



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

April 22, 1987

F/SWC2

Ms. Carla Kishinami
Vertebrate Zoology Department
Bernice P. Bishop Museum
P. O. Box 1900A
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Carla,

Here is the information you requested for the two dead sea turtles which we recently made available to the Bishop Museum.

Olive Ridley - Adult female

Straight-line carapace length - 61.2 cm

Straight-line carapace width - 56.2 cm

March 19, 1987 - Found alive in Kaneohe Bay by Frazer Black and Joe McCabe. Both front flippers amputated but healed.

March 27, 1987 - Turtle died of unknown causes at National Marine Fisheries Service, Kewalo Research Facility. Tissue specimens submitted to Dr. Thomas R. Sawa (State of Hawaii Veterinary Laboratory) indicated chronic interstitial nephritis of an undetermined etiology.

Hawaiian Hawksbill - Adult male

January 1, 1975 - Hatchling found by Nancy Johnson in a tide pool at Malaekahana Bay, Oahu. Turtle may not have hatched in this area, but rather could have been blown ashore by strong prevailing tradewinds. Turtle was taken to Sea Life Park where it was subsequently raised in captivity for display under a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Honolulu). Turtle was named "Pomaikai." Periodic measurements were made by G. H. Balazs as follows (SLCL = straight-line carapace line):

November 23, 1979	67.1 cm SLCL
June 1980	Lengthening of tail evident
December 30, 1980	72.6 cm SLCL
(Inconel flipper tags 5103, 5104 applied this date)	
August 17, 1981	74.9 cm SLCL
(Transferred from Reef Tank to Turtle Lagoon this date)	
July 7, 1982	75.9 cm SLCL
December 9, 1983	78.8 cm SLCL
February 5, 1986	79.3 cm SLCL



April 6, 1987 - Found dead in Turtle Lagoon with ulcer on the neck. Autopsy conducted by Dr. Sawa suggested septicemia possibly of a bacterial etiology.

We are pleased to know that these specimens can become a permanent part of the Museum's collection.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Sea Life Park
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Law Enforcement, Western
Pacific Program Office