

Date: Fri, 2 May 1997 12:39:29 -1000 (HST)
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To: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>
Subject: Nesting at Kawa'aloa Bay

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George,

Good news: Last night Joan Aidem, Dick Langer, and I had an opportunity for the first time to tag one of the nesting females frequenting Kawa'aloa Bay. She was encountered her during the excavation of her third pit at a location just west of the fishing shack.

The data as follows:

105.0 cm (curve length)
94.0 cm (curve width)
92.0 cm (straight length)
69.0 cm (straight width)
V879 (RFF)
V880 (3-4 LFF)
V881 (LH)
V882 (RH)
Tumors: #3 LFF at normal tag site;
 #1 neck
 #1 RFF

Bad news: The animal was very lethargic. She made absolutely no attempt to escape even when tags were being applied. My guess is that she's on her last legs...and she knows it. Most unusual to be nesting during daylight hours. She had not move an inch from her last pit at sunset...but was gone when we check again this morning. (Yes, there were tracks leading back to the sea!) Nevertheless, after years of trying, we finally got to id a nesting female on the north side of Molokai. If we're lucky, we'll see her again in the near future...back on the beach doing her thing.

Under separate covers I've sent you some tissue sample for DNA if you so desire. It's immersed in some denatured alcohol.

I saw the obituary in the papers. Yes, Dan was a good man. He'll be missed.

Aloha,
Bill

PS...Has Chris decided where he's going next year yet? After an agonizing two weeks of procrastinating, Nahoe finally settled on the University of Portland. It's a small coed school taught by the Congregation of Holy Cross, the same Catholic order that serves Notre Dame. At the going tuition rate, I'll be a permanent fixture with the State for the unforeseeable future.