



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

April 1, 1986 E/SWC2

Ms. Barbara A. Schroeder
Southeast Fisheries Center
Miami Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter you recently wrote to Lew Ehrhart concerning records of tumors on stranded turtles.

If there is any possible way that the incidence of tumors on stranded turtles can be extracted from your network data, I would certainly encourage you to undertake this task. As I reported at the Georgia workshop, in 1985 29% of our stranded turtles in Hawaii had fibropapillomas (a specific type of tumor). We are very concerned about this occurrence, particularly in view of the fact that many of our resident fishermen feel certain an increase has taken place in recent years. For comparative purposes, as well as a status report on disease in your own region, it would certainly be worthwhile to know the magnitude of this problem in your area.

If there is any way I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Lew Ehrhart
Fred Berry
Joseph Powers -
Larry Ogren
Paul Raymond

April 1, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. R. Erik Martin
Senior Scientist
Applied Biology, Inc.
P. O. Box 974
Jensen Beach, FL 33457

Dear Erik,

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you at the recent workshop in Waverly, Georgia. Enclosed is the assortment of reprints on our work with seas turtles that I promised to send you.

I am anxious to learn more about your sightings of tumors on green turtles along Hutchinson Island and elsewhere in Florida. I regret that time did not allow us to discuss this subject in detail while we were together. At your earliest convenience, I would certainly like to hear from you about this interesting and potentially important subject.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812
March 3, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Brenner Munger
Environmental Department
Hawaiian Electric Company
P. O. Box 2750
Honolulu, HI 96840

Dear Mr. Munger:

I thought that it would be a good idea to summarize in writing the events that occurred last week concerning the sea turtles in your intake compound at the Kahe Point Power Plant.

Your report to me by telephone on Thursday (2/27/86) that several turtles had somehow entered the compound, and that one had died a few days ago, resulted in a site inspection on Friday by myself and two assistants. We observed four juvenile green turtles (Chelonia mydas) in the compound swimming almost continuously against the strong current coming in from the ocean intake tunnels. We were informed by plant personnel that another considerably larger turtle (estimated at 75 lbs) had been seen yesterday, but could not be spotted today. At least one turtle was said to have been in the compound for many months, possibly even for many years. The other turtles had shown up relatively recently sometime during the past few months. A second intake compound, much newer in construction, was reported to never have turtles entering into it.

The strong current and depth of the compound, and the agility and speed of the turtles, made it most unlikely for us to catch them with nets or by hand while swimming after them. Instead, we employed a capture technique used previously off the seawall at Midway Island. That is, to simply leap into the water and grab them when they come up to breathe at a suitable location. In an hour's time we caught two of the four turtles by this method. The other two became very alert from this activity. I recommended to your personnel that they be captured in the same manner during coming days. I was told that this would be done and, at my request, the remaining turtles be transported to my office so they could be examined, tagged, and released.

The two turtles we captured had carapace lengths of 37 and 43 cm, both juveniles of the size class that first assumes residency in benthic coastal habitat after a post-hatchling pelagic existence. The smaller turtle was considerably

emaciated, but not to the point of incapacitation. There was nothing in the compound that I could see might be used for food by the herbivorous green turtle. However, it was mentioned that fleshy algae sometimes grow on the walls. We tagged both turtles and subsequently transported them for release in known foraging habitat off Hawaii Kai.

We also had the opportunity to examine from shore the screens at the ocean end of the intake tunnels. Although we could only see the upper end of these iron panels, it was apparent that severe corrosion was present. We saw at least one missing cross-member which provided a gap which was probably wide enough for a juvenile green turtle to pass through. It was also suggested that the bottom of the screen might rest on sand and coral substrate, which periodically become undercut by southerly swells.

I appreciate having the opportunity to work with you on this problem. At this point, it appears that the first step toward a solution would be to replace the worn-out screens. If you foresee a lengthy delay in keeping the turtles out of the compound, I recommend that you contact Mr. Doyle Gates (955-8831) to determine if a permit is needed for "taking" green turtles (a threatened species) under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The State of Hawaii may also require a permit under their rules governing "wildlife," where sea turtles are designated as protected species.

Under separate cover, I am sending you several of our publications on sea turtles. In addition, a color identification poster will be included for each of the three members of your staff that we worked with at Kahe Point (Jim Peck, Don Fukuda, and Keith Oda). I appreciate all of the fine assistance and information they provided, since this was my first opportunity to become familiar with the Kahe Point plant.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Doyle Gates
Gene Witham
Steve Kaiser, Sea Life Park

March 7, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Brenner Munger
Environmental Department
Hawaiian Electric Company
P. O. Box 2750
Honolulu, HI 96840

Dear Mr. Munger:

This morning I examined the green turtle that you reported to us as being found dead at the Kahe Point power plant on Tuesday, March 4. The remains were in an advanced state of decomposition, consisting of loose plastral and carapace bones, a few scutes, the head, and pectoral limb bones. Several of these bones were without flesh suggesting that fish or crabs had picked them clean, or that the turtle had been dead for an extended period allowing the meat to simply rot away. I estimated that the turtle had a carapace length of 52 cm (20.5 inches). Not much more was learned from the postmortem exam.

When Robert Forsyth picked up the turtle at Kahe Point, no information was available on exactly where the assorted remains had been found. We would be interested in having this specific information.

Thank you very much for having your staff deliver the turtle to our Laboratory that they were able to catch on March 6. This animal measured 41.9 cm and showed considerable emaciation, but nevertheless was still healthy enough for us to tag and release without captive recuperation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Balazs
HL

cc WPPD

March 5, 1986

F/SMC2:GHB

Mr. Brenner Munger
Environmental Department
Hawaiian Electric Company
P. O. Box 2750
Honolulu, HI 96840

Dear Mr. Munger:

When I returned to my office this morning after being on sick leave yesterday, I learned that another dead turtle had been found in the intake basin at the Kahe Point plant. We appreciated being able to receive the carcass of this one. An autopsy will be conducted by our staff veterinarian in the near future. However, I understand from Robert Forsyth, who picked up the turtle, that there is very little left of it. It had apparently been dead for some time, and had decomposed considerably.

The total number of turtles that we now know about in the basin comes to seven; two dead, two alive which we removed last Friday, two alive that were still there last Friday, and one larger turtle seen last Thursday that was thought to be in poor condition. At this stage, I think it is very important for your staff to remove the remaining live turtles by the method we demonstrated to them. Also, please notify me as soon as possible if any other new turtles are spotted in the basin. I would like to stay up-to-date on this very interesting, and potentially important, occurrence.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

March 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Captain Patrick A. Fallon
Commander, Bellows Air Force Station
P. O. Box 1010
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Dear Captain Fallon:

I am writing to provide you with a brief summary of the results of our work at Bellows last Wednesday night, March 5.

Our net was set near the jetty for a 14-h period extending throughout the night. We were able to catch one green turtle, but at sunrise we saw several others in the immediate area. I believe that the glassy ocean conditions, with almost no swell present, aided these turtles in seeing and avoiding our net. Nevertheless, the single turtle that was captured resulted in the collection of valuable data on growth and site fixity to a foraging pasture. The turtle had been originally captured and tagged at this same location in May of 1979. In May of 1980 it was captured there again. Since that time, it had grown from 50.5 to 59.1 cm in carapace (shell) length, or about 1.5 cm (5/8 inch) per year. The turtle is still not large enough to be mature, so we are unable to say if it is a male or a female. The mean carapace length of mature female green turtles in Hawaii is about 92 cm (36 inches). When mature, green turtles in Hawaii migrate several hundred miles to the northwest of Oahu where they mate and lay eggs at French Frigate Shoals. When the breeding season is completed, they return to their resident coastal foraging pasture (such as Bellows).

Our work at Bellows always attracts the attention of beach-goers and various people staying in your guest cottages. I am impressed with the high level of interest displayed, and the great relief demonstrated, when people learn that the turtles we have caught will return to the sea after tagging. Most people that talk to us at Bellows are very concerned about the welfare of the turtles, and are eager to learn more about them. This time I had a lady come to me that was upset over a turtle that had been accidentally hooked the previous day by a fisherman on the jetty. The turtle escaped after breaking the line. I mentioned this continuing problem to you in my last letter.

I will be contacting you again in a few months when we are ready to do more work at Bellows. Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Balazs; HL
cc: D Gates

March 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Police Department
Barbers Point Naval Station
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Officer Batino:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for contacting our agency on Saturday, March 8, concerning the large green sea turtle found dead at your recreational beach camping area. We have been able to determine that the turtle was heavily diseased with tumorous growths on its eyes and front flippers. In addition, the turtle was infested externally with the marine leech, Ozobranchus sp. In the near future, we will conduct an internal autopsy to determine what else may have affected the turtle's ability to survive.

As you know, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (and also by Hawaii State law). As the principal agency responsible for these animals, we greatly appreciate your cooperation in reporting any unusual sightings of turtles, such as this recent one. I have enclosed several of our scientific publications about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Please circulate this material, along with my letter, to the superintendent of your Police Department and other officers.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

CC: Balazs
HL

March 24, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Officer Abraham Tenario
Naval Station Barbers Point
Police Department
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Officer Tenario:

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you on Saturday March 15th when I drove to Iriquois Point Naval Housing to examine the dead green sea turtle. Although the carcass was considerably rotten and the shell had been removed, I was nevertheless still able to record the presence of extensive tumors on the eyes, neck, and flippers. This is important information for our biological research program on Hawaiian sea turtles. As I mentioned, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Our agency is responsible for the animal's survival status and management.

Again, I thank you and your fellow officers for assisting with this case. Please continue to notify us about any dead or sick sea turtles sighted on your property.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Eugene Witham, Enforcement Branch

bc: HL
Balazs

March 25, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Captain Gary Brent
Vehon Diving Ventures
239 Kawaihae St., Apt. 112C
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Captain Brent:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues (Don Vehon and Linda) for contacting our agency about the dead green turtle found off Niu on 24 March 1986. Although the turtle was severely bloated and unsuitable for necropsy, I appreciated being able to photograph it to document the entanglement with a gill net; also, to record body measurements, and inspect for tags and external signs of disease. None of the later was present.

I have enclosed several articles about sea turtles that you may find interesting. In addition, a wall poster is being sent showing the various species. As you may know, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Again, thank you for your fine assistance. Please contact us again if you make additional sightings of sea turtles that you deem to be significant.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

March 24, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Korth
4727 Kahala Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Korth:

I am writing to thank you for notifying our Agency about the sick green sea turtle found in front of your house on Wednesday afternoon, March 12th. Unfortunately, the turtle died a few hours later at our Laboratory. The exact cause of death has not yet been determined, however, it was probably related to the animal's emaciated condition and presence of tumors. A complete autopsy will be conducted in the near future as part of our effort to learn more about this threatened species. As you may know, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

I have enclosed several publications about sea turtles which you may find of interest. Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: HL
Balazs ✓

March 24, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Pavao
154 Wailupe Circle
Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pavao:

Thank you very much for taking the time to telephone me about the dead green sea turtle found floating in front of your house on Sunday, March 16th. There appeared to be physical injuries to the eyes and plastron (belly plate). However, a complete autopsy will be conducted in the near future in an effort to determine the exact cause of death. As I mentioned to you, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Our Agency conducts biological research on these animals aimed at enhancing their survival status and management.

I have enclosed several articles about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

bc: HL
Balazs

March 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Police Department
Barbers Point Naval Station
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Officer Batino:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for contacting our agency on Saturday, March 8, concerning the large green sea turtle found dead at your recreational beach camping area. We have been able to determine that the turtle was heavily diseased with tumorous growths on its eyes and front flippers. In addition, the turtle was infested externally with the marine leech, Ozobranchus sp. In the near future, we will conduct an internal autopsy to determine what else may have affected the turtle's ability to survive.

As you know, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (and also by Hawaii State law). As the principal agency responsible for these animals, we greatly appreciate your cooperation in reporting any unusual sightings of turtles, such as this recent one. I have enclosed several of our scientific publications about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Please circulate this material, along with my letter, to the superintendent of your Police Department and other officers.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

CCL Balazs
HL

March 31, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Becky Yeomans
Outland Island Educational Center
711 Sandtown Road
Savannah, GA 31410

Dear Becky,

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you at the recent workshop in Waverly, Georgia. As requested, I am sending an assortment of publications dealing with our research of sea turtles here in the Pacific. If I remember correctly, you were especially interested in receiving a copy of the "Gomez and Balazs" paper listing postage stamps that portray sea turtles. At least a dozen more stamps have been issued since we published this article a few years ago. I can give you an update if you are considering assembling a comprehensive collection for your educational center.

If I can be of any additional help to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

March 31, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Cynthia Lagueux
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 190
Culebra, Puerto Rico 00645

Dear Cynthia,

It was good to see you again at the recent workshop in Waverly, Georgia. I was pleased to learn that you are continuing to pursue your interest in sea turtles.

As you requested, I am sending a number of my publications covering our research of sea turtles here in the Pacific. If there is any way I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

March 31, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Kathy Hall
Department of Marine Sciences
University of Puerto Rico
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico 00708

Dear Kathy,

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you and to discuss matters of common interest at the recent sea turtle workshop in Waverly, Georgia.

As requested, I am sending an assortment of my publications covering our work with sea turtles here in the Pacific. If there is any other way I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs
HL



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

March 28, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Jan Newhart
207 Koko Isle
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Jan,

I want to take this opportunity to formally thank you for the important role you played in reporting the injured green turtle off Waikiki, and then helping me to rescue it.

Because of your involvement, the turtle has now been returned safely to the sea following removal of the plastic fishing lure and monofilament line that had been cutting deeply into its flipper. I feel confident that the turtle will eventually regain full use of the flipper. You will very likely be seeing the turtle again regularly sleeping under its same favorite ledge off the Outrigger Canoe Club. I would appreciate hearing about these future sightings.

Again, you are to be commended for the fine contribution you made to the survival of this animal,--a protected species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: WPPO
NMFS Law Enforcement

March 27, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. James Chow
13 Malulu Place
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Dear Mr. Chow:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for rescuing the sick green sea turtle off Haleiwa on March 26th and transporting it to our facility at Kewalo Basin. Unfortunately, the turtle died that same afternoon. During a postmortem examination, I found that several small tumors (fibropapillomas) were present in the mouth, blocking the glottis. This was undoubtedly a major contributing factor to the turtle's death. These tumors, along with the ones on the eyes, neck, and flippers, were removed and preserved for eventual analysis by veterinary researchers at the University of Georgia.

As you know, all sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (and also by Hawaii State law). As the principal agency responsible for these animals, we greatly appreciate your cooperation in reporting any future unusual encounters with turtles, such as this recent one. I have enclosed several of our scientific publications about sea turtles which you may find interesting.

Again, thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosures

cc: G. Balazs ✓
HL

March 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Archie Carr
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Archie,

Enclosed are the assortment of 13 duplicate 35-mm slides from my FIMD workshop presentation that you asked me to send for your use at the forthcoming ocean disposal symposium. These are the best I have on the subject, so I hope that will fulfill your needs. Good luck on your paper for this important meeting. A pre-publication copy, when available would be most appreciated.

I thought that you would probably want to keep the slides to use again at a later time, so I had them duplicated especially for you. The cost came to \$8.16, which I had to pay for personally. Gramm-Rudman, you know! So if you have the funds to reimburse me, that would be appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

February 18, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

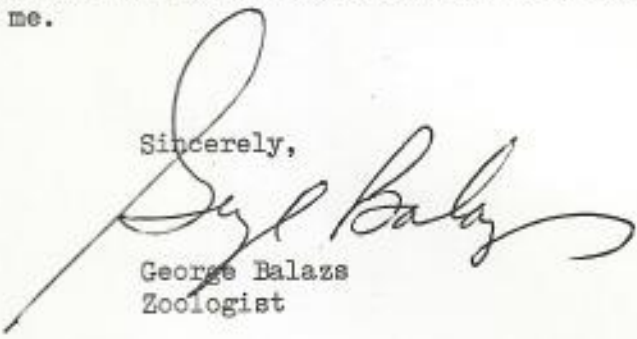
Mr. Mohammed Bin Amour Al Barwani
Director of Marine Fisheries Science Centre
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
SULTANATE OF OMAN

Dear Mr. Barwani:

It's been some years now since we met at the CITES conference in San Jose, Costa Rica. We seem to have lost contact, so I thought I would take this opportunity to send you several of our recent publications on sea turtles. I understand from IUCN that your program to conserve sea turtles has been going well. If there is any way that I can be of assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


George Balazs
Zoologist

January 27, 1986

F/SAC2

Dr. Sally Murphy
South Carolina Wildlife and
Marine Resources Department
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, SC 29412

Dear Dr. Murphy:

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 1986 requesting that George Balazs participate on the program of the forthcoming 6th Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology in Waverly, Georgia. I am pleased to report that George will be able to accept your invitation. He will be contacting you shortly by telephone to determine his exact role and responsibilities to the workshop.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: Balazs ✓
DO
HL

January 21, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Thane Wibbels
Department of Biology
Texas A & M University
College Station, Texas 77843-3258

Dear Thane,

Assuming you have now returned from successful field studies in Australia, I thought I would take this opportunity to welcome you home, and to send the enclosed reprint. I appreciate the contribution you made while I was pulling together background literature for this paper. The extra enclosed reprint is for Dave Owens.

Whenever you send word, I am prepared to ship the remaining serum samples for sex determination analysis. I know that we are both anxious to finalize this work and get something published. I want to be very cautious when I send the samples. Last month I shipped nine whole frozen blood samples to Sylvia Galloway by Express Mail. It arrived seven full days later--completely thrawed and worthless! No one in the system could tell me what went wrong.

Best regard for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

8 December 1985

Mr. Jean Baulu
Head and Program Leader
Barbados Primate Research Center
& Wildlife Reserve
"Hillcrest," Bathsheba
St-Joseph, Barbados

Dear Mr. Baulu:

Thank you for your letter of 14 November. I am glad you are finding our Sea Turtle Manual to be of help in your work. I would be happy to work with you in any way in the development of your marine turtle booklet. I thought the booklets you sent were quite informative.

I was particularly interested to learn that the red-footed tortoise is in your Wildlife Reserve. I have worked with that species in Venezuela and Barbados, but the "Checklist of West Indian Reptiles and Amphibians" does not list Barbados as one of the locations of the tortoise. Could you tell me how common it is on Barbados and whether you know if and/or when the tortoise was introduced onto the island? As you may know, it is a matter of debate whether the tortoise populations on the various islands are natural or introduced.

Thank you for any information you can send me. I look forward to hearing from you. Please let me know if I can be of help in any way with your work.

Sincerely yours,



Karen Bjorndal
Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

8 December 1985

To: Guy Guagni dei Marcovaldi
Mario Hurtado
Rene Marquez M.

From: Karen Bjorndal

Karen Bjorndal

I have just received a copy of the enclosed letter from Robert Scott, SSC Executive Officer. I am sending copies to you, as the members of the group representing the Latin American region. What action, if any, do you think the Marine Turtle Specialist Group should take in response to this letter?

Also, I would appreciate it if those of you who were able to attend the sea turtle symposium in Costa Rica last week would send me a summary of what occurred at the meetings.

Any advice on the enclosed letter or information on the Symposium will be most appreciated.

cc: R. Scott

*George -
FYI*

I am making more & more use of this "regional" or "species" sub-groups in handling correspondence, etc. I have handled a series of matters in this way, but haven't yet had one in your region / eps, so I thought you might be interested in what I've been up to.

85 Nov. Cuiaba, Mato Grosso

④ IUCN
Morges

I witnessed as a globetrotter, Turtle killing Egg taking in Central America and transport of hides in Bolivia.

In Sidiyacun, Q.R. Yucatan, they dry the eggs and sell them in Chetumal. The ~~Access~~^{to} the Mangrove has a police post supposed to control all outgoing vehicle, very lax and wealthy Mexican of Chetumal get away without. On Tigre Island, Black Sand Beach, 1 1/2 hrs from Amapa, Honduras all Eggs are taken, no killing and they show up in Tegucigalpa as "Botanas" Snacks in Bars, Cantinas. In Nicaragua on the Market in Managua, plentiful eggs. In San Juan del Sur, Eggs and Steaks. Turtle Protection Poster everywhere in the same restaurant ^{place} that sells Eggs.

In Bolivia, in Remanso, Itenez River Area they hunt hunt Crocodile, Ocelot, Pigs, they go off via airfield in Piso Firme to Paraguay. Pilot is a French man from Santa Cruz who flies them to Pena Noventa in Paraguay, there a plane takes them to Asuncion, where they get there Paraguayan Export Licence. Business is in the hands of Paraguayan Military. Big quantities go off from Bella Vista, Rio Blanco same way. Dry season Sept. Oct. is the big hunting time. Pig & Crocodile hides picked up from Txiamas by plane from Setun a wealthy man from Riberalta.

Yours, Rene King

V.O.A. Voice of America madame laugh. In June about of this year she broadcasted that there is big poaching in the Pantanal of Mato Grosso. I think ^{the} main stake comes from Bolivia what I saw with my eyes.

8 December 1985

Dear George:

I have enclosed my formal acceptance letter. Thanks for the invitation. I thought the Recovery Team would be for the greater Pacific area. Was the intention always just to cover Hawaii, or did you all chicken out of trying to deal with all of the problems of Guam et al. in addition to the very touchy Hawaiian situation?

I have also enclosed copies of two letters that I thought might interest you: my response to the Barbados monkey preserve man (see, some one is benefitting from our manual) and Scott's response to Doug Robinson's letter. I was not able to get hold of Woody before the Costa Rica symposium. Both Larry and I are interested to hear what went on, and are counting on you to inform us fully!

Yes, Colin went to the Philippines, and the trip seemed to go very well. I just received his report 2 weeks ago, just when Hurricane Kate was tromping over Inagua and scaring me half to death that my 12 years of work was going to be swimming out to sea. After a very long week, communication with the island was finally restored, and we learned there had been very little damage. Alan went down for a check-up visit (my back has been giving me trouble, so I had to stay behind) and found everything in decent shape. Anyway, Chuck Carr and I have written to Colin for information on how his counterparts in the Philippines reacted to his plan and what he feels needs to be done next. I'll send you a full report when I have it to send.

Regarding the Tokelau carey fish lures. In an ideal world, I would agree with you that it would be a good idea to let the Tokelau fishermen have access to a small amount of seized carey shell for this traditional fishing method. However, given that we do not inhabit an ideal world, I have reservations about the plan. First, in many areas, there has been and will continue to be pressure to allow trade in carey shell that has already been collected. The typical reasoning: The turtles are already dead, why let the shell go to waste, etc. etc. Unfortunately, this reasoning has been used repeatedly to gain export permits for tortoiseshell from the Bahamian Ministry of Agric. and Fisheries, after the Bahamas signed CITES. This was shell that was to known to have been collected after signing the treaty, and was not "grandfathered in." I am sure the Bahamas is not alone in this, and I know this reasoning is very difficult to answer, given the utilization mind-set of the individuals so often involved. Although I can see a clear distinction between the case I just cited and the Tokelau fish lures, I am afraid that many would not. I would hate this example to be used as the toe in the door for those in favor of utilizing confiscated goods--whether they are crocodile hides, stuffed elephants or tortoiseshell.

Second, I think it would be impossible to ensure that the tortoiseshell fish lures would not enter into trade. Something as quaint as tortoiseshell fish lures would be a tourist delight. I know nothing of the tourist situation on Tokelau, but even if the tourist trade has so far passed Tokelau by, I can't believe any Pacific island is safe for long.

I am very sympathetic to the concept, but I am concerned about some of the possible ramifications. Feel free to disregard my comments and dismiss me as "crotch-bound" (as Archie would say). If you proceed, I know it will be with the great degree of caution you always employ.

Hope all is well with you and your family. All is fine on this end.

Best regards,

Yasen

December 11, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Alvin F. Nacu
Officer-in-Charge
Task Force Pawikan
P.O. Box UP 209
U.P. Diliman, Q.C.
Philippines 3004

Dear Mr. Nacu:

Thank you very much for your recent letters requesting copies of two of my publications on marine turtles. I am pleased to make them available to you for the Task Force Pawikan. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

enclosures

cc: G. Balazs ✓
HL

December 10, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. E. G. Silas
Marine Biological Association of India
Post Box No. 1023
Ernakulam, Cochin - 682 011
INDIA

Dear Dr. Silas:

I am writing to request a copy of the Proceedings for the January 1985 Symposium on Endangered Marine Animals and Marine Parks. I am especially interested in reading the 13 papers that were presented dealing with marine turtles.

Thank you for your assistance. I have enclosed several of my own recent publications which may be of interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

November 22, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Peter Lutz
RSMAS/BLR
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
University of Miami
Miami, FL 33149

Dear Dr. Lutz:

Rich Brill told me of your interest in the black foreign substance we have found in the intestine of several of our stranded Hawaiian green turtles. This material seems to be confined to the duodenum. It is quite viscous and has a hydrogen sulfide odor. Various tests have been run on the material, but nothing conclusive has resulted (copies enclosed). Are you aware of any other reports of this nature? If so, I would appreciate hearing the details.

I hope you received the literature on the electro-immobilizer which I mailed to you after the Kemp's ridley symposium.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs
HL

May 30, 1985

F/SWC2

TO: FSW4 - Eugene Withan, Law Enforcement, Southwest Region
THROUGH: FSW2 - William G. Gilmartin
FROM: FSW2 - George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Report of recent ESA violation on Molokai

On May 21, 1985 I was informed by telephone that a juvenile green turtle had been seen swimming in an erratic manner close to shore in the Kawela region of Molokai. The turtle had a spear hole in it, and tags were present on the front flippers. No other details were available.

Bill Puleloa, State aquatic biologist on Molokai (telephone: 567-6696 or 553-3778) may be able to provide you with additional information.

bc: HL
✓ Balazs

May 23, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Vanya deJung
1988 Sylvan Street
Eugene, Oregon 97403

Dear Ms. deJung:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing interest in Hawaiian sea turtles, and requesting background literature for your term paper on this subject. I hope that the enclosed articles will be helpful in this regard.

I look forward to meeting you in person when you return to Hawaii. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

April 30, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

TO: F/SWR4 - Gene Witham
THRU: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Speared green turtle found at Hanauma Bay (State Marine Life Conservation area)

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 28, 1985, I received a telephone call at home from the State DOCARE enforcement office saying that a 15-inch dead green turtle had been reported to Jerry Miller, a life guard at Hanauma Bay. The turtle had been found and retrieved by a Captain Sae Tuia of 113 Kaiolohia Way, Honolulu, HI 96825. The turtle was subsequently transferred to me for examination. It was found to have been dead for at least 24 h. A deep puncture wound was present in the ventral neck/jaw region which was undoubtedly responsible for the turtle's death.

Captain Tuia telephoned me at home on Sunday evening after apparently being given my number by State enforcement. He was upset because he had been told by the State that the shell of the turtle could not be returned to him. I asked him to please call your office, or Gene Nitta, for a full explanation of why this is both inappropriate and legally impossible unless the use of the shell somehow involved a legitimate educational program.

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

April 26, 1985

F/SWC2:GMB

TO: F/SWRT⁴ - Gene Witham
THRU: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Two recent green turtle strandings on Kailua Beach showing evidence of law violation

Juvenile green turtles measuring 41 and 39 cm in carapace length were found washed in dead on Kailua Beach on April 17 and 18, respectively, by Paul Monel of 1366 Aupapaha St., Kailua, HI 96734 (telephone No. 261-1244). Mr. Monel walks the entire beach each morning for exercise. The turtles were found about 1-1/2 city blocks from each other. Both turtles were in the early stages of decomposition, estimated to have been dead for not more than 48 h.

The first turtle had two distinctive puncture marks on the top of the carapace, highly suggestive that a 3-prong spear had been thrust against it at an angle. The puncture spots penetrated into the bone, but not through the carapace into the underlying lungs and other internal organs. The cause of death for this animal could not be determined. The second turtle had been decapitated, possibly by an explosive bang-stick in view of the tattered appearance of the neck. It is highly unlikely that this injury had resulted from a shark attack since there were no other lesions on the turtle.

Photographs were taken of both of these turtles prior to autopsy and can be made available should you wish to review them.

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

March 14, 1985

F/SWC2:WGG

TO: Gene Witham
THROUGH: William G. Gilmartin
FROM: George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Commercial advertisements displaying divers clinging to the backs
or in other ways harassing Hawaiian sea turtles

The most recent instance of this continuing problem came to my attention when reading the March 1985 issue of Skin Diver. This magazine is the most popular and widely distributed publication covering scuba and skin diving activities. The March issue carried a major feature article on diving in the Hawaiian Islands. One of the ads (page 39 attached) with the article shows a diver hanging onto a green turtle. The text advertises exclusive dive trips to a number of locations, including "Turtle Heaven." There is no mention anywhere of the turtles being protected. The magazine is distributed both nationally and internationally, and I can imagine some people believing that the turtles could be taken for trophy and/or meat. In addition, the advertisement would certainly lead one to believe that patronage of this dive shop (Captain Nemo's in Lahaina, Maui) would result in one being able to ride a turtle, or have a photograph taken with one.

Another ad that appears on page 51 also shows a diver holding a green turtle. This ad, by Ocean Charter Service in Kaneohe, features dive tours to Christmas, Fanning, and within the Hawaiian Islands including Niihau.

The situation of commercial divers repeatedly visiting particular sites to ride turtles seems to have increased considerably in recent months. I felt that you would want to be informed about these current ads.

GHB/11

bc: HL
Balazs

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HONOLULU LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812

February 12, 1985

F/SWC2

Mr. Ralston Nagata
Director
Division of State Parks
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Dear Mr. Nagata:

Reliable reports over the past 2 years of green sea turtles basking ashore on the Na Pali Coast during the winter months have prompted us to consider investigating this important phenomenon in greater detail. Basking behavior by green turtles is common in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but has not been documented on the main islands during previous years. As you may know, the green turtle is listed as a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and is equally protected under State law. The Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory has the responsibility of conducting research which will aid in the biological recovery of the Hawaiian green turtle population.

Mr. Jack Harter of Jack Harter Helicopters on Kauai has been very helpful to us in reporting the aerial sightings of turtles along the Na Pali Coast, especially on the beach at Mualolo Kai. As yet, no sightings of basking turtles have occurred this winter. However, in the past, March appears to be a favored month. In addition, we have reason to believe that basking is more prevalent at night, when aerial observations are not possible. In order to gather exact information, I would like to have one of our researchers, Mr. George Balazs, be placed on the beach at Mualolo Kai for a 5-day period when basking turtles began to be sighted by Mr. Harter. In order to accomplish this work, we would need permission for Mr. Harter to land for a short time to drop off and pick up Mr. Balazs and a small amount of camping supplies. Would you please advise us on how to proceed in obtaining the proper permit. If there are additional questions concerning this request, please feel free to call Mr. Balazs at 943-1221. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: Balazs ✓
HL
DO

February 12, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

TO: William G. Gilmartin, Leader, Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program

FROM: George H. Balazs, Wildlife Biologist

SUBJECT: Recently received report entitled "A review of subsistence uses of sea turtles in the central and western Pacific with respect to Federal regulations authorizing a subsistence take of green sea turtles in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" authored by Jim Lecky and Gene Nitta of the Southwest Region

The availability of the above report was advertised in a January 3, 1985 notice in the Federal Register. Following a written request, I recently received a copy from the Southwest Region at Terminal Island. To my knowledge, it is currently the only copy here at the Honolulu Laboratory. The report is quite comprehensive, including appendices consisting of a lengthy memo from the General Council (32 p), a summary of comments and responses made at public hearings held during mid-1983 at U.S. Pacific areas (7 p), and the \$5,000 contract report on subsistence use of turtles by R. E. Johannes of Perth, Australia (32 p). The conclusions and recommendations are sound, i.e., maintain current prohibitions in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa; and work toward the recovery of the stocks. Jerry Wetherall's mathematical assessment of the green turtle nesting stock at French Frigate Shoals played an important role in the report. Jerry's administrative report (H-83-8) was credited in the "references" section.

One item of concern to me was the absence of any mention to the administrative report (H-83-17) I prepared in September 1983 entitled "Subsistence use of sea turtles at Pacific islands under the jurisdiction of the United States." This report was researched and written to provide background documentation for the subsistence review. While information and hard-to-locate literature appear to have been drawn from my report, it was not credited in the "references" section of the Southwest Region report. Obviously there would be no merit in having this oversight corrected at such a late date. However, for future purposes I do hope that proper and appropriate credit will be given to material prepared by an RL scientist such as myself.

GHB/11

bc: HL
Balazs

25 January 1985

Dear Dr. Chapman -

Bill Gilroy recently suggested that I contact you to clarify the wording of the recommendations for sea turtles discussed in our final session at FIMD. He felt that the notes taken may not have reflected the actual intent of the discussions. I listed 4 recommendations at the end of my paper, the first 3 of which, I recall, were accepted as formal recommendations from our session. A copy has been attached so you can see the wording that was used. If changes are needed in your version, I hope that it will not be too late to make them.

Best regards,
Gene Balay

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HONOLULU LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812

November 18, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Hallprint Pty, Ltd.
27 Jacobsen Crescent
Holden Hill, SA 5088
Australia

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving samples and information on your line of fish and crustacean tags which were described in the July 1985 issue of Australian Fisheries.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Balazs
HL

OFFICE DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
ET TECHNIQUE OUTRE-MER

PORT-VILA, le 16th September 1982

MISSION DE PORT-VILA

B. P. 78 — PORT-VILA
VANUATU
Tél. : 22-68

TECH/1/4


Mr. George BALAZS
Southwest Fisheries Center
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu
Hawaii 96812
U.S.A.

Dear George,

This short letter is to acknowledge receipt of the biological samples maker as well as your excellent synopsis on green turtle. I have just attended the annual South Pacific Commission Fisheries meeting as an observer. Nothing was said on turtles. However I was recently told that they are going to undertake turtle farming in Tahiti and perhaps in New Caledonia. By the way is it planned to produce a short report on the aerial survey carried out in New Caledonia in December 1979 ? In case it is, I would much appreciate to be sent a copy as particularly as since that time I do not feel that confident in small planes.

Best personal regards.

Yours sincerely,



René GRANDPERRIN
Marine Biologist

CABLE ADDRESS :
" SOUTHPACOM " NOUMEA
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE :
" SOUTHPACOM " NOUMEA
TELEPHONE : 26.20.00
TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
POST BOX D 5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD
BOITE POSTALE D 5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

In reply, please quote PRO 7/3/26

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

20 September, 1982

Dr G. Balazs,
National Marine Fisheries Service,
P.O. Box 3830,
HONOLULU,
Hawaii. 96812

Dear George,

Thanks for your note and the enclosed information sent to Mark Gentle. Mark has left the Commission for greener pastures and is contactable at the following address, at least in the short term:

Mr Mark Gentle
7B June Place
HAMILTON
New Zealand.

Your assumption re the Fisheries Newsletter was unfortunately right. All Newsletters have a low printing priority and the time delay has now reached a point where much of the information value of the Newsletter is being lost. As soon as we have a replacement for Mark in post (November), I will consider a less ambitious version of the Newsletter which will be closer to the usual newsletter format, and much easier to print. This would enable us to get the information out on a more regular basis.

Yours sincerely,



B.R. Smith
Fisheries Adviser

BRS/vm.

August 16, 1982

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Fred Berry
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Dear Fred,

As the result of recent correspondence and a telephone conversation with Karen Bjorndal, I have agreed to join with her to edit the second version of your sea turtle conservation manual. You will recall that during our telephone discussion in May, I refrained from giving you a final decision on this request until I was provided with the first version of the manual. At the time of Karen's request I still had not received a copy. Nevertheless, Karen was very persuasive, and I am now confident that we can successfully accomplish the task.

Since I am presently working under an I.P.A. contract for the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory, I think it would be a good idea for you to write to Mr. Richard S. Shomura (Laboratory Director) and request my assistance as co-editor. Although I anticipate doing most of the work outside of my regular workday, a letter to Mr. Shomura from your office seems in order.

I look forward to seeing you at the WATS meeting in Costa Rica, provided I am able to obtain the necessary funds to attend.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

cc: Dr. Karen Bjorndal

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

*bcc Bill Gilmartin
Richard Shomura*

October 26, 1982

F/SWC2:GHB

TO: Bill Gilmartin
Doyle Gates
John Naughton
Gene Nitta
Gene Witham

FROM: George Balazs

SUBJECT: Survey of subsistence fishing in Guam

During the course of recent library research I came across an excellent report on a survey of subsistence fishing in Guam conducted during 1977. In addition to studying this report, I have spoken with the author who currently resides here in Honolulu. When your time permits, I recommend that you read this document as background information on the subject of green turtles. The full reference is:

Jennison-Nolan, J. 1979. Guam: Changing patterns of coastal and marine exploitation. Sea Grant Publication UGSG 79-12, and University of Guam Marine Laboratory Technical Report No. 59, 62 p.

bc: Balazs
HL

GHB:iht

October 27, 1982

The Editor
The New York Times Magazine
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

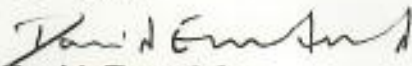
Dear Sir:

John McLean (letters, Oct. 24) writes that sea turtle "farming" is an example of species preservation for profit, and pleads for a relaxation of the regulations that currently keep all sea turtle products out of the U.S. We disagree — not with the idea of preservation for profit, but with the idea that sea turtle "farming" has anything to do with preservation. In fact, these "farms" (which rely heavily on wild-caught animals to maintain their egg production) are more likely to be the last nail in the coffin of the green turtle and perhaps other species of marine turtles.

There are many reasons why sea turtle "farms" are not the conservation boon they claim to be, but one is overriding. In order to sell their products, these "farms" must stimulate world-wide demand for expensive sea turtle products, and there is no effective way to prevent poachers from then capitalizing on this demand and filling it with wild-caught animals from rapidly dwindling stocks.

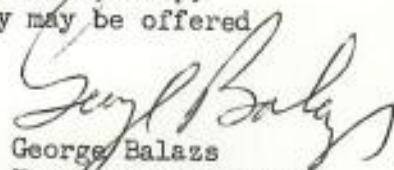
Unlike alligators, which recover rapidly from persecution and which live in the U.S. where protection is possible, sea turtles take as long as 30-40 years to reach breeding age, are scattered among many countries and in international waters, and are very vulnerable to poaching nearly everywhere. Conservationists cannot fight the demand for turtles stimulated by turtle "farms", nor can we fight all the misinformation about sea turtle conservation put forth by those trying to sell "farmed" turtles.

Perhaps by some time next century, some sea turtle stocks will have recovered to the point where limited exploitation for luxury markets will be possible. For now, we hope that the U.S. Government will keep its wise ban against the importation of "farmed" sea turtle merchandise, and we urge American citizens to refrain from buying sea turtle products — meat, soup, oil, shell, eggs, or leather — legal or illegal, wherever they may be offered for sale.


David Ehrenfeld
Professor of Biology
Rutgers University

(201 932 9553)

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
University of Florida, and
Chairman, Marine Turtle
Specialist Group, Inter-
national Union for the
Conservation of Nature
and Natural Resources
(IUCN), Switzerland


George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of
Marine Biology, and
Deputy Chairman,
IUCN Marine Turtle
Group

(808) 247-6631


10/27

George,

The enclosed letter, which I am asking you to sign and send promptly to Archie, is a response to the enclosed letter in last Sunday's N.Y. Times Magazine, which goes to millions of people (the extra copy is for Archie.) Please ask Archie to sign it and send it directly to the editor (assuming that this is o.k. with you both)

Regards,

David

P.S. You and Archie should add your  phone numbers to the letter.

Archie should send the letter to:

Letters to the Editor, Magazine
The N.Y. Times
229 W. 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

10/24/82
NY Times



ANIMALS/NEWS

Preservation For Profit

Clifford May has contributed useful insight to world concern for the wildlife of Africa ("Preservation for Profit," Sept. 12).

Kenya needs help and knows it. High-level international cooperation is the logical means by which the parsimony, subterfuge and corruption that have dogged conservation undertakings in East Africa, thus far, may be successfully circumvented.

CLEMENT E. MEROWIT
Director
Friends of Africa in America
Tarrytown, N.Y.

As Clifford May points out, there are a growing number of persons dedicated to the conservation of endangered species who are coming to the conclusion that traditional conservation methods may not be enough to succeed, given the vicissitudes of life today.

Increasingly, these people are beginning to consider the option of farming such animals for profit as one way to help prevent their extinction, not only in Africa and the third world, but in our own neck of the woods as well.

In your own country, it is being tried with some success with alligators and in my country with the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) also with some success (we have been at it for seven years).

In our case, our lot has been made extremely difficult be-

cause the United States has stopped us from exporting our farmed turtle products to it. This ban is so rigid we may not even transship our products through your ports, making it next to impossible to export to other countries.

However, attitudes are beginning to change, and we are hopeful that the United States Government will, in the end, demonstrate the willingness to help a neighbor that has always been the hallmark of your warm and generous people.

We have no doubt that by shedding light on this subject Clifford May will have done a great deal to help our tiny country and our even tinier industry of the farming of green sea turtles.

THE HON. JOHN MCLEAN
Member, Executive Council
of the
Cayman Islands
for Agriculture, Lands and
Natural Resources
Cayman Islands
British West Indies

In a quest for some sort of "wildlife elitism," persons at the forefront of "conservation" groups speak a bureaucratic lingo. Dissertations on wildlife are strangely dispassionate and overlaid with such terms as "harvesting" and "cropping" instead of "killing," or "maximum sustainable yield," which means: "How many can we kill without wiping out the species?"

This phenomenon can be attributed to the fact that most "conservationist" organizations are dominated by hunters. For example, the National Wildlife Federation is, for the most part, a composite of local trapping and hunting clubs. Entrusting hunting-oriented groups with the "protection" of wildlife is analogous to deputizing Al Capone to fight crime in Chicago.

SUSAN RUSSELL
Education Director
Friends of Animals Inc.
New York City

As Clifford May suggests, it seems to be the haphazard destruction of animal habitats for a burgeoning human population which is responsible for the increasing loss of wildlife rather than hunting or managed cropping of indigenous species.

Those of us at the School for Field Studies see the Hopcraft Ranch experiment as one viable component in a comprehensive solution to the problem. We are beginning our third year of operation in Kenya and our second with Hopcraft Ranch as a base. The Kenya situation provides an unparalleled learning experience for students to become sensitized to the country on its own terms. That, in the long run, may be the most valuable contribution we can make to the cause of conservation.

JAMES L. ELDER
Director, The School for Field
Studies
Cambridge, Mass.



Russell Baker's Boyhood

Lacking Russell Baker's eloquence, I cannot properly express my gratitude for his "Memoir of a Small-Town Boyhood" (Sept. 12).

I have always admired Mr. Baker's "way with words," but this time his story is more than clever satire. It is reality infused with compassion and love. Because of him, the world seemed less unfeeling today.

RUTA RUDZITIS
North Bellmore, L.I.

Russell Baker writes that "beyond Lovettsville lay Brunswick, that vision of

Paradise." He mentions that Brunswick had a department store — it was Kaplan's. The "drugstore where you could sit down at a round table and have somebody bring you an ice-cream soda" was Horine's Pharmacy. And on the "street stretching for two or three blocks lined with stores" was A. I. Ellin's Haberdashery, where in 1930, on the second floor, I was born. My family lived in Brunswick from 1926 to 1934. My mother, who is now 88, remembers that time well. She recalls that there were lots of Bakers — they were "railroad people."

We moved to Frederick in 1934 and stayed there until 1954. I had occasion to work at the "hospital in Frederick" where Mr. Baker's father could "get better."

The article brought back many memories.

MORTON J. ELLIN, M.D.
Baltimore

The Case Against Sanctions

Make no mistake about it, George Ball's article "The Case Against Sanctions" (Sept. 12) is the case for appeasement. In Mr. Ball's view there is no reason to punish Soviet actions and no means at our disposal for doing so. The military regime in Poland is simply observed as part of the ebb and flow of history, and economic sanctions are seen as a fatuous exercise in power politics. What would Mr. Ball propose? Surely the use of United States military forces is unimaginable. What Mr. Ball describes as the Manichaeian world view of the neoconservatives is in fact his monochromatic view of the Soviet system as a benign behemoth. I suspect his recommendation for the next episode of Soviet adventurism will be the boycott of the 1984 Olympics. What an extraordinary humiliation that will be for the Russians.

HERBERT LONDON
New York City

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October 28, 1982

F/SWC2:GFB

TO: William G. Gilmartin, Leader, Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Investigation

FROM: George H. Balass

SUBJECT: Some comments on the October 15, 1982 letter to Mr. Ford from K. L. Brandt

1. There is no evidence that the green turtle was ever one of the "people's tradition staples" among the native Hawaiians. In the old culture of Hawaii, green turtles were reserved exclusively for the ruling class--ali'i and chiefs. This fact has been clearly documented in the literature by historians of Hawaiian ancestry.
2. The prohibition on taking green turtles in Hawaii was not imposed specifically on the "native Hawaiian people." The prohibition obviously applies equally to all people of the state.
3. There is no mention in the literature of a "ritual use" of green turtles in the culture of old Hawaii. In contrast, a ritual use in preparing turtles as food for chiefs is known to have existed in the Tuamotu Archipelago, Northern Cook Islands, and several other Pacific island locations.
4. It would be useful to see the documentation supporting the statement that "many islanders do indeed employ the Honu Mama'o in certain aspects of our ancient worship." The only mention in the literature of an ancient worship of sea turtles relates to the personal gods or *sumakua* of certain families. In these cases, the people involved would never eat, or in any other way harm, a sea turtle. The turtles were worshipped as being part human.
5. There is no mention in the Hawaiian literature of the name "Honu Mama'o" being applied to *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle), or any other species of sea turtle. *Chelonia mydas* in the Hawaiian language is known simply as "honu." The name "green turtle" is of European origin, and was not used in the culture of old Hawaii. It is therefore interesting to note that the dictionary definition of "mama'o" is "green" or "greenish."
6. Based on my knowledge to date, there is no "real" or "urgent" need for people in Hawaii (native Hawaiians or otherwise) to specifically take green turtles for subsistence. Alternate protein food sources are available from the ocean and elsewhere.
7. Governor Ariyoshi did not support in testimony the lifting of restrictions on green turtles "as relating to native Hawaiians." Governor Ariyoshi's testimony in 1975 and 1976 (on listing the green turtle under the ESA) stated that he was in favor of noncommercial use by all the people of Hawaii, not just native Hawaiians.

8. "...that which is fair for natives of the Trust Territory" is not necessarily "equally fair for native Hawaiians." There are substantial differences between the people and places involved.

9. I am not familiar with the Kahanahou Hawaiian Foundation, or the Hawaiian Rite Church-Hale o Lono. It would be informative to know how many people are being represented by this organization and faith, and the addresses of the units mentioned that exist on other islands.

10. The issue at hand here appears to involve far more than just green turtles. Rather the proposition is being set forth that laws now covering the protection and controlled usage of wildlife and fish should not apply to native Hawaiian people, if it can be demonstrated that some form of usage occurred in the culture of old Hawaii. This viewpoint could logically also include Hawaiian seabirds, forest birds, various marine mammals (including monk seals), hawksbill turtles, and even dogs, all of which are protected species at the present time. A separate set of rules covering size restrictions and gear usage in fishing practices would also seem reasonable under this point of view. In any event, the establishment of any "separate community" policy of this nature, if found to be warranted, should in my view originate first within the Hawaii State Government, and not at the federal level.

GHB:ey

cc: Balazs

HL

November 29, 1982

Mr. Fred Berry
Southeast Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Fred:

As you have heard from Karen Bjorndal, our work on "edition number two" of the Sea Turtle Manual is progressing fairly well. However, we have been somewhat surprised by the paucity of letters sent in response to our memo of October 8th. Nevertheless, what we have received in the way of comments has proved worthwhile.

My main reason for writing to you at this time is to ask if you can now give me a firm commitment to cover my expenses to the WATS meeting during July of next year. You will recall mentioning this possibility when you first telephoned me about editing the Manual. I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this subject so I can make the appropriate plans. It is highly unlikely that I will be able to attend the meeting if I do not receive outside financial support.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA with NMFS, Honolulu Lab)

GHB:ec

December 30, 1982

F/SWC26HB

Mr. Chuck Johnston
Hawaii Fishing News
6650 Hawaii Kai Dr., Suite 210
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Chuck,

The response to my article about sea turtles that appeared in the December issue of Hawaii Fishing News has really been encouraging. As I emphasized in the story, the great majority of Hawaii's fishermen are sincerely concerned about the intelligent conservation of marine resources. There is clearly a desire to help out in some meaningful fashion. Hawaiian sea turtles serve as an excellent example of where lots of people are now making fine contributions. From the telephone calls received in recent weeks, I'm convinced that this community effort will continue to grow.

A few months ago the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Center for Environmental Education (of Washington, D.C.) jointly issued a wall-sized poster showing the eight species of sea turtles occurring throughout the world. A limited supply of these attractive and educational posters is available for distribution at no cost to fishing clubs and other ocean-related organizations here in Hawaii. To obtain one of these posters, requests should be sent to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

Once again, many thanks for the beneficial role that Hawaii Fishing News serves to our fishing community.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs ✓
HL

January 7, 1983

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Tamotsu Yonemori
Director
Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory
1000 Orido
Shimizu-shi 424
Japan

Dear Dr. Yonemori:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with information or data on the accidental capture of sea turtles by Japanese seiners or longliners. Does your laboratory compile records of these captures? Any help that you can give me on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HONOLULU LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812

December 22, 1982

F/SWC2:GHB

Vonnie Small
Biological Technician
Virgin Islands National Park
Box 110, Cruz Bay
St. John, Virgin Islands 00830

Dear Vonnie Small:

I am writing to ask if you can send me three more copies of your excellent research report on sea turtle nesting in the Virgin Islands National Park.

On page 35 of your report it is stated that efforts will be made "to obtain a quantitative population estimate of sea turtles within park waters" (my emphasis). I would be interested to learn just how much ocean area (adjacent reefs?) is actually included within the Park's boundary. Perhaps there is a map you can send me showing the true boundary of the entire Park.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

GHB:ey

cc: Balazs ✓

HL

January 24, 1983

F/SNC2:GRB

Dr. C. E. Nash
Editor, Aquaculture
Kramer, Chin and Mayo, Inc.
1917 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Colin,

Thanks very much for telephoning me the other day and asking if I would be interested in authoring a section on turtle culture (stressing production). As I mentioned, I'm just not the best qualified person to be doing this sort of thing. And I'm not certain just who is. However, I do know who can answer the question. His name is Dr. Ed Moll, and he is the Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group. Indeed, he may even want to take on this job himself if it can be fit into his schedule. Dr. Moll is currently on a fellowship in India and can be contacted by writing c/o Madras Snake Park Trust, Deer Sanctuary, Guindy, Madras 600022, India.

Enclosed are two of my papers relating to sea turtles that were just recently published in a volume by Smithsonian Press. Please feel free to call upon me as one of your reviewers when you have papers submitted to Aquaculture relating to sea turtles. I previously served as a reviewer for Dr. Alderdice on several papers dealing with crustacean nutrition. He always seemed to be pleased with my input.

Best wishes for this New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

Enclosures

GHL/11

bc: Balazs
HL



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 24, 1983

Mr. Chandra Sekhar Kar
Gahirmatha Marine Turtle Research
and Conservation Centre
Forest Department
Government of Orissa
P.O.: Satabhaya - 754 225
Via: Rajnagar Dist: Cuttack
Orissa, INDIA

Dear Mr. Kar:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialists Group. Any information that I receive from you as the result of this inquiry will be transmitted immediately by telephone to our Chairman, Dr. Archie Carr, at the University of Florida. The December 1982 issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter contained an editorial and referenced articles concerning the indiscriminate slaughter of huge numbers of olive ridleys in Orissa and West Bengal. To the best of your knowledge, is this report correct? Is the killing of these turtles uncontrolled, illegal, inhumane and/or a threat to the survival of the populations in your region of the world? As a resident of Orissa and an authority on India sea turtles, do you agree that an appropriate and effective action is to write to Mrs. Ghandi, as recommended in Marine Turtle Newsletter by Dr. Mrosovsky?

Your advice and guidance on these important matters will be greatly appreciated. I hope that you can respond to me by air mail just as soon as possible.

The reprint that you requested from Dr. Dizon covering our Hawaiian green turtle telemetry study has been enclosed with this letter. I noticed that in Dr. Mrosovsky's editorial he cited (and quoted from) a "Kar, C.S., ms." I would appreciate receiving a copy of this ms, which presumably is now available for distribution.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
and Deputy Chairman, IUCN/SSC
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec
Encl.
✓ bcc: Bob Scott

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 24, 1983

Shrimati Indira Gandhi
Prime Minister of India
South Block - Central Secretariat
New Delhi 110011
INDIA

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Gandhi:

During recent months I have heard of several disturbing reports in the international press concerning the apparent uncontrolled and illegal killing of huge numbers of olive ridley sea turtles in Orissa and West Bengal. I am writing to ask if you can please provide me with factual information on these reports. As a member of the Marine Turtle Specialists Group of the IUCN, I am concerned about the survival of these vulnerable marine reptiles. As you may know, several breeding populations of olive ridleys have already vanished on the Pacific coast of Mexico as the result of excessive harvesting.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this inquiry. Let me also take this opportunity to tell you that the people of Hawaii continue to greatly enjoy the fine elephant that you kindly presented last year to the Honolulu Zoo.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
and Member, IUCN/SSC Marine
Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

March 23, 1981

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Stephen E. Cornelius
P. O. Box 132
Willow Spring, MO 65793

Dear Steve,

I'm interested in learning more about the two kinds of tags that you used on olive ridleys at Nancite during the 1980 breeding seasons. It is my understanding that a new type of plastic tag was tested, along with the traditional Monel tag made by National Band and Tag Company. What style of plastic tag was involved and who is the manufacturer? Were the Monel tags the larger size 49, or the smaller size 681? What tagging sites on the turtle did you select? Have any recoveries been made that can give you some ideas of relative tag retention and durability?

Sorry to be asking you so many questions, but as you probably know I'm keenly interested in tag developments. I'm now in my 5th year using Inconel 625 alloy tags (size 681). Recoveries of these tags are regularly being made, but I have yet to find any evidence of corrosion.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

Enclosure: Synopsis of Biological Data
on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands

bc: Balazs
HL

GHB:iht



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, SURVEYS AND ENVIRONMENT

TELEPHONE:

WILDLIFE DIVISION

P.O. BOX 2585
Konedobu

Dr George Balazs,
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Center,
Honolulu Laboratory,
P.O. Box 3830,
HONOLULU, Hawaii 96812

Date: 13.3.81
Our Reference: IUCN/AATSG
Action Officer: S.Spring
Designation:
Your Reference:
Date:

Dear George,

Thanks for your note & photocopy of the newspaper clippings. Fancy Mike McCoy subscribing to the Post Courier & The Times. Yes I have seen both these photographs. The Green Turtle was one of Applied Ecology's 'head-started' turtles released in the Torres Strait- I've had quite a few (70) recoveries reported to me over the last year of so.

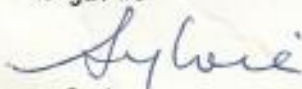
An interesting development from the Long Island tagging programme, I've got ~~the~~ recoveries of two green turtles from Irian Jaya. There will be a note in the MT Newsletter about this - (or what about the South Pacific Newsletter?).

Kayama has just returned from Australia, he was working with Colin Limpus for nearly 10 weeks at Mon Repos & Heron Island. He's full of enthusiasm & can't wait to return to Long Island with Valonna. The Long Island work is going well, it appears the nesting is non-seasonal there as there has been continuous resting (low density) of greens since last August & the peak season is yet to come up (May - July).

How's your work going? What are the possibilities of my getting a job in Hawaii related to Turtle work? Need an assistant? I ask because Jef & I will probably be leaving P.N.G. next year sometime & I'm looking at possible future directions.

Anyway I'll end off here as I've deadlines to meet for the 1982 estimates.

Regards


Sylvia

October 30, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Richard C. Neumann
DiveMaster Services
2465 Campus Road, Suite E-13
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Mr. Neumann:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the part that you played in helping our agency retrieve the dead and tumor-afflicted green sea turtle found at Hahaione Bay Saturday, October 17th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy was conducted on the turtle, but the cause of death could not be determined. Except for a small piece of monofilament fishing line wrapped on the right front flipper, there was no evidence of synthetic debris entanglement or ingestion.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. One of these articles describes the problem of tumors on green sea turtles in Hawaii. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Salas
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

November 5, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Rick Huns
P. O. Box 15122
Honolulu, HI 96830

Dear Mr. Huns:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the part that you played in helping our agency retrieve the dead and tumor-afflicted green sea turtle found at Hanalei Bay Saturday, October 17th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy was conducted on the turtle, but the cause of death could not be determined. Except for a small piece of monofilament fishing line wrapped on the right front flipper, there was no evidence of synthetic debris entanglement or ingestion.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands (and elsewhere throughout the United States) are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. One of these articles describes the problem of tumors on green sea turtles in Hawaii. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

November 6, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Jim Matsumoto
1107 Liliha Street #212
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Mr. Matsumoto:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for reporting the dead and tumor-afflicted sea turtle seen washed up along the Reef Runway on Thursday, November 5th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands (and elsewhere throughout the United States) are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CNTR
HONOLULU LABORATORY
2570 DOLE STREET
HONOLULU HI 96822-2396

October 28, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Jan Corcoran
3 Worchester Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Ms. Corcoran:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part that you and your son played in helping our agency retrieve the sick and tumor-afflicted green sea turtle found at the entrance to Pearl Harbor on Sunday, October 25th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle is being cared for at our research facility at Kewalo Basin. However, its' longterm outlook for survival does not appear very good.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. One of these articles describes the problem of tumors on green sea turtles in Hawaii. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CNTR
HONOLULU LABORATORY
2570 DOLE STREET
HONOLULU HI 96822-2396

October 27, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Captain Paul Fischer
Mauna Kea Kai
c/o The Westin Mauna Kea
Kawaihae, Hawaii 96743

Dear Captain Fischer:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your crew members for your action in rescuing the sick sea turtle found off Kawaihae on Monday, October 26th and shipping it to our agency for resuscitation. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle is an adult male olive ridley, Lepidochelys olivacea. The nearest nesting grounds for this species are along the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica in the eastern Pacific.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. In addition, I am sending you a check for \$21.00 to reimburse you for the cost of shipping the turtle to us.

Again many thanks for your help. I will be in contact with you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

October 30, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Richard C. Neumann
DiveMaster Services
2465 Campus Road, Suite E-13
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Mr. Neumann:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the part that you played in helping our agency retrieve the dead and tumor-afflicted green sea turtle found at Hanauma Bay Saturday, October 17th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy was conducted on the turtle, but the cause of death could not be determined except for a small piece of monofilament fishing line wrapped on the right front flipper, there was no evidence of synthetic debris entanglement or ingestion.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. One of these articles describes the problem of tumors on green sea turtles in Hawaii. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

October 30, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Camp Mokuleia
c/o Ginger
68-729 Farrington Highway
Waiialua, HI 96791

Dear Ginger,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part the Camp Mokuleia staff played in helping our agency retrieve the small dead green sea turtle found along your beach on Thursday, October 22nd. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy was conducted on the turtle, but the exact cause of death could not be determined. In cases such as this, accidental capture and drowning in gill nets are one of the more probable explanations.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting. One of these articles describes the problem of tumors on green sea turtles in Hawaii. If you have any questions, or items of special concern that you would like to discuss, please feel free to call me at 943-1240 or 943-1221.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

October 27, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Rick Sato
J and R Seafoods
4361 Rice Street
Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Dear Mr. Sato:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the tremendous help you provided by storing the fresh dead sea turtle in your cooler overnight until Don Heacock and I could perform an autopsy on Thursday afternoon, October 8th. Your kind assistance in this matter was greatly appreciated.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, and elsewhere throughout the United States, are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with the responsibility of conducting research that will aid in the recovery of sea turtle populations, and their eventual return to former levels of abundance. I have enclosed several articles about our work, as well as general information about sea turtles, which you may find interesting.

Again, many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosures

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

October 6, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Paul Kawamoto
Division of Aquatic Resources, DLNR
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Paul,

Several weeks ago we handled a turtle stranding that I thought you would find of special interest, and concern, as a recovery team member. The details are as follows.

At approximately 1 pm on Friday, September 11th, I received a telephone call from a Mr. Harry Yoshiki (tel. 548-7655) with the State Highways Division. Mr. Yoshiki was in radio contact with one of his workers at Pupukea who had found a large dead turtle on the beach. The fresh carcass, with no apparent signs of injury, was situated a short distance above the high-tide line directly behind the Marine Life Conservation District sign located at the west end of the Pupukea protected area. Mr. Yoshiki said that he had first notified the Division of Aquatic Resources, but had been told to call me. I responded by immediately sending a person out to pick the turtle up for autopsy, and to interview people in the vicinity to possibly learn more about the stranding. I asked Mr. Yoshiki to telephone Conservation Enforcement so they would be aware of this case, since it would take an hour to drive there. In addition, I notified our NMFS enforcement branch and the Western Pacific Program Office (WPPO).

The turtle (Chelonia mydas) was found to be a female measuring 80.4 cm in straight carapace length which was very close to sexual maturity. There were no signs of disease or injury, and the stomach was filled in a normal manner with algae (mainly Pterocladia capillacea). One of the persons interviewed, a tourist (and veterinarian) who said he had been in the area all day, reported that the turtle had been carried ashore that morning by fishermen who had found it drowned in their net. No exact information was given on where the net had been set, but it was believed to be nearby.

Reports of turtles drowning in nets are fairly common to hear, but this is probably the first one to be documented in or near a Marine Conservation District.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Noah Pekelo, Recovery Team Consultant
Gene Witham, Recovery Team Consultant
WPPO



Geo FYI

October 15, 1987

F/SWC2

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWR1 - Doyle E. Gates
 FROM: ^{3/ENB}fn F/SWC2 - Richard S. Shomura
 SUBJECT: Stranded sea turtle report and follow up

Attached is a copy of the letter George Balass wrote to Mr. Vegas, after following up on a report John Haughton received last Friday which he passed on to George.

Attachment

cc: Wicham w/Vegas letter
 WJG
 DO
 HL