



George Balazs <honumazu@gmail.com>

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## Re: About attachment & programming- Re: "La Nina Could End Soon"

1 message

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森 昌範 <m-mori@nagoyaminato.or.jp>

Sat, Jan 10, 2026 at 6:42 PM

To: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>, Marc Rice <mrice@hpa.edu>, Jeffrey Polovina <polovinajeff@gmail.com>

Cc: STRETCH Google Groups <loggerhead-stretch@googlegroups.com>

Hi All,

We will continue to monitor the TTT tag that is still attached to the carapace of turtle 5333.

In my view, the primary factor leading to tag detachment is not the duration of attachment itself, but rather the growth that occurs while the tag is attached. What turtle 5333 has shown us is a single case in which a tag attached at an SCL of 30 cm detached when the turtle reached an SCL of 45 cm. In the case of turtle 5333, which was reared at water temperatures of approximately 24–27°C, this growth occurred over a period of 567 days.

By contrast, at water temperatures of around 18°C—where many of the released turtles are distributed—how many days would it take for a turtle to grow from 30 cm to 45 cm SCL? Even if food were abundant, it would almost certainly take far longer than 567 days at 18°C to reach that size.

We would like to consider whether this could be tested at our aquarium. Specifically, this would involve rearing several loggerhead turtles of approximately 30 cm SCL at a water temperature of 18°C and recording how long it takes them to reach 45 cm SCL. Establishing a benchmark for growth rates of loggerheads at 18°C would provide valuable input for developing more precise tag programming.

Even if we decide to pursue this experiment, we are currently unable to secure 30 cm SCL loggerhead turtles immediately, so this should be considered a longer-term objective.

Masanori MORI

-----Original Message-----

差出人: "George Balazs" <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

宛先: "Marc Rice" <mrice@hpa.edu>, "Jeffrey Polovina" <polovinajeff@gmail.com>

C C: "STRETCH Google Groups" <loggerhead-stretch@googlegroups.com>

件名: About attachment & programming- Re: "La Nina Could End Soon"

日時: 2026年01月09日(金) 05:39(+0900)

Happily, in the last 24 hours we have received high-value information from Mori-san. That being that our mock sat-tagged turtle's transmitter (a Cohort II turtle tag 5333 kept in captivity) just detached yesterday after 567 days. AND that by all appearance, no true harm has mechanically occurred to the turtle. So, secure and safe attachment for 567 days is a timeline we can take into serious consideration for programming Cohort IV. However, as per Marc's Blog, as of yesterday there are 11 Cohort II turtles still transmitting. Hence, they have tags still securely attached! What we don't know is how **safe** (mechanically to the turtle) that attachment is post-567 days. From my perspective, it's a good bet that they are totally safe. But... science proof is and will be lacking. So, what should we do about programming Cohort IV tags? Realizing there are folks out there with doubts about what we are doing, and how we are doing it with captive-reared loggerheads (note I consider that a Good thing, not a bad thing), I vote for consistency- that is, program the Cohort IV the same as Cohort II and III. And, of course, leave the growth rate the same as it was Cohort II and III- meaning enhance the three for Splash tags and do 'status quo' for the other 25 of Cohort IV. gb

Note- the mock turtle 5333 is still carrying the mock TTT tag for Rowan Wildlife Computer Inc. so hoping that Mori-san can continue that part of the experiment until more discussion can occur- when we are all

there in June.

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**From:** Marc Rice <[mrice@hpa.edu](mailto:mrice@hpa.edu)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 8, 2026 8:06 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey Polovina <[polovinajeff@gmail.com](mailto:polovinajeff@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** George Balazs <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)>; STRETCH Google Groups <[loggerhead-stretch@googlegroups.com](mailto:loggerhead-stretch@googlegroups.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: "La Nina Could End Soon"

Jeff, et al.,  
In addition to the discussion about turtle size, perhaps we want to revisit the question about programming the tags for Cohort IV. Do we keep the same configuration we had for C II and C III or do we go for longer battery life? Just a reminder that June will be here before we know it!!! :)

Regards,  
Marc

**Marc R. Rice**

Co-Director, HPA Sea Turtle Research Program

[turtle.hpa.edu](http://turtle.hpa.edu)

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Grandparent '16, '18, '19



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On Thu, Jan 8, 2026 at 9:59 AM Jeffrey Polovina <[polovinajeff@gmail.com](mailto:polovinajeff@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thanks George, I've attached the latest forecast showing increased chances of La Nina at the end of this year. So yes given the environmental variability I concur it makes sense to stick with our current design for cohort 4. Jeff

On Thu, Jan 8, 2026 at 9:42 AM George Balazs <[itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com](mailto:itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com)> wrote:

"There is a 75% chance that the current La Niña conditions, which bring a cascade of global weather impacts, will fade out between now and the end of March, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center reported on Thursday."

Full Article-

[La Niña could end soon. Here's what California can expect.](#)

Aloha Stretch- Perhaps this is another good reason why we should hold firm to the same consistent study design for sizes of turtles, as per Mori-san, that we used in Cohorts I through III. Doing that still gives us, post Cohort IV release, a total of 9 larger-sized turtles- e.g., the ones that receive Splash tags (3+3+3= 9). gb

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