

DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about science...

The Hawaiian green turtle is genetically distinct from the other green sea turtle populations, nesting primarily in the French Frigate Shoals of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and feeding in the coastal areas of the main Hawaiian Islands. This species was in a steep decline as of the 1970s because of direct harvest of both turtles and eggs by humans. The population has grown steadily over the last thirty years after protection began in 1978.



- The Hawaiian green turtle population is actually increasing in abundance and has increased 53% over the last 25 years.
- Adults primarily eat algae. Over 275 different species of seaweed have been found in the stomachs of Hawaiian green turtles. Other food items they consume in lesser amounts include jellyfish, salps, mollusks, sponges, and tubeworms. East Pacific green turtles tend to eat more animal prey than other populations.
- Historically, green turtles have played a large role in Polynesian and Micronesian cultures. In addition to being used as a food source, native peoples all over the Pacific utilized all parts of the turtle making tools and jewelry out of the bones, and containers and utensils out of the carapace. Turtle fat was sometimes used for medicinal purposes to treat burns and other skin disorders.