

NEAR SHORE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES INTERACTIONS ON MAUI (HI)*

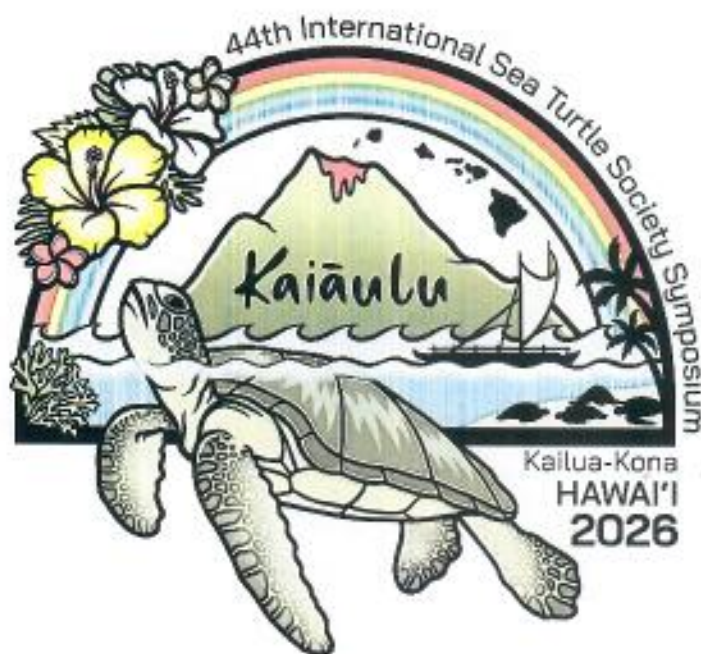
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The IUCN lists fishery interactions as one of the greatest global threats to marine turtles, yet every region has a distinct fishery associated with these interactions. In Hawai'i, near shore recreational fisheries are listed as the top threat to Green (*C. mydas*) and Hawksbill (*E. imbricata*) turtles, Hawai'i's nearshore species. Hawai'i's foraging grounds and coral reef tract habitat for turtles occur near shore and often overlap with high traffic fishing areas. In accompaniment with Hawai'i's limited fishing regulations, large numbers of turtles are entangled statewide annually. On Maui (HI), The Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has operated the sea turtle stranding network for 9 years; between 2020 and September 2025, a total of 1,597 turtles have been rescued, 78% (n=1,255) of which had fishery interaction listed as the primary cause of stranding. Of the 1,597, 12% (n=197) required rehabilitation, 26% (n=51) necessitated forelimb amputation, and 97% (n=1,388) of all turtles recovered alive (n=1,421) were successfully returned to the wild immediately. While the threat to these animals is clear, the fishery of primary contribution remains obscure. This presentation will cover historical data on Maui, describe common fishing techniques to Maui, and potential paths forward.

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