

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES OF  
THE NMFS-HPA ENDANGERED SPECIES MARINE TURTLE RESEARCH PROJECT  
AT KIHOLO BAY, NORTH KONA, HAWAII

OVERALL: To ensure the long-term conservation and protection of sea turtles at Kiholo Bay and the habitat upon which they depend.

SPECIFIC:

1. To determine the approximate number of turtles and their size-classes, by species, resident to this location.
2. To determine the types of life-support activities undertaken by the turtles within the habitat limits of the bay.
3. To ascertain the food sources utilized by the turtles.
4. To calculate growth rates and estimated ages at sexual maturity.
5. To determine adverse impacts to the turtles, both from humans (i.e., fishing nets, rubbish) and from natural factors (i.e., disease, shark predation).
6. To estimate the recruitment rates of juveniles to the Kiholo Bay population and migrations/movements which may occur after residency has been established.
7. To determine flipper tag retention rates on immature turtles in nearshore habitat.



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