


2017- Mating Green Sea Turtles in West Loch, Pearl Harbor Oahu. Reported by Aurelia Gonzalez Including 2 Photos.

George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Sun 2/18/2024 5:53 AM

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 2 attachments (17 MB)

IMG_2908.JPG; IMG_2892.JPG;

From: **Aurelia Gonzalez** <aureliag@hawaii.edu>

Date: Wed, Mar 22, 2017 at 2:05 PM

Subject: Mating GST in West Loch

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Aloha,

In cooperation with NOAA staff, JBPHH Natural Resources staff conducted a marine species survey in the harbor this past Thursday 3/16. Around 11am our survey crew came across two pairs of sexually mature green sea turtles (GST) in West Loch. One pair was attempting to mate, and the other we observed copulating for an hour.

I am a new field biologist with JBPHH and this came to me as a huge surprise as I was excited to see a listed specie mate, but also to see this activity in Pearl Harbor. To your knowledge, has green sea turtle mating been observed in the harbor? I was also curious if you had historical green sea turtle nesting data for the beaches on south Oahu (particularly Iroquois Point - the beach on the west side of the entrance to the harbor).

With the potential GST critical habitat designations coming from USFWS, I am going to be conducting some shoreline surveys during GST nesting season and am just trying to collect information.

As you know, nesting season is around the corner and I was curious if this mating event in the harbor is significant? Could the turtles that are reported to have hatched off Iroquois Point, years ago, be mature and here to nest? Do green sea turtles mate where they nest or mate where they feed? Just curious for some basic info.

I havn't been able to find much about mating sites of green sea turtles on Oahu, and hoped a NOAA biologist can brief me on the reproductive ecology of the Hawaiian GST and their demographics. Right now, I planning my schedule for nesting surveys on JBPHH land and just want to get some info from the experts! Please feel free to call me on my cell.

Thank you,

Aurelia Gonzalez

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