

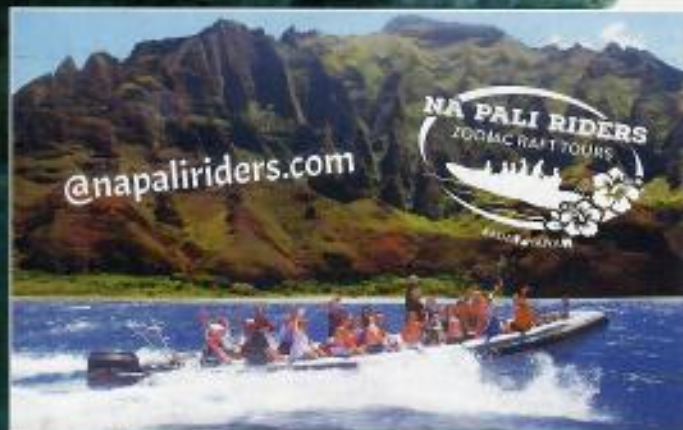
NĀ PALI COAST MAGAZINE

Issue 8, 2023 / 2024

Volcanic
KAUA'I

Living on the
Nā Pali

Sea Cave
Explorer



Taking Flight Over the Nā Pali:
Seabirds

Touring the
Nā Pali Coast

Sea Turtles in
Kaua'i Waters

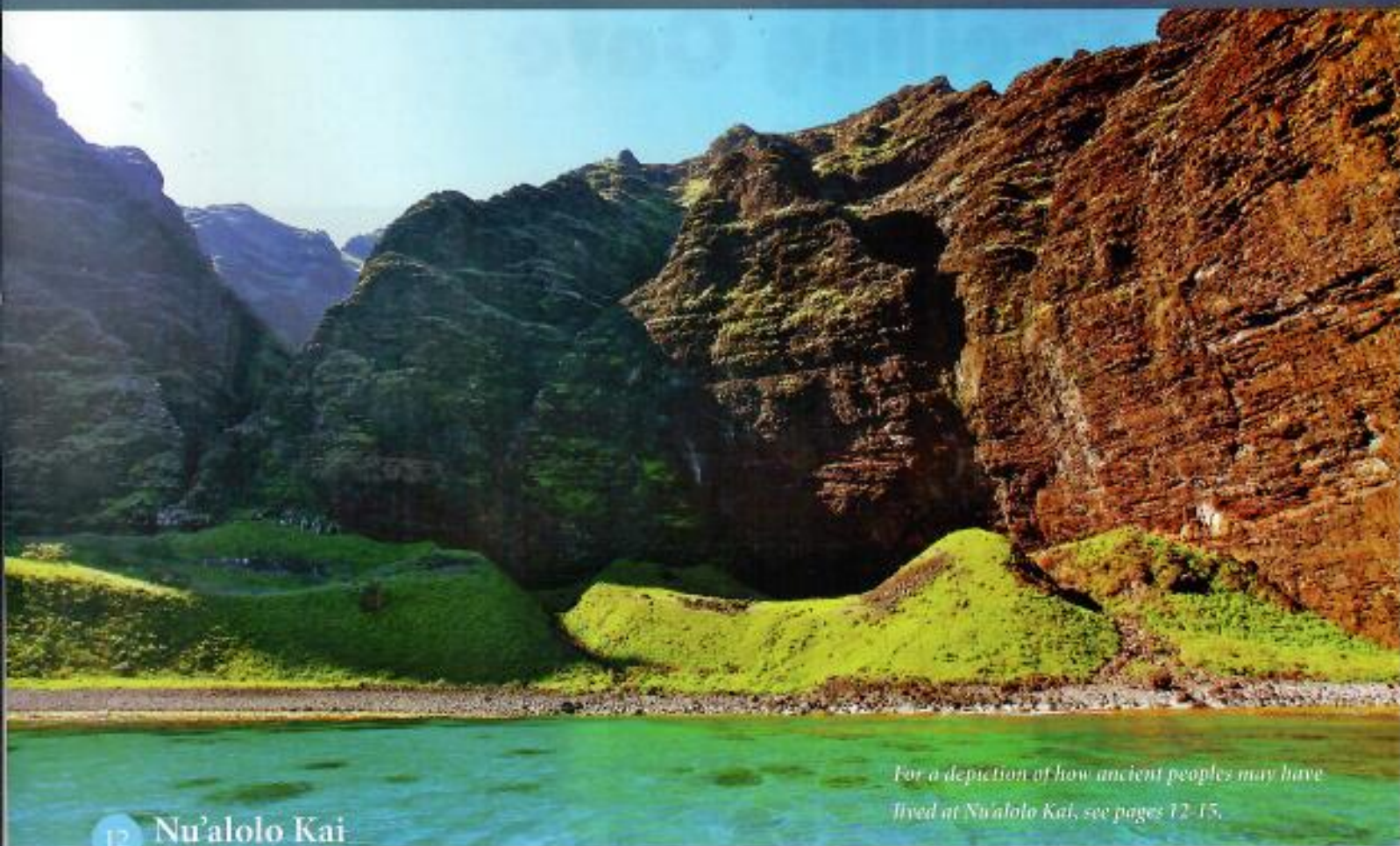
MAGAZINE OF

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For a depiction of how ancient peoples may have lived at Nu'alolo Kai, see pages 12-15.

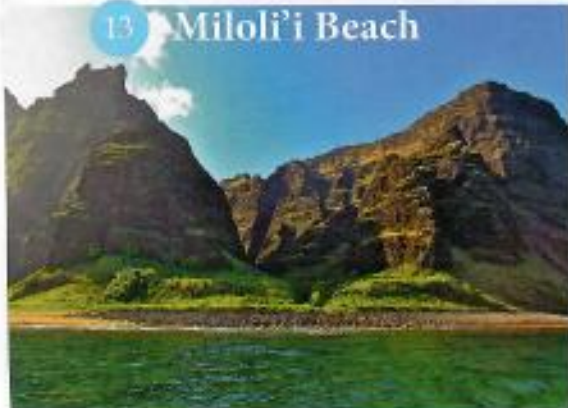
12 Nu'alolo Kai

Nu'alolo Kai Beach was the portal to the sea for the people living in Nu'alolo 'Āinā Valley. A premier, fishing village once flourished here, though only traces of it now remain. While plantings behind the beach provided some food and medicine for the people, it was the protected reef that was most prized for its supply of multicolored fish, seaweeds, and shellfish, such as 'opihī limpets and pipipi snails. Outrigger canoes most likely lined the beach, ready for offshore fishing when schools of oceanic fishes like *aku*, *akule* and 'ōmilu came near.



Green sea turtles bask in the sun at low tide.

13 Miloli'i Beach



Miloli'i Beach is a wide, expansive beach and a favorite camping and resting spot for kayakers during the spring and summer months, when the Nā Pali Coast becomes calm enough for day excursions. Unlike Kalalau Beach, there is no connecting hiking trail into Miloli'i. It is accessible only by small boat or kayak. The narrow channel through the reef is especially tricky to navigate when the tradewinds are blowing strongly.

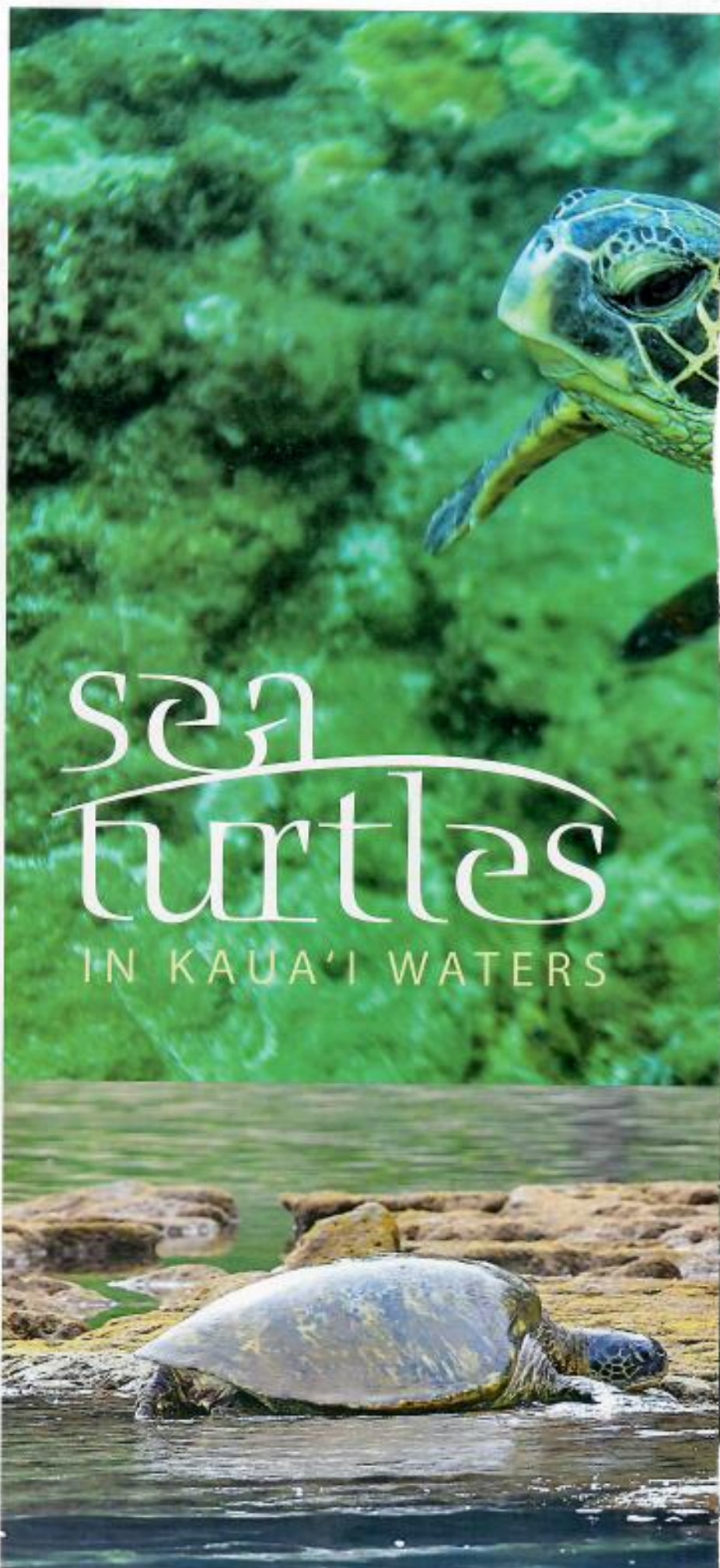
Honu, the traditional Hawaiian name for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), is one of Hawaii's most beloved creatures. These days, spotting a honu swimming in nearshore waters is a common sighting. However, this was not the case several decades ago when the species was hunted to the brink of extinction by the commercial fishing industry.

Around the globe, honu is prized for the delicate flavor of its greenish-colored meat. Many cultures are still serving up turtle soup as a popular menu item. Not to long ago, Hawai'i also boasted an appetite for the honu. This practice began in ancient Hawaiian times, when eating honu was saved only for the kings, or *ali'i*, to consume on very special occasions.

Over time, Hawai'i became a melting pot of many races, and honu was served at restaurants and *lū'aus* (feasts), contributing to a widespread consumer demand for turtle meat and eggs. This, in turn, was a disaster for the honu population in Hawai'i.

But things are looking much brighter these days, thanks to the enforcement of state and federal laws that make it illegal to harass, harm, or harvest honu. And although the honu population has experienced a notable recovery in Hawai'i, threats still remain. There is a mysterious, fibropapilloma (tumor) disease affecting the viability of the population. Other threats are shark predation, loss of habitat, entanglement in commercial fishing gear, and harm from the accidental ingestion of marine debris. We humans are undoubtedly the largest threat to our precious honu friends.

The honu have been around since the age of the dinosaurs. They are the true ancients of Hawai'i. They are to be guarded and respected, as their future is uncertain. So remember, when you spot our friend the honu swimming or basking on the beach, admire this gentle creature from afar.

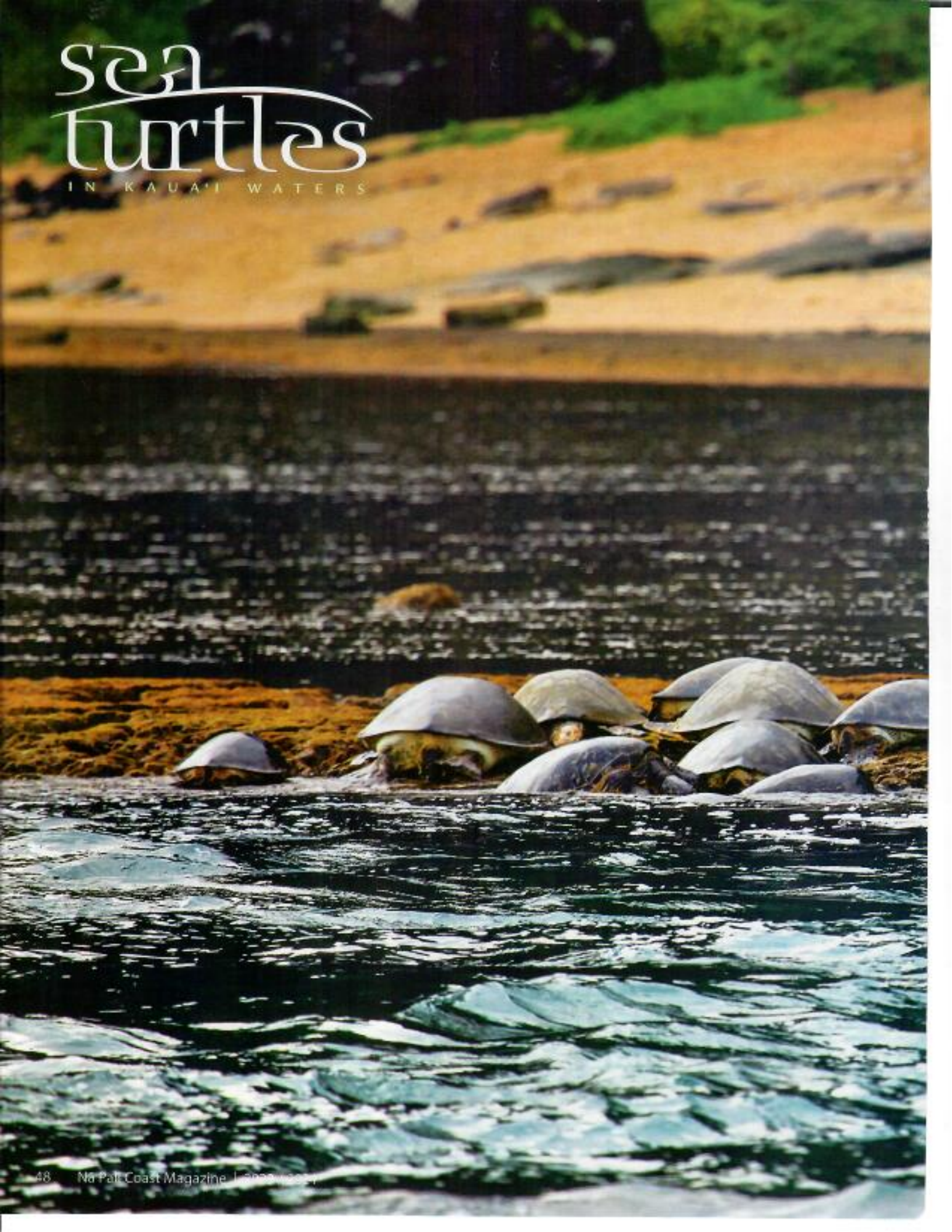


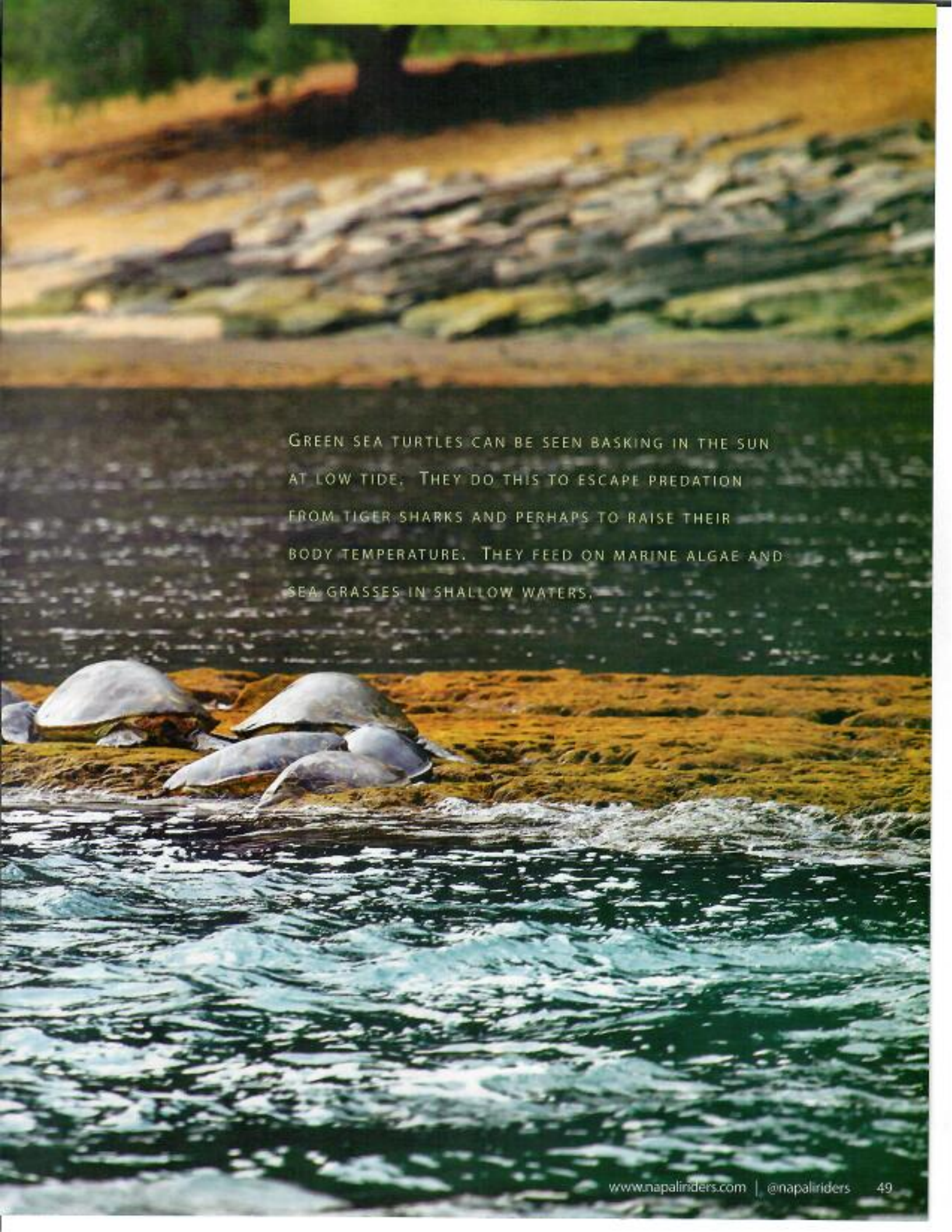


THE HONU HAVE BEEN AROUND SINCE THE AGE OF THE DINOSAURS. THEY ARE THE TRUE ANCIENTS OF HAWAI'I. THEY ARE TO BE GUARDED AND RESPECTED.

sea turtles

IN KAUAI WATERS



A photograph of several green sea turtles resting on a rocky, algae-covered shore at low tide. The turtles are positioned in the lower third of the frame, with their heads and front flippers visible. The water is dark green and turbulent, with white foam from waves crashing against the rocks. The background shows a blurred view of the ocean and a rocky coastline under a bright sky. A solid yellow-green horizontal bar is located at the top of the page.

GREEN SEA TURTLES CAN BE SEEN BASKING IN THE SUN AT LOW TIDE. THEY DO THIS TO ESCAPE PREDATION FROM TIGER SHARKS AND PERHAPS TO RAISE THEIR BODY TEMPERATURE. THEY FEED ON MARINE ALGAE AND SEA GRASSES IN SHALLOW WATERS.