

2015- "Endangered turtle prevents thousands from visiting popular tourist attraction | KHON2"

George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Sun 2/18/2024 5:44 AM

To: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

From: **Irene Kinan Kelly** <irene.kelly@noaa.gov>

Date: Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 9:27 AM

Subject: Re: "Endangered turtle prevents thousands from visiting popular tourist attraction | KHON2"

To: George Balazs - NOAA Federal <george.balazs@noaa.gov>, Devon Francke - NOAA Affiliate <devon.francke@noaa.gov>

Cc: Todd Jones - NOAA Federal <todd.jones@noaa.gov>, Siri Hakala - NOAA Federal <siri.hakala@noaa.gov>, Shandell Brunson - NOAA Federal <shandell.brunson@noaa.gov>, Denise Parker - NOAA Affiliate <denise.Parker@noaa.gov>, Frank Parrish - NOAA Federal <frank.parrish@noaa.gov>, Shawn Murakawa - NOAA Federal <shawn.murakawa@noaa.gov>, Summer Martin - NOAA Affiliate <summer.martin@noaa.gov>, Angela Presher - NOAA Affiliate <angela.presher@noaa.gov>, Patrick Opay - NOAA Federal <patrick.opay@noaa.gov>

Thanks George for the suggestions.

So its clear, to my knowledge no one at PIRO PRD has been contacted about this (myself included). I learned of the situation via email from a friend that forwarded me the news link last night. Although I will reach out to discuss the situation with our PH colleagues. Again, it would be nice to have some scientific-based guidance regarding harassment. What constitutes harassment and species level effects of harassment. This would pertain not only to how close folks/boats can get, but effects of feeding etc. I realize we typically suggest a 6-10 foot buffer, but that really doesn't get back to the root of our challenge that OLE and others need official guidance on what constitutes harassment as this would help inform management actions.

Cheers,
Irene

On 8/3/2015 7:48 AM, George Balazs - NOAA Federal wrote:

Thank you. I received a news-media call on my home phone on Sunday, I declined saying anything except: I respectfully decline saying anything because I am unaware of any noaa involvement- please call PIRO on Monday

Within a month after moving to the IRC I/we The Center initiated a Pearl Harbor sea turtle initiative- to learn about turtles and their habitats in a body of water that, for the 33 years I've worked for NOAA, we had little or no access. So, the case at hand is of high science interest.

For our PIRO colleagues I'll mention that keeping the algal forage growth scrubbed free on the dock would be a reasonable thing to try, management-wise. But this won't be easy because in the calm and high solar radiation waters of Pearl Harbor whatever kind of algae

growing on the dock will grow back fast (in 1-2 days). Also if the algae is indeed what's attracting the turtle then more turtles can be expected to aggregate there.

Perhaps the dock hasn't been 'dry docked' for some time and it's due for a new coat of anti-fouling paint. That will hold the growth down, as it always does for boat hulls.

Mahalo, George

On Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 6:49 AM, Devon Francke - NOAA Affiliate

<devon.francke@noaa.gov> wrote:

Hi George,

We did receive a phone call from Rebecca at NAVFAC Hawaii on Friday morning. They'd received a call asking if there was anything that could be done to move this turtle out of the way, to which they replied that the turtle was an endangered species and it was illegal to interfere with them. Rebecca wanted to confirm with us that there wasn't anything that could be done, and I agreed with her that the turtle would not stay in that area much longer and that we could not come and move the turtle.

Thanks,
Devon

On Sunday, August 2, 2015, George Balazs - NOAA Federal <george.balazs@noaa.gov> wrote:

Astonishing news report on KHON2 TV this evening. I'm not aware that we were aware of this issue at the Arizona Memorial for 2-3 days last week. An occasional juvenile green turtle has been documented around the Arizona for years, but likely not always the same one. George

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<http://khon2.com/2015/08/02/endangered-turtle-prevents-thousands-from-visiting-popular-tourist-attraction/>

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