SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS FOR OCTOBER 4, 2024 HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY'S 4th ANNUAL SEA TURTLE WORKSHOP- "SIGNALS OF CARRYING CAPACITY FROM GREEN TURTLES IN HAWAII: SIFTING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF"

#1
George Balazs- Self Introduction

#2
Dr. David Hyrenbach was born in Spain, received a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Scripps Institution, and moved to Hawaii in 2008. Currently a professor of oceanography at Hawai'i Pacific University, David Hyrenbach's lab focuses on the habits and habitats of Hawaiian seabirds, through tracking and diet studies. This research seeks to quantify the threats posed by fisheries bycatch and marine pollutants to these far-ranging marine predators.

#3
Dr. Jeffrey Polovina conducted and directed marine ecosystem research at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, NOAA fisheries in Honolulu for 38 years. Now retired he serves as an affiliate faculty in the Marine Biology Program at UH and collaborates with an international group of researchers studying the migration of loggerhead sea turtles in the North Pacific. He would love to give his presentation in person and participate in the symposium but his long-scheduled vacation plans have him traveling in SE Asia most of October.

#4
Dr. Manjula Tiwari is a Conservation Scientist and the President of Ocean Ecology Network. Her sea turtle projects cover a wide range of issues, including nesting beach ecology, the impact of fisheries on sea turtle populations, and developing holistic conservation strategies in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Western Pacific. A fun fact about Manjula: local communities in the Turtle Islands of Sierra Leone have named a beach "Manjula Beach" in recognition of her efforts to conserve their sea turtles.

#5
Dr. Kim Holland founded the Pelagic Fisheries and Shark Research Groups at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. A major focus of both groups has been the use of various electronic tracking devices to elucidate the movement patterns and habitat usage of top predators such as tunas and sharks. Currently, shark research focuses primarily on the movement patterns of tiger sharks and investigation of devices that might potentially deter shark bites and reduce shark bycatch.

#6
Dr. Lisa Harrington volunteers on the "basking" and "nesting" teams with Mālama i na Honu on Kauai Island. She spent 30 years as a PK-12 Educator in a large district in California. She was a classroom teacher for 12 years and a school administrator for 18. She currently is an Adjunct Faculty member with both the University of Hawaii Manoa and Fresno Pacific University where she teaches Master of Arts in Teaching and PK-12 Teacher Candidates and is a field supervisor

for candidates who are working toward their licensure. Dr. Harrington's love of learning about the world around her and having the basking Honu in her "backyard" has been the impetus for her involvement with the research on Poipu Beach. She hopes information garnered through this ongoing research supports a global understanding and guides our human actions in co-existing with these magnificent creatures; *AND*

Debbie Herrera is the Volunteer Education Coordinator for Mālama I nā honu on both Oahu and Kauai. She is also Oahu's nesting coordinator. She has over 20,000 hours of field work experience with Hawaiian Green sea turtles. Her mission is to spread awareness on how co-existence can look and be beneficial to all involved.

#7

Dr. Milani Chaloupka is a recognised expert in statistical and mathematical modelling of complex ecological systems including endangered species population dynamics modelling for whales, seabirds, sharks and marine turtles. He is the Director of a research company that provides statistical and mathematical consulting on ecological issues for a wide range of clients from industry, government, academia, environmental law firms and international nongovernmental organizations. He has been for the past 22 years a statutory member of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Hawaii), which is the premier scientific fisheries advisory group for management of all US pelagic fisheries in the Pacific Ocean. He is also in the Marine Spatial Ecology Lab (University of Queensland) with responsibilities for PhD student supervision in interpretable machine learning and Bayesian statistical modelling of marine ecosystem processes.

#8

Laura Jim is a seasoned educator at Hawaiʻi Preparatory Academy on the Big Island of Hawaiʻi. As Co-Director of HPA's Sea Turtle Research and Stranding Program, she teaches SCUBA, Coral Reef Ecology, Vertebrate and Invertebrate Zoology, and conducts sea turtle research both in Hawaii and internationally. Additionally, she assists in stranding efforts for sea turtles on Hawaii Island, coordinates the West Hawaiʻi Fishing Line Recycling Program, and supports various independent student projects on marine-based topics and issues. Whether professionally or personally, she dedicates her time working towards a healthier planet and inspiring current and future generations to be engaged stewards.

#9

Dr. Thierry M. Work is currently the project leader for the USGS National Wildlife Health Center Honolulu Field Station where he leads a team that provides support to safeguard wildlife and ecosystem health through research and technical assistance to federal, state, and international partners.

#10

Dr. Tomoko Hamabata is a specially appointed assistant professor at the Graduate School of Information Sciences, Tohoku University in Japan, and a researcher at the Advanced Institute for Marine Ecosystem Change. She has over 10 years of experience researching sea turtles using genetic techniques, studying their distribution, foraging aggregation, and population history.

Presentation Description *"The seagrass beds along the Okinawan coast of Japan are crucial not only for the marine ecosystem but also for the local fishing industry, which supports the livelihoods of coastal communities. In recent years, an environmental issue has emerged, as seagrass beds have been deteriorating and becoming depleted due to increased grazing pressure from the growing population of green sea turtles. Our new project aims to explore how these turtles can coexist with the seagrass beds and leverage this knowledge to promote sustainable ecosystem management."*