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# A Summary of Sea Turtle Stranding Threats and Trends in the Main Hawaiian Islands (2003-2023)

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Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program

Protected Species Division

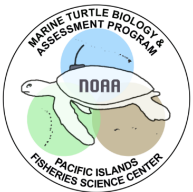


Photo: Brittany Clemans

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October 6, 2023

# Stranding Network



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# Why a 20 Year Analysis?

- Most consistent fields of data collected starting 2000s
- The last 2 decades are most relevant to now & the future
- Time constraints for validation - Accuracy & Consistency
- 2023 is not complete, only through June

Photo from Honu Count Participant, Alyce Bush



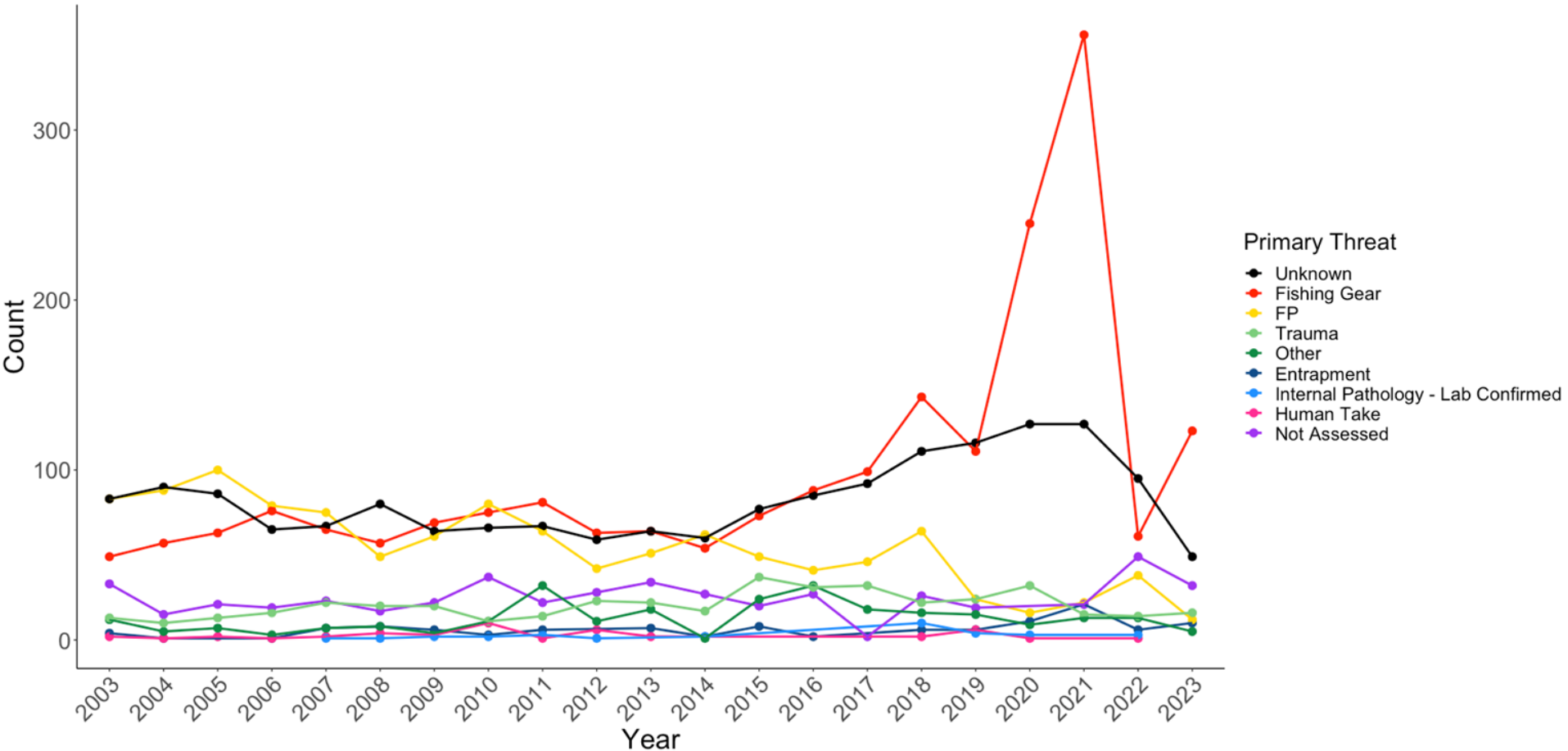
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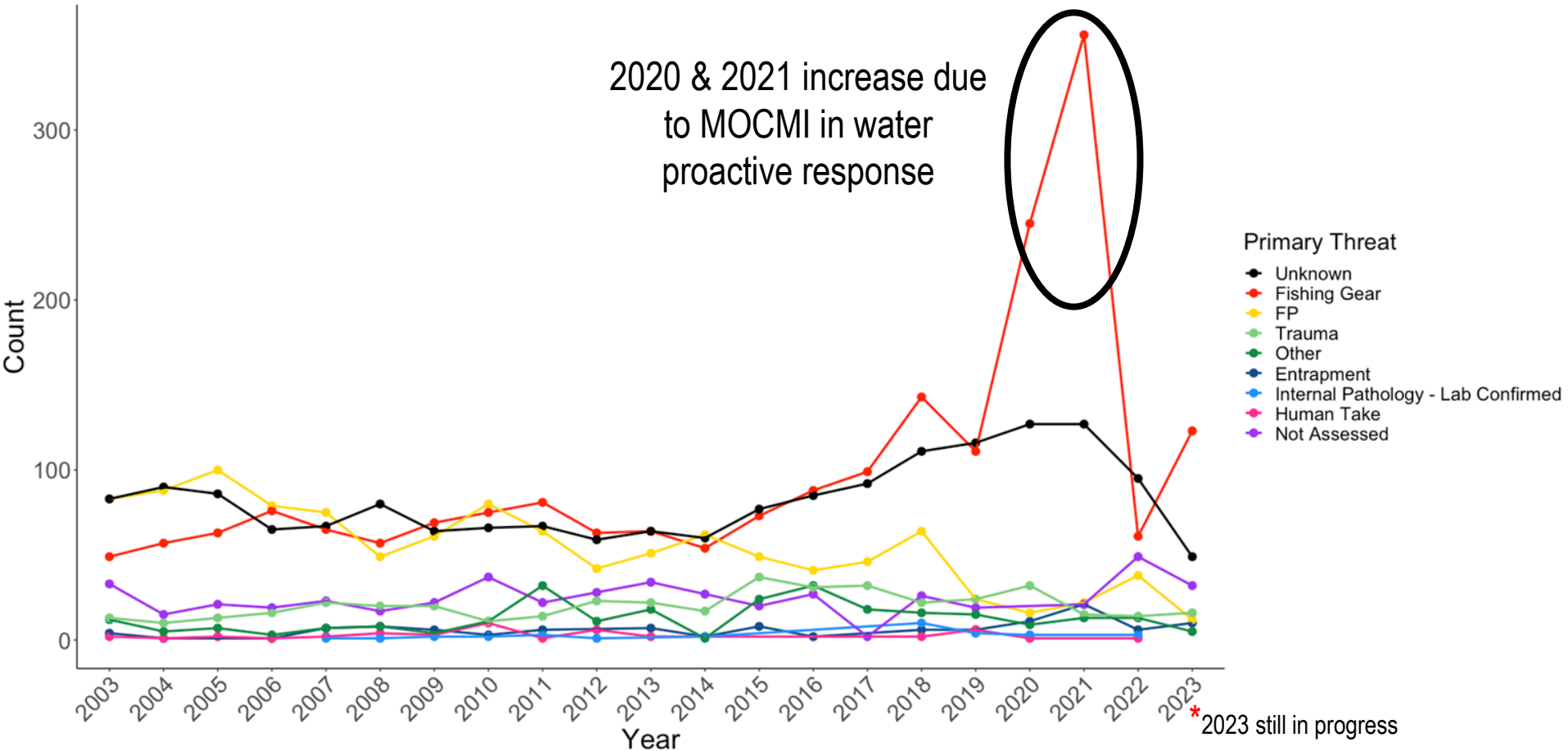
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# Total Primary Threats (Cause of Stranding) Per Year



n = 6322

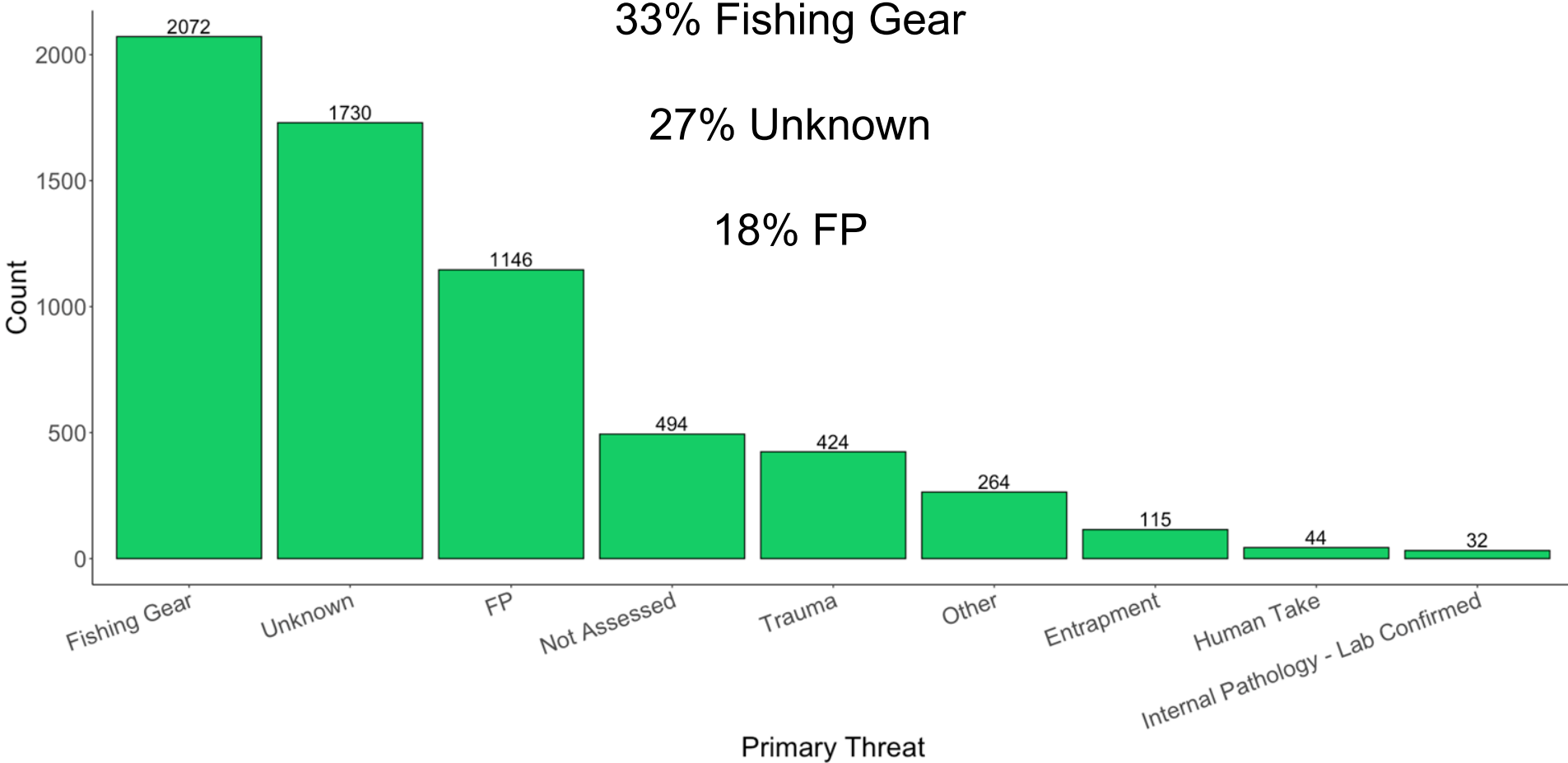
# Total Primary Threats (Cause of Stranding) Per Year



n = 6322



# Total Primary Threats (2003 - June 2023)



n = 6322



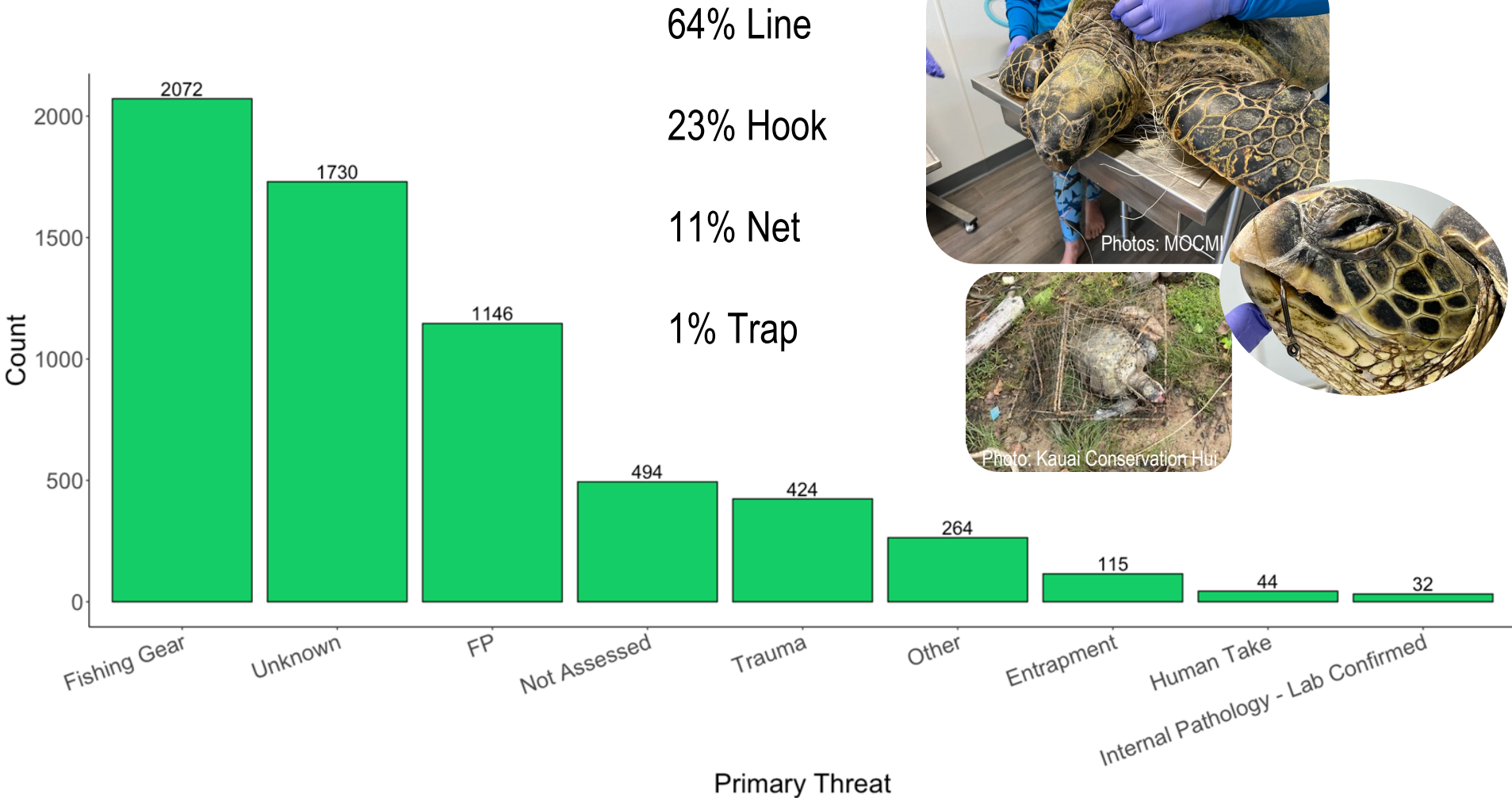
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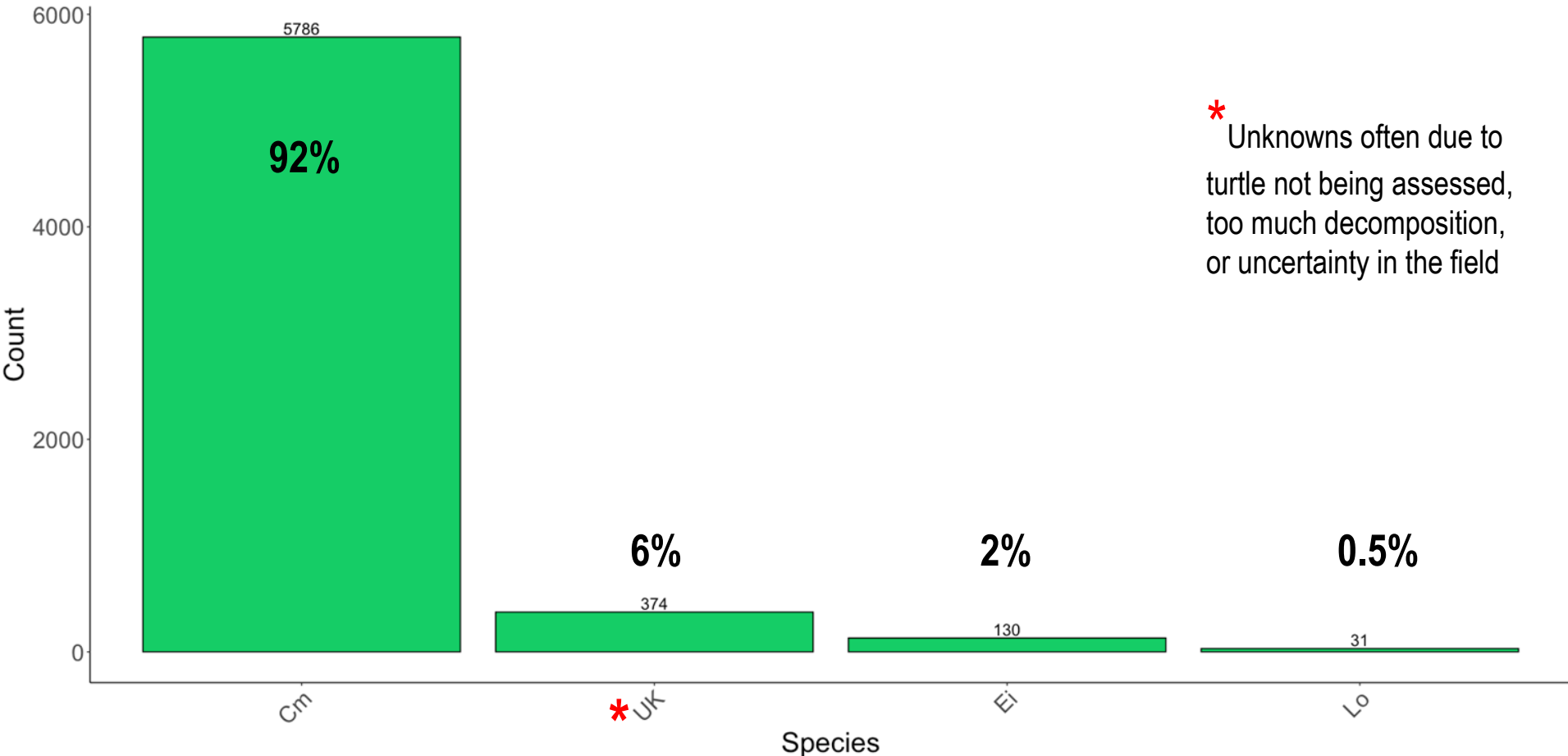
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# Total Primary Threats (2003 - June 2023)



n = 6322

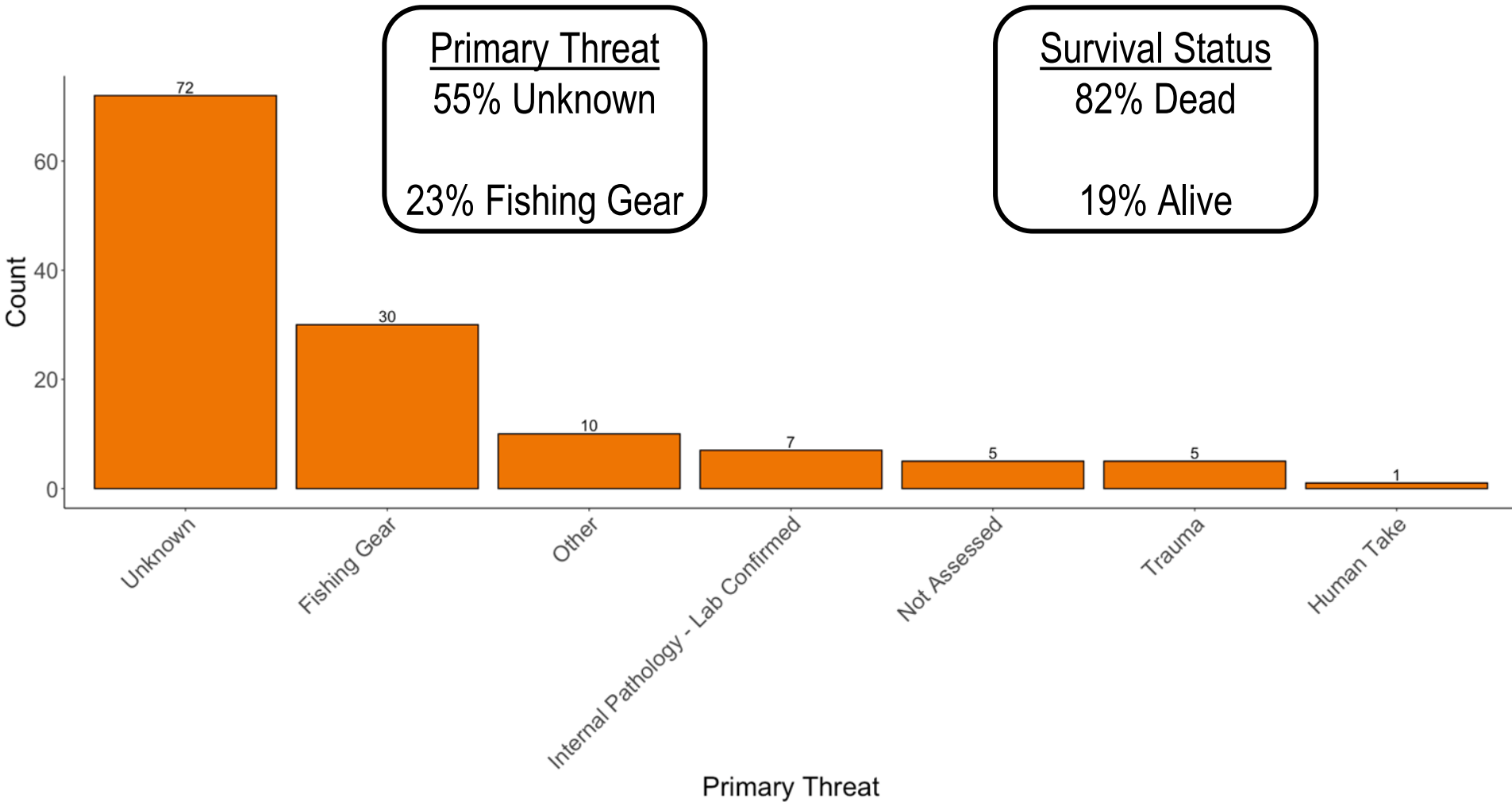
# Total Species of Stranded Turtles (2003 - June 2023)



n = 6322



# Breakdown of Ei Strandings (2003 - June 2023)



n = 130



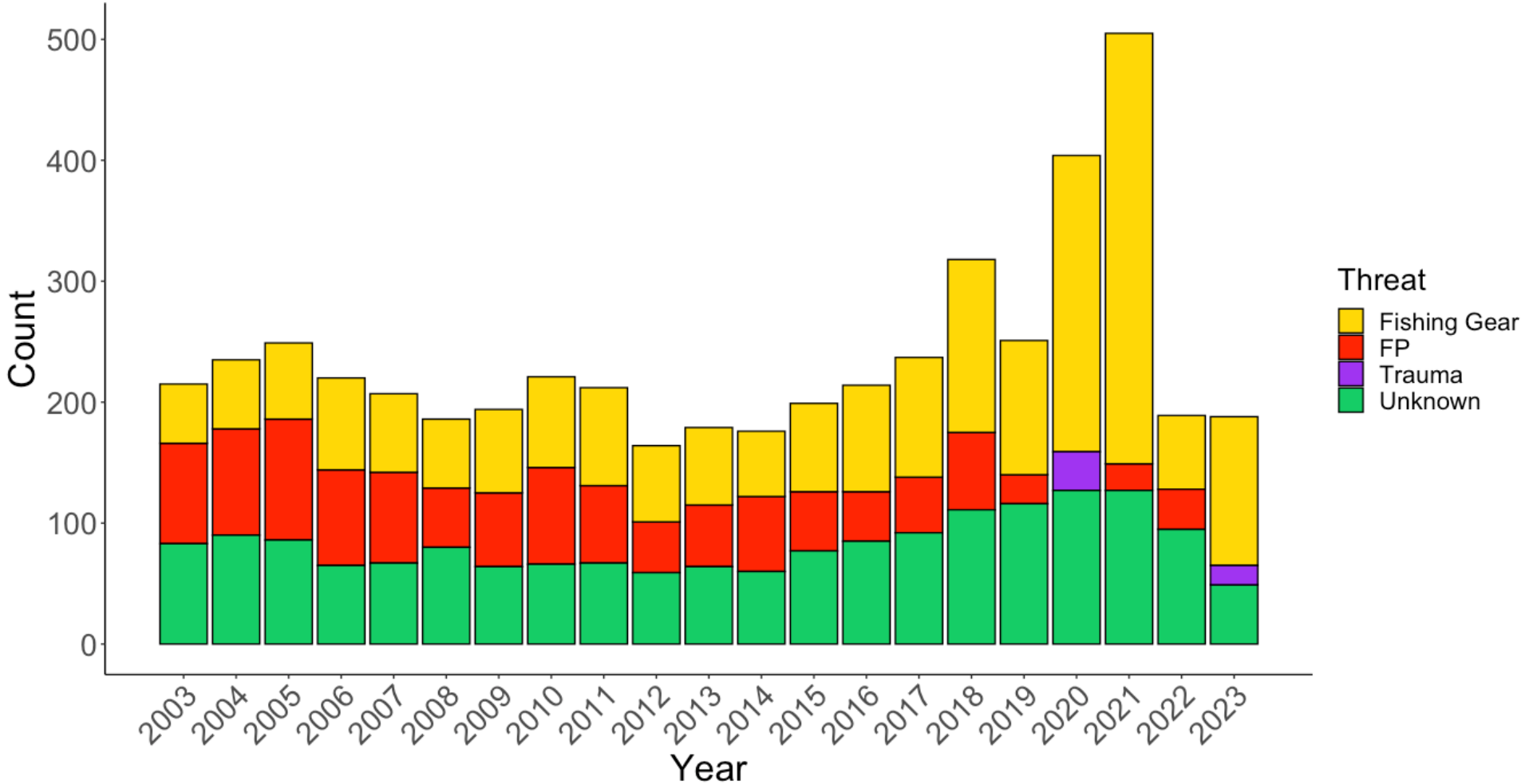
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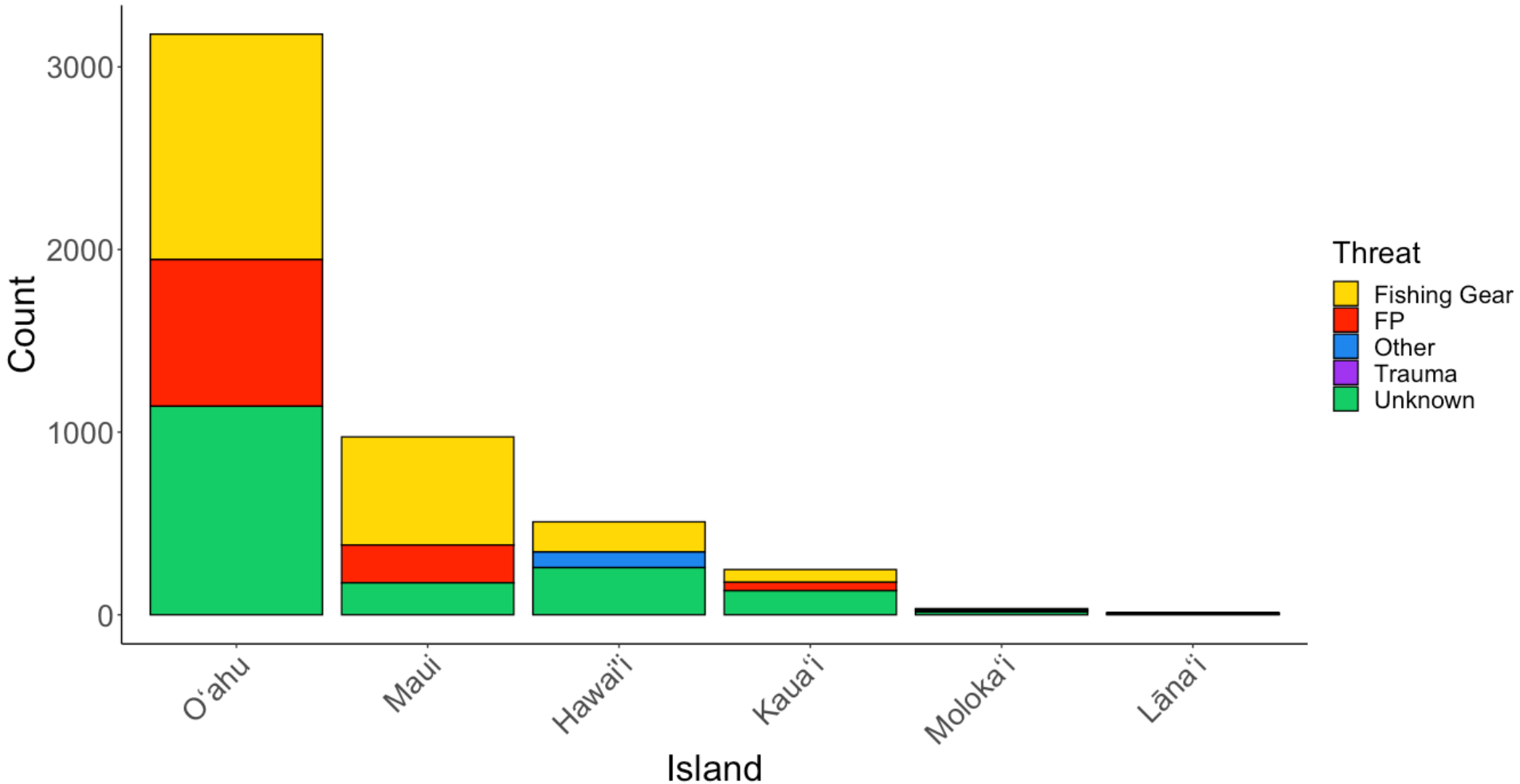
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# Top 3 Primary Threats Per Year



n = 6322

# Top 3 Primary Threats Per Island (2003 - June 2023)



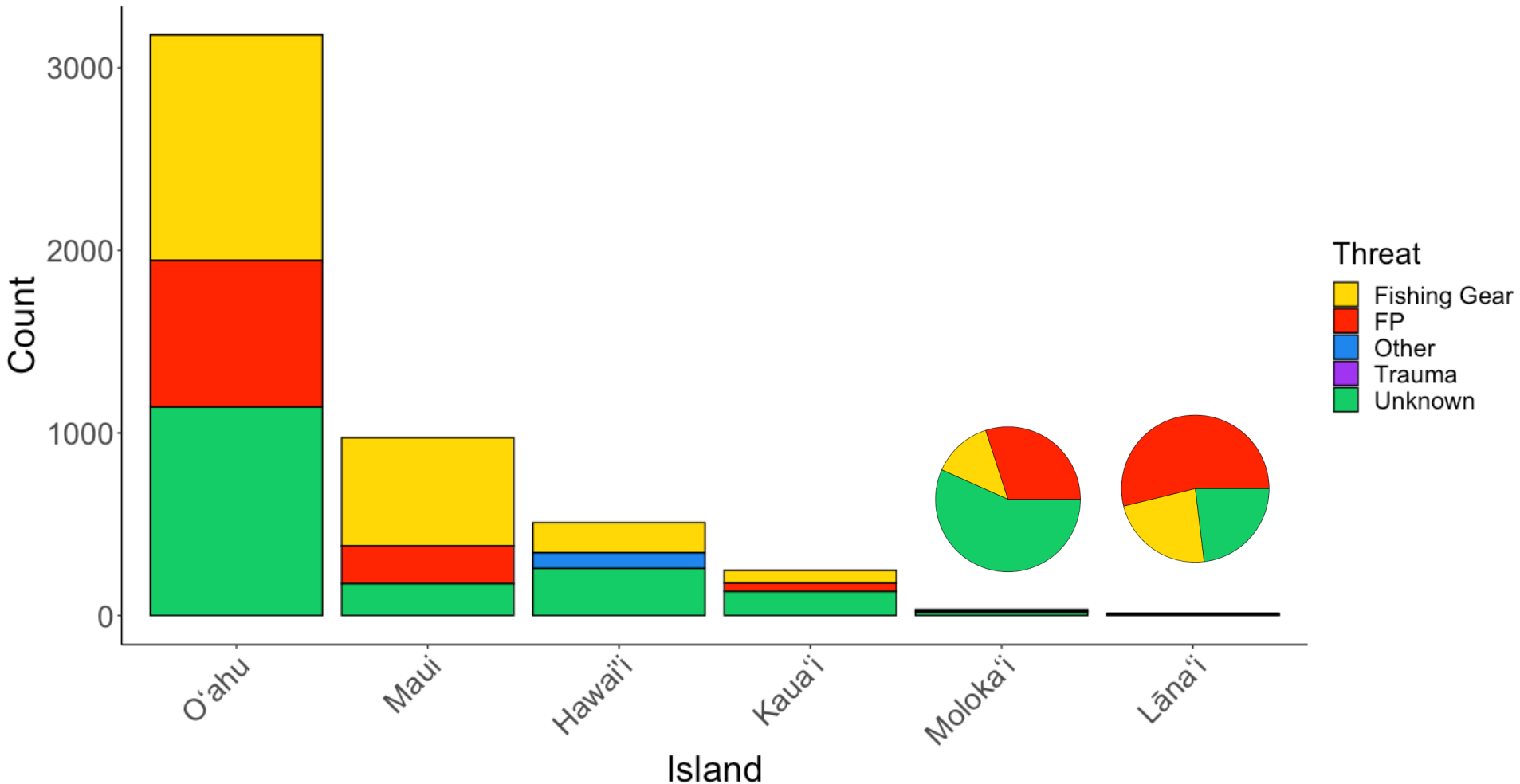
n = 6322



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# Top 3 Primary Threats Per Island (2003 - June 2023)



n = 6322



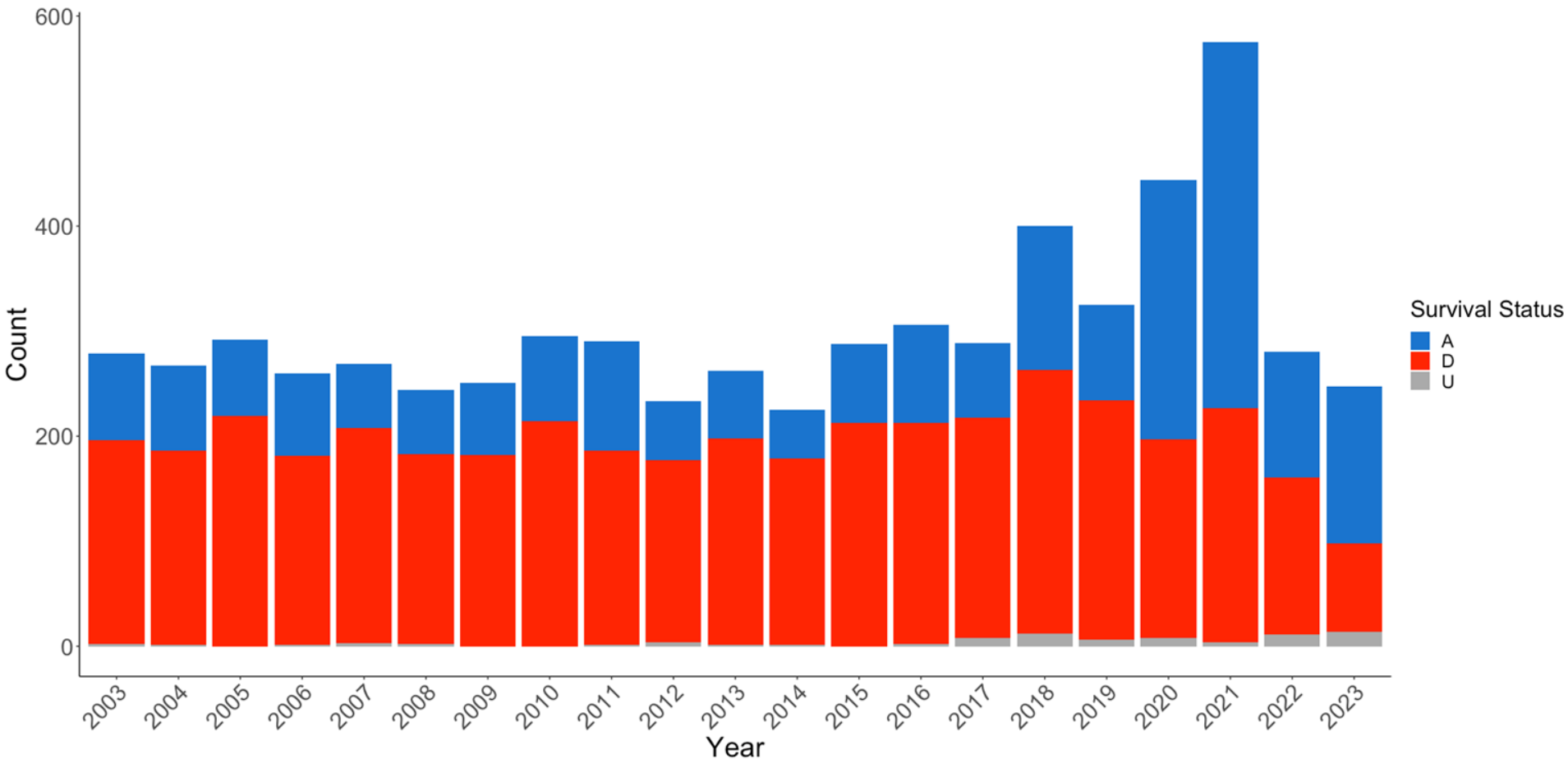
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# Total Survival Status Per Year



n = 6322

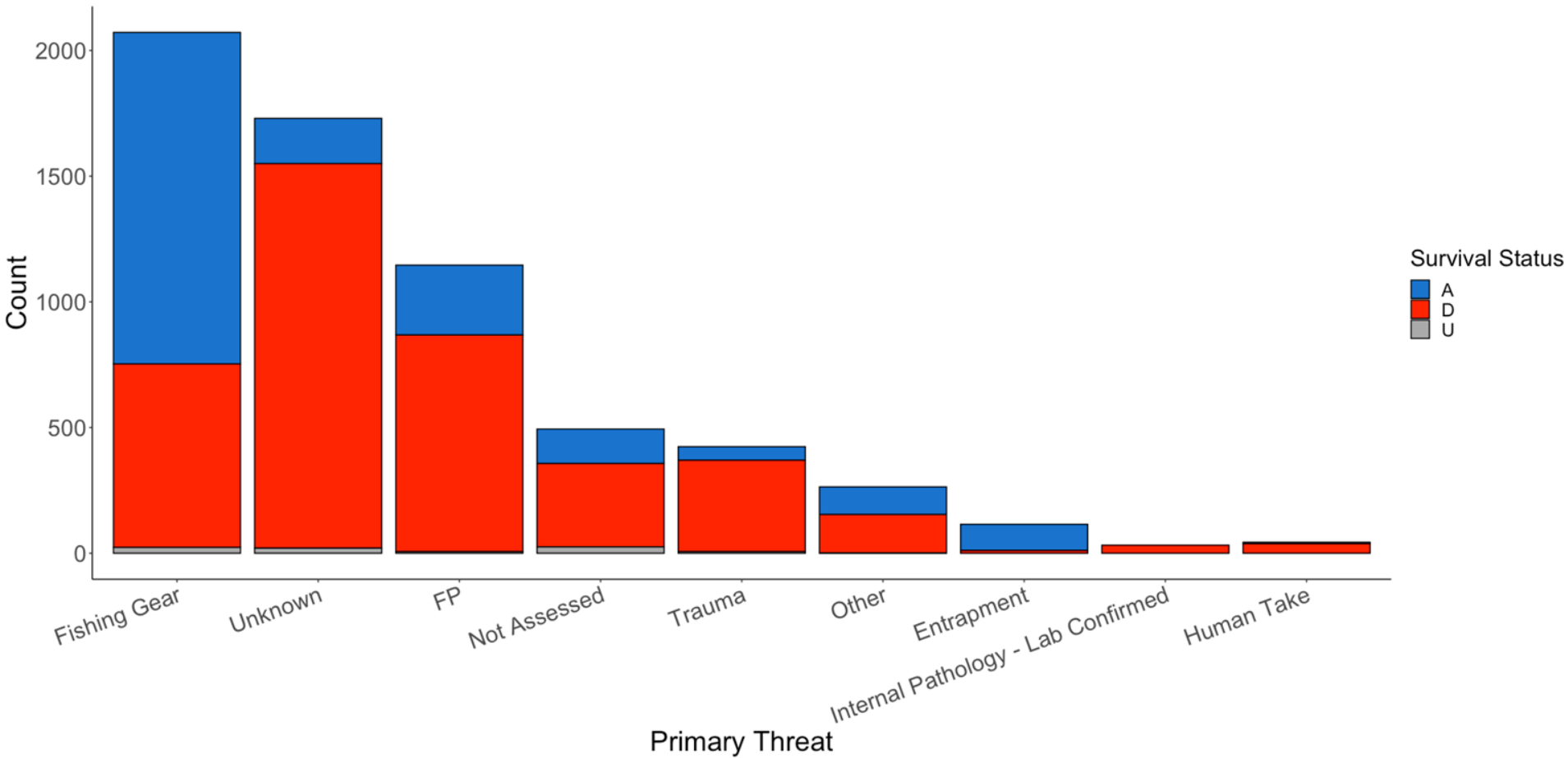


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# Survival Status Per Primary Threat (2003 - June 2023)



n = 6322



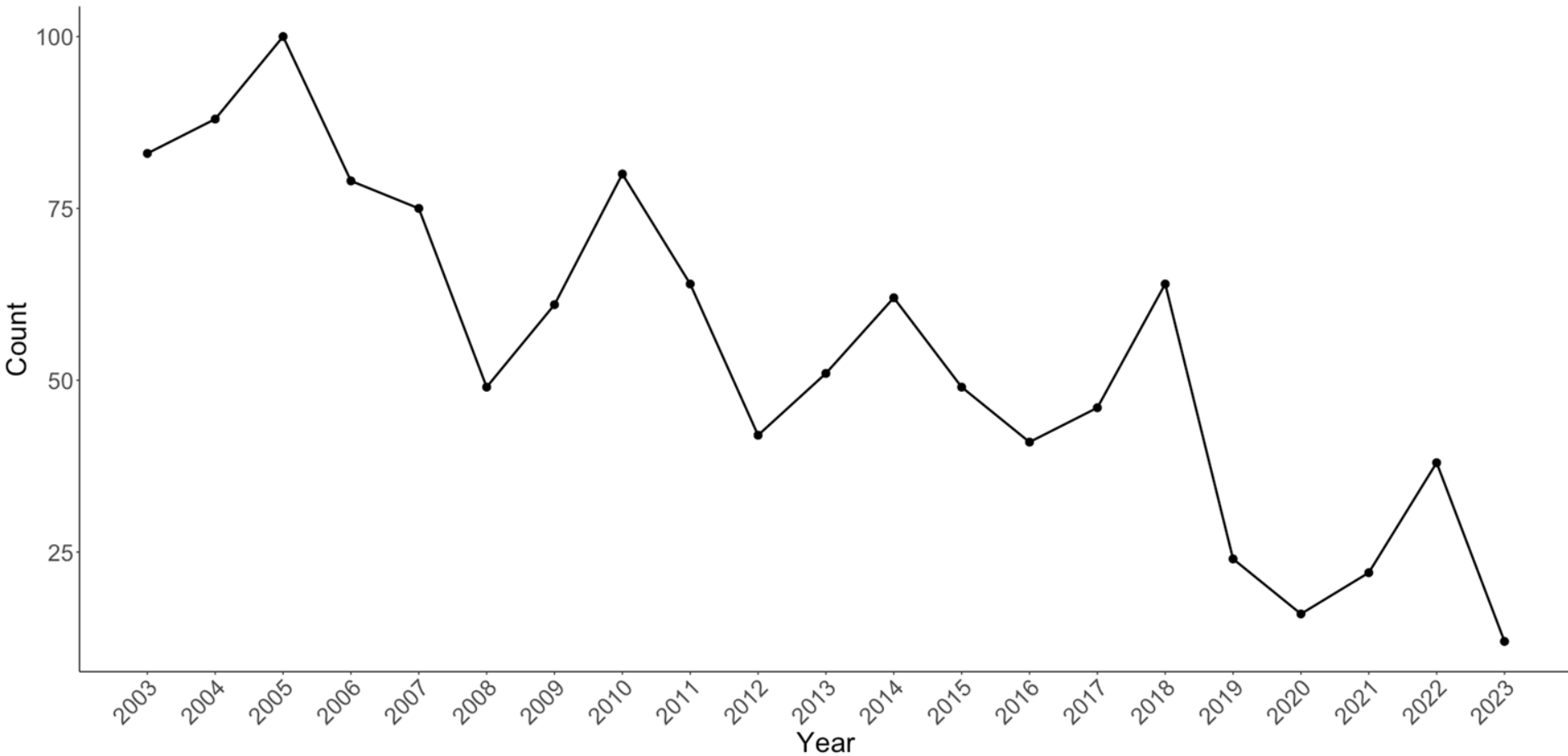
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# Total Stranded Turtles that Exhibited FP Per Year



n = 1252



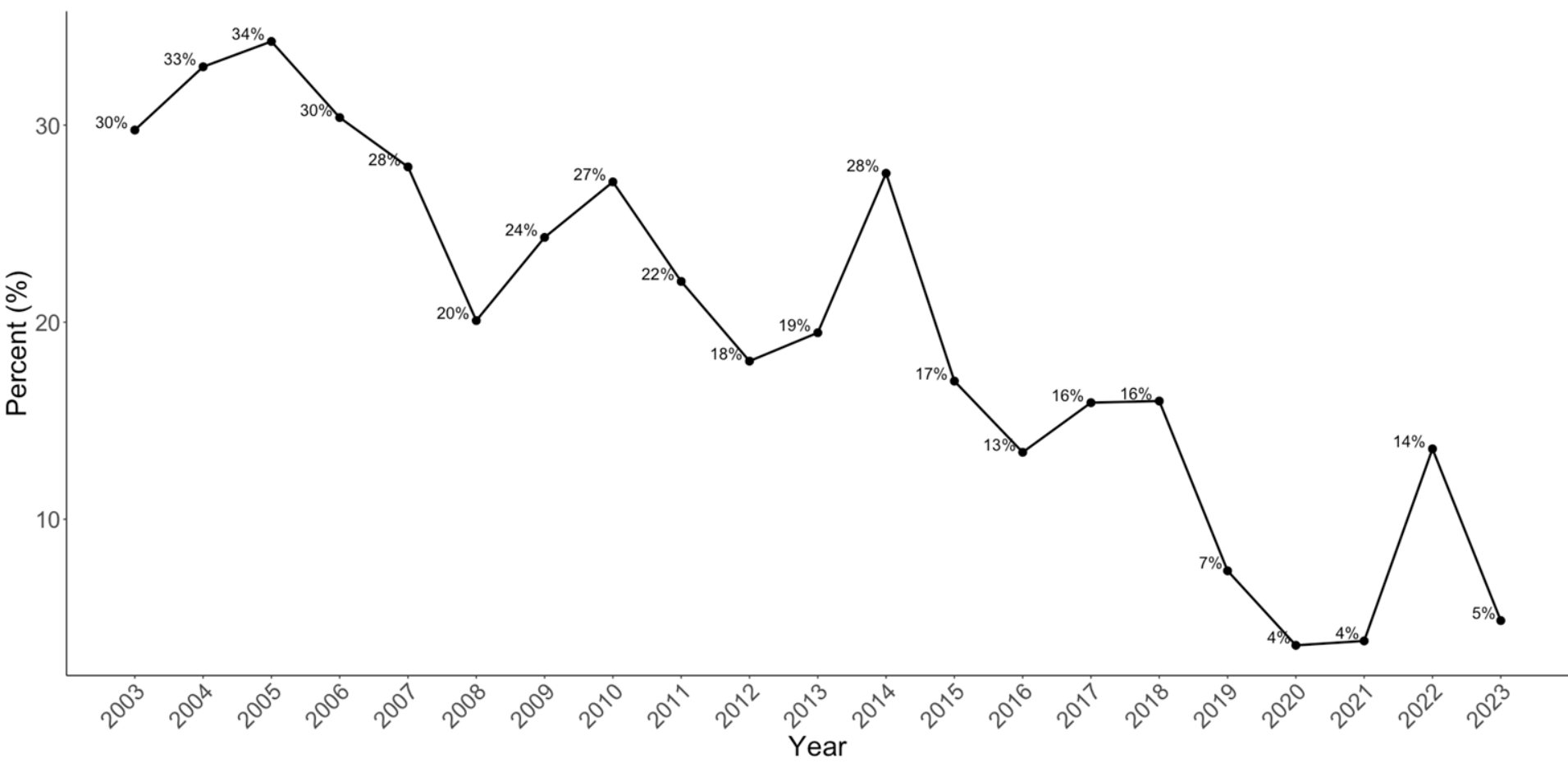
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# Total Percent of Stranded Turtles that Exhibited FP Per Year



n = 1252





# Summary

- Consistent/uniform data collection is crucial for such a large dataset
- Future in water vs on shore clarifications & impact on number of fishing gear interactions
- Unknown primary threats consistent throughout the years
  - cannot avoid extreme decomposition/mystery cases
- FP decreasing! Will this continue?
- Future publication



Photo from Honu Count Participant, Catelyn Coats



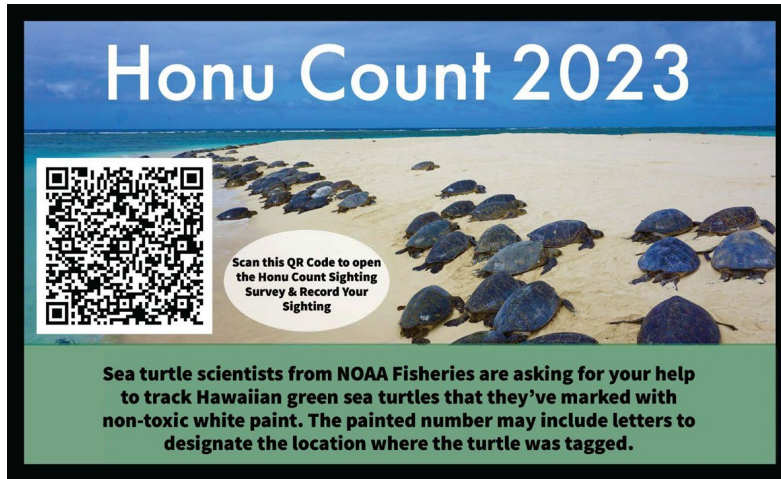
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# Honu Count Citizen Science Project



## Honu Count 2023

Scan this QR Code to open the Honu Count Sighting Survey & Record Your Sighting

Sea turtle scientists from NOAA Fisheries are asking for your help to track Hawaiian green sea turtles that they've marked with non-toxic white paint. The painted number may include letters to designate the location where the turtle was tagged.

### How Can You Help!

- Keep a respectful distance of 10 feet/3 meters.
- Take a photo without disturbing the turtle.
- Record the date, time, shell etch, location/GPS & any other info (activity, tail length, significant features, etc.)
- Visit our Honu Count Sighting Survey to record your sighting.
- Spread the word by sharing your photos on social media using the hashtag #honucount2023



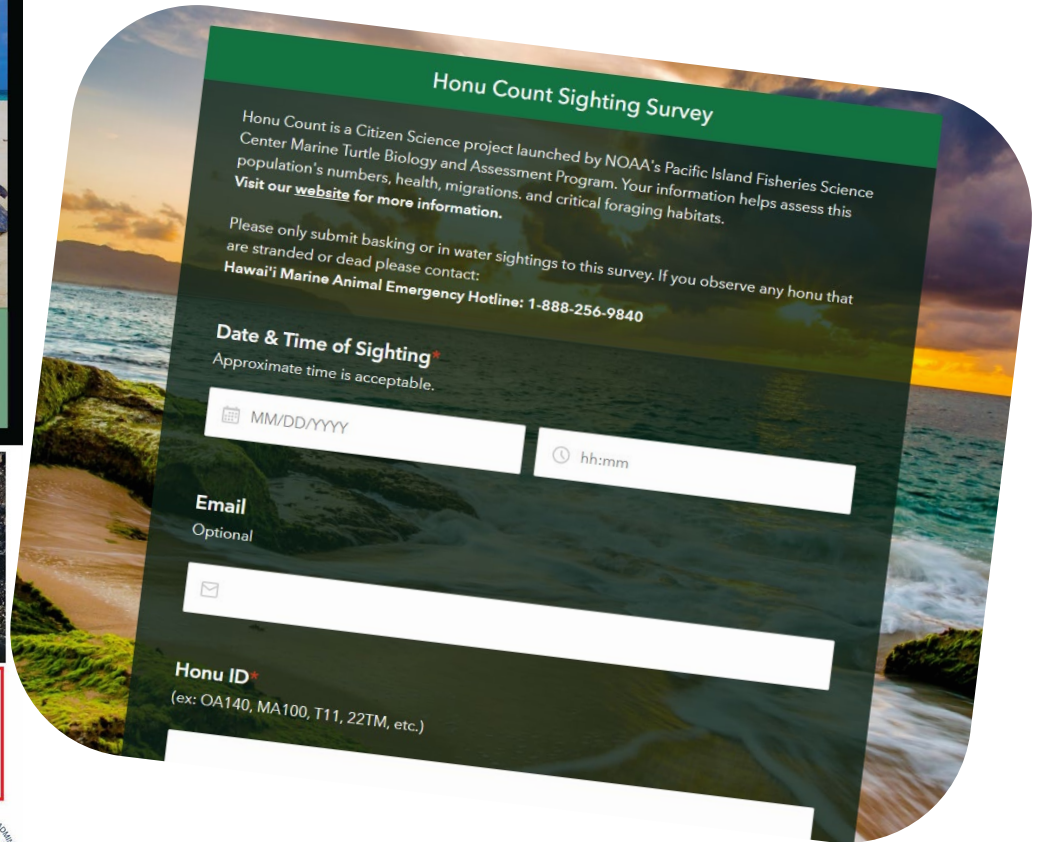
Do you believe a turtle or other marine animal may be injured or in need of assistance? Please call the Hawai'i Marine Animal Emergency Hotline: (888) 256-9840



Search Honu Count for More Info

or visit

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/honu-count-help-us-find-numbered-sea-turtles-hawaii>



### Honu Count Sighting Survey

Honu Count is a Citizen Science project launched by NOAA's Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program. Your information helps assess this population's numbers, health, migrations, and critical foraging habitats. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Please only submit basking or in water sightings to this survey. If you observe any honu that are stranded or dead please contact:  
Hawai'i Marine Animal Emergency Hotline: 1-888-256-9840

**Date & Time of Sighting\***  
Approximate time is acceptable.

MM/DD/YYYY      hh:mm

**Email**  
Optional

Honu ID\*  
(ex: OA140, MA100, T11, 22TM, etc.)

Search "Honu Count" on any web browser

**NOAA Marine Wildlife Hotline**  
**1-888-256-9840**

# In Memory of Shandell



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# Acknowledgements

The PIFSC Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program and the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research

Shawn Murakawa, Dr. Summer Martin, Irene Kelly, Shandell Brunson and all the MTBAP Student Assistants for Turtle Stranding past and present

**And special acknowledgements to every PIFSC MTBAP Stranding Partner**

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**Mahalo!**

Photo from Honu Count Participant, Catelyn Coats



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