

From: honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 5:21 AM

To: honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Subject: Connelly (2018) Turtle attacked by Monk Seal? I am not sure? Personal Observations at Kahalu'i Beach, Kona, Commenting on a Kauai report by Scott Bacon.

From: Matthew Connelly <mdc22@hawaii.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 2:05 AM

To: Mailing List of Many

Subject: Re: Turtle attacked by Monk Seal? I am not sure?

I've seen this behavior before, as well. A monk seal at Kahalu`u Beach in Kona went after one turtle that got away, and then caught up with and grabbed another turtle with its mouth. It rolled the turtle around in the tidepool a few times before the turtle broke loose and took off. The monk seal just rolled over on its back with its head out of the water, looking very pleased with himself. This was either 2012 or 2013.

Aloha,

Matt

On Sat, Sep 29, 2018 at 10:22 AM, Scott Bacon <malamaapapa@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha Karla,

Thanks for sharing that video. This reminded me of an encounter I had on Kauai with a Monk Seal and a turtle. I was not able to get a great video of the behavior but this clip shows a little of what was going on. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gvwYpSpVhc>

The Monk seal would flip the turtle onto its back and then push it to the surface and then push it around. At one point the monk seal actually put its whole mouth over the turtle's head as if it was going to bite it off, but then it would release it and flip it upside down again. This went on for about 10 minutes straight, then they both disappeared under the water and we never saw them again. When we first saw them in the water we thought they were tangled up together by fishing line or net or something, then we thought maybe they were just playing together, but eventually the way the turtle was struggling on its back trying to flip over made us think this was a cat and mouse scenario.

We were also wondering why the turtle just didn't swim away as we all know they can be pretty fast when they want to swim away? Our guess was that the monk seal somehow had overwhelmed the turtle and the turtle was just too exhausted to swim away, or maybe they were really just playing?? Not sure.

Mahalo

Scott Bacon

Malama Na Apapa

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