

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES REPORT

**EFFORTS TO SAMPLE SEA TURTLES WITH TANGLE NETS AT THE ENTRANCE
TO KAWAINUI CANAL IN KAILUA BAY, OAHU
FEBRUARY 13, 1989**

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Green turtles, Chelonia mydas, severely afflicted with tumors (fibropapillomas) commonly occur in Kailua Bay near the entrance to Kawainui Canal. Some preliminary observations of turtles feeding on the shallow adjacent reef were made at sunrise on November 28, 1988. Acanthophora spicifera and Hypnea musciformis appeared to be the benthic algae utilized as forage at this site. Samples of the algae were collected for analysis of small associated mollusks, which might serve as intermediate hosts to internal parasites of green turtles.

On February 13, 1989, a 65-ft long by 5 ft deep tangle net was set in the same area where turtles were seen on November 28, 1988. The objective of this effort was to determine if turtles with tumors could be consistently and conveniently captured here to obtain small biopsies for analysis. The net was set out at 1645 and examined visually from shore with binoculars approximately every 20 minutes. After dark (>1830), a hand-held high-intensity spotlight powered by a 12 volt battery was used to observe the floatline of the net for evidence of an entangled turtle. No turtles were captured during this attempt, and no

turtles were seen foraging anywhere in the vicinity. At 2100, after about 4 hours of fishing time, the net was taken out of the water.

Algae consisting of Acanthopora and Hypnea were collected after dark in the event that mollusks crawl onto the vegetation and graze more frequently at night. In additions, clusters of a small bivalve present in shallow water near the canal entrance were sampled. All collections are undergoing analysis by parasitologist Dr. Murray Dailey at the California State University in Long Beach, California.