

## **JOB PROGRESS REPORT**

**STATE:** Territory of Guam

**JOB TITLE:** Guam Sea Turtle Restoration

**PERIOD COVERED:** October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001

### **OBJECTIVE**

- 1) To collect baseline population size structure (age and size) and genetic information for sea turtles in and about Guam.
- 2) To survey Guam's beaches for sea turtle nesting activity for both Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) throughout the nesting period and to employ a variety of tagging techniques to determine movement, residency and further define population dynamics.

### **RESULTS**

In water surveys were slated to begin in August, pending the receipt of the survey nets. However, the procurement of nets has not been completed due to problems at the General Services Agency.

During hawksbill nesting season, which is January through April, sixteen (16) surveys were taken at the Sumay Cove Marina area located in Apra Harbor. Surveys occurred four times a month, in conjunction with inshore participation surveys conducted in the area. No hawksbill nests were observed. Staff at the US Fish and Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian Point reported a hawksbill nest in the week of April 26, 2001. Two weeks later, four fisheries staff did an overnight survey at the Ritidian Point beach in an attempt to capture a hawksbill turtle to satellite tag. The beach was surveyed every two hours. No turtle activity was observed.

The following three areas are being surveyed for green sea turtle nesting: 1) Cocos Island, 2) Ritidian, 3) Andersen EOD. Twenty-two (22) beach nesting surveys have been conducted since April. Thirty-three (33) nests have been laid during this survey period. Due to the possibility of encountering a nesting turtle to tag with a satellite transmitter, five (5) overnight beach surveys were conducted on Cocos Island. These overnight surveys were timed to coincide with the most probable time of one or several of the females returning to nest. The beach was surveyed every one and a half hours for turtle sightings. However, no turtles were encountered.

### **PROGRAM COST**

The FY01 estimated cost for the pumpout project is \$??.

Report Prepared by Veronica Cummings