

MEETING REPORT

5TH Annual Hawai'i Pacific University Sea Turtle Workshop: Loggerheads of the North Pacific & STRETCH International Mid-point Team Meeting



October 9-10, 2025 – Hawai'i Pacific University, Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA



Meeting report of the 5TH Annual Hawai'i Pacific University Sea Turtle Workshop: Loggerheads of the North Pacific & STRETCH International Mid-point Team Meeting

Meeting Summary

Building on Hawai'i Pacific University's (HPU's) long history of hosting annual sea turtle meetings, the 2025 meeting marks the 5th annual event at HPU and brought together scientists, educators, students, and conservation practitioners for two days of scientific meetings during which past and future research efforts were discussed among the STRETCH research team and also a series of inspiring oral presentations were given to the public.

On Day 1 (9 October 2025) members of the Loggerhead STRETCH team from Japan, Mexico and the United States discussed past successes of the Loggerhead STRETCH project and ideas for project expansion. The meeting began with introductions of the entire team, including participants connecting via remote video. Initial discussion focused on STRETCH team member and physical oceanographer Dr. Philippe Gaspar's plans to analyze sea turtle movements and ocean circulation patterns. The team reviewed their progress on analyzing swimming velocities and dispersal patterns of loggerhead turtles, including seasonal migrations and model improvements, while also discussing the movements of loggerheads into coastal waters of North America. The group also explored various conservation and management approaches, including co-management strategies, satellite tag programming improvements, and survival rate studies, while also emphasizing the importance of international collaboration and community engagement in protecting North Pacific loggerhead turtle populations across their range [see below for a more detailed summary of Day 1 discussions]. The day finished a group dinner at the Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant located at HPU Aloha Tower, with all participants paying individually for their meals.

On Day 2, public registrants were treated to an all-day workshop at Hawai'i Pacific University's Aloha Tower Marketplace Campus in Downtown Honolulu, with many of the World's premier sea turtle scientists and loggerhead experts present research and conservation findings to the public. The event was free of charge and included an on-line, virtual format in addition to the in-person meeting that convened at HPU. The day was filled with explorations of the amazing North Pacific Loggerhead turtle; a total of 16 oral presentations were given, with themes including the history of the Loggerhead STRETCH project, satellite telemetry data analysis, Port of Nagoya Aquarium's loggerhead research and rearing program, loggerhead nesting biology and trends in Japan, population genetics, health and necropsy, educational outreach, loggerhead presence in Pacific Mexico, and their use of oceanic habitats across the North Pacific. There were three additional talks scheduled for Day 2, but were cancelled due to government furlough constraints. For a listing of all talks, please see the Meeting Program at the end of this report. For more information, please see www.LoggerheadStretch.org and the STRETCH blog at <https://stretchupdates.blogspot.com/2025/06/stretch-updates-cohort-4.html>

Day 1 – Summary of STRETCH Group Discussions

The first day of the meeting was convened with in person and virtual participants at Hawai'i Pacific University's Pioneer Plaza in downtown Honolulu. The group included members of the STRETCH research team from Japan, Mexico and the United States, as well as colleagues from Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL), Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium, and Hawai'i Pacific University. Attendees had engaging discussions with input from nearly everyone present. The Day 1 discussion themes and outcomes are summarized below:

Sea Turtle Ocean Research Planning: The meeting began with introductions, including STRETCH team member Dr. Philippe Gaspar, a physical oceanographer who presented his work plan, which includes three main tasks: analyzing sea turtle movement patterns using satellite tracking data, developing ocean circulation models to understand how the ocean controls turtle movements, and creating a database of historical sea turtle observations. The group discussed logistics for the study plan and identified paths forward for future research activities.

Loggerhead Turtle Dispersal Analysis: The STRETCH team discussed their progress on analyzing swimming velocities and dispersal patterns of loggerhead turtles. Dr. Gaspar explained that they have reprocessed Argos data and computed drift-corrected velocities, but noted that the current drift correction may not be accurate in the California current system (where many of the tracked loggerhead turtles are located currently). Dr. Gaspar and colleagues are working to improve this estimation using the Mercator model; their team has observed seasonal migrations and homing behavior in the turtles, which aligns with previous findings from the 'legacy tracking dataset'. The group discussed the possibility of using different modeling approaches and ideas for future telemetry research questions, including analyzing satellite tracked movements over longer time frames of up to 4 years.

Loggerhead Turtle Movement Patterns: The group discussed loggerhead turtle movements in the Pacific, particularly focusing on their expansion into new areas like the Gulf of California and along the Pacific coast of Mexico. STRETCH team member Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff highlighted the need to explore mechanisms behind these movements, while Dr. Gaspar noted that their models initially overestimated loggerhead presence in the Gulf of California. The team agreed to form a working group to investigate these coastal habitats and their oceanographic conditions, with a focus on understanding seasonal movements and habitat use. They also discussed the potential for habitat-dependent growth in their models and the importance of considering changing ocean conditions that may affect turtle movements and prey availability.

Marine Conservation and Fisheries Management: The team discussed the challenges and opportunities for using STRETCH telemetry data to inform management of commercial fisheries and protecting marine life, particularly turtles. The team highlighted the need to balance fishing activities with conservation efforts, mentioning the success of the Turtle Watch program (Howell et al. 2008) and the potential value of mobile marine protected areas. The group explored the importance of analyzing stomach contents of dead turtles to understand their diet and reasons why loggerheads may move into specific areas. Dr. Turner Tomaszewicz and others noted ongoing efforts to collect and analyze such data, though mentioning that limitations exist due to decomposition and offshore (i.e.

inaccessible) strandings. The discussion also touched on the sensitive issue of bycatch, with interest expressed in collaboration with fishing communities and organizations in Mexico to address this issue.

Sea Turtle Genetic Diversity Study: The team discussed genetic and behavioral variations in sea turtle cohorts, focusing on habitat differences and the potential impact of multiple paternity on population genetic structure. They explored the idea of evaluating genetic variability effects on released cohorts by releasing turtles from different nesting beaches. The group also discussed developing hormone tests to determine sex ratios of STRETCH loggerheads.

STRETCH Project Progress Update: The meeting discussed the STRETCH project's progress and future plans, including STRETCH publications to date, as well as presentations at future scientific meetings (see below). The team also discussed and applauded Larry Crowder's pending visit to the MOL office in Tokyo on November 7th. Looking ahead, the team also discussed the need to fill knowledge gaps, particularly regarding nesting female return rates (i.e. nesting remigrations), and the importance of international cooperation in managing and protecting oceanic loggerhead populations.

Loggerhead Turtle Conservation Collaboration: The discussion focused on conservation efforts for loggerhead sea turtles across the North Pacific, highlighting successful social and cultural exchanges between fishing communities in Japan and Baja, Mexico.

Global Sea Turtle Co-management Strategies: The discussion focused on co-management approaches for sea turtle conservation, particularly examining different models across global regions and their effectiveness. Ms. Cat Lee Hing described experiences in Belize where successful co-management often involves NGOs working alongside government agencies, though fisheries management in the region has faced challenges due to limited resources and outdated regulations. The conversation explored how different cultural and political contexts affect management approaches, with examples from Japan, Mexico, and other regions, highlighting the need for tailored solutions. The group discussed the importance of knowledge sharing and community engagement, noting that successful conservation requires understanding both local needs and international connectivity of turtle populations.

Satellite Tag Transmission Optimization: The team discussed extending the transmission time of satellite tags to improve data collection and battery life. Philippe proposed testing longer transmission periods, given the new Argos satellite constellation's improved coverage. The value of long-term data collection for giving scientific insights and the need to balance science benefits with animal welfare were discussed. The team agreed to test the new transmission settings using existing data and consider extending tag lifetimes to several years.

Tag Deployment Extension Strategy: The team discussed extending tag deployments from 2026 to 4 years, but concerns were raised about funding Argos fees beyond the 4 years of the current STRETCH funding period. The trade-offs between high-resolution daily data versus longer-term deployments were also discussed. The group agreed to brainstorm new scientific questions and technological approaches, while Dr. Crowder emphasized the need to make a strong case to funders for any future extensions beyond the current project's scope.

Loggerhead Turtle Survival Success: The team talked about the survival rates of loggerhead turtles equipped with satellite tags, with members expressing satisfaction with the apparent survival of STRETCH-tracked turtles. Mr. Balazs highlighted the importance of this finding, emphasizing that it contradicts earlier, less optimistic predictions about survival of satellite-tagged turtles. The group discussed the potential for additional conservation opportunities in rearing turtles for research. The team also explored the possibility of analyzing survival rates using existing data sets and considered forming a working group to address sampling issues. The conversation ended with expressions of gratitude to key participants and a plan to continue discussions after the workshop.

Day 1 – Next Steps and Action Items

By the close of Day 1, team STRETCH developed a list of action items to be completed in the future. These include (in no particular order):

- Dana Briscoe and Jeff Polovina will revise the current draft paper with Philippe and Julien's drift-corrected track analysis prior to submission to *Frontiers in Marine Science*.
- Dana Briscoe, Jeff Polovina, Jeff Seminoff, and Alberto Abreu Grobois will form a working group to analyze turtle movements in the Baja California area.
- Alberto Abreu Grobois will explore opportunities for collecting stomach content samples from dead turtles found in offshore waters of the Gulf of Ulloa to distinguish their diet from coastal turtles.
- Stanford graduate students will analyze the data to determine what resolution of tracking data is necessary to understand turtle decision-making / navigating in surface current fields and temperature gradients.
- Wildlife Computers team will provide information on how to optimize tag programming for longer battery life while maintaining adequate data collection at the necessary temporal resolution.
- The STRETCH and Wildlife Computers teams will analyze existing data to determine the impact of reducing transmission frequency on data quality.
- The STRETCH and Wildlife Computers teams will investigate the new Argos/Kineis satellite constellation capabilities for improving tag transmission efficiency.
- Larry Crowder will visit the MOL office in Tokyo on November 7th to provide a briefing on the STRETCH project.
- Larry Crowder also will give a talk at the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium on November 14th.
- Stanford graduate students will consider writing a paper on the survival rates of the STRETCH turtles.

- Tomoko Hamabata will examine multiple paternity in the turtle cohorts and compare their movement patterns. STRETCH leadership will explore funding opportunities to make this work possible.
- Larry Crowder will arrange a visit to San Diego for the students to meet with Jeff Seminoff at NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Day 2 – 5th HPU Sea Turtle Workshop Agenda and Presentation Summary

The second day of the meeting included presentations in a public forum at Hawai'i Pacific University's Aloha Tower Marketplace Campus in Downtown Honolulu by an array of scientific experts on North Pacific loggerhead turtles. In addition to the in-person meeting, an online Zoom link enabled virtual participation by dozens of attendees. Below is a summary of the day's activities listed in order of presentation. A total of 19 presentations, in addition to the opening ceremony and dedications, were scheduled, although there were three cancellations of presentations by NOAA Scientists due to the U.S. government furlough. Because of this, presentation times listed below are not exact, especially in the afternoon. See Appendix 1 for Workshop Agenda and additional details about the meeting. See Appendix 2 for presenter biographical sketches. An audio-visual recording of the entire Day 2 workshop with presentations is available for viewing at: https://youtu.be/_pqxvHiVdTO. The three cancelled presentations will be video recorded at a later date and also made available for viewing.

5th HPU Sea Turtle Workshop Agenda

800-830am	Opening Ceremonies
	<p>Ceremonial Hawaiian Blessing by Kahu Hanai Danny Akaka, Jr. and wife, Anna Akaka</p> <p>Welcome remarks by Dr. Brenda Jensen, Acting HPU Provost</p> <p>Dedication of the HPU STRETCH Workshop to Dr. Itaru Uchida, Founding Director of the magnificent Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium by Director Masanori Kurita and George Balazs, and dedication to Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, champion of Baja's Japanese Loggerheads, by Jeffrey Seminoff</p> <p>Recognition of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines represented by Ms. Kanako Ota from Japan</p> <p>Recognition of Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium by George Balazs</p>
830-845am	The Genesis and Evolution of Loggerhead STRETCH: What Sea Turtles Have to Teach Us About a Changing Ocean. <i>Larry Crowder and George Balazs</i>
845-900am	Small Turtles in a Big Ocean: Insights from Satellite Tracking of Loggerhead Sea Turtles as They Navigate the Central North Pacific. <i>Jeffrey Polovina</i>

- 900-915am Emerging Insights from the STRETCH Project: Juvenile North Pacific Loggerheads as Sentinels of Ocean Change. *Dana Briscoe*
- 915-930am The Active Dispersal Scenario of Juvenile North Pacific Loggerhead Turtles Revealed by Historical Satellite Tracking Data and Novel Operational Oceanography Products. *Philippe Gaspar* (via Zoom)
- 930-945am Breeding and Rearing Loggerhead Turtles at Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium. *Masanori Mori and Masanori Kurita*
- 945-1000am The Features of Nesting Environment of the STRETCH Turtle Birth Beach. *Noah Yamaguchi and Tomomi Saito*
- 1000-1030am Morning Break and Group Photos with Workshop
- 1030-1045am Loggerhead Turtle Nesting Trend on Kochi Beach from 2009 to 2024. *Tomomi Saito, Noah Yamaguchi, and Koki Sugiura*
- 1045-1100am Migratory Routes and Responses to the Marine Environment of Female Loggerhead Turtles Visiting the Waters off Kochi Prefecture. *Koki Sugiura, Noah Yamaguchi and Tomomi Saito*
- 1100-1115am Same Clutch, Different Journeys? A Research Proposal to Explore the Genetic Background of Movement Variability in Loggerhead Turtles. *Tomoko Hamabata*
- 1115-1130am Wildlife Computers Inc: A Brief History, Current and Ongoing Projects, and Direct Involvement with STRETCH. *Matthew Rutishauser*
- 1130-1145pm Necropsy Findings of North Pacific Loggerheads. *Thierry Work*
- 1145-1200pm Robert Ahrens - Loggerheads at Loggerheads: Managing Turtle Interactions in Hawaii's Tuna Fishery. [CANCELLED]
- 1200-1215pm Group Discussion
- 1215-145pm Lunch
- 145-200pm Learning Through Turtles: Educational Opportunities with STRETCH. *Laura Jim*
- 200-215pm Engaging the Public: Our Blog as a Tool for STRETCH Outreach. *Marc Rice*
- 215-230pm Loggerheads in the Eastern North Pacific: From Local Enigma to Conservation Flashpoint. *Jeffrey Seminoff* (Zoom) - [CANCELLED]
- 230-245pm Demography and Habitat Use of Loggerheads along the North American West Coast: Insights from Skeletochronology and Stable Isotope Analysis. *Cali Turner Tomaszewicz* (Zoom) - [CANCELLED]

- 245-300pm What do STRETCH Loggerheads Tell Us About Their Recruitment into Mexican Habitats, and How can STRETCH Contribute to Loggerhead Conservation in Baja California? *Alberto Abreu Grobois*
- 300-315pm Loggerhead Landscape, Landmarks Frequented During Transpacific Travels. *Denise Parker*
- 315-330pm Habitat Suitability and Transboundary Considerations of Loggerhead Sea Turtles in the Eastern North Pacific. *Bianca Silva Santos*
- 330-400pm Group Discussions, Questions & Answers, Closing Blessing

Acknowledgements

The entire STRETCH team gratefully acknowledges and appreciates all the efforts of our HPU Host, Acting Provost Dr. Brenda Jensen as well as HPU's Jeannie Manzano for their amazing support and assistance with the 5th HPU Sea Turtle Workshop organization. Hawai'i Pacific University were tremendous in their logistical and meeting space support. We appreciate all the presenters, participants, and attendees for these meetings; your enthusiasm and support throughout the meeting helped make it a huge success. We also acknowledge the strong collaboration between STRETCH, the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium, and Wildlife Computers. This project would not be possible without these collaborations. We also are very thankful to MOL for their very significant involvement in the success of the STRETCH project via provision of ships and logistic support for transporting loggerhead turtles to the Pacific high seas. This report is based partially on AI meeting summary outputs.

Literature Cited in the Report

Howell EA, Kobayashi DR, Parker DM, Balazs GH, Polovina JJ. TurtleWatch: a tool to aid in the bycatch reduction of loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* in the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery. *Endangered Species Research*. 2008 Dec 23;5(2-3):267-78.

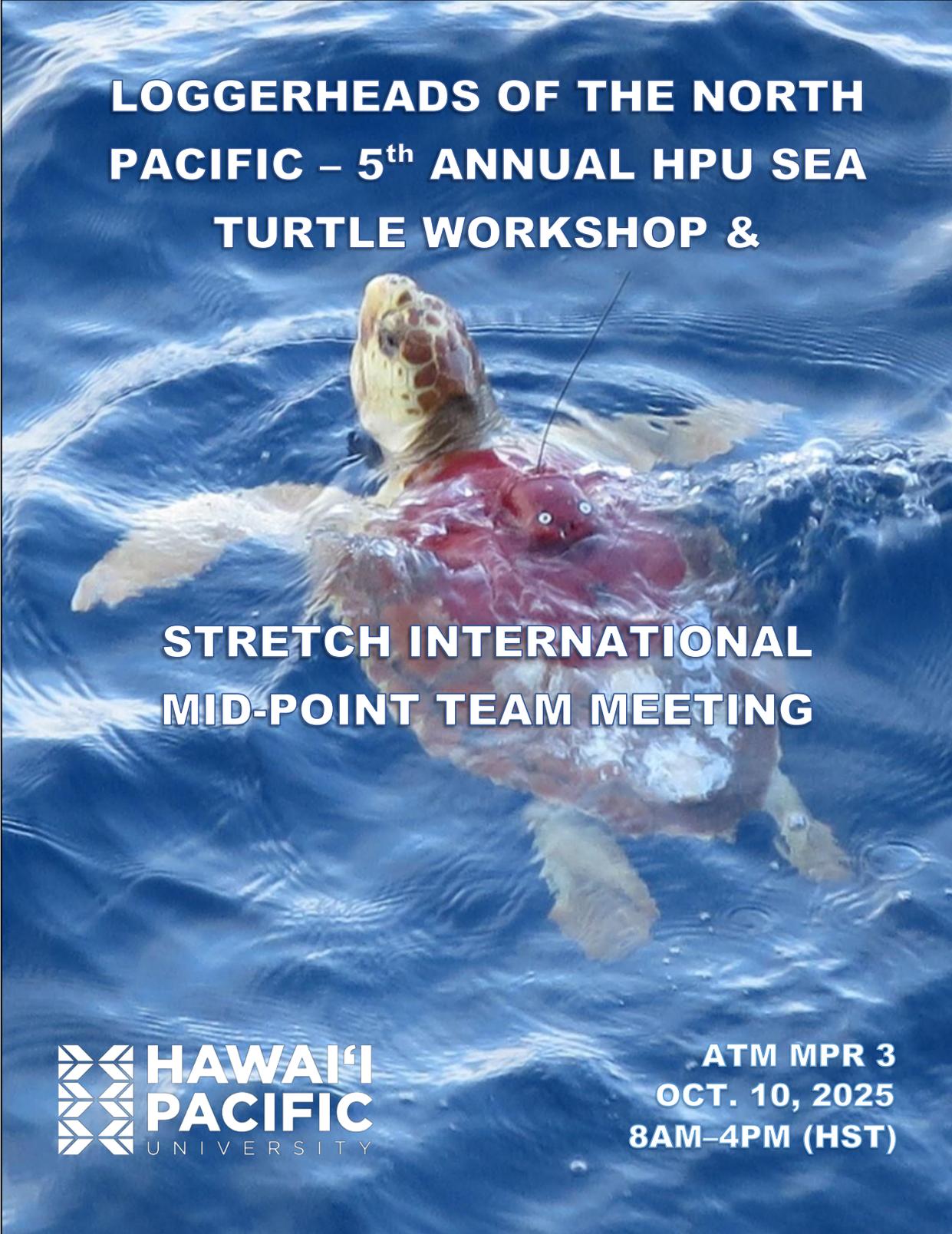
STRETCH Key Publications

Briscoe DK, Crowder LB, Balazs GH, Seminoff JA, Abreu Grobois A, Lee Hing CA, Kurita M, Mori M, Parker DM, Rice MR, Saito T, Santos BS, Turner Tomaszewicz CN, Yamaguchi N, Polovina JJ. 2025. Multi-decade northward shift of loggerhead sea turtle pelagic habitat as the eastern North Pacific Transition Zone becomes more oligotrophic. *Front. Mar. Sci.* 11:1513162. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2024.1513162

Briscoe DK, Crowder LB, Balazs GH, Seminoff JA, Abreu Grobois A, Gaspar P, Lee Hing CA, Jim L, Kurita M, Mori M, Oshima Y, Parker DM, Rice MR, Saito T, Santos BS, Sugiura K, Temple-Boyer J, Turner

Tomaszewicz CN, Yamaguchi N, Polovina JJ. "Promise or Peril in a Warming Ocean? An Emergent Pathway Leads North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtles into the northern California Current System" (In prep).

APPENDIX 1: WORKSHOP AGENDA



**LOGGERHEADS OF THE NORTH
PACIFIC – 5th ANNUAL HPU SEA
TURTLE WORKSHOP &**

**STRETCH INTERNATIONAL
MID-POINT TEAM MEETING**



**ATM MPR 3
OCT. 10, 2025
8AM-4PM (HST)**



LOGGERHEADS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC: A DAY OF EXPLORING THE AMAZING TRANSPACIFIC WORLD OF LOGGERHEAD TURTLES IN A CHANGING OCEAN FROM JAPAN TO NORTH AMERICA AND RETURN

730am Complimentary Coffee, Tea, and Pastries. Registration Check-In. Free Parking Validation. Socializing and Seating.

800-830am Opening Ceremonies (Start of Zoom)

Ceremonial Hawaiian Blessing by Kahu Hanai Danny Akaka, Jr. and wife, Anna Akaka

Welcome remarks by Dr. Brenda Jensen, Acting HPU Provost

Director Masanori Kurita, George Balazs, & Jeffrey Seminoff - Dedication of the HPU STRETCH Workshop to **Dr. Itaru Uchida**, Founding Director of the magnificent Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium and to **Dr. Wallace J. Nichols**, champion of Baja's Japanese Loggerheads

Recognition of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines represented by Ms. Kanako Ota from Japan



Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium

PRESENTATIONS

1 - 830-845am - Larry Crowder and George Balazs - The Genesis and Evolution of Loggerhead STRETCH: What Sea Turtles Have to Teach Us About a Changing Ocean.



2 - 845-900am – Jeffrey Polovina - Small Turtles in a Big Ocean: Insights from Satellite Tracking of Loggerhead Sea Turtles as They Navigate the Central North Pacific.

3 - 900-915am - Dana Briscoe - Emerging Insights from the STRETCH Project: Juvenile North Pacific Loggerheads as Sentinels of Ocean Change.

4 - 915-930am - Philippe Gaspar (Zoom) - The Active Dispersal Scenario of Juvenile North Pacific Loggerhead Turtles Revealed by Historical Satellite Tracking Data and Novel Operational Oceanography Products.

5 - 930-945am - Masanori Mori and Masanori Kurita – Breeding and Rearing Loggerhead Turtles at Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium.

6 - 945-1000am - Noah Yamaguchi and Tomomi Saito – The Features of Nesting Environment of the STRETCH Turtle Birth Beach.

1000-1030am - Morning Break and Group Photos with Workshop Banner



7 - 1030-1045am - Tomomi Saito, Noah Yamaguchi, and Koki Sugiura – Loggerhead Turtle Nesting Trend on Kochi Beach from 2009 to 2024.

8 - 1045-1100am - Koki Sugiura, Noah Yamaguchi and Tomomi Saito - Migratory Routes and Responses to the Marine Environment of Female Loggerhead Turtles Visiting the Waters off Kochi Prefecture.

9 - 1100-1115am - Tomoko Hamabata - Same Clutch, Different Journeys? A Research Proposal to Explore the Genetic Background of Movement Variability in Loggerhead Turtles.

10 - 1115-1130am - Matthew Rufishauser - Wildlife Computers Inc: A Brief History, Current and Ongoing Projects, and Direct Involvement with STRETCH.

11 - 1130-1145pm - Thierry Work - Necropsy Findings of North Pacific Loggerheads.

12 - 1145-1200pm - Robert Ahrens - Loggerheads at Loggerheads: Managing Turtle Interactions in Hawaii's Tuna Fishery. [CANCELLED]

1200-1215pm Group Discussions, Questions & Answers

1215-145pm Lunch - On your own with Friends Old and New

13 - 145-200pm - Laura Jim - Learning Through Turtles: educational Opportunities with STRETCH.

14 - 200-215pm - Marc Rice - Engaging The Public: Our Blog as a Tool for STRETCH Outreach.

15 - 215-230pm - Jeffrey Seminoff (Zoom) - Loggerheads in the Eastern North Pacific: From Local Enigma to Conservation Flashpoint. [CANCELLED]

16 - 230-245pm - Cali Turner Tomaszewicz (Zoom) - Demography and Habitat Use of Loggerheads along the North American West Coast: Insights from Skeletochronology and Stable Isotope Analysis. [CANCELLED]



17 - 245-300pm - Alberto Abreu - What do STRETCH Loggerheads Tell Us About Their Recruitment into Mexican Habitats, and How can STRETCH Contribute to Loggerhead Conservation in Baja California?

18 - 300-315pm - Denise Parker - Loggerhead Landscape, Landmarks Frequented During Transpacific Travels.

19 - 315-330pm - Bianca Silva Santos - Habitat Suitability and Transboundary Considerations of Loggerhead Sea Turtles in the Eastern North Pacific.

330-400pm - Group Discussions, Questions & Answers, Closing Blessing

In memory of . . .



Dr. Itaru Uchida and George Balazs



Dr. Jeffrey Seminoff and Dr. Wallace J. Nichols

We dedicate the 5th HPU Sea Turtle Workshop to the memory of **Dr. Itaru Uchida**, Founding Director of the magnificent Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium and to the memory of **Dr. Wallace J. Nichols**, champion of Mexico's Baja California Japanese loggerhead turtles.



MOL Firmament Ace



Loggerhead Release on the High Seas

HAWAI'I PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Hawai'i Pacific University would like to acknowledge the 'āina, the root culture, and the Indigenous People of Hawai'i. We also acknowledge how their wisdom and love have shaped Hawai'i in sustainable ways that allow us to enjoy these gifts today. We recognize the pain, sorrow, and multiple intergenerational losses that have been and continue to be inflicted on Kānaka Maoli. As an HPU community, both Indigenous and allies, we offer gratitude for the land itself, for those who have stewarded it for generations, and for the opportunity to learn, grow, work, and live in solidarity with one another. We commit to honoring Aloha, Pono, Kuleana. Holomua Me Ka 'Oia'i'o (move forward with truth).

APPENDIX 2: DAY 2 PRESENTER BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES (IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION)

Larry Crowder is the Edward F. Ricketts Provostial Professor of Marine Ecology and Conservation at Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability and a senior fellow at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. He is also an Affiliated Faculty at Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and Professor by Courtesy, Departments of Biology and Environmental Social Sciences. Current Interdisciplinary Projects include Dynamic Ocean Management in Costa Rica (DYNAMAR), Sea Turtle Research Experiment on the Thermal Corridor Hypothesis (STRETCH) and Traits-based tools to inform cross-jurisdictional fisheries management under climate change. He is an AAAS Fellow and was awarded Duke University's Scholar/Teacher of the year award in 2008-2009. Larry was recently named National Geographic Explorer and received a lifetime achievement award from the International Sea Turtle Society.

Jeffrey Polovina is a marine ecosystem and fisheries scientist who worked at NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center for 38 years directing and conducting marine ecosystem research. Early in his career he developed the Ecopath ecosystem model however much of his research was focused on advancing our understanding of the impacts of fisheries and climate dynamics on the subtropical pelagic ecosystem with a focus on highly mobile species including loggerhead sea turtles.

Dana Briscoe is a Lead Data Scientist with Stanford University. She has a background in oceanography and marine ecology and holds a PhD from the University of California Santa Cruz. She is a STRETCH co-PI and was lead author of the 2021 Thermal Corridor paper from which the STRETCH program arose. Dana will be sharing some of the key scientific insights gained from the project thus far and how the STRETCH turtles are serving as important ecosystem sentinels of a rapidly changing ocean.

Philippe Gaspar is an Engineer in Applied Mathematics and a Doctor in Physical Oceanography from the University of Louvain (Belgium). As a postdoc at the French Met Office and then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he worked on the development of numerical ocean models and assimilation of satellite data in these models. In 1990, he became Head of the Satellite Oceanography Division of CLS-Argos (France), a team that pioneered the development of satellite altimeter products for sea level studies. In the 2000s, he developed a new field of activity at CLS focusing on the improvement and interpretation of marine animal's satellite tracking data. He is now a retired volunteer scientist at Mercator Ocean (France) where he co-develops the Sea Turtle Active Movement Model (STAMM), aiming to better understand the swimming activity of juvenile sea turtles.

Masanori Mori has been an aquarium keeper for 26 years and currently cares for sea turtles. Being part of the STRETCH project has been a highlight of my career, and he is grateful to share his passion with you today.

Noah Yamaguchi is a Ph.D. student of Professor Tomomi Saito's laboratory at Kochi University. His research-life started with assessing population abundance of green turtles in the Yaeyama Islands by mark-recapture methods and drone surveys. Now, he researches the nesting environments for North Pacific loggerhead turtles. He joined STRETCH for MOL voyages in 2023 and 2024 as a caretaker of Cohorts 1 & 2.

Tomomi Saito, Ph.D., is a Professor at the Usa Marine Biological Institute, Kochi University. He earned his Ph.D. in Science from the University of Tokyo and previously worked at the Port of Nagoya Public Aquarium, specializing in sea turtle reproduction and conservation. His research focuses on the biology, ecology, and conservation of sea turtles, as well as marine and freshwater ecology and crustacean systematics. He has authored over 60 scientific papers, serves as Editor-in-Chief of an international journal, and is a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

Koki Sugiura is an undergraduate student at Kochi University. He used to work at the Muroto Schoolhouse Aquarium, operated by the Sea Turtle Association of Japan, where he was involved in bycatch and nesting surveys of sea turtles. Aspiring to study satellite tracking, he transferred to Kochi University and joined the STRETCH project as a turtle caretaker, starting from the voyage of Cohort-III.

Tomoko Hamabata has conducted long-term research focused on green turtles, that uses population genetics to study genetic diversity, connectivity, and local adaptations in coastal ecosystems. More recently, she has begun working on loggerhead turtles in Japan, with an initial focus on genetic structure and diversity. Building on this foundation and through collaboration within the STRETCH project, she would like to explore the genetic basis of movement patterns and individual variability in migration.

Matthew Rutishauser works at Wildlife Computers and lives in Seattle, Washington, USA. Matt started off his career as a Lab Technician and Field Biologist at U.C. Santa Cruz working primarily with marine mammals. He then transitioned to building tags as an Engineer, and now is a Technical Product Manager guiding development of new tags at Wildlife Computers. Favorite field site: Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica. Favorite conference: Bio-Logging. Favorite ice cream flavor: Scout Mint.

Thierry M. Work is currently the project leader for the 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.

Robert Ahrens is a fisheries scientist at NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and former Associate Professor at the University of Florida. He specializes in quantitative modeling, bycatch estimation, and management strategy evaluation. His work integrates advanced statistical methods and policy frameworks to improve sustainable fishery management and reduce bycatch impacts. [PRESENTATION CANCELLED]

Laura Jim is a seasoned educator at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on the Big Island, where she serves as Co-Director of the school's Sea Turtle Research and Stranding Program. She is dedicated to advancing HPA's mission by providing students with exceptional, hands-on learning experiences while supporting sea turtle research and community education. A passionate environmentalist, she actively contributes to stranding response, fishing line recycling, and coastal cleanups across Hawai'i Island.

Marc Rice is a marine biologist and former administrator at Hawaii Preparatory Academy (HPA). He has been involved with the school since 1971, holding various roles including science teacher, director of studies, and assistant headmaster. Since 1987, Rice has been a director of the HPA Sea Turtle Research Program, a cooperative partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He is currently Co-Director of the Program along with Laura Jim. The program involves students in hands-on field expeditions to capture, tag, measure, and conduct health assessments primarily on green turtles.

Rice has conducted or been part of over 400 field expeditions in Hawai'i and other locations like Japan, Australia, American Samoa, Palmyra Atoll, Lalo Island, Singapore, Vanuatu, and Fiji. Although he retired from HPA in 2024, he remains active in sea turtle research.

Jeffrey Seminoff is Leader of the Marine Turtle Ecology & Assessment Program at NOAA-Southwest Fisheries Science Center in La Jolla, California. Since 1992 Jeffrey has been involved in ecological research and conservation of sea turtles. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Arizona (2000) and was a post-doc at the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida before joining NOAA in 2002. Seminoff is a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle and IUCN Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Groups, and is Past-President of the International Sea Turtle Society (2011). His research uses innovative approaches such as stable isotope analysis, biotelemetry, and aerial surveys to study sea turtles around the world. [PRESENTATION CANCELLED]

Cali Turner Tomaszewicz is a Research Biologist at NOAA Fisheries' Southwest Fisheries Science Center in the Marine Mammal & Turtle Division. Cali began working with NOAA's Marine Turtle Ecology & Assessment Program in 2008, and focused on North Pacific Loggerheads during her PhD at the University of California San Diego in collaboration with NOAA and Grupo Tortuguero in Baja California, Mexico. During her PhD, she developed methods to use the bones from dead stranded turtles recovered along the Baja Pacific coast to combine skeletochronology (the analysis of bone growth layers) and stable isotope analysis, to investigate the age demographics and habitat movement patterns of North Pacific loggerheads recovered in this region, resulting in two publications. This work helped lay some of the groundwork for the STRETCH research project in investigating when loggerheads appear to recruit to the North American coast in the seminal 2021 Thermal Corridor paper, and Cali is still using the same techniques - and more - to help further our understanding of these turtles in cooperation with the NOAA stranding response teams and the US West Coast Sea Turtle Stranding Program partners. [PRESENTATION CANCELLED]

Alberto Abreu is a Research Scientist and Professor at the Mazatlán Unit of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Limnology, part of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). His core expertise lies in the population genetics of sea turtles, with a broader research interest in integrating genetic data with satellite telemetry to illuminate how behavioral patterns influence conservation outcomes.

Denise Parker currently lives in Newport, Oregon. She began her career working with Hawaii's Division of Land and Natural Resources Aquatic Division in 1989. She joined the National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Lab, which later became the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1991. Denise first supported research on lobster and bottom fish before joining the Marine Turtle Research Program in 1994, working with sea turtles throughout the Pacific. Her main focus has been telemetry and tracking different species of sea turtles, including green, olive ridley, hawksbill, leatherback and loggerheads. In 2016, she became an independent researcher, a co-chair of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group for Ocean for a number of years and is contributing to the STRETCH program as well as continuing to assist in sea turtle research around the Pacific.

Bianca Santos is an interdisciplinary marine scientist with expertise at the intersections of marine conservation, policy, and social-ecological systems. She recently completed her PhD in Environment and Resources at Stanford University, where her research focused on the adaptive management of highly migratory marine species from science, policy, and societal perspectives. She is currently the Global Ocean Program Associate with The Nature Conservancy and a research consultant with Loggerhead STRETCH.

In Memory of

Dr. Itaru Uchida

Founding Director of the magnificent Port of Nagoya Public
Aquarium

&

Dr. Wallace J. Nichols

Champion of Baja's Japanese Loggerheads

