

Dead sea turtle found at Heeia

Another dead endangered green sea turtle was pulled yesterday from waters off Windward Oahu, but divers were able to rescue a second turtle before it died.

Fishermen at Heeia State Park pulled the dead turtle from the water. It appears to have died after being struck across its shell by a boat propeller, said Patty Herrera of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

"The whole shell was just completely torn apart," she said.

Fisheries service officials also took possession of a green sea turtle rescued by North Shore divers after they found the animal tangled in fishing line.

It's the seventh time in the last five weeks that injured or dead turtles have been pulled from waters around Oahu.

The cases appear to be caused largely by careless fishermen who cut tangled fishing line and leave it in the ocean, where it can damage fish and coral, officials said.

Green sea turtles are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.

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