

SEA TURTLE OBSERVATION RECORD FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete as many parts of this form as possible. It is not necessary for all parts to be completed. Identification of species is not required. The first priority of our project is to determine the size classes of turtles that are inhabiting different locations at different times of the year. Any information we can obtain is valuable considering our present knowledge of sea turtle distribution.

PART I: REQUIRED — PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THIS SECTION

- Name of research vessel: NOAA Ship TOWNSEND CROMWELL NOAA Ship TOWNSEND CROMWELL, R 443
Number 1, Sand Island Access Road
- Name and address of observer: MARK ABLONDI Honolulu, Hawaii 96819 (808) 541-1311
FTS 551-1311
- Name and address of person completing this form if different from #2: SAME
- Date of observation: 07/30/90 5. Time of day: 0715 6. Latitude: 29° 47.57 7. Longitude: 179° 04.79E
- Length of shell of sea turtle (approximate size or range, give units): 24.4 cm carapace length 20.2 MAX carapace width
- Species of sea turtle (if identified): GREEN TURTLE / CHELONIA mydas
- Characters used to make the identification: 4 prs. lateral scutes (DO NOT OVERLAP). COLOR VARIES FROM →
- If photos were taken of sea turtle, could we make copies? YES, WILL SUPPLY TO NMFS, SWFC-2 Honolulu LAB
- Condition of observed sea turtle (circle one): A. Healthy B. Dead C. Injured D. Diseased E. Undetermined
- Was there any evidence that the turtle had ingested or was entangled in debris or pollutant? Some oil on back flippers
(If you have the time, please elaborate on the back of this form)

PART II: OPTIONAL — ANY INFORMATION WOULD BE OF GREAT VALUE

CONDITIONS OF SEA TURTLE OBSERVATION

- Sea state: 02 15. Weather conditions: CALM, 6 KTS WIND OUT OF NE
- Surface water temperature: 27.7 °C 17. Air temperature: 27 °C 18. Ocean depth (give units): 170 fms
- Location of observer (in small boat, e.g., in an avon; on deck of research vessel), swimming or diving: FIRST SEEN FROM BRIDGE WING. → FLOATING DEBRIS NOT TURTLE.

SEA TURTLE BEHAVIOR AT TIME OF OBSERVATION

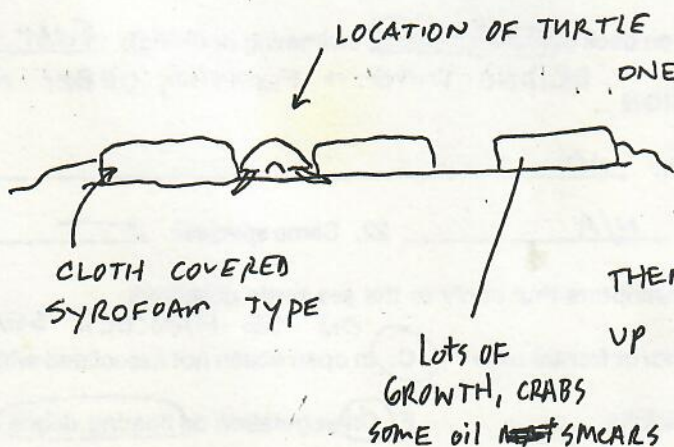
- Were other turtles in the vicinity (approx. how many?): NO
- Were all of the turtles approximately the same size? N/A 22. Same species? —
- Circle the letter next to as many of the following descriptors that apply to the sea turtle observed:
A. In sargassum weedline B. In convergence and/or frontal zone C. ON SE HANCOCK SEAMOUNT
D. Swimming E. Plastic debris in vicinity F. On vegetation or floating debris
G. Basking on surface H. Oil/tar in immediate vicinity I. In fish stomach; give fish species
J. Other Faund floating on top of old life preserver (3 square type) →
- Please make any additional comments on the back of this form.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
CENTER FOR SEA TURTLE RESEARCH, 223 BARTRAM HALL, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FL 32611
TELEPHONE: (904) 392-5194 and (904) 392-1250

10. IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERS (CON'T.)

light tan to darker BROWN/BLACK. RADIANT MARKINGS REDDISH.
UNDERSIDE DIRTY OFF WHITE.

23. J.



ONE ALBATROSS PRESENT BUT flew AWAY w/ APPROACH of SHIP.

WE TROLLED PAST ONCE AND THEN CIRCLED AROUND AND picked UP DEBRIS w/ TURTLE.

24. TURTLE released 07/31/90 0915 LOCAL (+11 Time zone)
AT 29° 47.8' N 179° 03.4' E on Hancock seamount (140 fms Depth)
Excrement from last 25 hrs. SAVED/frozen turned over to SWFC-2.

Posted: Mon, Jul 30, 1990 4:44 PM EDT
From: TELEX.RECEIVED/TELEX/OFFNET.SVC.MAIL
To: *KTF5044
Subj: TELEX MESSAGE RECEIVED

Msg: FGJA-4348-5372

1500576 CROM X
R 302000Z JUL 90
FM NOAAS TOWNSEND CROMWELL
TO DIRECTOR NMFS
HONOLULU HI

BT

ACTIVITIES REPORT 30 JUL 90 TC90-06

1. STATUS REPORT OF WORK COMPLETED THUSFAR AT SE HANCOCK.
TWELVE BOTTOM LONGLINE SETS WITH TIMERS HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
AVERAGE ARMORHEAD CATCH PER SET IS 30.9, RANGE 14-45. FAT
ARMORHEAD COMPOSE ONLY ONE-THIRD OF THE ARMORHEAD CATCH THUSFAR.
TIMERS ARE PERFORMING WELL, THERE FAILURE RATE LESS THAN LAST
CRUISE. PROBLEMS WITH THE MAGNET PARTING FROM THE EPOXY PERSIST
BUT HAVE EXTRAS TO COMPENSATE FOR THIS. COBB TRAWL HAS YIELDED
SEVERAL PHYLLOSOMES IN TOWS AROUND HANCOCK.

2. ATTENTION GEORGE BALAZ: AT 0715 THIS MORNING WE DIP-NETTED
A DERLICK LIFE PERSERVER FLOATING ON THE SURFACE IN WATERS OVER
SE HANCOCK. AMONGST THIS DEBRIS WAS A 24 CM (CARAPACE LENGTH)
GREEN SEA TURTLE. ALL THE DEBRIS AND ITEMS REGURGITATED BY THE
TURTLE HAVE BEEN SAVED. WE ARE CURRENTLY KEEPING THE TURTLE ALIVE
IN A PLASTIC BARREL WITH SEAWATER. PLEASE ADVISE US ON WHAT
YOU WOULD LIKE DONE WITH THE TURTLE. BOB HUMPHREYS.

BT

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