

CASE 1

Date: September 2, 2017

Location: Pelekane Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Turtle reported by Puukohola Heiau National Historic Site Park Ranger (Hannah) at 1000 h. I drove down to the heiau and Hannah guided me to the turtle which was laying on the beach just at the waters edge. I picked it up, bagged it and transported it back to the HPA freezer at 1100 h.

Species: Cm

Status: Dead

Condition: Turtle bloated and prefrontal scales sloughed and missing. No apparent injuries on dorsal or ventral surface.

Size: 40.5 cm CCL

Tags: none detected

Lat and Long: 20.027850 N, 155.823259 W.

CASE 2

Location: Wailea Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Turtle reported by Aaron (443-9097). Found dead floating in the water off of the beach. Aaron brought it to shore and called me at around 1230 hours. Picked up turtle at 1310 hours from Wailea Beach. ~40 cm green, emaciation code 3. Right front flipper amputated and healed.

Species: Cm

Status: Dead

Condition: Turtle flacid but not putrid. Emaciation code 3. Right front flipper amputated and healed. No cause of death evident.

Size: ~40. CCL

Tags: none detected

Lat and Long: 19°58'46.11"N 155°49'45.24"W

Placed in the HPA freezer at 1400 hours,

This turtle was reported on Sunday (11/12/17) and delivered to me that evening.

Turtle remains reported washed up on outer beach by Tammy at Dolphin Quest. The remains are reported to be dried bones and shell and only one flipper. I have not looked at the remains as they were bagged when they were delivered. I will say that they only weigh a few pounds.

Date: 11/12/2017

Location: Hilton Waikoloa western beach

Latitude: 19.925718

Longitude: -155.890001

Species: UK

Size: UK

Tagged: UK

Turtle was delivered to HPA by Dolphin quest personnel. It was placed in the freezer at 1750 h on 11/12/17

CASE 3

2/7/2018

Location: 118 Puako Beach Road

Latitude: 19.964927° N
Longitude: 155.855124° W

Got a call from 118 PBR (Pat and John) at 1240 hours that they had observed a turtle in a large tidepool in front of their Puako house that had been there for 3 days and was unable to use its right front flipper. I surmised that it might be a line entanglement. I went down and found the turtle with their help. It had swollen left and right front flippers. Turtle was placed in a carrier and the line was removed. The line was "J" line and was wrapped very tight around left and right front flippers but was not cutting into the flesh yet....

There were two lines running down the throat and I removed as much as possible and then cut it as short as possible. The animal appeared healthy other than the line entanglement so I released it back into the same pond where it was captured at 1321 hours.

NOTE: This is the same tidepool where I picked up another line entangled turtle that had to be euthanized because of the damage to both front flippers (Nov., 2016)

Species: *Chelonia mydas*

CCL: 63.5

CCW: 60.0

Tag: LH 44520B4800

First captured on 3/13/11 at Makalewena, Kailua-Kona, HI (ccl = 59.5)

Found alive washed ashore into a pond due to the 3-11-11 tsunami. Scoop netted with kayak at 1747. Tagged and released by MRice

CASE 4

142 Puako Beach Road

Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Today I received a call at 2:30 pm from some Puako residents (Puako 142) who had captured a turtle that had fishing line coming out of the mouth and entangling the left front flipper. Once they collected they turtle they saw that the right front flipper was severely damaged with exposure to the bone. When I arrived they had the turtle on its back on their lawn and had removed the line from the less affected flipper. No line was removed from the right front flipper. I couldn't see any near the cut site. The line itself is braided line and there is a hook and line still in the mouth. A decision was made to ship the turtle to you. Do you support this decision or should we go ahead and release the turtle? Aside from the injuries related to line, the turtle looks robust.

I will call Aloha air cargo in the morning to see what their shipping times are. Rice returns from Japan at 12:00pm and I will need to see if I can get away to transport the turtle when there is space on Air Cargo. What would you recommend regarding timing? I can phone you in the morning to discuss this once I learn possible flight times. Please let me know if this would be best.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide, Laura

CASE 5

89-1886 Puako Beach Drive

Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Date and Time: 3/12/2018, 1030 h

Location: 89-1886 Puako Beach Road

Lat: 19.964924°

Long: -155.855017°

Call from Chad and Heather (Visitors from San Diego staying in Puako) indicating that there was a turtle with line entanglement in the tide pools.

I responded and met them there at 1105 and they showed me the turtle. Turtle was placed immediately in a carrier (hand captured) and Chad helped me carry it back to the car. The right front flipper was swollen to the size of a softball and was only held on by a small bit of connective tissue.. it is nearly severed! I contacted Aloha air cargo and got the next reservation for a flight to HNL for the turtle which was Tuesday at 1400 h. The turtle was placed in my garage and bandaged to try and stem the bleeding and left overnight.

HNL Cargo Flight: 1400 h on 3/13/18
Pickup in HNL: 1540 h

CASE 1

Got a report from one of my students of a turtle at Anaehoomalu Bay (Waikoloa) at 1400 h on 7/2/18.

I went down there and worked with the student to capture and remove the line. The line was wrapped around the neck and right front flipper. There was some cutting into the flipper but it was relatively minor and will undoubtedly heal.

Two PIT tags were used and the data sheet was sent to Shawn Murakawa.

Location: 19.923209 N, 155.890848 W

Date: 7/2/18

Time of report: 1400 h

Time of capture: 1528

Time of Release: 1540 (turtle swam vigorously away)

Two PIT tags applied: 4C3B44266D (LH), 4C3D244373 (RH)

CCL = 46.5 cm

CCW= 40.5 cm

Travel distance = 32 miles

Turtle was north of Marriot hotel- .64 miles (round trip 1.28 miles)

CASE 2

7/8/2018

Anaehoomalu Bay, Waikoloa, Hawaii

Call came in at 1145 from Holly Haufbauer working at Anaehoomalu Bay, Waikoloa, HI. Turtle floating in water in front of Sea Sports beach shack. Line entangled around both front flippers and down mouth.

Arrived at A bay at 1215 and turtle was placed in a carrier and brought to a shady area on land. Fishing line (5 lb test) had not cut in to left and right shoulder areas and was removed. 4 strands of line were down the throat and were cut as far down the throat as I could reach as the line would not come out.

Location: Anaehoomalu Bay, Hawaii Island

Lat: 19.915828 N

Long: -155.886837

CCW: 61.5

SCW: 57.0

Tags: LHF = 407A424351
RHF = 445438347B
RFL = K453

Fishing line entangled and line swallowed.

Extremely emaciated and very lethargic- Held overnight for evaluation and advice from HNL.

Distance: 30.9 miles

Elapsed Time: 2:25:18

CASE 3

Delivery of 10 dead/frozen *C. mydas* to Aloha Air Cargo for shipment to Honolulu, Hawaii, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA for Necropsy.

Time involved: three (3) hours

Distance Traveled: 20 miles

CASE 4

7/31/18

142 Puako Beach Road

Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Call came in at 0733 on Tuesday (7/31/18) from Nan Hylton. She reported a dead turtle on the beach in front of her house. I traveled down to the house at 69-1946 Puako Beach Road. Found turtle on the beach and retrieved it.

Date: 7/31/18

Time: 0845

Location: 19.972819° N

155.839599° W

Species: Cm

CCL= 62.5 cm

Tags: none observed

Fishing line wrapped around RFL

No apparent injuries.

Emaciation Code 2/3

turtle placed in HPA freezer at 0905 h.

Distance Traveled: 30.0 miles

Time involved: 1.75 hours

CASE 5

8/12/2018

134 Puako Beach Road, Puako, Hawaii

Call came in at 1300 h on Sunday (8/12/18). Dead Turtle partially buried in the sand in front of 134 PBR.

Responded at 1530 and could not find the turtle - King tide had washed it out to sea. At 1620 we saw the turtle floating near shore about 30 meters from the point where it was first observed on shore. Turtle has been dead a few days... losing scales on flippers and head. Retrieved the turtle and placed it in a plastic bag and transported it to HPA and the freezer (1700 h).

Chelonia mydas

Size= 67.5 cm

Location: 19.962977° N, 155.856073° W

Tags: LH = 470C5F763

No apparent cause of death.

Travel Distance: 33 miles

Time involved: 2.0 hours

Case 6

Dear Turtle at 88 Puako Beach Road, Puako, Hawaii Reported at 1900 h on 8/17/18. We were unable to go down until the next morning. We picked the turtle up at 1000 h on 8/18/18. Turtle upside down at the surf line. Very emaciated (EC=3). Placed in HPA freezer at 1200 h.

Not apparent physical injuries.

Species: C. m.

Size: CCL = 54.5 Cm

LH Tag: 4C3D1C750C

RH Tag: 4C3C62065D

LOCATION:

Latitude: 19.967780°

Longitude: -155.850628°

Condition: Found dead on beach- EC = 3

Carapacial scutes have partially peeled off. Dead for several days.

Total Distance: 27 miles

Time Involved: 2.5 hours

Case 7

8/18/2018

88 Puako Beach Road, Puako, Hawaii.

Laura received a text message from DLNR that there was a dead honu at MLB Hotel at 1100 h (8/30/18). Contacted MLBH security at 8856556 and they arranged to meet me and take me down to the turtle. Arrived at the hotel at 1230 h and security drove me out to pick up the turtle. Small (emaciated) turtle dead above high tide line on the rocks. Security had cordoned it off with yellow tape. Turtle placed in contractor bag and secured at 1245 h. Driven back to HPA and placed in the Freezer at 1340 h.

DATE: 8/30/18 (Thursday)
Location: Mauna Lani Bay, Hawaii Island
Lat: 19.944707
Long -155.869420
Species: Cm
CCL: 50 cm
LH Tag: 4C3C5E1720
RH TaG: 4C38484F29
No obvious external injuries
Severe emaciation (EC=3). (skin and shell).
Animal placed in the HPA freezer at 1340 hours.
Distance Traveled: 36 miles
Time involved: 3.5 hours

Period Start and End Dates: 09/01/2018 - 02/28/2019

Case 1

September 13, 2019

Dead green turtle found in tidepool in Zone B, Koloko Honokohau National Historic Site. Turtle picked up and delivered to HPA for freezer storage.
Lat: 19.676384,
Long: -156.028041
Species: Cm

Case 2

October 22, 2018

Dead green turtle found and recovered from Kiholo Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii. Turtle picked up and delivered to HPA for freezer storage.
Lat: 19.857012,
Long: -155.921961
Species: Cm

Case 3

October 31, 2018

Dead turtle reported at 0900 this morning by James Grenz. Turtle was located by Marc Rice at 140 PBR at 1020 h, recovered, bagged and placed in the HPA freezer.
Date: 10/31/18
Location: 19.961803, -155.856698
Species: Cm
Size: estimated at 60 cm

Condition: Dead and heavily infested with maggots. It appears to have been bitten by a shark and most of the viscera is missing.

Tagged: Not checked

Disposition: Placed in HPA freezer at 1100 h on 10/31/18

Pictures attached:

Case 4

November 17, 2018

Location: Kiholo Bay The Nature Conservancy fish ponds

Lat: 19.854798°

Lon: -155.920190°

Species: Cm

Turtle found dead in fish pond by TNC personnel at 1120 h. Shark bite opened up the body cavity on the left rear of the animal and amputated part of the left front and left hind fins. Animal obviously escaped and swam up the auwai into the fish pond for protection and later died. It appears to have been dead for a day or two.

Case 5

December 7, 2019

Dropoff of frozen turtles Friday,

Good Morning,

We put 12 turtles in the box and Young Brothers put it in the freezer because they were afraid that the smell would affect their vegetables in the chill box.

The BoL is 29060506.

Case 6

DATE: 2/27/19

Location: Pu'u Kohola State Historical Park, Hawaii Island, HI

Lat: 20.023023°

Long: -155.822533°

Species Cm

CCL ~40 cm

Park Ranger George Enuton reported that they had recovered a dead turtle from the shore line in the park area. They bagged the turtle and brought it up to the visitor center where I picked it up at 1140 and transported it to the HPA freezer at 1200 h.

Flippers partially decomposed and there is a large portion of the neck region missing. It appears that the turtle was emaciated (EC code = 2).

Period Start and End Dates: 03/01/2019 - 08/31/2019

Case 1

March 26, 2019

Turtle reported by dive company operating out of Puako. Juvenile (40cm) emaciated and floating but still alive. Retrieved turtle and made arrangements to ship to Oahu. Shipped turtle alive to Oahu on 3/27/19 where it was cared for, rehabilitated and safely released

Lat: 19.9740

Long: -156.8320

Species: Cm

Case 2

April 17, 2019

Dead turtle at Kawaihae Harbor that had washed ashore in the innerbasin area at 1600 h. Turtle retrieved and placed in freezer at 1800 h.

LOCATION: Kawaihae Harbor, Hawaii Island

Lat: 20.032136°

Long: -155.825619°

Species: CM

SIZE: ~40 cm

Tags: not read

CASE 3

JUNE 22, 2019

Turtle found dead on rocks at 78 Puako Beach Road, Puako, Hawaii.

CCL = ~41 cm

Latitude:

Longitude:

No apparent cause of death.

Case 4

Call received from Rebecca Most (TNC) at 1100 h on 7/25/19 that she had recovered an entangled green turtle. They cut a lot of the line off the lfl and rfl, neck and tail but there are multiple strands down the throat. I responded and picked up the turtle at 1230 h. After conversation with Shandell we decided that the turtle would have to be sent to Oahu. No flights available out of Kona so the Hilo team cooperated and we will do a handoff of the turtle to them tomorrow at 1300 hours in Laupahoehoe and they will ship it out of Hilo.

Date: 7/25/19

Time reported 1100 h

SPECIES: Cm

Location- Kiholo fish ponds, Kiholo Bay, Hawaii Island

Latitude: 19.854485°

Longitude: -155.920588°

Condition: line entangled, swallowed line, emaciated (code 3)

LH PIT TAG: 443A0B7635

RH PIT TAG 44525C5C16
SCL = 61.3

Period Start and End Dates: 09/01/2019- 02/29/2020

Case 1

Sept. 10, 2019

Got a call from Marine Mammal Center (heidi) that there was a dead turtle at Kaloko. Called the park and they said they would dispatch someone down to check on it.

reporters number is **8083150363**

Marc

Case 2

9/18/19:

Received a call from Laura (DAR) that they retrieved a small turtle (floater) at Keahou, Kona and had it in their possession. They requested that I come and pick it up. At 1500 h I drove to Honokohau Harbor and picked it up. I noted that it was pretty severely emaciated, heavily coated in carapacial algae and rather lethargic. I brought the turtle back to my house where I kept it in a carrier overnight.

9/19/19 I arranged a cargo flight with Aloha Air Cargo and delivered the turtle in an animal carrier at 1145 h for Aloha flight 48 to arrive in HNL at 1515 on

DATA:

Date: 9/18/19

Location: 19.562070 , -155.962320 - Keahou Bay

Size: ~51 cm (CCL)

Species: Cm

Condition: No apparent new injuries, LH partially amputated and healed. Body condition poor (EC = 3), carapace covered with heavy growth of algae and animal was lethargic. It was reported by Laura that the animal was buoyant and unable to submerge.

Please note that this "rescue" required driving over 130 miles and occupied over 3 hours of time!

CASE 3

09/27/2019

We have received two reports of a turtle with fishing line on it at the turtle cleaning station. The report first came in from a commercial dive / snorkel boat a week and a half ago. We went to the cleaning station about 5 times since the report (twice in one weekend and again during the week) and did not find the turtle. However, we received another report on Wednesday from a diver who saw a turtle with line at the cleaning station. The person reported full line running from neck to front flipper

region. Apparently the turtle was very “friendly” with the diver but the diver did not have any cutting tool so was not able to remove the line. We will be heading there again tomorrow (Saturday) and will keep trying to find the turtle.

Case 4

10/10/2019

Location: Pu'u Kohola Heiau, Pelekani Bay, Hawaii Island

Time: 1300 h

Date: 10/10/19

Turtle reported floating dead near shore by tourists to park rangers. Park ranger pulled it up on the rocks and called me. Picked turtle up at 1400 h and bagged it. Put into HPA freezer at 1445 h. Fishing line around LFF and down the throat... heavy woven line.. ulua?

Lat/lon= 20.024899°, -155.823431°

Species: CM

SCL= 74.5 cm

LH tag = J606

Case 5

No apparent injuries.. very emaciated.

Turtle was spotted early this morning floating in the water and was reported to us as having floated to shore at around 1400 h. We traveled down to the site at 1455 and retrieved the turtle. Placed in HPA freezer at 1530 h.

Picture attached

Date: 10/20/2019

Location: 112 Puako Beach Road, Puako, Hawaii Island

Species: Cm

Size: 53 cm

Emaciation code 3

No Tags observed

No apparent injuries.. very emaciated (EC3)

Case 6

01/19/2020

1/19/20, ~ 1000-1200 h

Laura and Thomas Jim drove from Waimea to Puako and search for the turtle which they eventually found in a tide pool at Paniau, Puako. They were able to capture and box the turtle, talk with Shandell Brunson and then transport the turtle up to Marc Rice for storage overnight.

Total time to capture, box and store turtle: 3 hours

total drive distance: 30 miles

1.20/20, ~0900 h - 1200

Arrangements were made with Hawaiian Airlines to ship the turtle to Oahu the next day out of Kona. Turtle was transported in a large animal carrier to the Kona airport at 1000 h, arrival at KOA at 1045. It took 35 minutes to process the turtle for shipment as this was the first one they had done. All of the HI airline personnel were very helpful. Turtle left on 1300 flight to HNL.

Round trip to KOA: 72 miles

Preparation for shipping: 1 h

drive time and time at airport: 100 min.

Message came in on 1/18/20 at 1630 regarding observation of turtle in tide pool. Called person back, turtle had left. On 1/19/20 visited Paniau and was able to locate turtle. Braided fishing line was located on left front flipper which appeared engorged with localized necrosis. Line was removed... about 20 cm of line. Phone call was made to Shandell and it was determined that turtle would be transported to Oahu for treatment.

Location: Paniau, Puako Beach Road (19°57'32"N 155°51'31"W)

Species: Cm

CCL: 59 cm

No tags observed

Case 7

02/02/2020

ENTANGLED TURTLE

HILTON HOTEL, HAWAII ISLAND

Text from Dolphin Quest (1421 h) that a tourist reported a basking turtle with fishing line around its flippers. The personnel at DQ agreed to go and keep an eye on the turtle while I drove down. I got there at 1455 h and walked out to the area where they were observing the turtle. We restrained the turtle and removed the fishing line from around the left and right front flippers. There were no injuries from the entanglement. On viewing the ventral side I noted that the plastron was sunken.. Emaciation code 1.

Two PIT tags were applied (LH and RH)

Turtle was released at 1540 and swam away vigorously.

Location:

19.926932°N

155.886793°W

Species: Cm

CCL = 63 CM

Time of Capture: 1515 h

Time of Release: 1540 h

New Tags: LH = 4C3D133F2F

RH =4853370C0E

E CODE= 1

Total time: 100 minutes. Distance = 32 miles

Case 8

2/23/2020

Location: Hilton Waikoloa, Waikoloa, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Responders: Marc Rice and Laura Jim

Date: 2/23/2020

Time: 1230 h

Grace from the Hilton Lagoon area called to say that they had a turtle entangled with fishing line. They had captured the turtle and put it into a secure area in the shade. We made our way down to the Hilton, arriving at 1350 hours. Security escorted us to the lagoon where we found the turtle in good condition.

We proceeded to remove what was left of the fishing line (they had removed most of it already). Because the left front flipper was seriously cut into and swelled, we looked carefully and deeply into the wound to make sure that there was no line left.. we removed a few lengths of line but there appeared to be no more line encircling the flipper. While it was swollen, it appeared that the turtle still had use of the flipper and there was no necrosis evident. Consequently, we decided that it was ok to release the turtle in the hope that with the restriction removed, the fin could heal.

In addition to the flipper entanglement, there was one strand of line going down the throat. Hook was not visible so the line was snipped off as short as possible deep in the throat regions.

The turtles was previously tagged so we measured it and put moto tool number HA101 on the 3rd left lateral scute.

Date: 2/23/20

Time of release back to water: 1430

Location: 19.925030 N 155.888020 W

Species: Cm

Tags: LH 4C3B400A3E

RH 4C3B601863

MT: HA101

CCL = 57.0

CCW = 49.5

Body Condition

Period Start and End Dates: 03/01/2020- 08/31/2020

Case 1

3/5/2020

Call from DOBAR at Honokohau that there was an adult male turtle found dead turtle floating in Honokohau Harbor. It was retrieved and placed in a cardboard box.

Location: Honokohau Harbor, Hawaii Island

LATITUDE: 19.668681°

LONGITUDE: -156.025947°

SPECIES: Cm

Adult Male, found dead floating in Harbor

CCL: ~85 cm

Tags: LH 4709761401

RH 470972082f

First Tagged at Hualalai 6/18/07 CCL 60 cm

Hualalai 6.29/09 CCL = 61 cm

Dead Honokohau Harbor - mature adult male 3/5/2020 CCI = ~85 cm

(measured outside the plastic bag)

Growth rate from 07 to 09 = 0.49 cm/yr

Growth rate from 09 to 20 = 2.25 cm/yr

No obvious external injuries.

LOGISTICS:

Total time of travel and recovery = 3.5 hrs

Total distance traveled = 85 miles

Case 2

4/3/2020

Last weekend we received a phone call alerting us to a turtle at Puako with fishing line. There also were social media posts on Facebook (see images below). We conducted a dive today to look for the turtle... searching caves especially. The turtle was observed swimming by Marc. Turtle's use of front right flipper was limited. We were able to restrain the turtle and brought it slowly and safely to the surface where we fully removed the monofilament line from its right front flipper. There was no line present at any other places on its body. As we were offshore a significant distance and able to fully remove the line, we did not bring the turtle back on shore to complete measurements. Facial shots are included.

Please let us know if you have any questions, Laura

Date: 5/3/20

Time: 1100h

Location: Paniau, Puako, Hawaii (19.95936895 N , 155.85921006 W)

Responders: Marc Rice and Laura Jim

Species: Cm

Estimated SCL: 50 cm

Body Condition: Good

Travel and time details: 16.34 miles, 3 hours

Case 3

4/10/2020

Received a call about a dead turtle at Kawaihae Boat harbor late last night. When we saw a picture of the turtle we saw that it was a hawksbill.

This morning, I went down to retrieve the turtle and found it exactly where it was last night

Date/Time: 4/10/2020: 0900 h

Location: Kawaihae Harbor

Lat: 20.032028

Long: -155.835474

Species: *E. imbricata*

Size: CCL: 38 cm

Condition: Emaciation Code 3

No obvious injuries, appears to be very emaciated

Placed in HPA freezer at 0945

Travel details: 16.34 miles, 45 minutes.

Case 4

5/14/2020

Dead turtle reported by Tim McCollough on 5/14/2020 at 0900 h.

Went down to 140 puako Beach Road and picked up turtle off of the rocks.

Placed turtle in HPA freezer at 1100 h

Date: 5/14/2020

Time: 0900 h

Species: Cm

Location: 19.962176 N, 155.856391 W

CCL = 60 cm

Condition: Dead on Rocks

No apparent injuries or cause of death.

Photos included

Travel and Time Commitment: 20 miles, 1.25 hours

Case 5

Dead Turtle

Date: 8/11/2020

Location: 144 Puako Beach Road

Lat: 19.961598 N

Long: 155.856993 W

Species: Cm

CCL = 55 cm

no tags found

Turtle was reported by DLNR at 1100 h. Arrived at site at 1200 h. and retrieved turtle. There were no apparent external injuries. Placed turtle in HPA freezer at 1245 h.

Time for recovery and storage: 105 minutes

Distance traveled: 27 miles

Case 6

Duane from DLNR reported a butchered turtle from Hapuna beach park yesterday. It was fresh and the killing probably occurred during the night of 8/15-8/16.

Location: 19.98537019, -155.83094771

Species: Cm

Looks like a three prong head shot and then cut the throat. All flippers removed... plastron not present.

I responded to their call but when I got there, the officer said that he had been instructed to keep the carcass for now to ensure the chain of custody in case they are able to prosecute. I have requested that we get the carcass if/ when they are through with it.

Period Start and End Dates: 09/01/2020- 02/28/21

Case 1

June 25, 2020

Over the past month, a known green sea turtle that was previously tagged in 2014 has been frequently seen swimming with an injured right front flipper in Kahalu'u Bay. The Kohala Center reached out to the Kona sea turtle response team at the Hawai'i Preparatory Academy. This case was an unusual situation since normally, a response is only initiated if the animal strands itself on the beach because it is sick or injured. Therefore, discussions with NOAA's Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program and its veterinarians were necessary to discuss the possibility of capturing the turtle for veterinarian examination.

On Friday, September 25th, experienced and permitted sea turtle biologists Marc Rice and Laura Jim conducted a safe capture of the injured turtle for veterinarian examination. The turtle was taken to a local veterinarian, Dr. Agnes Horvath, for examination that included a virtual consultation with sea turtle veterinarian, Dr. Gregg Levine, located on the island of Oahu. A blood sample was taken to assess if the animal was anemic, and the results were negative. Wound therapy was provided, including the application of a topical ointment to the injured flipper. It was determined best to give this turtle a chance for healing or resolution in the wild as turtles are quite resilient and have been known to self-amputate their flippers following a severe injury. One important aspect to keep in mind is that any change in a sea turtle's health status typically takes time, likely months, so we will remain cautiously optimistic for improvement after several months.

9/25/2020

Location: Kahalu'u Beach State Park

Species: Cm

lat: 19.579017

Long: -155.968076

CCL = 55.0 cm

CCW=46.0 cm

wt. = 33.4 lbs

PIT Tags:

LH-442D221C00

RH- 442D221C00

Packed cell volume: 28%

Total plasma protein : 1.379

Turtle with serious injury to right front flipper which was necrotic and pretty much non-functional. Turtle reported in same area for several weeks and not moving around much.

Turtle was captured at 0930 h in 2 m of water and transported back to shore where it was placed in a carrying box. Turtle transported to Dr. Agnes Horvath's vet clinic in Ocean View Hawaii for evaluation in consultation with Dr. Gregg Levine.

Turtle's wounded flipper was treated topically and it was decided that turtle was robust enough to be returned to Kahalu'u Beach Park and released.

Travel and time: 8 hours and 120 miles.

Recovery Trip Statistics:

Total distance traveled : 120 miles

Total time allocated: 8 hours

Case 2

January 7, 2021

Kiholo Bay, Hawaii Island, HI

Dead turtle reported by Tiare Flores. Turtle high on beach, partially covered by palm fronds.

Carcass desiccated and soft parts totally consumed by maggots. Parts recovered and place in HPA freezer at 1530 h.

Species: *C. mydas*

CCI ~ 35 cm

location: lat: 19.854288°

Lon: -155.926028°

Recovery Trip Statistics:

Total distance traveled : 45 miles

Total time from call-in to freezer: 1 h 45 min

Case 3

January 9, 2021

Marc Hughes, a dive master operating out of Kona, observed a male hawksbill with a large circle hook caught in its left Jaw. It was obviously in pain and irritated by the large hook that was embedded in its jaw. Marc Hughes contacted Doug Perrine and, in turn, the message got to us at the Hawaii Preparatory Academy Sea Turtle Rescue Hotline.

In talking with Irene Kelly, Sea Turtle Recovery Coordinator at NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, we made a decision to try and capture the hawksbill and remove the hook. On Saturday 1/09/2021, We launched two boats out of Honokohau Harbor (2 boats were used in order to maintain social distance between the two dive groups) and proceeded to the dive site just north of the harbor where the turtle had been seen.

We made our dive at ~0900 h and circled around the area where the hawksbill had been observed in the past (both when it was hooked and before). The visibility was good and we were able to keep about 30-40 feet apart in order to cover the maximum area possible. We saw one sleeping honu but no hawksbills..... until 44 minutes into the dive when we were running low on air. After a couple of attempts, Laura and Marc were able to capture the hawksbill and bring it toward the surface at 1000 h. With the help of the rest of the dive team and Thomas, we were able to get the turtle into the boat and begin working to remove the hook. It took about 15 minutes to work it loose and remove it from the jaw. While there was some damage to the tongue, it was on the left edge and did not appear to serious.

After the hook was removed, the turtle was measured, PIT tagged and marked with the designation "HA120" so that divers could monitor its recovery over the next few months. At 1030 hours, the Hawksbill was released and it swam vigorously away. We hope that it will make a full recovery from the hook injury and continue to live safely in the waters off of Kaloko-Honokohau.

Recovery Trip Statistics:

Total distance traveled : 140 miles

Total time allocated: 8 h 30 min

Case 4

January 12, 2021

Call came in at 1230 today from Donald Goings, Jr. Security manager at Kukio Beach that he had recovered a dead green turtle from Kukio Beach, The animal had been observed basking for long periods of time from 2021/01/03 to 2021/01/04 and then it was seen floating upside down yesterday (2021/01/11). Picked turtle up from Security at 1315.

Location: Kukio Bay, Hi Isl, HI

Lat: 19.821677°

Long: -155.996999°

Species: Cm

CCL = 45.0 cm

No apparent injuries and no tags were detected.

Recovery Trip Statistics:

Total distance traveled : 55.6 miles

Total time from call-in to freezer: 2 h 5 mi

Case 5

February 18, 2021

Fairmont Orchid Hotel

Lat: 19°57'3.33"N

Long: 155°51'41.95"W

Dead OR injured turtle reported by Fairmont Orchid Hotel personnel to Hilo stranding group who called Marc Rice (Kara with Jen's group). I contacted Kaiulani Blankenship and she told me that the turtle was seen yesterday floating in the lagoon and that it was still there today- they sent a beachboy out to see and they were pretty sure the turtle was dead. I asked them to remove it from the water and I proceeded to travel to the Orchid Hotel to retrieve the turtle. Arrived at Orchid Hotel at 1420 h , ascertained that the turtle was indeed dead, read for tags, measured and bagged it.

Animal placed in Freezer at 1430 h (2/18/21)

Species Cm

Location Lat: 19°57'3.33"N

Long: 155°51'41.95"W

CCL = 57 cm

No tags found (pit or metal)

No apparent injuries and the animal looked to be in good condition (outside of the fact that it was dead!) Emaciation Code = 0

Travel time 1:18 h:mm, Distance traveled 34.95 miles

Period Start and End Dates: 03/01/2021- 08/31/2021

Case 1

3/19/2021

Location: Kukio Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Time: 1000 h

Personnel from Kukio called to inform me that there was a small turtle stranded/basking that did not react when moved... alive but totally lethargic. I proceeded to get equipment and go down to check it out. I picked up the turtle at 1216 h and transported it back to Waimea. I will keep it overnight and take it to the airport tomorrow morning at 0700 h for transport via HI Airlines to Oahu.

Species: Cm

SCL= ~40 cm

Location at time of recovery:

Lat: 19.818836

Long: -1560006589

Animal was minimally responsive with no apparent recent injuries. Both front flippers have similar sections missing and healing.

Total distance traveled to effect recovery = 64 miles

Total time: 2.5 hours (Not including transport to airport)

3/20/21 - transported turtle to Kona Airport in an animal carrier and left it with the HI Airlines Cargo folks at 0745 h, 3/20/21... Flight 177.

Total Time (airport run) 2 h, Distance = 75 miles

Cumulative time for recovery and total distance = 4.5 h and 139 miles.

Case 2

March 19,2021

Date: 03/12021

Location: Kukio Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Time: 1100 h

At 1100 hours, security reported that they had recovered a second dead turtle for the waters in front of the beach.

There are injuries to the eyes and left and right front flippers that appear to be similar to the turtle in case #1.

Species: Cm

SCL= 43 cm

Location at time of recovery:

Lat: 19.818647°

Long: -155.998715°

Total distance traveled to effect recovery = 72 miles

Total time: 2 hours

Case 3

March 20,2021

Location: Kukio Bay, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Time: 1200 h

At 1200 hours, security reported that they had recovered a third dead turtle from the waters in front of the beach. It was found lying on the bottom in 10 feet of water.

Interesting that there are injuries to the eyes and left and right front flippers that appear to be similar to the other turtles.

Species: Cm

SCL= 50 cm

Location at time of recovery:

Lat: 19.818876°

Long: -155.998950°

Case 4

March 26,2021

Injured turtle call:

Call from Kukio at 1049 that they had another small turtle. It was found floating basically unresponsive in the water just off the beach and was retrieved by one of the beachboys. It was alive but barely. I left home at 1215 h and got to Kukio at 1300. Picked up turtle from the beach shack and placed it in gray box for transport back to waimea. Arrived in Waimea at 1400 h.

Date: 3/26/21

Time: 1015 h recovered from water

Location: Kukio Bay, Hawaii Island

lat= 19.818760°

Long= -155.998826°

species - Cm

CCL = 41 cm

EC = 2.5

Injuries to left and right front flippers similar to other three... They were pretty well chewed up. attributed to HMS caused injuries by RA20. There were no apparent injuries to the eyes.

NOTE: the turtle died at approximately 1800 hours on 3/26/21 and has been placed in the HPA freezer.

Total distance traveled to effect recovery = 64 miles

Total time: 2.5 hours

Case 5

April 17, 2021

Line entangled turtle reported to Dolphin Quest by a tourist. Report said that there was fishing line around the flipper and going down the throat. Apparently, the tourist caught the turtle and removed as much of the line as possible. the Hilton staff recovered the turtle and brought it to shore. It was reported to us at 1300 h. I left Waimea at 1330 hours and was at the hotel at 1400 h. Security provided transport to the site and I walked out past the Dolphin quest ponds to the beach area in the lagoon. The small turtle was stored in a small tourist paddle boat and I moved it to a carrier and began to work on the line around the right front flipper. The helpful tourist cut what they could but left the main line strangulating the flipper. deeply embedded in the flesh of the right flipper.

I was able to remove all of the line from the right front flipper.

There were four lines going down the throat. It was impossible to pull any of the four out so they were all cut as short as possible.

Curved measurements were taken and PIT tags were put in the LH and RH.

Turtle was released at 1430 h into the lagoon area. It swam away but did not use the right front flipper very much. We will see how it does.

Date; 4/17/21

Hilton Hotel, Waikoloa, Hawaii Island

Lat: 19.925127°

Long: -155.888038°

species- Cm

CCI= 48.0 cm

CCW= 43 cm

New Tags: LH 982000406134832

RH 982000406133268

Total distance traveled to effect recovery = 60 miles

Total time: 2.75 hours

Case 6

June 15, 2021

Time: 1130 hours

Location: Puako, in front of house number 84

Latitude: 19.967986 N

Long: 155.849485 W

Species: Cm

CCL = 47.5 cm

No tags

Not obvious injuries

EC: 0

Found dead on sand at high tide mark by a resident of Puako.

Placed in the HPA freezer at 1230 h, 6/15/21.

Total Distance Traveled = 20 miles

Total Time: 1.25 h

Case 7

June 24, 2021

Location: Mahaiula, Hawaii Island,

Lat: 19°46'53.6"N

Long: 156°02'27.2"W

Time: 1440 call from tourist name Lam who indicated there was a turtle washing around on the rocks. After his images and video were observed, we decided that we needed to investigate so we drove down to Mahaiula. When we arrived at 1550 h Lam was there to take us to the turtle. It was washed up on the rocks, dead. We carried it back to the car and drove back to Waimea. The turtle was placed in the freezer at 1730 hours.

There were no apparent injuries except to the eyes which were very similar to the turtle at Kahalu'u and the turtles recovered from Kukio. The tissue on the dorsal area of the eyelid was injured and healing but covered with a gelatinous material. Because the body was somewhat bloated with decomposition gases, we could not determine the Emaciation Code status ...

Size: CCL 43.0 cm

Tags: none

species Cm

Total Distance Traveled = 75 miles

Total Time: 3.5 h

Case 8

July 31, 2021

Call came in from DOCARE at 1900 hour that a dive boat had picked up a turtle with a hook and line attached.

I went down to Puako Launch Ramp and met the DOCARE officer there to take a look at it. It turned out to be a juvenile hawksbill turtle with a wire leader coming out of the mouth. I used a speculum to look into the mouth but was unable to see a hook. I told the DOCARE Officer that I would keep it overnight and seek advice from NOAA.

I will not be able to extract the hook as it appears to be quite deep in the throat. The animal appears to be in relatively good shape and has been seen with the hook over a period of time. perhaps weeks.

species: Ei

CCL = 56 cm

Location: Puako Launch Ramp

19.974048° N

155.831403° W

Animal is alive and uninjured except for the hook.

Total Distance Traveled = 25 miles

Total Time: 1.5 h

This turtle was air freighted to Oahu where surgery was performed to remove the hook.

The turtle was unable to recover and was euthanized some days after the surgery.

Case 9

August 1, 2021

Turtle reported by VRBO guests at mailbox 118 Puako beach road. They found a small turtle in the tidepool in front of their apt., captured it, removed the fishing line and then called me... they had tried three different numbers but finally got ours...

I immediately went down and inspected the turtle. Both front flippers were severely impacted but the turtle still had some motion in both flippers. All of the line had been removed. I decided to give the turtle a chance to make its own recovery and, after putting a pit tag in the left hind flipper, we released it at high tide. It swam slowly away seemingly using its front flippers. I would not be surprised to see this turtle again.

Date: 8/9/2021

Time: 1400 h

Location:

19.964895° N

155.854771° W

Species: Cm

CCL = 43 cm

Left hind pit tag: 982.000407341082

EC: 0

Turtle was released at 1445

Total Distance Traveled = 25 miles

Total Time: 1.5 h

During June and July, when tourism was at a peak, we received an average of 3 calls a week relating to basking turtles and/or turtles stranded in tide pools. We responded to each of these calls by asking people to provide images via text and then talked to the reporter that the turtles were not in any danger and would do fine left on their own. This worked out very well and all of the folks we talked to were very appreciative of our response.

Period Start and End Dates: 09/01/2021 - 02/28/2022

Case 1

Date: 10/18/2021

Location: 140 Puako Beach Drive

Lat: 19.961684

Long: -155.857033

Condition: Dead, lying on the sand. No apparent injuries

CCL = 49.0 cm

No tags found

Emaciation Code = 3

Email from Kara Smith that a tourist had reported a dead turtle at Puako. After consultation with the reporter I was able to locate the turtle. Turtle was bagged at 0918 h and transported to HPA freezer at 0950 h. Body condition was poor. No apparent external injuries observed.

Recovery

Distance Traveled = 33 miles

Time allotted to recovery= 80 minutes

Case 2

Date: 11/2/2021 at 1530 h

Received a call that there was a hooked turtle at Kawaihae. We were able to connect with the ocean sports boat captain at Kawaihae. I was able to get down there at 1600 h and they were waiting for me. They had retrieved the turtle from the water and removed excess fishing line and a small hook from the neck. It appears that there is one hook and line deep in the throat... out of sight. The turtle appears unharmed otherwise, and it is very active and EC = 0.

Date: 11/2/2021 at 1530 h

Location: Kawaihae, Harbor, Hawaii Island

20.033450°N

-155.826391°W

Recovered by Ocean sport Crew

species: Ei

CCL 42.0 cm

Hook apparently deep in throat
EC= 0
Animal is vigorous and otherwise uninjured
Turtle has been kept in a carrier overnight.

Logistics (recovery): Distance traveled: 22 miles
Time = 40 minutes

Case 3

Date: 1/11/2022
Location: Kohanaiki State Park
Lat: 19.692569°
Long: -156.043167°

Call received from Sharon that they were watching a large turtle stranded 50-100 yards from the ocean. Pictures were provided and we determined that it was in need of help. We (Marc Rice and Laura jim) drove from Waimea down to Kohanaiki State Park and made our way to the far southern end of the park. We were met by Sharon and her husband and they showed us the turtle. The turtle was dry, hot and lethargic but moving. We observed that there was a 3/8 " hole in the cranium to the right of the mid-line on the dorsal surface of the head. The wound looked very much like a shaft spear hole. With the help of park security personnel, we moved the turtle to an ATV and determined that we should give it a chance in the water... When the turtle was placed in the water it did not swim away ... it laid there and let the water wash it about and even seemed. to want to move back out of the water.

As a result of these observations, we decided that it would not survive on its own if released and we put the turtle into our vehicle to keep overnight and ship to Oahu the next day.

Species: Cm
CCL = 86 cm
tagging history is attached
EM = 0 (turtle apparently lives in/around Honokohau harbor and is very robust with rolls of fat)
Injuries: 3/8" hole penetrating dorsal cranium to right of midline.

1/11/22
Distance traveled = 80 miles
Time from start to finish: 4 hours

Turtle kept at Marc Rice's house for the night.

1/12/22
Turtle is alive as of 1400 hours and we have gathered and assembled an appropriate carrier. HPA students will help load the turtle in the carrier at 1500 hours and Laura Jim and Marc Rice will deliver it to the Aloha Air Cargo Office at the E.O.Kona International Airport at ~1630 h

Distance traveled = 55 miles
Time devoted to logistics and travel= 3 hours
Turtle was delivered to Oahu.

Case 4

Date: 1/22/2022

Time: 1300 h

A park Ranger for Hui Aloha Kiholo called the HPA rescue hotline saying that there was a "large turtle" stranded some 20-30 meters from the water on the northern side of Wainanalii pond, Kiholo. Laura Jim and Marc Rice immediately got equipment together and drove down to Kiholo. The ranger met us at the gate and we drove to the TNC property .. north end of Kiholo Bay. We hiked out to the turtle and found that it was indeed about 20 meters from the water, stranded on the Pahoehoe lava.. it was "high-centered" on a dome shaped chunk of Pahoehoe lava. Some good tourists had been keeping an eye on the turtle and pouring some water on its back to keep it cool. We measured the turtle, recorded the tags and raised it up so we could get a look at the ventral surface. The only injuries that we could see were to the two front flippers where there was some minor abrasion from rubbing on the rock while trying to get off the dome rock. We then put the animal in a carrier box (at least most of it as it was bigger than the box) and , with the help of the ranger we were able to carry the turtle down to the water's edge and release it. On submersion, the turtle immediately swam away and didn't seem any the worse for its experience. Released at approximately 1400 h

We felt that we shouldn't give this turtle a oxytetracycline injection because we weren't sure if it had one or not. I am thinking that a second dose would not cause any problems but ????

Why it was up on the rocks is not clear.. one week ago there was the Tongan tsunami which did cause some inundation but I don't feel the turtle could have survived for a week out on the hot lava. High surf and high tide are possibilities but that seems unlikely. This is a mystery at this point.

Species: *Chelonia mydas*

CCL = 85.0 cm

CCW = 83.5

LH PIT = 4349634767 RH PIT =1154193d1d LH Metal = H21

Tagging History- First captured at Kiholo in 1992, and again in 2003 and 2004 .. all at Kiholo.

Travel Statistic and Time Allotted to rescue/recovery
Travel distance = 45 miles
Total Time = 2.5 h

Case 5

Date: 1/30/2022

Location: Mahukona, Hawaii Island, HI

Lat: 20.180329°,long: -155.902896°

Wendy Noritake called that she observed a turtle with fishing line down throat and around right front flipper - observed by her and corroborated by other swimmers. Appears to be a male. We swam the area for approximately 1 hour but were unable to locate the animal. We will try again as soon as possible.

Travel Statistics:

Total distance traveled = 47 miles

Total time (travel plus in-water time)= 2.5 hours

Case 6

DATE: 2/21/2022

Turtle Recovery Report for 2/21/22

Hilton Lagoon Entrance (19°55'34"N, 155°53'13"W)

Dead turtle reported to Hilton staff and we were forwarded information from Cameron Dabney and I was able to connect with Dolphin Quest staff member Kim. Turtle was collected by Laura Jim and placed into HPA freezer.

Species: Cm

Condition: Dead with some decomposition. No clear injuries aside from possible tissue damage on top eyelid of left eye.

CCL: 64.0cm

Tags: none

Turtle in HPA freezer @ 7:00pm (1900 hr) on 2/21/22

Case 7

DATE: 2/25/2022

Turtle Recovery Report for 2/2/22

Kiholo Fish Ponds (19.8554991, -155.9194747)

Turtle reported by R Most floating in Kiholo fish ponds. It had been observed outside of the ponds two days earlier. Seemed lethargic and floating (hind quarters up in air and unable to submerge). Determined that it needed to be recovered

Species: Cm

Condition: Alive lethargic and deemed a "floater".

Collected in carrier and transported to Waimea where it will be kept for a flight to HNL. On Monday 2/28/2022 (unable to secure earlier flight because Ag Inspectors don't work on the weekend.

CCL: 67.5.0cm

Tags: RH N-697, RH=982000402171707, LFL(metal) =8938, RFL (metal)=8937, LFL=221A7A766B, Moto tool number ="HA85"

Turtle kept in carrier for 3 days until being airfreighted to HNL. Subsequently, NOAA personnel shipped the turtle to Maui Ocean Center for evaluation and treatment.

Period Start and End Dates: 03/01/2022 - 08/31/2022

Case 1

Date: 3/7/2022

Location: Puako, Hawaii

Lat: 19.967355

Long: -155.851613

Turtle was reported as entangled by fishing line and basking. Marc Rice responded and removed fishing line from right flipper and neck. Some line down throat. Retrieved as much as possible and cut line. Turtle was released safely back into the water.

Condition: Alive.

CCL = 45.0 cm

No tags found

Emaciation Code = 3



Case 2

Date: 3/14/2022

Call received from concerned condo residents about turtle “trapped in a pond in Kona”. Laura Jim and Marc Rice responded and drove to Kona. Turtle was found in a pond that did have connection to the ocean and it was decided that the turtle could get back to the ocean at high tide.

No further action was taken.

Case 3

Date: 5/11/22

Call from Hilton Staff that there was a dead turtle in the water of the Hilton Lagoon. Staff recovered the turtle and Marc Rice went down to retrieve it. It was a juvenile hawksbill that had been attacked by something (monk seal suspected) and the throat was torn open and it was eviscerated.

Turtle was placed in HPA freezer and later shipped to Oahu for necropsy.

Location: Hilton Hotel, Waikoloa, Hawaii
Lat: 19.926119°
Long: -155.886854
Species: Ei
CCL=34 cm
Tags: none



Case 4

Date: 7/7/2022

Location: Fairmont Orchid Hotel, Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Species: Cm

Size: uk (juvenile)

Tags: uk

Condition: Dead

Dead turtle was picked up by DOCARE officer and delivered to HPA's freezer. Other information unknown.

Case 5

Date: 8/3/2022

Location; Puako

Lat: 19.961887

Long: 155.856558

Species: Cm

CCL=49 cm

Tags: none

Condition: Dead

Puako resident reported seeing dead turtle while on morning walk. Marc Rice responded immediately and found the turtle on the rocks. There were no apparent injuries and no immediate cause of death apparent.

Turtle was recovered and placed in the HPA Freezer for future shipment to Oahu.

Case 6

Date: 3/27/2022

Location: Kawaihae, Hawaii

Frozen turtles taken to Kawaihae by Laura Jim and Marc Rice

for shipment to Oahu by Young Brothers for necropsy by MTBAP personnel.