

Project Update: April 2014

The 2014 sea turtle calendar is out. We have also done three hikes as part of our public relations and team building strategy. Poor weather has hampered our in-water foraging sea turtle survey but we have tried so far without success though. We intend to continue trying as improved weather is expected. A crew from the Azamara Quest cruise ship filmed our efforts on 22nd March 2014. Nigel who does such things for British TV was there. Several turtles were sighted but unfortunately we caught none.

Please find some pictures of the expedition. I had undergone surgery so could not be on the boat but took some photos from shore. The boat was launched from the rougher eastern side of the island where most of our work is done. We tried several areas including the shallow Mosquito Bay on the north west coast. Several turtles were seen but unfortunately none were caught. As soon as I recover we will try again. Hopefully we will have better weather and also a longer net.

Three members of Marven's production team plus four of the cruise ship guests in addition to three local fishermen boarded a small fishing boat at Indian Castle to search for turtles on 22nd March 2014. As the water was too murky for hand capture a net was used to try and catch foraging sea turtles off the islands coast. The seagrass bed areas were targeted but although several turtles were spotted (some at close range) none were caught. About 15 miles of coastline were traversed in this attempt and some footage was gained of the turtles as they surfaced. However, the survey of the foraging population is an ongoing effort with some expeditions been more successful than others. As the weather improves toward the middle of the year it is hoped that greater success will be experienced by the Nevis Turtle Group in these efforts.



