

HONOKŌHAU HARBOR: A FORAGING AND RESTING HOTSPOT FOR HONU'EA HAWKSBILL AND HONU GREEN TURTLES IN THE EXPANDING HABITAT WORLD OF HAWAIIAN SEA TURTLES

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Recent decades have brought about a substantially improved conservation outlook for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and, to a lesser extent, hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in the Hawaiian Islands. Expanding habitats, new foraging opportunities, and increasing numbers have been documented, providing frequent opportunities for residents and visitors to observe turtles in nearshore environments. While green turtles have long been known to use Honokōhau Small Boat Harbor in Kona, the occurrence of hawksbill turtles at this site is a relatively new phenomenon. This project involved weekly surveys of the harbor over a 16-month period, totaling 68 observation days, during which photographs were taken to identify each turtle primarily through flipper scale patterns. Turtle locations, behaviors, and additional observations were recorded. A total of 20 green turtles and 9 hawksbill turtles were individually identified. Findings from this work enhance our understanding of how both species use this anthropogenic harbor habitat and will support future efforts to protect these individuals and the resources they depend on.

UPDATED GENETIC ASSESMENT OF OLIVE RIDLEY SEA TURTLES IN EAST PACIFIC

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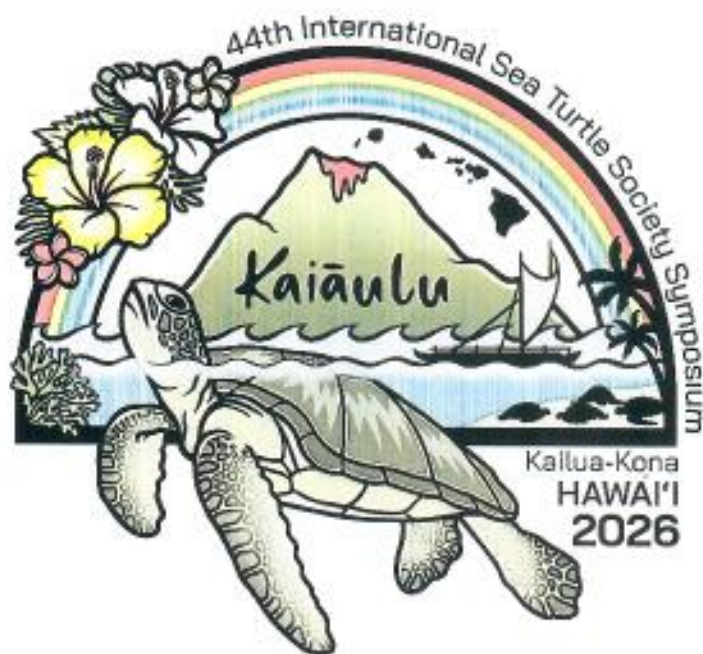
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Olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) populations have experienced substantial declines, estimated at 30% worldwide. In early 80s, a bottleneck event was experienced in the Mexican Pacific due intensive exploitation which led to the decline of almost 2 million individuals. This study aimed to assess

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