

OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE SEA TURTLE
RESEARCH PROJECT CONDUCTED OFF WAIKIKI BEACH WITH LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT FROM ATLANTIS REEF DIVERS

prepared by
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OVERALL: To promote the long-term conservation and recovery of sea turtles and the habitats upon which they depend by developing management practices based on sound biological information.

SPECIFIC:

1. To determine the approximate number of sea turtles by size-classes and species, resident to Waikiki region.
2. To determine the types and locations of life-support activities undertaken by the turtles within the habitat limits of Waikiki (i.e., foraging, resting, grooming).
3. To ascertain the food sources utilized by the turtles.
4. To determine adverse impacts to the turtles, both from humans (i.e., fishing nets, rubbish, boat strikes) and other factors (i.e., disease, shark predation).
5. To calculate growth rates and eventually estimate ages at sexual maturity.
6. To estimate the recruitment rates of small juveniles to the Waikiki population and migrations/movements which may occur after residency has been established.
7. To determine flipper tag retention rates.
8. To examine the various aspects and potential interactions of sea turtles residing in an area where scuba diving and tourism commonly occur.