

Subject: 12/14/2011 mapping update for PNPA juvenile and subadult loggerheads released offshore from Kanazawa into the Sea of Japan on 7/15/11- 152 days transmitting

Attached are our partnership mapping updates for the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium (PNPA) loggerheads released into the Sea of Japan offshore of Kanazawa on July 15, 2011. Marc Rice (Hawaii Preparatory Academy) and I were honored to have participated in the release with our close colleagues PNPA Tomomi Saito and Masanori Kurita. The turtles were released from a fishing vessel expertly operated by Captain Yoshino. The deployment was the first known effort to study satellite tagged loggerheads in the Sea of Japan. Loggerheads are known to occur in the Sea of Japan, and some nesting by loggerheads occurs on Japan's sand beaches bordering the Sea of Japan. A total of 31 loggerheads were released, consisting of 6 subadults and 25 juveniles (exact sizes of the turtles are shown on the attachment maps).

After 152 days since release, we currently have 14 of the 31 turtles continuing to transmit Argos locational data. Four of the turtles still transmitting are subadults, two of which are in the Sea of Japan, and two are in the North Pacific to the west of Japan. One of the subadults departed the Sea of Japan by way of Tsugaru Strait, and the other subadult left the Sea of Japan through La Perouse Strait.

Of the 10 juvenile loggerheads still transmitting, one has remained in the Sea of Japan (near Tsugaru Strait- see ID 19593 on the attached map), and 9 loggerheads are in the North Pacific. Of these 9, 8 left the Sea of Japan through La Perouse Strait, and one departed through Tsugaru Strait.

None of the 31 loggerheads have used the Korea Strait (to the south) to leave

the Sea of Japan.

2011

An extremely valuable recovery of one of these satellite tagged loggerheads was made after being accidentally captured in a Salmon fishing net near Hokkaido. This turtle was returned alive to the PNPA under the professional coordination of PNPA Director Makoto and his staff. The importance of this recovery is that growth rate was able to be determined for the 3.5 months in the wild. This is the first such recovery for meaningful growth rate determination during our many years of collaborative research with Japan. I am pleased to report that the turtle did indeed grow, demonstrating that adaptation to the wild had started, after being reared its entire life 2.5 years in captivity. At the time of release the turtle weighed 7.2 kg, and the carapace measured 34.9 cm. When recaptured the turtle weighed 8.4 kg, and the carapace measured 36.1 cm.

For those of you that may be interested in journal publications of our past collaborative partnership research (Japan/Hawaii) on the pelagic ecology of Japanese loggerheads, I will shortly send you pdf's of these papers. Happy holidays, George Balazs

3.5 MONTHS

1.2 Kg increase

1.2 cm SCL INCREASE