

2020 GREEN SEA TURTLE MONITORING REPORT

for

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, MOLOKAI, HAWAII

2020 RESTRICTIONS:

- Due to the global pandemic, access restrictions of COVID-19 and overall safety, the Mo'omomi Preserve Green Sea Turtle Monitoring efforts on behalf of The Nature Conservancy of Molokai/Hawaii was limited to the support of one volunteer for the 2020 season.

MONITORING :

- Monitoring trips were limited to 1-3 times a week, depending on anticipated activity, weather and road conditions. Preserve gate access and COVID-19 restrictions.

- The first monitoring trek via the Mo'omomi Pavilion access point took place on May 15, 2020.
- This start date was much later than monitoring in previous years. 2019 began on March 27th.
- 2020 monitoring continued through November 6, 2020.
- The weekly monitoring was limited to Kawa'aloa.
- Kalani Point/Keonelele was not monitored due to limited support and access.

MARKERS

- On May 30 all seasonal location markers were refreshed. This was repeated in September.
- The markers are utilized for identifying and recording the last excavation of each nesting trip on shore.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

- There were 58 trips observed on shore, 39 false crawls/turnabouts and 19 that produced excavations.
- Nesting excavation behavior patterns indicated we may have had just two nesting sea turtles this season.

HATCHES

- There was inconclusive evidence of 3 possible hatches.
- Nests 3, 7 and 9 had signs of exit holes and possible hatchling tracks.
- The limited monitoring schedule and weather conditions did not allow for definitive hatch observations.
- There were no nest digs.

KING TIDES:

- Nests #1, 4, 12 and 18 were washed over by high seas and/or king tides.

SIGHTINGS

- Visual sightings included 6 occasions with resting seals and 11 occasions of basking turtles.
- On May 23 there were three seals along the shores of Kawa'aloa, one on rocks east of beach.
- Of the 11 occasions of basking turtles, there were two days with 2 separate turtles on Kawa'aloa.
- And 5 separate sightings with a swimming turtle along the west cliffs of Kawa'aloa into the gated preserve.
- One sighting of a turtle swimming mid-point of Kawa'aloa.
- A beautiful Kioea walked along the shore on September 22, 2020. Observed playfully eating a crab.
- On several occasions there were Axis deer on Kawa'aloa. And one dead in the dry stream bed.

Submitted by:

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