

Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Environmental Report

1 December 2023

Response to P-8 Mishap

At approximately 1100, a deceased Hawaiian Green Turtle (HGT) *Chelonia mydas* was found in the vicinity of the Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft between the outermost containment booms. The HGT was collected by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and transferred to Hawaii Marine Animal Response (HMAR). There were no signs of entanglement. The cause of death is unknown currently. MCBH Environmental Compliance and Protection Division will continue coordination with HMAR and NOAA as necessary.

Aside from the aforementioned report, environmental conditions remained stable over the last 24 hours. The P-8A position shifted, however, it remains secured and there is no indication of a release of contaminants of potential concern into the environment.

Planning actions for recovery operations continued today. Preparatory actions began to ready the P-8A for recovery. The environmental response plan was finalized for recovery operations which includes a minimum of primary and secondary spill mitigations throughout the operation. The initial removal will use existing environmental controls. Once ashore, a variety of methods will be employed including mobile spill response capability, oil water separators, sluice gates, sorbent materials, and waterborne response assets. The spill plan was shared with the State On-Scene Coordinator for the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) who concurred with the plan.

Environmental Protective Measures largely remain the same. Supplies for freshwater rinse collection and spill response are on site. While the risk of potential spills are minimal, triple boom and fresh sorbent sweeps will remain around the aircraft during the aircraft removal operations and spill response equipment will be staged for quick response.

Post salvage dives are being coordinated with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Navy, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The purpose of the dive is to conduct a thorough assessment of natural resources in the crash site and perform emergency coral restoration.