

# DIAGNOSTIC CASE REPORT

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY-BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER-HONOLULU FIELD STATION  
P. O. BOX 50167, 300 ALA MOANA BLVD., Rm. 8-132  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850  
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**Case Number:** 25870

**Submitter Name:**

Dr. Summer Martin  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration  
1845 Wasp Blvd Bldg 176  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
United States

**Species submitted (n):**

Turtle: Hawksbill (8)

**SPECIMENS SUBMITTED:** Carcass-Frozen

These 7 hawksbill turtles were collected between 6 November 2019 to 28 June 2022 and originated from Oahu (N=3) and Kauai (remainder). These specimens were too decomposed to obtain meaningful diagnostic data.

Acc	Date_Coll	Age	Sex	TagNo	Diagnosis
1	11/6/2019	Immature	Female	20191106OAST1	Undetermined
2	6/28/2022	Immature	Female	20220628OAST1	Undetermined
3	4/11/2020	Immature	Unknown	20200411OAST1	Undetermined
4	6/14/2022	Immature	Female	20220614KAST1	Undetermined
5	7/16/2020	Immature	Unknown	20200716KAST1	Unsuitable for exam
6	10/3/2021	Immature	Unknown	20211003KAST1	Unsuitable for exam
7	12/8/2021	Immature	Unknown	20211208KAST1	Unsuitable for exam
8	6/24/2020	Immature	Unknown	20200624KAST1	Unsuitable for exam

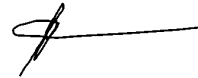
**Comments:** Cause of death could not be determined due to excessive decomposition.

**Management:**

**Report Date (mm/dd/yyyy):** 3/1/2023

**Necropsy report:** Available upon request

**Copies of this report sent to:**



If you have questions regarding this case, contact Thierry M. Work MS, DVM, MPVM at 808-792-9520. Include above Case Number. Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.

**NOTE: Information in this report supersedes any information from previous reports regarding this case .**

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**N E C R O P S Y   R E P O R T**

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**Submitter Name:**

Dr. Summer Martin  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 1  
Date Collected: 11/6/2019  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Fair) POSTMORTEM: (Poor) EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20191106OAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill) AGE: (Immature) SEX: (Female)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (7.5 kg), Straight carapace length (44.0 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Yokohama Bay) AREA: (Honolulu) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Turtle found dead in Yokihama Bay with a hook in the lower jaw on 2019-11-06.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL: Internal organs are decomposed.

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Decomposed no histo samples taken

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Undetermined	(T00010 ) (	)	(E00040 )	(FY3500 ) (	) ( )	

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Open)

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United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 2  
Date Collected: 6/28/2022  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Fair)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20220628OAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Female)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Straight carapace length (38.3 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Kailua) AREA: (Honolulu) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Turtle washed up on the beach dead.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL: The head and left front flipper are missing possibly due to shark bite.

INTERNAL:

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: No weight due to decomposition and missing parts.

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Undetermined	(T00010 ) (	) (	E00040 ) (FY3500 ) (	) ( )		

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Open)

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United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 3  
Date Collected: 4/11/2020  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Poor)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20200411OAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Unknown)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (2.8 kg), Straight carapace length (31.0 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Waiau Power Plant) AREA: (Honolulu) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Turtle found dead at the Waiau Power Plant. No external injuries observed.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL: Internal organs are very decomposed.

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Very decomposed and could not sex.

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Undetermined	(T00010 ) (		(E00040 ) (FY3500 ) (			( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Open)

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United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 4  
Date Collected: 6/14/2022  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor) POSTMORTEM: (Good) EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20220614KAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill) AGE: (Immature) SEX: (Female)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (5.2 kg), Straight carapace length (41.5 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Donkey Beach) AREA: (Kauai) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Turtle found dead on rocks north of the beach and was moved by someone at night.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL: There are old amputations of both front flippers.

INTERNAL:

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Both front flippers old amputations. Right still has humerus bone which was collected by NOAA staff. No histo taken.

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Undetermined	(T00010 ) (		(E00040 )	(FY3500 ) (		( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Open)

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**Submitter Name:**

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 5  
Date Collected: 7/16/2020  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Poor)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20200716KAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Unknown)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Straight carapace length (44.8 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Nawiliwili) AREA: (Kauai) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Decomposed turtle found and retrieved by DLNR.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL: The internal organs are decomposed and body fat is saponified.

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Decomposed and saponified inside.

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Unsuitable for exam	( )	(M09010 )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Decomposed)

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96818  
United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 6  
Date Collected: 10/3/2021  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Poor)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20211003KAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Unknown)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Straight carapace length (44.2 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Lydgate State Park) AREA: (Kauai) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Parks and recreation staff found turtle dead near camp showers. DLNR collected and froze.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL: The body cavity is exposed with guts extruding.  
INTERNAL: Internal organs are decomposed.  
PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Too decomposed to collect histo.

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Unsuitable for exam	(	(M09010)	)	(	)	( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Decomposed)

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United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 7  
Date Collected: 12/8/2021  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Poor)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20211208KAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Unknown)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (11.4 kg), Straight carapace length (44.3 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Port Allen) AREA: (Kauai) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Hawksbill found at small boat harbor in moderate decomposition state.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL: Internal organs are decomposed.

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

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**Laboratory Results**

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COMMENTS: Too decomposed to sex and no histology samples taken

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Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Unsuitable for exam	( )	(M09010 )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Decomposed)



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United States

Case: 25870  
Accession: 8  
Date Collected: 6/24/2020  
Date Examined: 11/17/2022  
Prosecutor: T. M. Work  
Pathologist: T. M. Work

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**Signalment-Morphometrics-History**

CONDITION: (Poor)                      POSTMORTEM: (Poor)                      EUTHANASIA: (Not euthanized)  
TAG TYPE: (Reference Number) TAG NO.: (20200624KAST1)  
SPECIES: (Turtle: Hawksbill)                      AGE: (Immature)                      SEX: (Unknown)  
MORPHOMETRICS: Weight carcass (6.7 kg), Straight carapace length (35.3 cm).  
COLLECTION-SITE: (Port Allen) AREA: (Kauai) STATE: (Hawaii) COUNTRY: (United States)  
HISTORY: Dead hawksbill found at Port Allen Marina. No obvious cause of death.

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**External/Internal**

EXTERNAL:

INTERNAL: Internal organs are decomposed.

PRELIMINARY DIAGNOSIS: Undetermined.

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**Samples**

SECIMENS RECEIVED: Carcass-Frozen.

---

**Laboratory Results**

---

COMMENTS: Too decomposed to sex and no histology samples taken.

---

Final Diagnosis (in order of importance)

Diagnosis	Topog	Morpho	Etiol	Funct	Dis	Link
1. Unsuitable for exam	( )	(M09010 )	( )	( )	( )	( )

Diagnostic findings may not be published without the knowledge and consent of the pathologist.

Milt Code: (Decomposed)