

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLE NESTINGS AT KAHUKU BEACH, OAHU,
1982-86.

compiled by

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and

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1982

- 8-3 At least two emergences resulting in four excavations.
- 8-14 Emergence tracks but no excavations.
- 8-17 Emergence tracks and excavations.
- 8-21 Emergence tracks but no excavations.
- 8-27 (approx.) Emergence tracks and numerous excavations.
- 9-2 Emergence tracks and a large excavation.
- 9-7 and 9-8 Tracks of hatchlings originating from an earlier excavation site.
- 9-9 Nest site excavation resulted in the recovery of 62 empty egg shells; 3 advanced development but dead embryos; 1 early development but dead embryos; 1 advanced development but deformed albino embryo; 3 eggs with no apparent development; and 2 undersized eggs with no development. Nest therefore contained 72 eggs, with 62 hatchlings (86%) having emerged at the surface. Embryos identified as the green turtle, Chelonia mydas.
- 9-24 (approx.) Tracks of hatchlings originating from an earlier excavation site. Several egg shells recovered and identified as C. mydas on the basis of size.

1983

No observations made of nesting activity. Hurricane "Ewa" removed a considerable quantity of beach sand.

1984

- 5-12 (approx.) Emergence tracks and excavation.
- 5-20 Turtle seen on the beach by Gay Bartell.
- 7-8 (approx.) Tracks of hatchlings originating from an earlier excavation site. Also a recent excavation present.
- 7-13 Nest site excavation resulted in 62 empty egg shells and 3 eggs with no apparent development (65 total). Identified as C. mydas on the basis of egg shell size.
- 7-19 Emergence tracks and excavation.
- 7-20 Tracks of hatchlings originating from an earlier excavation.
- 7-24 Nest site excavation resulted in 69 empty egg shells and 2 eggs with no apparent development (71 total). Identified as C. mydas on the basis of egg shell size.

1985

No observations made of nesting activity. Storm waves removed a considerable quantity of beach sand.

1986

- 8-3 (approx.) Emergence tracks and one excavation.
- 10-20 (approx.) Nest site excavation resulted in 72 empty egg shells and 3 unhatched eggs of unknowns status (75 total). Presumed to be C. mydas, but positive identification not made.

924-8203

395-6662
The Natural Resources

8/21/86

11:45am

George,

No luck up at Kahuku with the Turtle returning. The last day I checked the beach was Tuesday, I haven't been up there since but that was 16 days any way. I did actually stay up there Saturday night, too bad she didn't show up. Anyway, here's all the tagging stuff + the bulletin I borrowed from your friend. I do have all the days logged that I checked for the sea turtle starting back in March, I guess. I just wrote down what the trash situation looked like, tire tracks, etc. If you're interested in it give me a call. Also, how are we going to follow this up now?

Talk to you later.

Vanya



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
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March 31, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Stewart I. Fefer
Refuge Complex Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Stewart,

I thought it might be best to summarize in writing what we have discussed by telephone in recent weeks concerning turtle nesting at Kahuku, and your letter of February 27, 1987.

Both David Woodside and I were exceedingly surprised to learn that the turtle nest laid during early August of 1986 had been dug up without our prior knowledge or direct involvement. We have always cooperated closely on these matters in the past. I had previously instructed Vanya and Ken on watching daily for signs of turtle nesting at Kahuku. In addition, they spent one night there with tags and pliers I supplied, hoping to actually find the turtle renesting. Unfortunately, this did not happen. I had specifically stated that no nest should ever be disturbed by digging into it, and that after sufficient time had passed for incubation and emergence, I would personally excavate the nest to determine species and productivity.

A few times over the past year Vanya expressed interest and talked to me about volunteering on a project involving sea turtles. We had agreed upon some needed work at Bellows Air Force Station and I wrote to the Commanding Officer to make arrangements. However, Vanya either changed her mind or became involved in other activities. It was never clear to me exactly why she did not follow through. With regard to Nancy Norwell, I met her at Tern Island but at no time talked to her about "volunteering" for me here at NMFS.

The question about my authorization to work on green turtles is answered in the attached letter, dated July 19, 1980 from the Federal Wildlife Permit Office. In addition, we are required annually to have a permit from the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I hope this clarifies everything so that no misunderstanding still exists. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist



List of sites in the main Hawaiian Islands where sea turtles are known to have nested in recent years.

Compiled by George H. Balazs
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July 15, 1987

Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata)

Molokai

Halawa

Hawaii

Kawa
Punaluu Bay and adjacent shoreline
Kamehame Hill
Halape
Harry K. Brown Beach
Orr's Beach

Oahu

Malaekahana
Kailua Beach

Green turtle (Chelonia mydas)

Molokai

Moomomi (Kawaaioa)

Oahu

Kahuku

Kauai

Kipu Kai
Kauapea Beach
Mana (nest partially rescued from surf inundation)
Wahane Beach, Koheo Point (nest destroyed by surf inundation)

Olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea)

Maui

Paia (nest rescued from surf inundation)

Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)Maui

Maalaea (tracks and excavations but no eggs or hatchlings documented)

Kauai

Sea cave near Princeville (based solely on verbal report)

Species unknown

Oahu

Kaneohe MCAS (tracks and excavations but no eggs or hatchlings documented)

Kauai

Lawai Kai (tracks and excavations but no eggs or hatchlings documented)