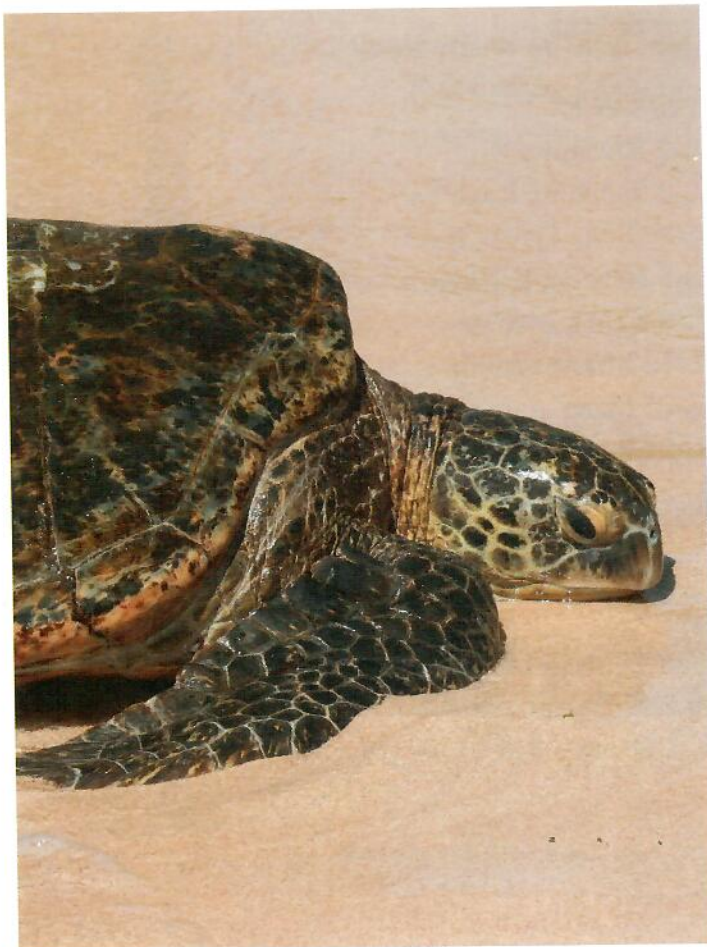
- * **Left rear flipper is ½ bitten off; outside piece remains.**
- * **Rim of shell is thin and flips up slightly.**

BASKING PATTERN

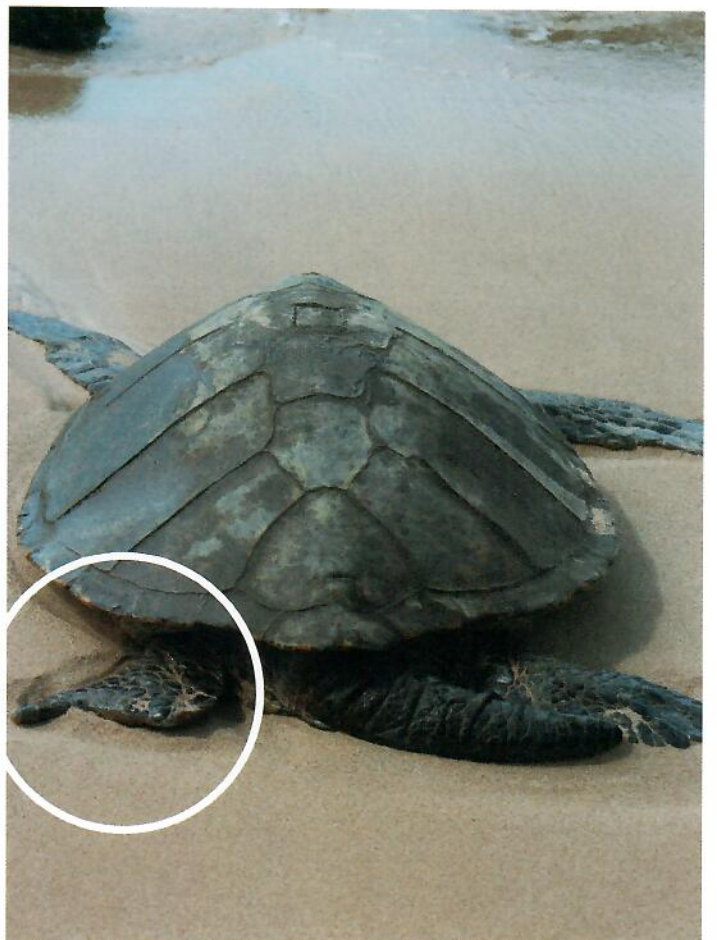
Brutus can be found basking at Laniakea much more frequently than any other honu. He makes an appearance on the beach over 60% of the time. Almost half of his appearances occur during the morning hours, whether he is hauling out early or has remained on the beach after an overnight stay. Brutus basks here every month of the year. Brutus is still on the beach at sunset 50% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Brutus basked 450 times.

HISTORY

Brutus was one of the first turtles in 1999 to repeatedly bask at Laniakea Beach. L-1 was also the first turtle to receive a PIT identification tag in each rear flipper. Brutus was first discovered at Laniakea Beach on a blustery March 15th evening, the Ides of March. His arrival and name are ironically reminiscent of two famous lines from Shakespeare's play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*: "Beware the Ides of March" and "Et tu Brute." Over the years he has been hooked, entangled, and nipped by predators, yet he remains trusting enough to continue basking at Laniakea. He lives up to his Hawaiian name, Nalukai, "the one who has endured the storms of life."



**L-1 Brutus
Nalukai**



L-2

Hawaiian Name: **HIWAHIWA** – *precious, favorite*
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 422D536E6C and 4233400066



IDENTIFYING FEATURES

- * **Dome of shell was injured in 2001 and repaired with epoxy.**
- * **2010 TDR is still attached to left side of carapace.**
- * **Top of shell evidences severe damage.**

BASKING PATTERN

Hiwahiwa, over time, is our 6th most frequently basking honu. She basks year round at Laniakea, remaining on the beach until the sun goes down almost 60% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Hiwahiwa basked 137 times.

HISTORY

In 2001 Hiwahiwa most likely collided with a speeding boat or jet ski, which severely damaged her carapace and resulted in a fissure on the top of her shell. A veterinarian repaired the outside of her shell with an acrylic dental patch, which allowed the fissure to mend from the inside.

In spite of her trauma the year before, in June of 2002, Hiwahiwa was seen nesting 500 miles northwest of Laniakea at the French Frigate Shoals. L-2 migrated again during the 2010 nesting season, departing in late April and arriving at the French Frigate Shoals after 32 days at sea. She laid her fist clutch of eggs on June 10th. Data harvested from L-2's TDR revealed she made a record-breaking dive of 570 feet (174 meters), the deepest in Hawaiian green sea turtle history. She returned to Laniakea on September 6, 2010.



L-2
Hiwahiwa



**L-3**

Name: **SAPPHIRE**
 Hawaiian Name: *KAPA'EA* – sapphire
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4347691B2D and 4358740927

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

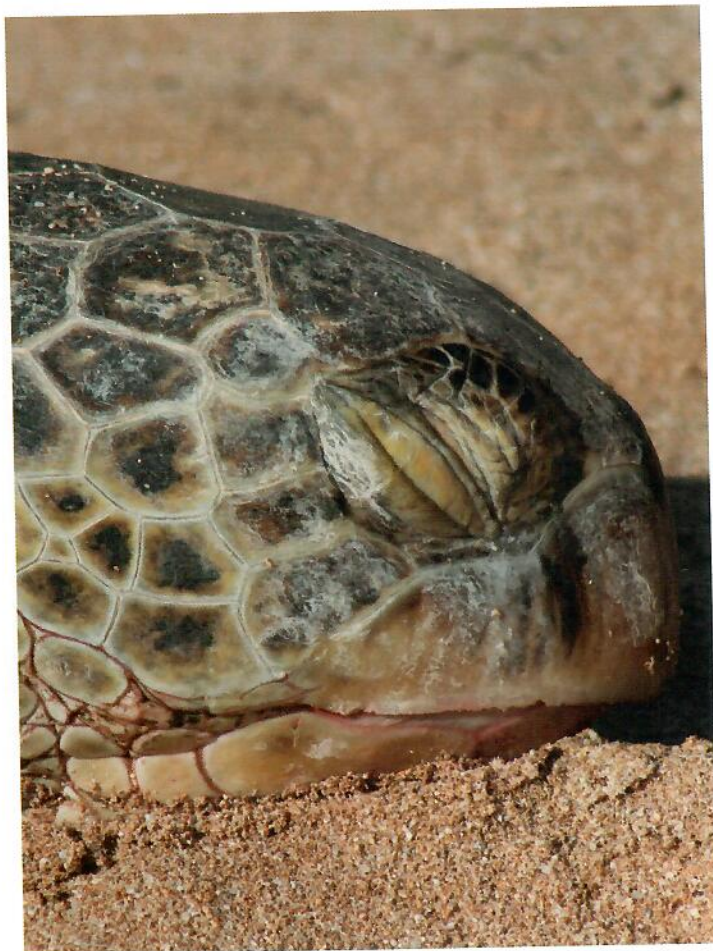
- * **Rounded, smooth carapace is in fine condition with no sign of injuries.**
- * **Checking facial scales can eliminate confusion with L-8 Mahina, L-12 Missy, and L-21 Punahale.**

BASKING PATTERN

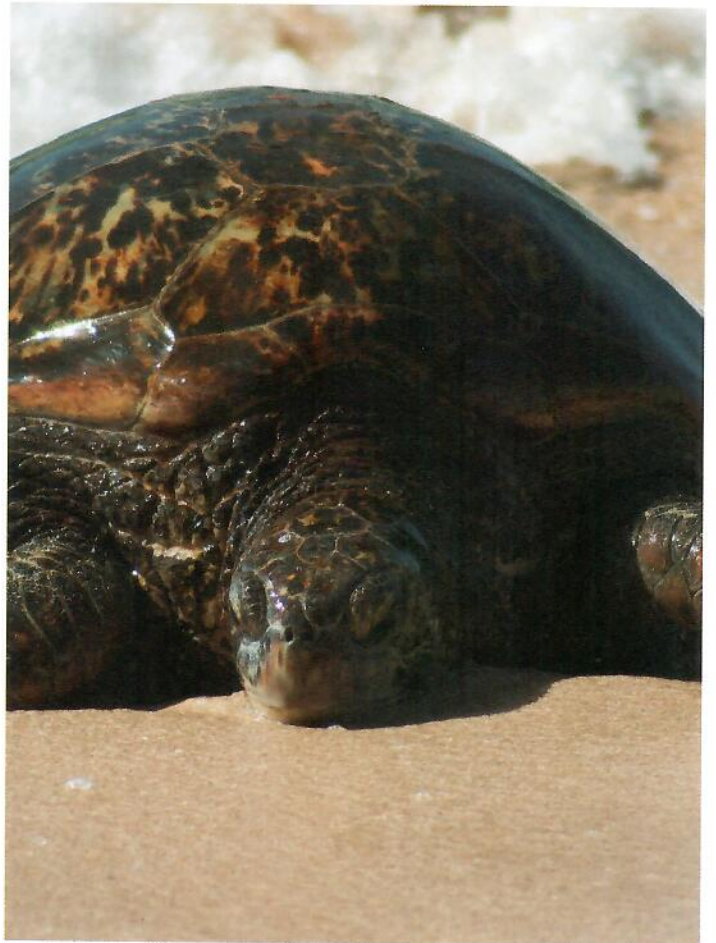
Sapphire basks on an irregular schedule at Laniakea, skipping most early winter months. It is also extremely rare to see her during the morning hours. When she does bask, she is still on the beach at sunset over 65% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Sapphire basked 75 times.

HISTORY

During the 2008 nesting season, Sapphire completed the 1,000 mile round trip migration to the French Frigate Shoals, departing Laniakea in April and returning in August. In March 2012, the marine scientists from NOAA attached a satellite transmitter and TDR to her shell. Satellite tracking indicated she stayed close to the North Shore of O'ahu during the migration season, rather than migrating.



L-3 Sapphire
Kapa'ea



L-4

Name: **OLIVIA-DAWN**
 Hawaiian Name: *IPO* – *sweetheart*
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 435B6A124B and 435C27255A



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

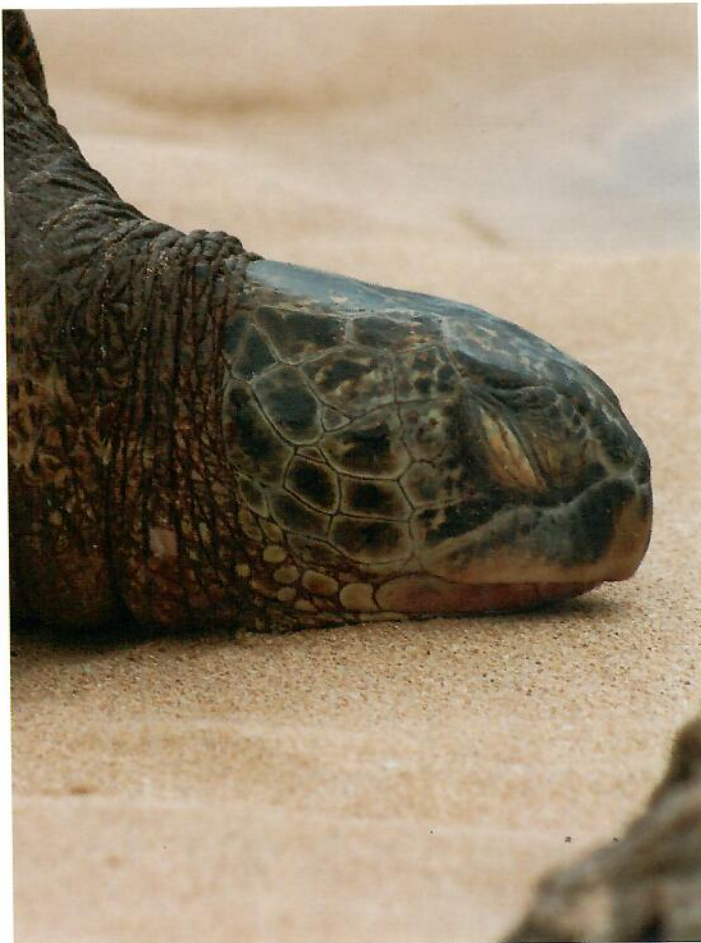
- * The oval-shaped epoxy residue from a previous TDR can be found on her shell above her left rear flipper.

BASKING PATTERN

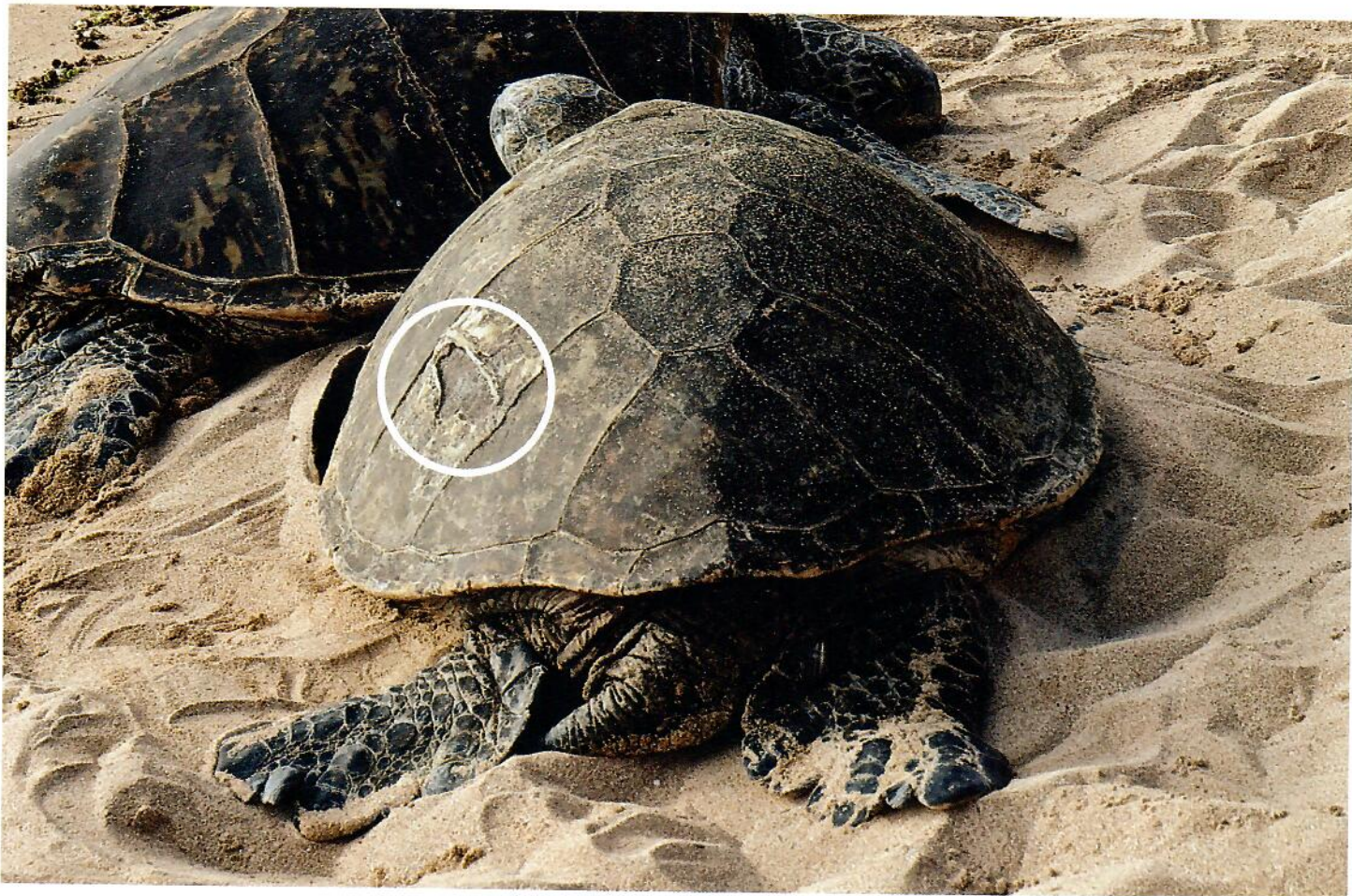
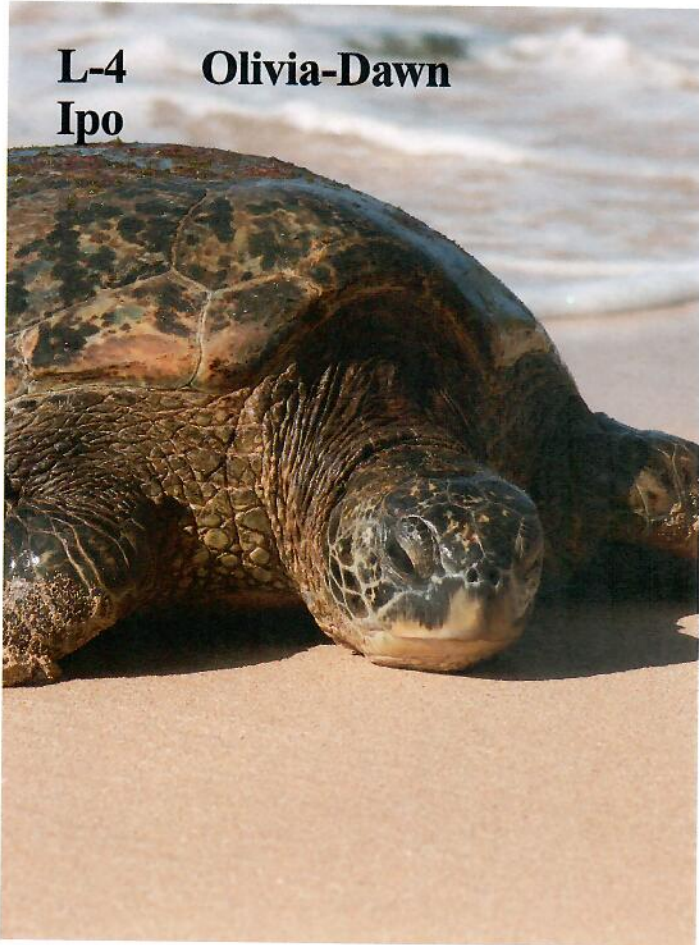
Olivia-Dawn is our 4th most frequent basker. Whether hauling out in the morning or afternoon, she can still be seen on the beach at sunset almost 90% of the times she comes out. Olivia-Dawn is another member of our turtle `ohana that basks at Laniakea every month of the year. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Olivia-Dawn basked 203 times.

HISTORY

In 2004 L-4 migrated to the nesting beaches of the French Frigate Shoals, departing Laniakea Beach on March 13th. It took Olivia-Dawn 35 days to swim 500 miles. During the first 20 days of her migration, she averaged 16 deep ocean dives each evening, with the maximum depth of one dive recorded at 443 feet (135 meters). Ipo returned safely to the cove at Laniakea on September 17th.



L-4 Olivia-Dawn
Ipo



L-5

Name: **ISABELLA**
 Hawaiian Name: *KILAKILA* – majestic
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 435B6D724E and 4367476B71

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

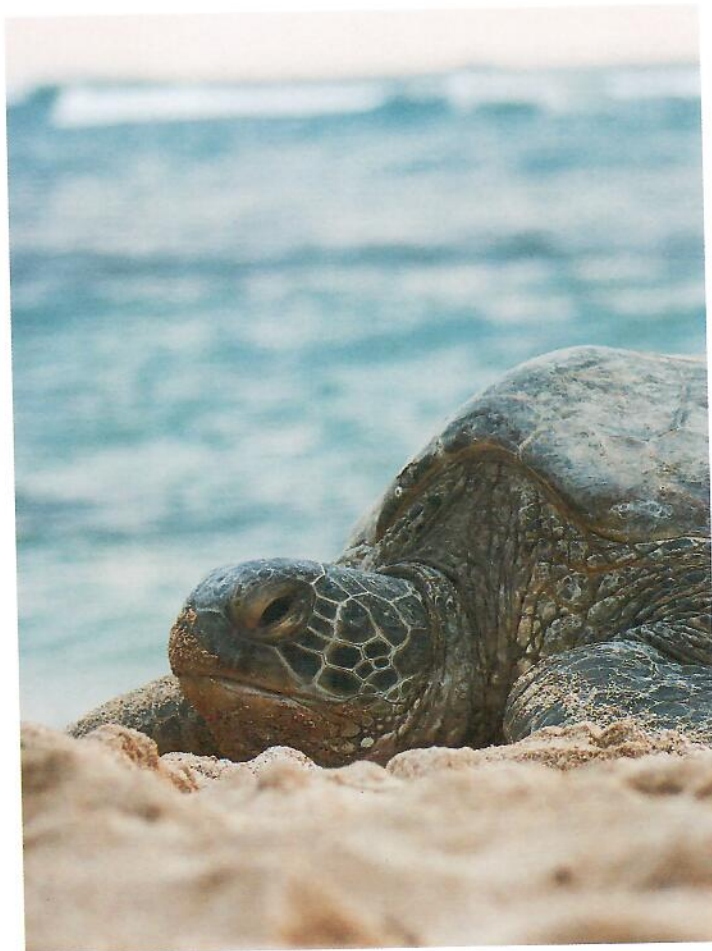
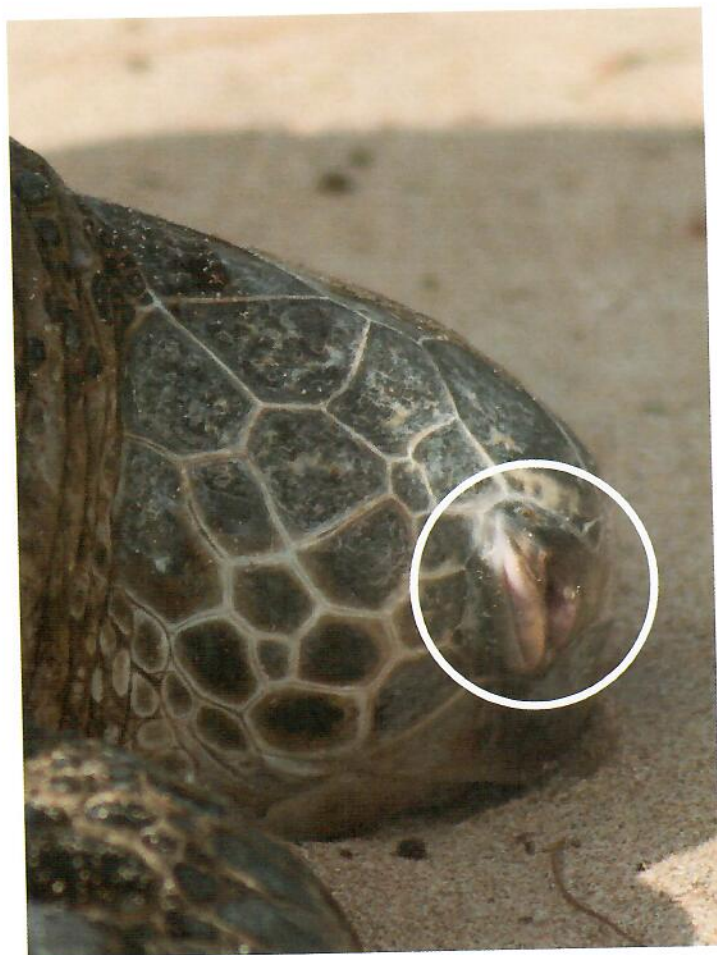
- * She has more barnacles attached to her shell than other turtles.
- * An old injury to her right eye has left a puffy white and pink scar.

HISTORY

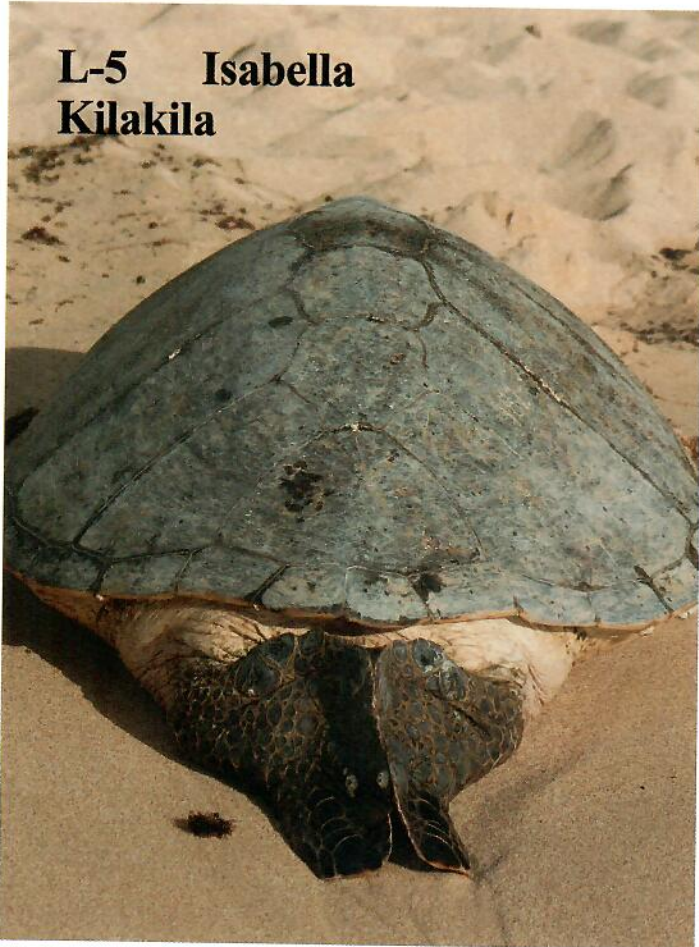
In 2007 and 2011, Isabella completed her 1,000 mile journey to the nesting beaches of the French Frigate Shoals.

BASKING PATTERN

Isabella is in the bottom tier of basking frequency, rarely basking two months in a row and hauling out less than 5% of the time. When she does appear, a third of the time she makes multiple trips in and out of the water on the same day and is still on the beach at sunset about 80% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Isabella basked 37 times.



L-5 Isabella
Kilakila



L-6

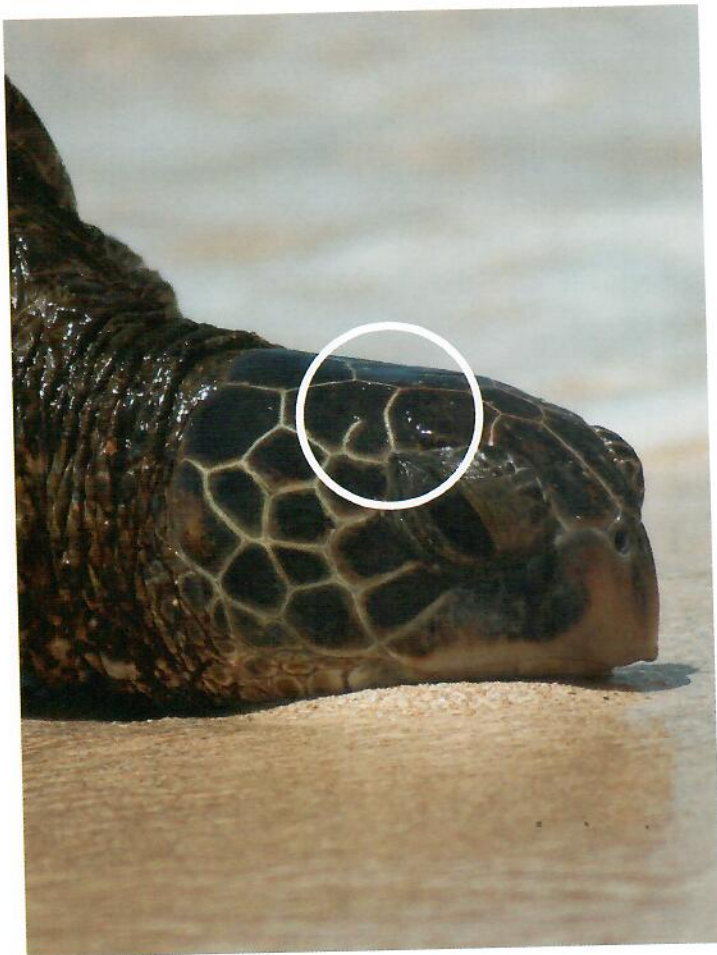
Name: **OAKLEY**
 Hawaiian Name: *ME ALOHA – the beloved*
 ADULT MALE
 PIT Tag Numbers: 433D493D66 and 433F397534

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

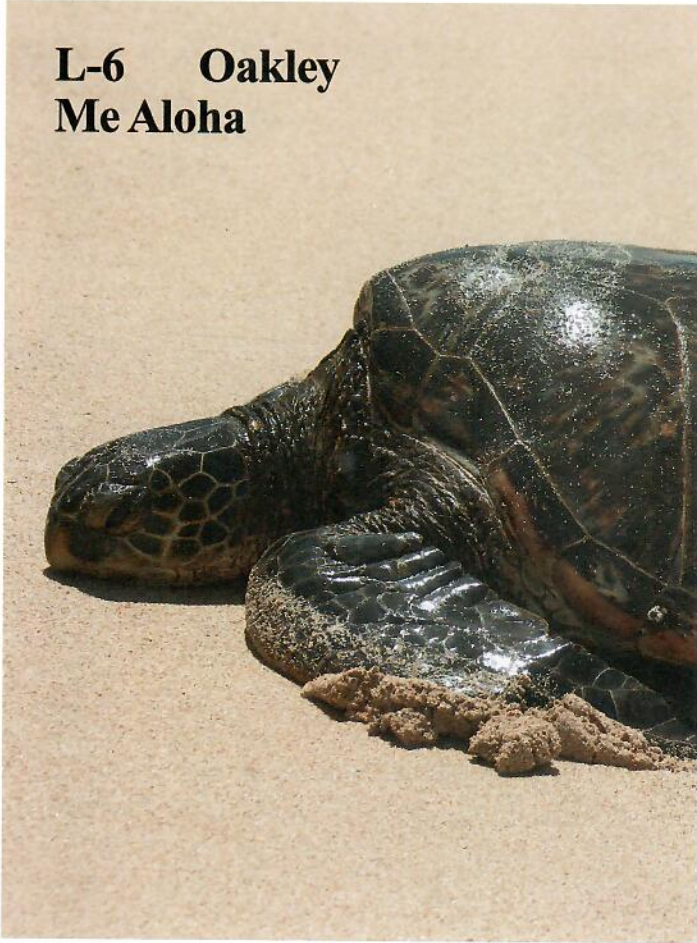
* His distinguishing facial scale above the right eye shows a “J” or “fish hook” pattern.

BASKING PATTERN

Oakley is our 5th most frequently basking honu, although he does not haul out onto the beach at Laniakea year round. He basks primarily from February through July or August and then disappears from our beach until the following year. When he does bask, he can usually be seen on the beach well in excess of ten days per month and is still there at sunset 70% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Oakley basked 167 times.



**L-6 Oakley
Me Aloha**



L-7Name: **WOOLEY-BULLY**Hawaiian Name: *LOPEKA O HOLOKAI* – *Roger the seafarer*

ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4359054568 and 435B5D5F49

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

- * He is one of the largest male turtles basking at Laniakea.
- * ½ of his left rear flipper is bitten off straight across and is thick at the bitten edge.
- * Since it is easy to confuse L-7 with L-24 Kuhina because of similar sizes, it is important to check the condition of the left rear flipper.

BASKING PATTERN

Wooley-Bully is another of our honu that basks sporadically. Over time, his primary months to bask have been in July and August when he hauls out on almost half the days of those months. Recently, he has greatly increased his basking frequency by also appearing many times during late winter and spring. L-7 is still on the beach at sunset almost 60% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Wooley-Bully basked 93 times.

HISTORY

In 2004 L-7 completed a 1,000 mile migration to the mating and nesting areas of the French Frigate Shoals. He swam to the isolated atoll in 25 days, returning quickly to his feeding grounds off Laniakea Beach in 21 days.



**L-7 Wooley-Bully
Lopeka O Holokai**



**L-8**Name: **KUAI**Hawaiian Name: *MAHINA* – moon**ADULT FEMALE**

PIT Tag Numbers: 433F403720 and 435C3911D

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

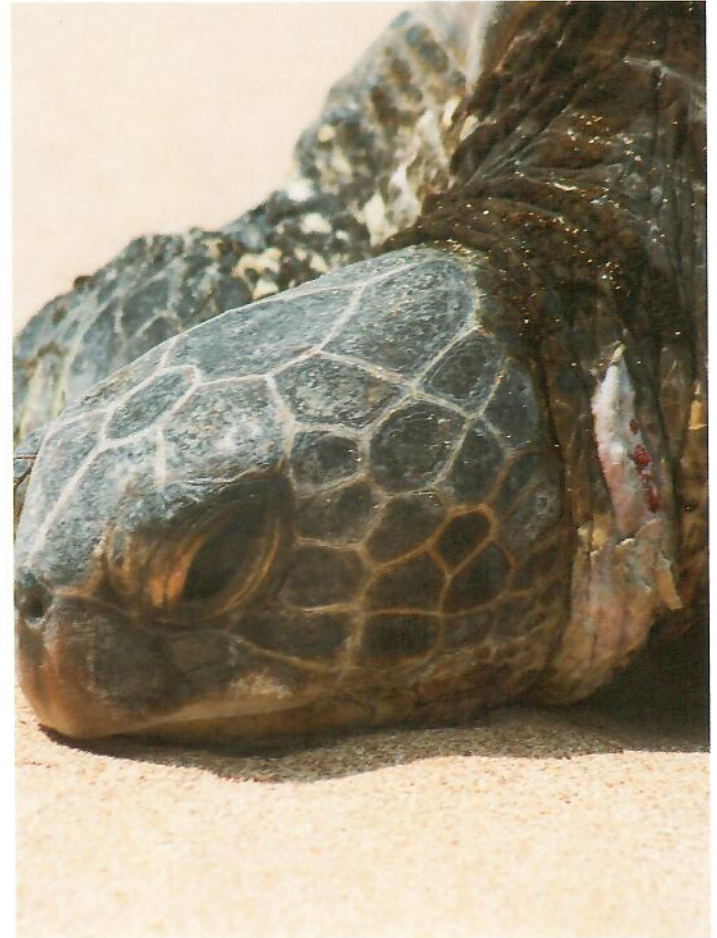
- * **Checking facial scales can eliminate confusion with L-3 Sapphire, L-12 Missy, and L-21 Punahele.**

BASKING PATTERN

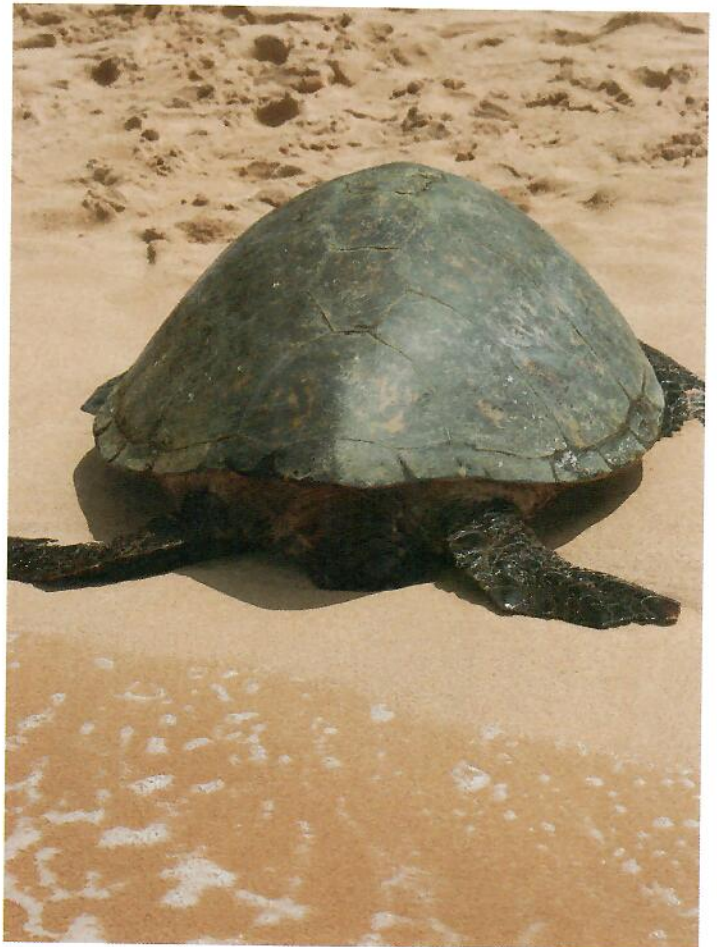
Mahina is Laniakea's elusive adult female night basker. L-8 sometimes hauls out onto the sand at dusk and is rarely seen on the beach during daylight hours. Mahina is our least well-known honu. She basks during daylight, on average, once a year in either July or August. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Mahina basked twice.

HISTORY

Since the last 3 digits of one of Mahina's PIT tag numbers is 720, she was named after the call letters of Kaua'i's radio station 720-KUAI, which broadcasts nightly from the Garden Isle of Kaua'i to the North Shore of O'ahu.



L-8 KUAI
Mahina



L-10Name: **SQUIRT**Hawaiian Name: *LELE* – leaping
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 438146551 and 435C2C7A32

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

- * Both the left and right post central scutes are missing on either side of his tail, causing the central scutes to resemble “buck teeth.”
- * He has distinctive facial scales behind his left eye appearing like a large “W.”

BASKING PATTERN ~INACTIVE BASKER~

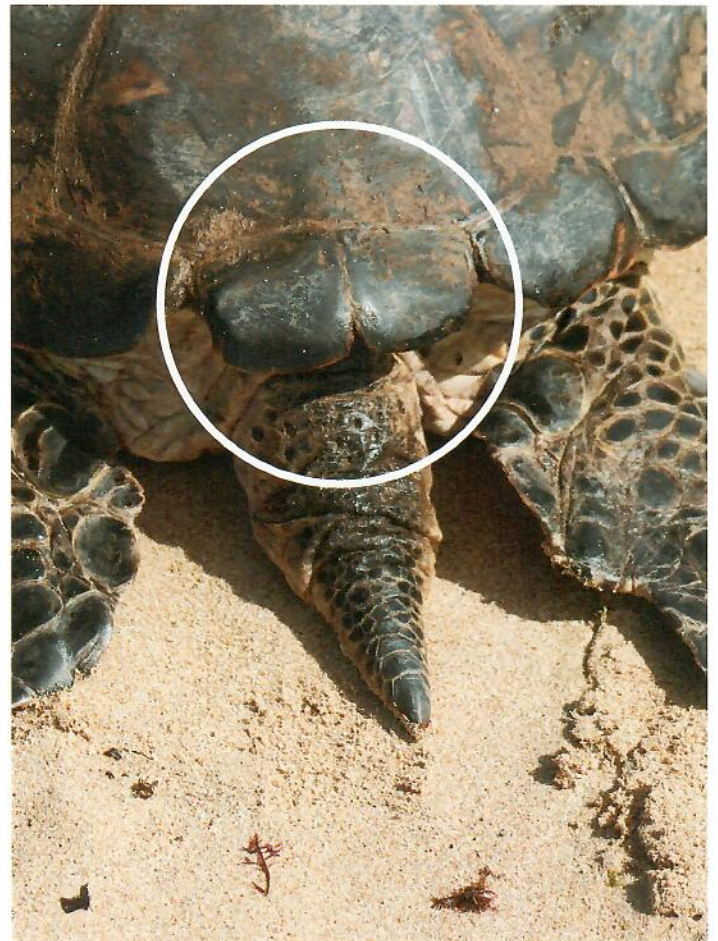
Squirt has not been seen basking since 2011 but can be seen at the beach every day as he is boldly displayed on our Malama na Honu banner.

HISTORY

Squirt was one of the first young subadult baskers to come up on the beach at Laniakea in 2003. L-10 has a distinctive way of hauling out onto the beach, arching high on his front flippers. In 2008 his tail began noticeably growing longer and thicker, confirming his male gender.



L-10 Squirt
Lele



L-11Name: **GENBU**Hawaiian Name: *Kupono – the worthy one*

ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4250034951 and 442E084F24

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

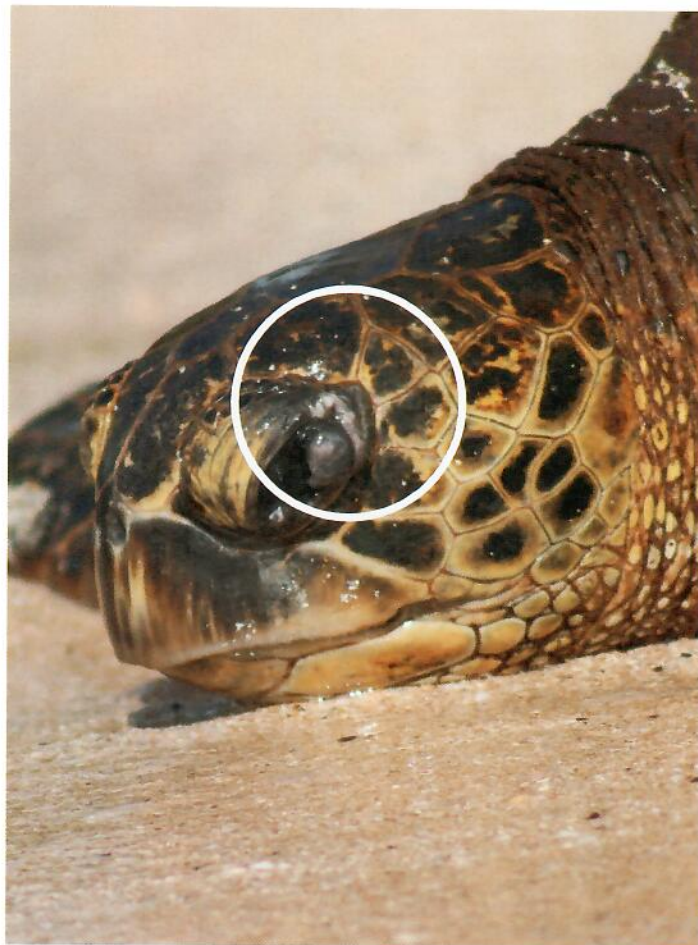
- * He has a white scar on his left eye.

BASKING PATTERN

Genbu is another sporadically basking honu in the lower tier of frequency of appearances on the beach. Springtime and possibly early summer afford the best chance of seeing Genbu on the beach. He disappears for months at a time, though he always manages to return to our shore. His most recent absence lasted 7 consecutive months. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Genbu basked 40 times.

HISTORY

Genbu disappeared from the shores of Laniakea in 2004. A year later he hauled out onto the beach with a large fibropapilloma tumor on his left jaw hinge and tumors on his neck and eyes. A veterinarian successfully treated L-11 with Dermex in 2005 and again in 2007. In 2009 Genbu disappeared for over 18 months. He returned to Laniakea in 2011 with over 20 barnacles on his shell. In March 2012 Genbu was outfitted with a satellite tracker and TDR. He completed his migration to the French Frigate Shoals between March and July 2012.



L-11 Genbu
Kupono



L-12Name: **MISSY**Hawaiian Name: *KAUILA* – legendary guardian of children
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4452766010 and 4454191827

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

* Checking facial scales can eliminate confusion with L-3 Sapphire, L-8 Mahina, and L-21 Punahele.

BASKING PATTERN

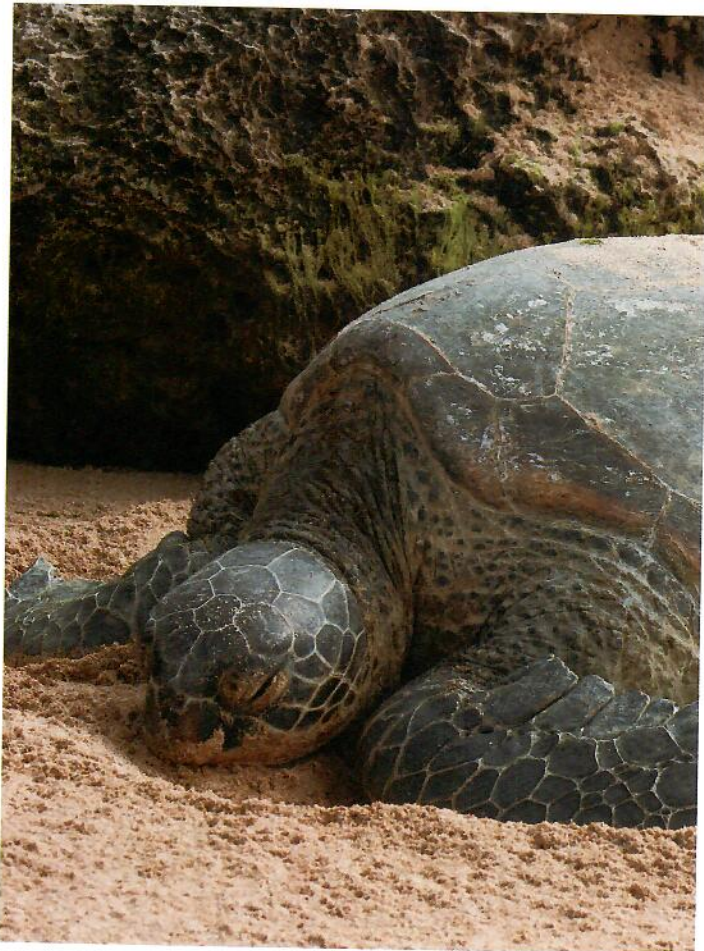
Missy is another of our less frequently basking turtles, appearing less than 10% of the time. She is, however, in attendance for most months of the year, basking only once or twice in the month. Her disappearances from the beach show no particular monthly pattern. About half the time she hauls out, she'll either stay the night or haul out again the next day (but not the day after). During the two year period ending June 30, 2012, Missy basked 59 times.

HISTORY

In 2004, Missy was seen 500 miles from the North Shore of O'ahu on Little Gin Island, in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.



L-12 Missy
Kauila



L-15

Hawaiian Name: **MANA** – *spiritual power*
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 424E523868 and 424D247116



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * She has a metal ID tag #10485 in the crease of her front left flipper, but it is close to her body, making it difficult to see.
- * L-15's high domed shell gives her a spherical look.
- * Her rear flippers, especially the right one, are ragged.
- * On both sides of her face, she has a facial scale pattern that resembles one block resting on two blocks.

BASKING PATTERN

Mana has been in the lower tier of basking frequency but more recently has significantly increased her appearances on the beach. L-15 has also begun remaining on the beach at sunset, something she has almost never done in the past. She visits us in late spring and summer and then disappears for about 6 months at a time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Mana basked 57 times.

HISTORY

Mana first received four metal flipper tags while nesting on Whale-Skate Island in the French Frigate Shoals in June 1988. She was seen nesting there again in 1991. Whale-Skate Island is now submerged. Mana last nested at East Island in 2006. Presently, Mana has one flipper tag remaining on her left front flipper.



L-15
Mana



L-19Name: **SCALLOP**Hawaiian Name: *KAUHI'NIHONIHO* – scalloped shell
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4453784E23

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

- * The irregular marginal scute above his right rear flipper has a “scalloped” edge.
- * Due to a July 2013 injury, the bone above his left eye has been wired closed and the wires are visible. He also has a gash on the top of his skull.

BASKING PATTERN

Scallop is our 7th most frequently basking turtle and another member of our ‘ohana that is in residence at Laniakea year round. He usually hauls out on the beach at least 4 times in any given month, though occasionally his monthly appearances spike to ten or more a month. He is still on the beach at sunset over 60% of the time. During the two-year period ending June 30, 2013, Scallop basked 135 times.

HISTORY

On February 15, 2013, guardians safely removed a fishing line and hook from his neck. Subsequently, Scallop was found in a tide pool on the morning of July 14, 2013, suffering from head and flipper injuries. In the early afternoon he hauled out onto the beach where guardians secured him, called NOAA and assisted in preparing him for transport to NOAA’s Kewalo Basin Turtle Facility. There he was treated for his injuries and given a regimen of antibiotics. The attending veterinarian determined that the injuries to L-19’s left eye and flipper most likely were caused by a boat propeller. On August 8th Scallop was returned to the ocean at Laniakea. He now has the number 826 Mototooled on his shell, denoting that he is the 826th turtle to be treated and released by NOAA since its turtle rescue program began.



L-19 Scallop
Kauhi‘nihoniho



L-21

Hawaiian Name: **PUNAHELE** – *the favorite*
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 485348747E

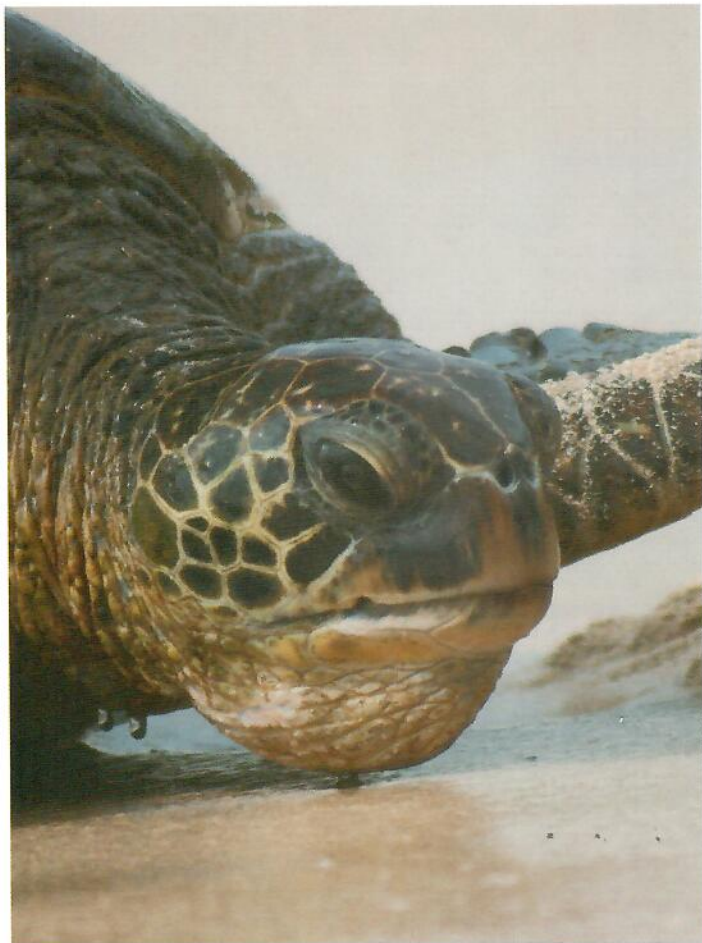


IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * She has a faint quarter-sized crescent-shaped indentation on the 2nd right lateral scute.
- * A sandy colored triangular patch lies between scutes on the right hand posterior portion of her carapace.
- * Checking facial scales can eliminate confusion with L-3 Sapphire, L-8 Mahina, and L-12 Missy.

BASKING PATTERN

Punahele is generally another year round resident at Laniakea. She rarely appears in the morning hours (less than 10% of the time), but when she does haul out, she is still on the beach as the sun sets almost 75% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Punahele basked 102 times.



L-21
Punahele



L-22

Name: **TRIPOD**Hawaiian Name: *PAKOLU – in threes*
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 424E617752 and 42500G022E

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

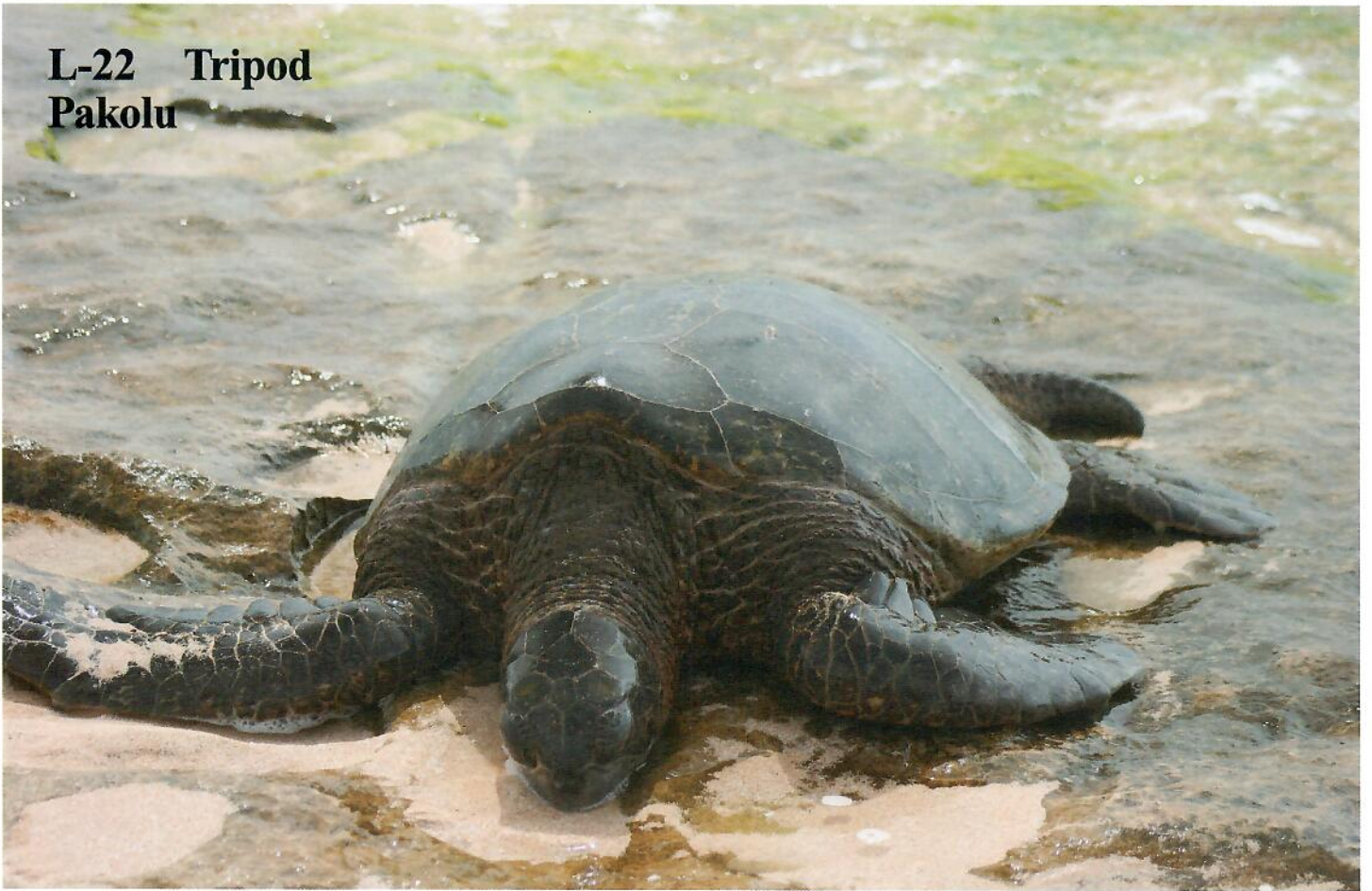
- * His entire right rear flipper is missing, presumably amputated as a result of entanglement with monofilament fishing line.

BASKING PATTERN

Tripod basks occasionally in the summer on the exposed limestone shelf on the southwestern side of Laniakea. Tripod is next to last in frequency of basking appearances, coming on shore less than 3% of the time. The months of July, August or September seem to be his preference for hauling out onto the beach. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Tripod basked 15 times.



**L-22 Tripod
Pakolu**



L-23

Hawaiian Name: **NOHEA KAMAKANA** – *fine gift*
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4A4463116E and 4A5B1B347A

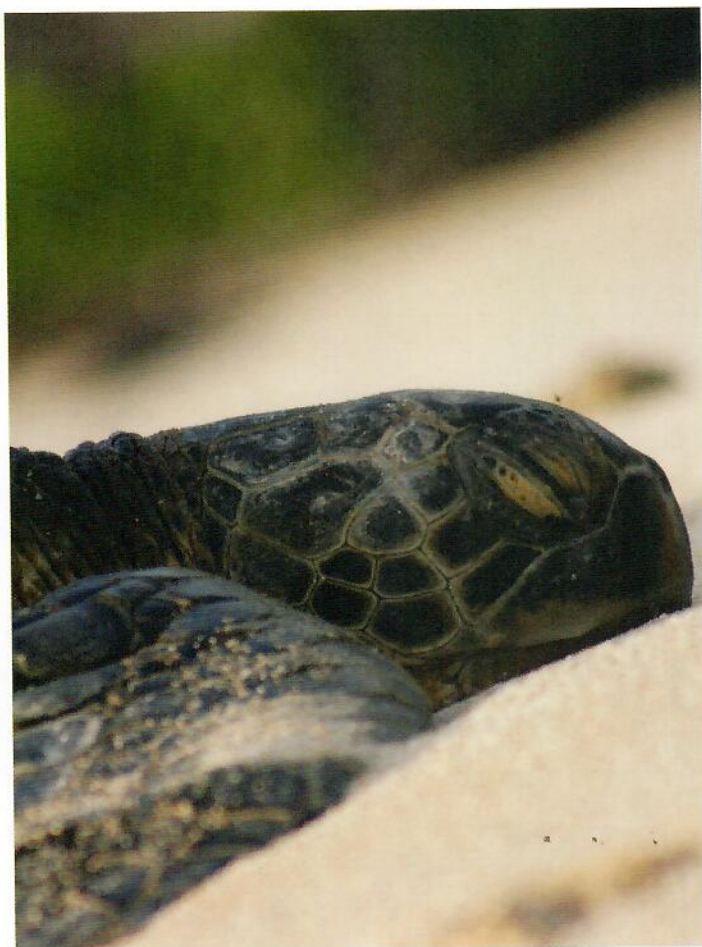


IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * An indentation appears on the right anterior portion of the carapace.

BASKING PATTERN ~INACTIVE BASKER~

Although no longer basking at Laniakea, Nohea Kamakana has been seen basking in front of Jocko's surf break ¼ mile north of Laniakea.



L-23
Nohea Kamakana



L-24

Hawaiian Name: **KUHINA** – *the ambassador*
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 470A1A1211

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

- * He is one of the largest male turtles basking at Laniakea.
- * All flippers are intact, except for a small crescent-shaped missing piece on his left rear flipper.
- * Since it is easy to confuse L-24 with L-7 Wooley Bully because of similar sizes, it is important to check the condition of the left rear flipper.

BASKING PATTERN

Kuhina is one of our stellar basking honu, generally appearing on the beach more than one out of every four days. He ranks as our 3rd most frequently basking honu. Kuhina is another of our family that basks every month at Laniakea and is on the beach until after sunset 75% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Kuhina basked 204 times.

HISTORY

Kuhina first came up on Christmas Day 2007 and we called him Kalikimaka and Kahuna Nui because his was so big. The Kamehameha School Hawaiian language specialist said it was disrespectful to call anyone other than a real Kahuna a kahuna, so he suggested we change his name to Kuhina.



L-24
Kuhina



**L-25**Name: – **CLAWDETTE**Hawaiian Name: *KAINANI* – beautiful one of the ocean
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 470A164Z4D and 45292E320C

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

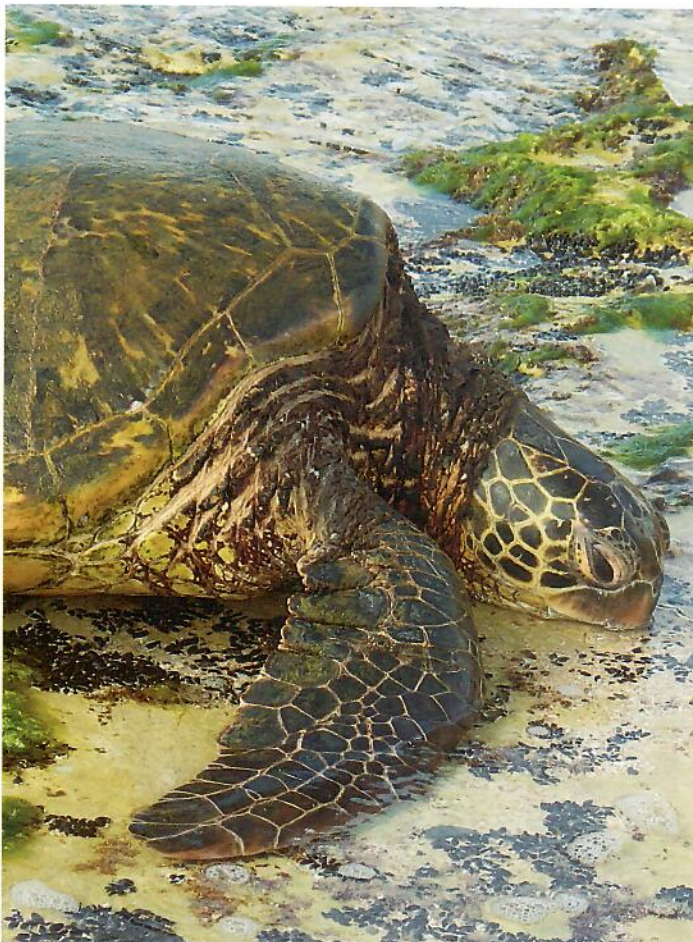
- * Her left rear flipper has a crescent-shaped bite with a “claw” on the outside edge.

BASKING PATTERN

Clawdette is somewhat sporadic in her appearances, rarely seen from November through March. She disappears from Laniakea for several months at other times of the year, too, and rarely basks more than a couple times a month when she is around. L-25 tends to bask exclusively on the limestone shelf on the southwestern side of Laniakea and is seldom on the beach at sunset. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Kainani basked 59 times.

HISTORY

Kainani received her nickname from her “claw.”



L-25 Clawdette
Kainani



L-26Hawaiian Name: **KEKOA** – *the brave one***SUBDULT**

Gender: unknown

PIT Tag Numbers: 45256C0C49

**IDENTIFYING FEATURES:**

- * Kekoa is one of our smallest basking turtles.
- * This subadult can be confused with E-4 Kaheka, so check the facial scales.

BASKING PATTERN

Kekoa has skipped a month or two over time, but generally is sighted hauling out every month year round. L-26 primarily prefers afternoon basking and has rarely been seen in the morning or at sunset. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Kekoa basked 78 times.

HISTORY

When Kekoa first came up to bask at Laniakea in March of 2010, L-26 appeared to be 10-15 years old with a 22 inch carapace length. As Kekoa has grown and become acclimated to basking at Laniakea, L-26's stays on the beach have increased in duration.



L-26
Kekoa



**L-27**

Hawaiian Name: **KULIHI** – *hooked, but got away*
ADULT MALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 48533C0C49, 48515A5A69

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * The facial scale near his right eye looks like a sideways heart.

BASKING PATTERN

Kulihi basks fairly consistently at Laniakea, skipping a month or two here and there, but generally in attendance year round. He is still on the beach at sunset about 66% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Kulihi basked 110 times.

HISTORY

Kulihi first appeared on the beach in July 2010 with a large fishing hook in his neck. Through the efforts of the Honu Guardians, NOAA's Marine Turtle Rescue Program, a Kaneohe veterinarian, and Waialua firemen; Kulihi was rescued, treated and released at Laniakea.



L-27
Kulihi



L-28

Hawaiian Name: **HAO** – *iron*
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4A40390F19



IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * The facial scales on both her right and left cheeks have a “puppy paw” pattern.

BASKING PATTERN

Hao is the 2nd most frequently basking honu, appearing on the beach at Laniakea on more than a third of the days of the year. Although she basks every month, her frequency has hills and valleys, with many more appearances in spring and summer than over the winter months. L-28 is still on the beach at sunset around 65% of the time. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, Hao basked 274 times.

HISTORY

Hao first arrived at Laniakea Beach in the summer of 2010 as a subadult and was named in honor of legendary surfer Andy Irons. In 2012 the science team confirmed that L-28 is a maturing female. L-28 has the unusual behavior of gnawing on other turtles’ flippers, tails and shells.



L-28
Hao



**E-4**Hawaiian Name: **KAHEKA** – *tide pool***SUBADULT**

Gender: unknown

PIT Tag Numbers: 4607631E46

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- * **Kaheka is one of our smallest basking turtles.**
- * **This subadult can be confused with L-26 Kekoa, so check the facial scales.**

BASKING PATTERN

After a basking hiatus of 4 years 7 months (November 2008-June 2013), Kaheka has come home to bask on Laniakea Beach. During the two year period ending June 30, 2013, E-4 basked one time.

HISTORY

In April 2008 an injured and entangled juvenile turtle was spotted in the tide pool at Laniakea Point. Honu guardians remained with the small 23 inch (58.7 cm) turtle for hours waiting for the responder. The juvenile turtle was taken to the veterinarian in Kaneohe where the fishing line and hook were removed. Seventeen days later, after being treated with antibiotics, microchipped in the back flipper and receiving the white “E-4” Mototool on both sides of its shell, the turtle was released at the Kawainui Canal on the Windward side. Within a week, the turtle was reported back in the tide pool at Laniakea and swimming close to shore. E-4 spends most of its time swimming and feeding in the tide pools at Laniakea Point. The name E-4 comes from two of the last three digits of the implanted PIT tag.



E-4
Kaheka



IN MEMORIAM

L-18

Hawaiian Name: **PUKALANI**
heavenly opening
ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 413E196E1C and 4136321B65

She has not been seen at Laniakea since 2008 and is presumed dead.

HISTORY

Pukalani, one of Laniakea's largest female adult baskers, was first microchipped in 2000 while nesting on East Island in the French Frigate Shoals. For many years L-18 enjoyed feeding on the limu between Pu'ena Point and Laniakea and was frequently seen basking in the sand along this 2 mile stretch of beach. In February 2008 scientists attached a satellite tag and TDR to Pukalani's shell. On April 7, 2008, she departed Laniakea, becoming the first Hawaiian green turtle to be tracked by Argos satellite telemetry from the feeding area of the North Shore of O'ahu to the nesting beaches of the French Frigate Shoals. After 29 days L-18 arrived at the French Frigate Shoals. On May 30th observers noted that Pukalani's left front flipper had been amputated, presumably by a tiger shark. Despite the disability, Pukalani successfully nested on June 10th. A few days later her satellite tag ceased transmitting.



L-18
Pukalani



IN MEMORIAM

L-20

Name: **Honey Girl**

Hawaiian Name: *HONE U'I – Honey Girl*

ADULT FEMALE

PIT Tag Numbers: 4453784E23

Died July 19, 2008

HISTORY

Honey Girl began regularly hauling out onto the North Shore beach in 2005. As the largest adult female turtle of our Laniakea 'ohana, Honey Girl weighed approximately 250 pounds. Before coming to Laniakea, L-20 was known to the marine scientists on East Island in the French Frigate Shoals. In 2000 she had migrated 500 miles from O'ahu to East Island to mate and nest. While there, the researchers implanted a microchip, the size of a grain of rice, into her left hind flipper. This PIT allowed the scientists to identify her throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago as she migrated from the foraging areas of the Main Hawaiian Islands to the nesting beaches of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

Honey Girl was also known by her Hawaiian name of "Hone U'i" because of her exquisite honey amber shell and L-20, as she was the twentieth turtle to repeatedly come ashore at Laniakea to bask.

On July 19, 2008, Honey Girl was discovered slaughtered at Laniakea Beach. She had been buried in the sand upside down, with a flipper and breastplate maliciously removed. The evening before, this innocent, defenseless turtle had been basking under the full moon.



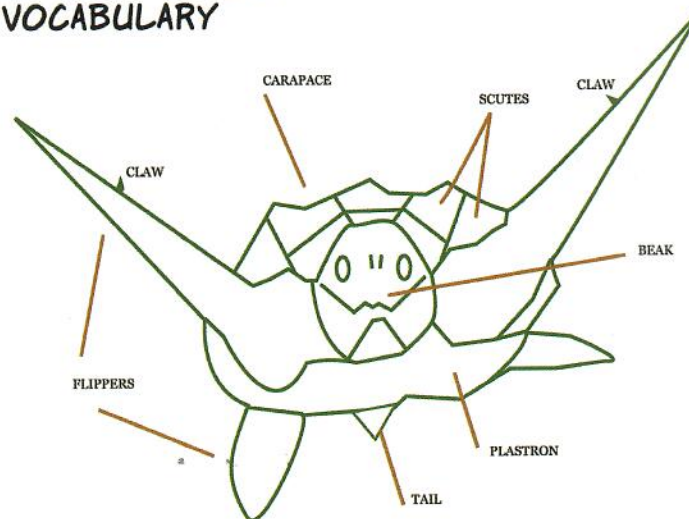
L-20 Honey Girl
Hone U'i



The Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle

- is called *honu* in the Hawaiian language.
- is a reptile.
- is a threatened species protected by federal and state law.
- gets its name from the greenish color of its body fat.
- has a shell that can grow up to 40" long.
- has a shell made up of thin layers of keratin (similar to human fingernails).
- can reach a weight up to 400 lbs.
- is estimated to live 60–70 years.
- breathes air (10–15 minutes active; 2–4 hours inactive).
- has an acute sense of smell.
- has excellent underwater vision and can see in color. Its favorite color is orange.
- is nearsighted on land because the shape of lens is adapted for swimming underwater.
- has no external ears but can hear vibrations and low tones.
- is hypo-osmotic, able to drink saltwater, excreting excess salt through salt glands near the eyes.
- does not have teeth, but has a serrated lower jaw.
- eats primarily *limu* (sea grasses and algae) as an adult.
- is ectothermic (cold blooded).
- basks on the beach to raise its body temperature and avoid predators.
- can swim in short bursts of up to 20 mph.
- becomes reproductively mature at 25–30 years old.
- adult male develops a thicker, longer tail, distinguishing him from the female.
- has a symbiotic relationship with specific cleaner fish at cleaning stations.
- female migrates every 2–8 years to the French Frigate Shoals, 500 miles northwest of O'ahu.
- female lays clutches of 75–150 eggs every 12–15 days. The incubation period is 48–70 days.

BASIC SEA TURTLE VOCABULARY





History of Mālama na Honu

Since 1999 Hawaiian green sea turtles, or *Honu*, have come ashore at Laniakea Beach near Hale‘iwa to bask in the sun. Because the turtles were being harassed and fed by well-meaning but uninformed beach visitors, the “Show Turtles Aloha” campaign was started in 2005 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Turtle Research Program (NOAA-MTRP) and a few volunteers. In 2007 the volunteers from “Show Turtles Aloha” incorporated into Mālama na Honu , a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit entity.

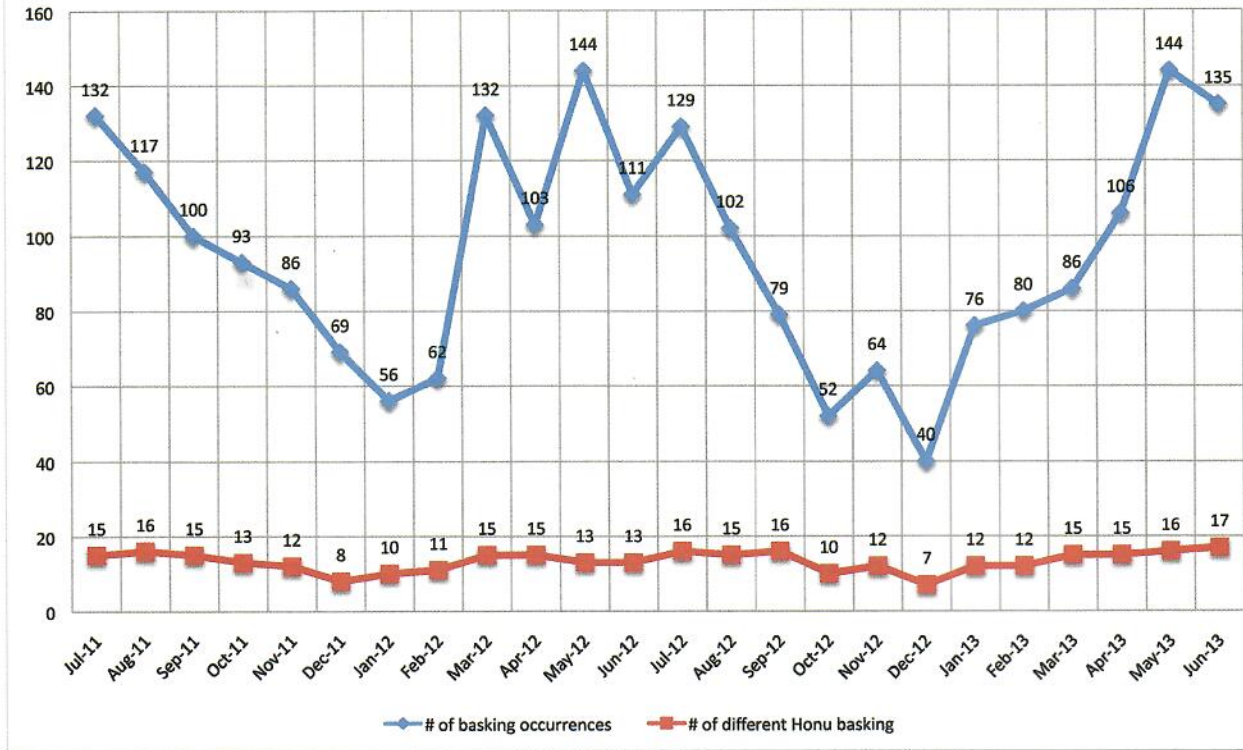
MnH volunteers, called Honu Guardians, provide educational outreach to Lanieakea Beach visitors who come to view the basking honu. These volunteers also protect the turtles from harm and provide research data by monitoring and recording daily behaviors.

The MnHonu volunteers are the heart of the MnH program. They act as “docents” at Laniakea Beach 365 days of the year, 8-10 hours a day from 10:00 a.m. to sunset, helping visitors and residents alike understand and respect the habits of Hawaiian green sea turtles.

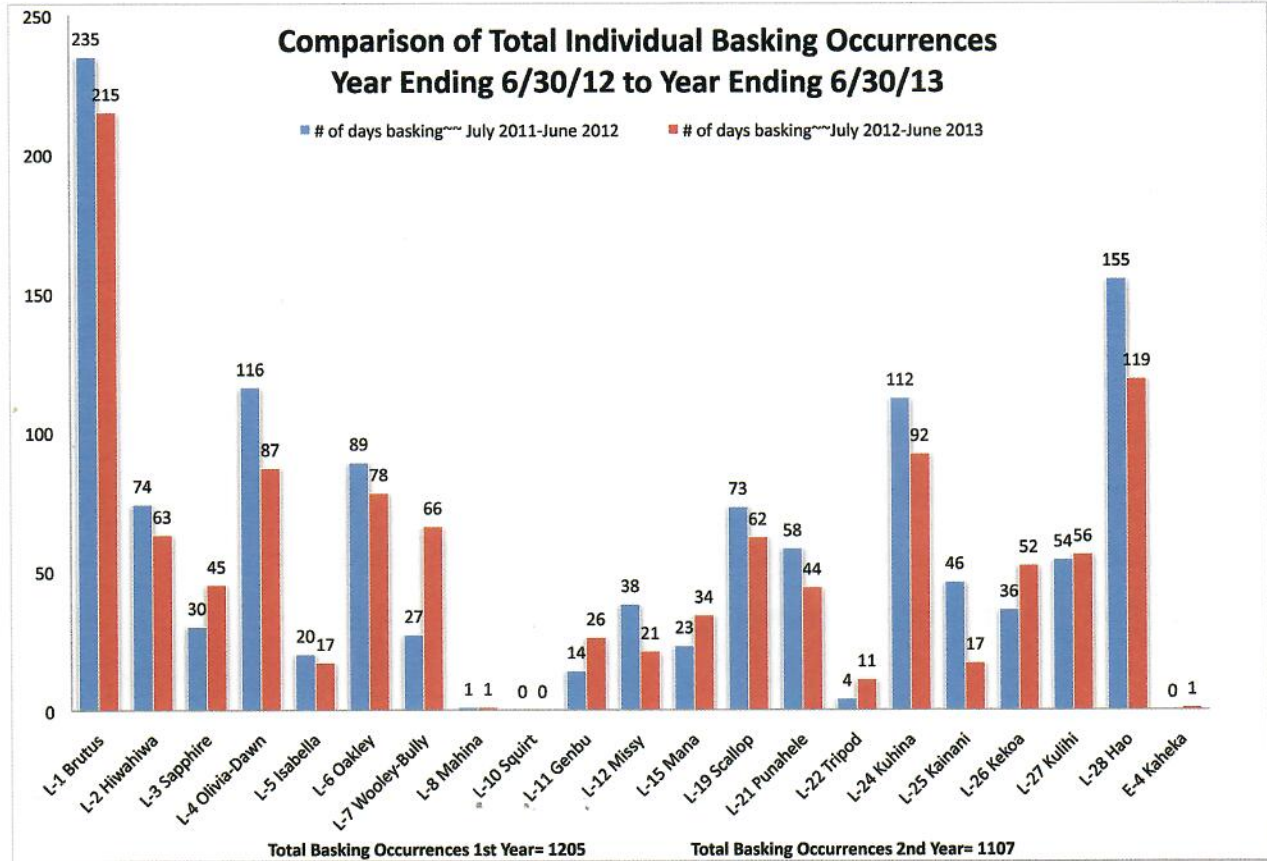
Glossary

- carapace – top part of the shell
- honu* – Hawaiian green sea turtle
- limu* – a general name for all kinds of plants living under water, such as algae (which includes seaweed and kelp)
- marginals – series of smaller scutes surrounding the rim of the carapace
- NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- ‘ohana* – family
- plastron – underbelly
- PIT – Passive Integrated Transponder
- scutes – large, hard, but thin plates on a turtle's visible carapace
- TDR – Time Depth Recorder

**Total Basking Occurrences/# of different Honu Basking
2 Years - July 2011 through June 2013**



**Comparison of Total Individual Basking Occurrences
Year Ending 6/30/12 to Year Ending 6/30/13**



If you are interested in volunteering to help the turtles or
want to make a tax deductible donation, please visit our website.

www.malamanahonu.org



Mālama na Honu

P.O. Box 1078, Hale'iwa, Hawai'i 96712

A 501 (c) (3) non profit organization



* Mālama na Honu supporters include



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