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[LISTSERV Archives](#)[CTURTLE Home](#)[CTURTLE June 2011](#)**Subject:** [Re: Forum- The Future of Hawaiian Turtle Management](#)**From:** Jennifer Homcy <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>**Reply-To:** [\[log in to unmask\]](#)**Date:** Thu, 9 Jun 2011 16:43:54 +0000**Content-Type:** text/plain**Parts/Attachments:** [text/plain](#) (103 lines)

In Hawaii there is little to NO enforcement of existing regulations and protected areas. In cases where clear and extreme violations of ESA and other fisheries management cases have been tried in court, the only one that has been fined is the case of the pilot whale molester who got grabbed by a male whale and pulled down 60 feet. Even guys stealing from fish pens who got busted have gotten off scott free. We do not have a good record of managing the recreational fisheries here.

Regardless of population status, in HAWAII, this is playing with fire. We have a massive homeless population living on the beaches where even police won't go (yes, the cop refused to come do a report on my car that was broken into in Makua Waianae). This is not an issue of whether the turtle population has exceed carrying capacity and now humans need to regulate it instead of nature. This is also a case of whether humans have the ability to. In Hawaii, WE DON'T! The bus drivers get paid more than the teachers and so do the trash collectors. Tourism is priority number one here. The tourist dollars will continue to flow, long after the fisheries dollars will not.

Although there seems to be some statistical analysis done on this populations recovery, you can never factor for the future. In that I mean that we know what we know, BUT we don't know what we don't know. Selection episodes happen all the time. Look at manatees! Almost 20% gone in one year.

There is much more I could write but I digress. If this population gets opened up as a managed fishery, I believe that you can kiss your success story goodbye. Just like we have the lobster, the fish (even the ornamentals and bait), the crabs, the opihi, and everything else in our coastal Hawaiian waters. With so many basking beaches, the turtles here are literally sitting ducks. Common sense actually has applications in science and resource management although it is rarely applied. This has the potential to be one of those cases.

With Aloha,
 Jen
 Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

-----Original Message-----

From: "George H. Balazs" <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Sender: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Date: Wed, 8 Jun 2011 18:04:16
To: <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>
Reply-To: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>

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Subject: Forum- The Future of Hawaiian Turtle Management

Dear Cturtlers- The following message was recently sent out by Peter Bennett of Turtle Trax <www.turtles.org> and co-author of "The Book of Honu" (2008 University of Hawaii Press). The topic of Peter's email is the Hawaii Fishers Forum "The Future of Honu Management" taking place in Honolulu on June 16, 2011. The event is sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC). For more information please visit <www.wpcouncil.org/meetings>.

Peter's email is being posted here with his full approval and encouragement. With Thanks, George Balazs

----- Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 07 Jun 2011 14:54:32 -0400
 From: Peter Bennett <[\[log in to unmask\]](#)>

I'm copying this to everyone who has written us in the past few days about this issue, or has been copied in correspondence.

Sylvia [WPRFMC] did ask permission to use our images. Under our copyright policy, she didn't have to and we appreciated the courtesy. We reserve the right to disallow usage that we feel is detrimental to the honu, but we don't believe that this qualifies.

I disagree that the poster supports hunting. It does leave no doubt that harvesting will be considered as an option, but that is not support.

There is no question that the recovery of the honu has been a spectacular success. They have become so plentiful that, regardless of the truth, it is easy to see why people conclude that some reefs have reached carrying capacity.

In our area [West Maui] the honu have begun feeding throughout the day. We count fewer honu resting on the reef, and our snorkel/dive surveys have found that the foragers are competing for a diminishing supply of food. It is tempting to reason that this is happening throughout the Islands, thus explaining at least in part the increase of reports of daytime foraging along the shorelines.

Discussion of a harvest is therefore inevitable. Even those opposed to a cull should support a forum such as this one. If there are solid reasons why a hunt should not be approved, then there shouldn't be fear of an open and honest debate. WesPac is providing an opportunity to put forward and explain these reasons. In fact, opponents of hunt should welcome the chance to demonstrate why such a thing is unacceptable.

Our own philosophy on this matter--which sometimes surprises people--is expressed in The Book of Honu (p. 125):

Our affection for the honu means that of course we don't want to see them hunted. If, however, their numbers have recovered to the point where a regulated harvest would not threaten the overall

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