



## ESA Section 6 Species Recovery Grants

### — FY24 Regional Priorities & Needs for the Pacific Islands Regional Office —

## Sea Turtles

### Hawaii — CNP green turtle and hawksbill turtles

- Coastal fishery bycatch monitoring, mitigation, and management including
  - Recreational fishing license permits and reporting
  - Mitigation measures that may result in the reduction of gear entanglement and injury prevention (e.g., removal of gear from reefs, stranding response support)
  - Treatment and rehabilitation of bycaught and boat strike sea turtles (e.g., surgeries, amputations, vet costs, long-term rehabilitation care)
- Development of an ESA section 10 incidental take permit application and associated conservation plan to address incidental take by state fisheries
- Habitat conservation and restoration
  - Predator control (cat, rat, and mongoose management)
  - Light pollution mitigation (e.g., restrict vehicle beach driving on nesting beaches)
  - Habitat restoration to mitigate effects of climate change and sea level rise (e.g., planting native plants, beach erosion control measures)
- Vessel strike monitoring and management
- Disease monitoring and management (e.g., Fibropapillomatosis) (green turtles only)

### Territories (Guam & CNMI) — CWP green turtle & hawksbill turtles

- Poaching reduction — monitoring and management
  - Includes population monitoring (nesting and in-water) to gather data and information to support poaching reduction measures
- Sea turtle stranding response programs and rehabilitation
- Disease monitoring and management
- Habitat conservation and restoration (e.g., predator control, light pollution mitigation, marine debris removal, restrict vehicle beach driving, beach erosion control measures)
- Development of an ESA section 10 incidental take permit application and associated conservation plan to address incidental take by territorial fisheries



## Main Hawaiian Island Insular False Killer Whales

- New/more information on the status, demography, and life history of the main Hawaiian Islands insular false killer whales (MHI IFKWs) (e.g., abundance, population trends, survival rates, calving rates, injury trends, social dynamics, movement, habitat use) via expansion of photo-ID efforts and deployment/analysis of satellite tags and acoustic instrumentation to help us better understand MHI IFKWs and their recovery needs. This foundation of knowledge can drive research, management, and monitoring to determine if and to what extent recovery actions are successful
- Address threats from fisheries, including incidental take. Specifically, determine how, why, and which non-longline commercial and/or recreational fishery or fisheries may be causing serious injury and/or mortality in order to develop mitigation measures
- Establish a recreational fishing license and reporting form, and modify the state Commercial Marine License reporting form to include additional information
- Development of an ESA section 10 incidental take permit application and associated conservation plan to address incidental take by state fisheries
- Support enhanced outreach (e.g., strategic outreach messaging, tools, and programs) for the fishing community and other stakeholders who may interact with MHI IFKWs and other protected species

## Hawaiian monk seals

- Reduce harmful interactions between state-managed fisheries and Hawaiian monk seals via:
  - Enhanced compliance with existing state regulations, such as lay gill net regulations, that reduce harmful interactions
  - Development and implementation of new policy, regulatory, and enforcement measures aimed at minimizing harmful interactions
  - Exploration of new, creative management strategies that reduce the chance of monk seal injury and mortality
  - Conducting strategic outreach to high-priority stakeholder groups (e.g., fishers at a particular geographic location or using a particular fishing method) and engaging with the fishing community through targeted messaging campaigns and directed outreach emphasizing coexistence and the mutual benefits of avoided interactions
- Development of an ESA section 10 incidental take permit application and associated conservation plan to address incidental take by state fisheries
- Develop and implement strategic management and policy actions to reduce the threat of toxoplasmosis to monk seals, and strengthen enforcement of existing regulations that have the potential to minimize oocysts loads in the environment
- Support population assessment and recovery activities at state wildlife sanctuaries, including Kure Atoll Wildlife Sanctuary



## Oceanic whitetip sharks

- New/more information on the status, demography, and life history of oceanic whitetip sharks in Hawaii and the Territories (e.g., abundance, population trends, survival rates, reproductive rates, injury trends, movement, and habitat use) via expansion of and deployment/analysis of satellite tags and acoustic instrumentation to help us better understand oceanic whitetip sharks and their recovery needs
- Address threats from fisheries, including incidental take to specifically determine how, why, and which non-longline commercial and/or recreational fishery or fisheries may be causing injury and/or mortality of oceanic whitetip sharks in order to develop mitigation measures
- Support increased outreach and education of fishing communities in Hawaii (particularly in Kona, Big Island) and the Territories regarding the protected status of oceanic whitetip sharks and needs for conservation (e.g., handling and release practices to ensure minimum harm)

## Giant manta rays

- New/more information on the status, demography, distribution, and life history of giant manta rays in Hawaii and the Territories (e.g., abundance, population trends, survival rates, reproductive rates, injury trends, movement, and habitat use)
- Deployment of satellite and acoustic telemetry technologies to address habitat requirements, movement behavior, and post-release survival rates to help us better understand giant manta rays and their recovery needs
- Investigate the use of new methodologies such as aerial surveys to monitor for giant manta rays in Hawaii and the Territories
- Identify areas critical to life history functions such as feeding, breeding, and cleaning stations
- Support education and training in the identification of mantas/mobulids to species across fisheries in Hawaii and Territories

## Indo-West Pacific scalloped hammerhead sharks

- Identification of nursery habitats in the Indo-West Pacific and other aggregation sites for other biological imperatives (feeding, cleaning sites, etc.) in Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa



## **Corals (*Acropora globiceps*, *Acropora retusa*, and *Seriatopora aculeata*)**

*Note: the priorities are the same for each of the three species:*

- Support a resilience-based management approach to increase resilience to climate change
- Improve coral health and survival, enhance population resilience, and/or improve coral recruitment habitat to protect and restore viable coral populations
- Develop, coordinate, and implement watershed management plans and/or build and sustain watershed management capacity at the local level to reduce land-based sources of pollution
- Provide data essential for coral reef fisheries management and/or build capacity for coral reef fisheries management to improve fisheries sustainability

