

August 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Fred C. Zieshenne
R.R. #1, Box 479-A
Kula, Maui, HI 96790

Dear Mr. Zieshenne:

Many thanks for your recent telephone call asking for information on Hawaiian sea turtles. I enjoyed hearing about some of your past work experiences and present farming endeavors on Maui.

As promised, I am sending an assortment of literature covering our research activities on sea turtles. If you wish, I can send a similar set to your Fisheries Officer friend in the Maldivé Islands.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

July 28, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Douglas A. Wolfe
NOAA N/OMA3
Ocean Assessments Division
Rockwell 652
Rockville, MD 29852

Dear Dr. Wolfe:

The peer-view which you requested that I carry out on Dr. Carr's manuscript for Marine Pollution Bulletin has been enclosed. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to lend my endorsement to this scientifically sound and very readable piece of work.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: Balazs
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

July 23, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. David Pelto
Judith Anderegg
P. O. Box 1472
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear David and Judith,

I appreciated having the opportunity to speak with you by telephone on July 16th. The situation you witnessed involving the taking of a large sea turtle at Punaluu on the Big Island is indeed regrettable. All sea turtles in Hawaii are presently protected under both State law and the U.S. Endangered Species Act. I understand from Agent Eugene Witham of our enforcement branch that an investigation is being pursued based on the evidence you supplied. I hope that his inquiries into this case will help to increase the awareness of people living near Punaluu that it is illegal to harm or kill sea turtles. I am especially concerned about Punaluu because it is one of my long-term study areas for tagging turtles. Turtles that come into this small shallow bay to feed are exceedingly vulnerable to capture. Ideally, this important site should be given added emphasis by making it into some sort of habitat preserve for sea turtles.

I have enclosed an assortment of literature about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Since Judith is a school teacher, I am sending some educational material suitable for use in the classroom.

Again, many thanks for taking the time to report this incident.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Recovery Team members



Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

May 6, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWR4 - Gene Witham
THROUGH: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Dead green sea turtle reported at Maalea Harbor,
Maui on Wednesday, April 30th

Informal verbal reports that I received from both Joe and Bonnie late last week indicated that the April 30th turtle stranding on Maui only involved accidental entanglement in some sort of fishing gear. On Friday, May 2d, following the end of our Recovery Team meeting, I contacted DOCARE on Maui in an effort to learn more about this incident. I spoke to Mr. Okamoto, an enforcement officer who had been directly involved. He expressed frustration over his findings, which consisted, in his view, of human take following entanglement. He told me that the turtle, a 60-85 lb green turtle, was found in Maalea Harbor with 200-300 lb test monofilament trolling line wrapped on the front flipper and neck, but not severe enough to have killed it. A 4-ft piece of cord was tied to one of the hind flippers. In addition, manila rope was tied around the neck and anchored to the harbor bottom with a heavy object of some sort. There was some suggestion that the turtle had become further fouled after being "anchored," thereby causing its death by drowning.

I wanted to make you aware of this information, since it involves law enforcement considerations over and above accidental entanglement in fishing gear.



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Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
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July 24, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Sharon Spurling
311 Ano Street
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

Dear Sharon,

Thank you very much for informing the proper agencies about the dead green sea turtle with tags you found at Paukukalo on July 23rd. As I mentioned to you by telephone, this is an especially interesting case because of the numerous tumors present on the neck, shoulders, and groin. From the descriptions I have heard, the tumors have apparently grown considerably since we tagged the turtle in Kahului Bay 13 months ago. I look forward to reviewing Skippy Hau's photographs and comparing them with the ones I took last year. Not much is known about the cause and effect of these tumors on Hawaiian green turtles, so any new information we obtain is greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed an assortment of literature about Hawaiian sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Skippy Hau
Jacob Mau



July 24, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Sharon Spurling
311 Ano Street
Kahului, Maui, HI 96732

Dear Sharon,

Thank you very much for informing the proper agencies about the dead green sea turtle with tags you found at Paukukalo on July 23rd. As I mentioned to you by telephone, this is an especially interesting case because of the numerous tumors present on the neck, shoulders, and groin. From the descriptions I have heard, the tumors have apparently grown considerably since we tagged the turtle in Kahului Bay 13 months ago. I look forward to reviewing Skippy Hau's photographs and comparing them with the ones I took last year. Not much is known about the cause and effect of these tumors on Hawaiian green turtles, so any new information we obtain is greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed an assortment of literature about Hawaiian sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Skippy Hau
Jacob Mau

bc: Balazs ✓
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

July 3, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Frederick H. Berry
Secretary, WATS II
National Marine Fisheries
Service, NOAA
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Fred,

I am writing to let you know that I have made the decision at this early date to withdraw as your editor for the WATS II symposium. This has been a very difficult decision to arrive at, but one in which I feel certain is in the best interest of my professional obligations and personal circumstances here in Hawaii. My workload here at present, and for the foreseeable future, occupies 100% of my office time, as well as notable segments of evenings and weekends. I simply don't see how I can take on any more duties and continue to do a respectable job. And certainly this is the case for work that is centered 5,000 miles away in your region of the world.

I deeply appreciate the confidence you have shown in me by selecting me for this important and prestigious assignment. Nevertheless, given my responsibilities here in Hawaii, I feel that it is in everyone's best interest to withdraw while there is still ample time (16 months) before the symposium takes place. I recommend that you select someone based in your region in order to facilitate the high level of coordination and communication needed to accomplish the editorial task.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Dr. Robert P. Lankford
Dr. Karen Bjorndal



July 7, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. John Forehan
Stockbrands Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 1986 which I just received last week upon my return from four weeks of field work at a remote location.

I have tested the two titanium "Greenpeace" tags that you sent, -- one in each of our two applicators (A and B). In addition, two of our own titanium tags have been tested in the same manner. All four of these locked tags have been enclosed for your inspection.

In my opinion none of these tags worked properly, if the purpose of the hole is to have the piercing tip fold into it as a safeguard against snagging on a foreign object. None of the tips entered the hole, including the sample tag you sent as representative of a correctly locked tag. The only difference that I could find between our tags and the tags made for Greenpeace was that the tips on the latter were manufactured with more of an inward curve or bend. Our tags have an almost straight tip, with little or no curvature. Two of our unused tags have been enclosed for comparison.

As I indicated in my earlier letter, our tags are usable, but do not function in the manner for which they were designed. We plan to continue using the tags on sea turtles under select circumstances, but only in combination with tags obtained from other sources.

We look forward to having your professional analysis of this problem. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Colin Limpus
Larry Ogren
Karen Bjorndal

July 7, 1986

F/SWC2

Dr. Karen Bjorndal
Chairman, IUCN Marine
Turtle Specialist Group
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Karen,

A recent issue of NAUI News, the official publication of the NAUI Diving Association, contains material that is not in the best interests of sea turtle conservation. Lew Consiglieri of our Agency's Western Pacific Program Office has already written to the editor (copy enclosed) pointing out the illegal nature of the activities shown and described in the issue. He has also made an appeal for steps to be taken to better educate divers of the protected status of sea turtles. I will send you a copy of whatever response Lew receives.

My purpose in bringing this matter to your attention is to suggest that, in your capacity as Chairman of our Group, you write to Dacor Corporation asking for cooperation in properly educating divers through their advertising policy. Scuba divers hanging on to a small hawksbill may not be illegal in many foreign countries, as it is in the U.S., however, the general impression conveyed by the photo advertisement is not to my liking. The diver "patting" the turtle's head in no way compensates for the stress imposed by the animal not being free to swim to the surface to breathe!

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Larry Ogren

May 16, 1986

P/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Debra Hutchins
62-595 Kam Hwy
Haleiwa, HI 96812

Dear Debra,

I am writing to thank you for the important role you played in reporting the sick green sea turtle that beached itself on May 5th in Haleiwa. After being picked up by State conservation officers, the turtle was transferred to our facilities at Kewalo Basin. Upon examination, the turtle was found to have a large tumor in its mouth interfering with its ability to breathe. A local veterinarian, Dr. Patrick Leadbeater, subsequently became interested in this case. Surgery was performed on May 13th, and again on May 14th. I am pleased to report that the growth was successfully removed and the turtle seems to be recovering nicely. We will continue to hold it in captivity for at least a few weeks before tagging and releasing it back into the wild.

I have enclosed an assortment of literature about Hawaiian sea turtles that you may find interesting. Again, we appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George E. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Gene Witham, NMFS Law Enforcement
Noah Pekelo, State Conservation Enforcement

cc: Balazs
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

May 23, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. D. Robert Bloom
P. O. Box 358
Hanamaulu, Kauai, HI 96715

Dear Mr. Bloom:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for passing along the letters and photographs you received relating to the turtle seen ashore earlier this year at Milolii. Don Heacock of the Division of Aquatic Resources provided me with a complete record of these observations. I should also mention that letters of appreciation have been sent to Drs. Robert and Monica Kolimas, and Mr. Jim Goldberg, for their efforts in responding to your request for photos.

On the less encouraging side, I regret to report that during late April the butchered remains of a turtle were found at the north end of Milolii. This is a very disturbing finding, since any turtle basking ashore is obviously extremely vulnerable to capture. We can only hope that human-induced mortality of this nature will be kept to a minimum through public education and enhanced law enforcement.

I have enclosed several items about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure



July 9, 1986

P/SWC2

Mr. Burgess Heacox
227 San Miguel Way
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Bud,

I apologize for having taken so long to respond to your letter of May 13th and the excellent turtle sighting data you collected from the Pikake Apartment on Maui. For the third year in a row now you have provided worthwhile information on the turtles occurring at this location. Once again I want to sincerely thank you for your contribution.

As Leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, I was very concerned to read your comments about turtle poaching in the vicinity of the Pikake Apartment. I have passed this information on to our enforcement branch, with the hope that increased surveillance can be conducted at that location.

Enclosed are a few items that I thought you would find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you again next year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Gene Witham

July 8, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Rudy Catekista
2323 California Avenue
Wahiawa, HI 96786

Dear Rudy,

Many thanks for calling me yesterday about the four dead sea turtles ranging up to 200 pounds that you saw underwater on Saturday morning at Laniakea off Oahu's north shore.

Our enforcement branch, along with a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who lives at Laniakea, inspected the beach area several hours after you telephoned. They found a very large dead turtle with its shell and meat cut off. The turtle was fresh, so it could not have been one of the turtles that you originally observed. The agents are in the process of investigating this case to determine exactly what happened. I will contact you again when there is more information to report.

I have enclosed some literature about sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting. Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

July 8, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Paul Raymond
National Marine Fisheries
Service, NOAA
Regional Office
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Paul,

Thank you for sending me information on your green turtle papilloma "work statement." I appreciate knowing what you have planned for addressing this potentially important disease in the Southeast Region. Unfortunately, no money has become available in our area to work on the same problem in the Hawaiian green turtle population. I wonder if it would be possible for your work statement to formally include the study of tumor tissue from Hawaii? It seems to me that this would be an excellent opportunity for interregional cooperation on a research problem of common concern.

As requested, I have enclosed copies of my correspondence with Drs. Fred Smith and Elliot Jacobson, which were exchanged since the Georgia workshop. I am also sending a final draft of my note for Marine Turtle Newsletter. Nat Prazer has agreed to publish it as soon as agency approval is obtained, which will be forthcoming very soon.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Larry Ogren

July 7, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. John Forehan
Stockbrands Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

Thank you for your letter of May 30, 1986 which I just received last week upon my return from four weeks of field work at a remote location.

I have tested the two titanium "Greenpeace" tags that you sent, -- one in each of our two applicators (A and B). In addition, two of our own titanium tags have been tested in the same manner. All four of these locked tags have been enclosed for your inspection.

In my opinion none of these tags worked properly, if the purpose of the hole is to have the piercing tip fold into it as a safeguard against snagging on a foreign object. None of the tips entered the hole, including the sample tag you sent as representative of a correctly locked tag. The only difference that I could find between our tags and the tags made for Greenpeace was that the tips on the latter were manufactured with more of an inward curve or bend. Our tags have an almost straight tip, with little or no curvature. Two of our unused tags have been enclosed for comparison.

As I indicated in my earlier letter, our tags are usable, but do not function in the manner for which they were designed. We plan to continue using the tags on sea turtles under select circumstances, but only in combination with tags obtained from other sources.

We look forward to having your professional analysis of this problem. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Colin Limpus
Larry Ogren
Karen Bjorndal



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

July 9, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Burgess Heacox
227 San Miguel Way
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Bud,

I apologize for having taken so long to respond to your letter of May 13th and the excellent turtle sighting data you collected from the Pikake Apartment on Maui. For the third year in a row now you have provided worthwhile information on the turtles occurring at this location. Once again I want to sincerely thank you for your contribution.

As Leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, I was very concerned to read your comments about turtle poaching in the vicinity of the Pikake Apartment. I have passed this information on to our enforcement branch, with the hope that increased surveillance can be conducted at that location.

Enclosed are a few items that I thought you would find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you again next year.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Gene Witham





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 18, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. John Forehan
STOCKBRANDS Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

I am writing to let you know that the titanium sea turtle tags we purchased from you last year have a malfunction to the locking mechanism. When applied, the piercing tip of the tag fails to align and pass back through the round hole. We have tested both of the applicators we ordered, as well as tags from several different number lots among the 500. All show this same malfunction.

We consider the tags to be still usable, since the tip does bend somewhat back over to the face of the tag. Nevertheless, it does not function in the manner intended. We would be interested to learn if this problem has been reported to you before. Also, we would like to know if there is anything we can do to the tags and/or applicators to correct the problem.

Your consultation on this matter will be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed three locked tags for your inspection.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Col Limpus
Larry Ogren
Karen Bjorndal
Jack Woody
Nat Frazer

April 18, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Keith Fukumoto
925 Waioli Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Mr. Fukumoto:

Many thanks for your recent report of a turtle seen off Waimanalo Beach Park. We are interested in receiving sighting of this nature as part of our research program on threatened and endangered sea turtles in Hawaii and the Pacific.

I have enclosed several articles about sea turtles which you may find of interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

July 18, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Susan Taylor
68-085C Akule Street
Waialua, Hawaii 96791

Dear Ms. Taylor:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in notifying our agency about the freshly butchered shell of a sea turtle found in your backyard on Tuesday, July 12th. 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

July 9, 1986

F/SWC2

Dr. Harold Hirth
Department of Biology
201 Biology Building
University of Utah
1400 East Second South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Harry,

Enclosed is an assortment of 35-mm slides of basking turtles taken last month at French Frigate Shoals. I thought you might be interested in looking them over. For comparison, I have also included two shots of Tortuguero green turtles, and one from Rose Atoll. I would like to hear your comments as to taxonomic classification. A postpaid self-addressed envelope has been enclosed for use in returning the slides when you are finished.

As you will read in the enclosed letter to Fred Berry, I have decided not to serve as chief editor for the WATS II symposium scheduled later next year in Puerto Rico. I'm having a difficult time keeping up with all of the critical lines of research here in Hawaii. It just doesn't make good sense to me to become heavily involved in more work so distant outside of our Pacific region.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

16 slides

TAG NUMBERS: 8884-8895 (12)



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

July 7, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Noah Pekelo
Chief, Staff Support Services
Division of Conservation
and Resource Enforcement
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Noah,

Enclosed are twelve tags and tagging instructions for your Division's use should the circumstances arise where you need to release a sea turtle back into the wild. The applicators that we have been getting from the tag manufacturer often do not work properly. Consequently, our instructions describe the use of regular pliers and a small pocket knife to apply the tag in a "foolproof" manner. I am sure you will find this to be a relatively simple procedure.

I appreciate your interest and cooperation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist



April 25, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Richard Kollmar
P. O. Box 62044
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Mr. Kollmar:

I appreciated hearing from you about the large aggregation of green turtles seen at night near the Kahului power plant. Their presence at this site is indeed an amazing phenomenon. Studies that we conducted last July indicate that the turtles are using the power plant's warm water discharge for thermoregulation. The water here averages about 90°F.

As promised, I am sending you an assortment of articles covering our work with Hawaiian sea turtles. I look forward to hearing from you from time to time if you are able to "turtle watch" during your periodic visits to Maui.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs
HL

May 27, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Sherman
#1 Kailuana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Mrs. Sherman:

Thank you very much for the efforts your family made in notifying various people about the fishhook wounded sea turtle seen near your home this past weekend. I regret that it was not possible to capture it and render aid. If the turtle is sighted again in the near future, please telephone either Bill Gilmartin or John Henderson here at the National Marine Fisheries Service (943-1221). During after-hours and on weekends, messages can be left at our law enforcement branch at 546-5670. I will be out of town for several weeks on a field assignment.

Several articles about sea turtles have been enclosed which I thought you might find interesting. Again, we appreciate your concern and the information you provided.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

May 23, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Karen Bjorndal
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Karen,

This letter constitutes a formal response to your memo of May 8, 1986 concerning a CITES project proposal for \$80,000 covering 10 months of worldwide work on sea turtles by a single consultant. From the information that has been supplied describing the scope, nature, and objectives of this study, it would be impossible for me to endorse such a project. In fact, I would vote in opposition to its implementation, especially under the rushed circumstances that have been indicated. Instead, I recommend that the proposal be subjected to full peer review by the Marine Turtle Specialists Group, with ample time being allotted in a manner commensurate with sound scientific practice. I can see no degree of urgency involved with the proposed project that relates directly to the conservation of sea turtles.

You may want to point out to the originator of the project (Yoshio Kaneko?) that a considerable body of data already exists on this subject. Included here would be: 1) Proceedings of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, 2) Proceedings of W.A.T.S., 3) IUCN-Amphibia-Reptilia Red Book, and 4) the January 1985 Five-Year Status Review of Sea Turtles Listed Under the Endangered Species Act in 1973.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:vi

bc: Balazs
HL

Balazs

May 23, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Jim Goldberg
Suite 660
1828 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

I am writing to thank you for the letter and photograph you sent to helicopter pilot Robert Bloom concerning the sea turtle sighted on January 25, 1986 on the beach at Milolii, Kauai. This important information was forwarded to me, since I am involved in the research of sea turtles for the National Marine Fisheries Service. As you may know, sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Here in Hawaii, the green turtle, Chelonia mydas, is the principal species of sea turtles and the one you photographed on Kauai.

I was especially interested in your observation because there are very few records of turtles coming ashore to bask in the main islands of the Hawaiian chain. Most all land basking by our green turtles currently takes place in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. There are old records suggesting that many years ago turtles often came ashore to bask at both Milolii and Nualco Kai on Kauai. Your sighting and several other recent ones, indicate that this behavioral activity may be experiencing a come back. We are hopeful that this is indeed the case.

I have enclosed several articles about our work with sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, we greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

May 22, 1986

F/SWC2

Drs. Robert and Monica Kolimas
6100 Cambridge Drive, #48
Houston, Texas 77064

Dear Drs. Kolimas:

I am writing to thank you for the letter and photograph you sent to helicopter pilot Robert Bloom on March 2, 1986 concerning the sea turtle sighted on the beach at Milolii, Kauai. This important information was forwarded to me, since I am involved in the research of sea turtles for the National Marine Fisheries Service. As you may know, sea turtles are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Here in Hawaii, the green turtle, Chelonia mydas, is the principal species of sea turtles and the one you photographed on Kauai.

I was especially interested in your observation because there are very few records of turtles coming ashore to bask in the main islands of the Hawaiian chain. Most all land basking by our green turtles currently takes place in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. There are old records suggesting that many years ago turtles often came ashore to bask at both Milolii and Nualoo Kai on Kauai. Your sighting and several other recent ones, indicate that this behavioral activity may be experiencing a come back. We are hopeful that this is indeed the case.

I have enclosed several articles about our work with sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, we greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Zoologist

MAY 19 1986

GENPP 14-2 (Kahe)
NPDES
NV/G

National Marine
Fisheries Service



May 15, 1986

WPPO	
IRG	✓
JUN	✓
VEN	
PAK	
YBO	✓
CKH	
CFM	

Brenner Munger, Ph.D., P.E.
Manager
Environmental Department
(808) 548-6880

Mr. Doyle Gates
U. S. Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
Western Pacific Program Office
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear Mr. Gates:

Subject: Turtle in Kahe Generating Station Forebay

In response to your recent letter expressing concern about the entrapment of sea turtles at the Kahe Generating Station, please be assured that measures have been taken to prevent the entry of more turtles. The damaged intake bar racks were replaced with temporary bar racks in early March. Permanent bar racks are being constructed and will be installed sometime in June 1986.

No turtles have entered the forebay since the intake bar racks were replaced. However, there is still one turtle remaining in the forebay.

To date there have been three unsuccessful attempts to capture this last turtle, one by National Marine Fisheries personnel, and two by our staff. This turtle is very wary and stays in the intake tunnels most of the time, coming out for air only briefly. When he does surface for air, it is usually in the center of the forebay where it is difficult to reach him. At present, the turtle is healthy and swimming strongly. Our staff will continue to check on the turtle's health regularly, in addition to looking for another opportunity to catch him.

When the turtle is captured, he will be turned over to George Balazs for tagging and releasing.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call Donn Fukuda at 548-5674.

Sincerely,

Brenner Munger



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region • Western Pacific Program Office
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

May 5, 1986

F/SWR1:LDC

Mr. Brenner Munger
Environmental Department
Hawaiian Electric Company
P.O. Box 2570
Honolulu, Hawaii 96840

Dear Mr. Munger:

Having spoken with George Balazs last month, I am writing to express my concern over the taking of threatened green sea turtles at the Kahe Point Power Plant. As I'm sure George told you, the taking of green sea turtles is illegal. I would like to clarify the status of this situation. One of my staff assisted George in removing two of the turtles from the intake pond in late February, and was on hand to observe the damaged intake gate screen. I am informed that a patch of some sort is now covering the hole through which the turtles were apparently entering.

Please advise me if any turtles are still in the pond. If so, they must be removed as soon as possible. Also please advise me if any turtles have entered the pond since the patch was emplaced.

Sincerely yours,

Doyle E. Gates
Administrator

cc: ✓ F/SWC2 - Balazs
F/SWR41 - Witham




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

27 March 1987

To : George


From: Barbara

Thanks so much for sending the turtle stamps - they're wonderful! I have sent off for a catalog to the address you sent. I plan on being over on the west coast (FL) next weekend and plan on stopping in at the marina to see the person who collects the decoys. I'm bringing my camera with me and hoping he'll let me take photos. I'll certainly send you some copies if he lets me photograph them.



Also, I wanted to let you know that on Tuesday (24 March) I had a call from Sandra Bruce at the USFWS Federal Wildlife Permitting Office in Washington. She wanted to know if you were designated under the SEFC permit to conduct your turtle research. I told her that as far as I knew you were not under the SEFC permit. I asked her if she had talked to you about what permit you work under, and she said "no, he's the only person I haven't talked to". Well anyway, I told her I thought that ^{you} should probably have been the first person she asked, since you obviously know whose permit you work under.

To make a short story longer, I have no idea what prompted her inquiries, unless it is just that FWS is now being extremely watchful





and critical of every move we make - permit wise. I just thought I'd let you know, in case they call you or you hear something about this through the grapevine.

Larry said you were out in the field last week, or I would have called you directly regarding the permit business. Hope the fieldwork was profitable (turtles).

It was great to see you again and have a chance to talk. Best regards.

Barbara



July 14, 1987

F/BWC2:GHB

Ms. June Hopkins
P. O. Box 3291
WWS Kaneohe, HI 96743

Dear June,

Many thanks for your recent telephone call asking various questions about the biology of Hawaiian sea turtle. I hope that the lecture that was subsequently presented in Kaneohe helped to stimulate an increased interest in the vulnerability and protected status of these magnificent animals.

As promised, I am sending you an assortment of literature on sea turtles. I look forward to meeting you when we start our project with HPA later this year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

July 13, 1987

P/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Brad Crow
805 Canterbury
San Marino, CA 91108

Dear Mr. Crow:

I appreciated having the opportunity to talk to you this morning concerning the kelp-entangled leatherback turtle you rescued last week. That was indeed a unique experience. I am pleased to have the information to enter into our "entanglement" data base for sea turtles.

As promised, I am sending you an identification poster for sea turtles, as well as several articles you may find interesting. Again, many thanks for telling us about the leatherback.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey

cc: Jerry Wetherall
Balazs ✓
HL

July 10, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Captain Jeff Kaibach
Captain Nemos
150 Dickenson
Lanaina, Maui, HI 96761

Dear Jeff,

Many thanks for your recent telephone calls concerning the near absence of turtle sighting for about a one week period at the turtle "cleaning-station" off Lanai. I really appreciate your taking the time to convey this important information to me. As we discussed, it seems very likely to me that a turtle was either wounded or killed by a human or shark, thereby causing short-term abandonment of the site. The release of turtle blood or body fluids into the water is known to have such an effect.

The eastern coast of Lanai, including the site where you regularly dive, used to be major hunting grounds for commercial turtle fishermen working out of Lanaina. Hundreds of large turtles were taken there and sold to Maui restaurants during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Before turtles were protected, I vividly remember being at Lanaina Harbor in 1969 watching a dozen or so turtles being tossed into a pick-up truck to be sold. I'm fairly certain that scene alone played a major role in sparking my interest in sea turtles and professional career today.

Enclosed are the various items I promised to send you. Please feel free to call me collect anytime you have similar information or a critical nature to report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

July 10, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Mariu Oliphant
61529 Kam Highway
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mrs. Oliphant:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency rescue the sick and tumor-afflicted green sea turtle found at Chun's Reef this morning. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle is now being cared for at our Kewalo Basin Research Facility.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

July 8, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Bob Cooling
1019 Waieli Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Mr. Cooling:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency retrieve the dead green sea turtle you reported at Kanala Beach Park on Monday, July 6, 1987. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle had numerous tumors, which undoubtedly played a role in its death.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:ey

cc: Balazs ✓

HL

JOHN WAIHEE
~~GOVERNOR OF HAWAII~~
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT

P. O. BOX 936
HILO, HAWAII 96720

May 4, 1987

DIVISIONS:
CONSERVATION AND
RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Dr. George Balazs
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 30, 1987, requesting for the metal ID tag in a green sea turtle case be returned to you.

Since the case has been completed, we have no further use for it and will gladly turn it over to you. Enclosed is the tag.

If I can be of further service, please call me at 961-7291.

Yours truly,


Charles K. Supe

CKS/mjy

Encl.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Region - Western Pacific Program Office
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

30 APRIL 1987

MR. SUPE
DOCARE-HILO

DEAR MR. SUPE:

I AM WRITING TO ASK IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO RETURN THE METAL ID TAG THAT WAS ATTACHED TO THE 97.5cm FEMALE TURTLE, ORIGINALLY TAGGED 6/26/84 AT FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS, AND KILLED BY NET IN HILO BAY 1/31/86.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR COURT CASE ON THIS MATTER IS NOW COMPLETED, SO PRESUMABLY THE TAG IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR EVIDENCE.

YOU MAY RECALL THAT I HAD ORIGINALLY ALSO ASKED FOR THE SHELL, FOR INCLUSION IN OUR SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION-- A VALUABLE ADDITION DUE TO ITS VERY LARGE SIZE. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO EXAMINE THE TAG, AND COMPARE IT WITH OTHERS, TO DETERMINE CORROSION RATES.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE.

Sincerely,

GEORGE BALAZS

ZOOLOGIST - HONOLULU LAB



May 5, 1987

F/SWC2

MEMORANDUM FOR: William G. Gilmartin, Leader, Marine Mammal and
Endangered Species Program

FROM: George H. Balazs, Zoologist

SUBJECT: Sea turtle strandings

As you know, reports of stranded sea turtles in Hawaii increased from 56 during 1985, to 99 in 1986. During the first 4 months of 1987, we have recorded 40 cases. Our in-house turtle stranding meeting held in May of last year was very helpful in outlining agency responsibilities and practical methods of response by the three branches involved (HL-WPPO-Law Enforcement). Nevertheless, the large numbers being handled are presenting some new and difficult problems that need to be worked out. Two of more immediate problems involve: (1) Saturday-Sunday and holiday cases, and (2) the increasingly uncomfortable position of "law enforcement official" that NMFS biologists are being placed in when responding alone. In addition, the time that I must now devote to strandings and necropsies is impairing my effort to make progress on the final draft of the sea turtle recovery plan.

In the near future, I recommend that we have another meeting to discuss ways of further improving our response capabilities. We also need to consider inviting representatives from the State Aquatic Resources and DOCARE enforcement divisions. Both of these branches have responsibilities for sea turtle under State law, as evidenced by NMFS having to obtain a State permit annually to study sea turtles.

GHB:vi

bc: Balazs
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

MR. NORMAN FRIETAS

MARCH 26, 1987

DEAR MR. FRIETAS:

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR TELEPHONE
CALL ABOUT THE OLIVE RIDLEY. I
APPRECIATED HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS UNUSUAL CASE.

ENCLOSED ARE SEVERAL ITEMS ABOUT
SEA TURTLES THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST.

BEST REGARDS,
GEORGE BALAZS
ZOOLOGIST



April 28, 1987

P/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Mike Miller
59-281 Ke Nai Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Miller:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found entangled in a gill net in front of your house on April 28th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

April 28, 1987

F/SNC2.GHB

Mr. Barry Moore
512 Kaha Street
Kailua, HI 96834

Dear Mr. Moore:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found at Kailua Beach Park on Monday, April 27th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

April 23, 1987

F/S/C2:GHB

Mr. Vince Gerona
c/o the Dali
Heeia Kea Pier
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Mr. Gerona:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found in Kaneohe Bay on Sunday, April 26th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:ll

bc: Balazs
HL

April 23, 1987

P/SIC2

Mr. Jack Woody
National Sea Turtle Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Jack,

The attached memorandum was recently passed on to me by the FWS Special Agent here in Honolulu. Can you please tell me how much of this has been applied to listed sea turtles in other areas of the Nation? Is it now standard policy for FWS employees, and their cooperators, who encounter stranded turtles? Some guidance on this matter would be much appreciated.

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

bc: Balazs
HL

GHB:11

April 22, 1987

F/SWC2

Mr. Keith Smith
45-306 Lehuila Street
Kaneone, HI 96744

Dear Mr. Smith:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found in Kaneone Bay on April 14, 1987. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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 the 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs



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

April 22, 1987

F/SWC2

Ms. Carla Kishinami
Vertebrate Zoology Department
Bernice P. Bishop Museum
P. O. Box 1900-A
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Carla,

Here is the information you requested for the two dead sea turtles which we recently made available to the Bishop Museum.

Olive Ridley - Adult female

Straight-line carapace length - 61.2 cm
Straight-line carapace width - 56.2 cm

March 19, 1987 - Found alive in Kaneohe Bay by Frazer Black and Joe McCabe. Both front flippers amputated but healed.

March 27, 1987 - Turtle died of unknown causes at National Marine Fisheries Service, Kewalo Research Facility. Tissue specimens submitted to Dr. Thomas R. Sawa (State of Hawaii Veterinary Laboratory) indicated chronic interstitial nephritis of an undetermined etiology.

Hawaiian Hawksbill - Adult male

January 1, 1975 - Hatchling found by Nancy Johnson in a tide pool at Malaekahana Bay, Oahu. Turtle may not have hatched in this area, but rather could have been blown ashore by strong prevailing tradewinds. Turtle was taken to Sea Life Park where it was subsequently raised in captivity for display under a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Honolulu). Turtle was named "Pomaikai." Periodic measurements were made by G. H. Balazs as follows (SLCL = straight-line carapace line):

November 23, 1979	67.1 cm SLCL
June 1980	Lengthening of tail evident
December 30, 1980	72.6 cm SLCL
(Inconel flipper tags 5103, 5104 applied this date)	
August 17, 1981	74.9 cm SLCL
(Transferred from Reef Tank to Turtle Lagoon this date)	
July 7, 1982	75.9 cm SLCL
December 9, 1983	78.8 cm SLCL
February 5, 1986	79.3 cm SLCL

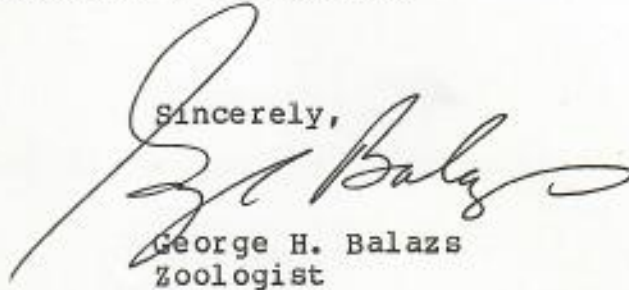


April 6, 1987 - Found dead in Turtle Lagoon with ulcer on the neck. Autopsy conducted by Dr. Sawa suggested septicemia possibly of a bacterial etiology.

We are pleased to know that these specimens can become a permanent part of the Museum's collection.

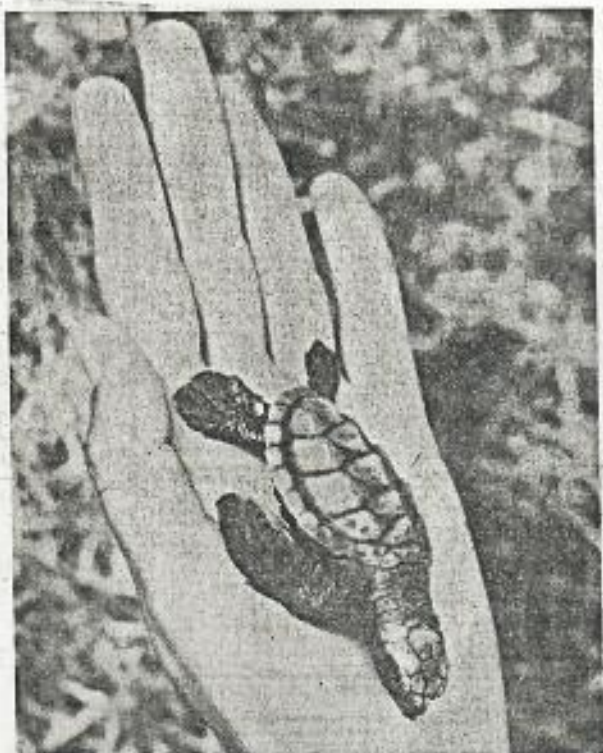
Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. H. Balazs", written in dark ink.

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Sea Life Park
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Law Enforcement, Western
Pacific Program Office



In safe hands

This baby hawksbill turtle — of an endangered species that many scientists believed was no longer breeding in Hawaiian waters — was found on the beach at Malaekahana in Windward Oahu. The finder, Nancy Johnson of Manoa, delivered it to Sea Life Park, where the turtle is receiving special care. The park plans to build a home for it and place it on public display.

Front Page Honolulu Advertiser 1/3/75

A-14 Honolulu Star-Bulletin Friday, January 17, 1975

Rare Hawksbill Turtle Found in Tide Pool

A tiny hatchling hawksbill turtle was found by Nancy Johnson in a tidal pool near Malaekahana in Windward Oahu.

Fortunately she recognized the rare creature

for what he is, and whisked him to Sea Life Park for tender loving care.

He's one of the U.S. Government's rare and endangered species of wildlife.

Many marine scientists thought the hawksbill had ceased to breed here because of Oahu's heavy population and construction near their natural breeding grounds on the sand beaches.

At Sea Life Park, Dr. Edward Shallenberger and all the other turtle watchers are encouraged. The baby is gobbling up squid, smelt and herring, and seems to be in excellent condition.

Plans are afoot to place him in a public display as soon as possible.



HOWZIT—A full grown hawksbill turtle at Sea Life Park takes a look at a new arrival — a hatchling found on Oahu's Windward shore.

April 20, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Harbottle
53-326 Kam Hwy
Hauula, HI 96717

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Harbottle:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency investigate the sick sea turtle found at Punaiuu on April 17, 1987. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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 the 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

Enclosures

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

January 5, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Yasuniko Naito
National Institute of Polar Research
9-10, Kaga 1-Chome, Itabashi-ku
Tokyo 173, JAPAN

Dear Dr. Naito:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of articles covering your telemetry studies of sea turtles. It is my understanding that you have been involved in research on the diving capabilities and movements of the loggerhead turtle around Japan.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs ✓
HL

December 22, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Robert Eheler
P.O. Box 1243
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Eheler:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping to retrieve the weak and tumor-afflicted sea turtle found at Chun's Reef Beach on Sunday, December 20th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. As I mentioned by telephone, the turtle is now being cared for at our Kewalo Basin Facility. The outlook for the turtle's recovery does not appear encouraging.

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

December 9, 1987

F/SNC2:GHB

Miss Yin Nwe Oo
Department of Marine Science
University of Moulmein
Moulmein
Burma

Dear Miss Yin Nwe Oo:

Thank you very much for your letter of 26 October 1987 that just arrived today. The delay in delivery was undoubtedly due to the fact that I no longer work for the University of Hawaii in the field of aquaculture nutritional research. For the past 7 years, I have been affiliated with the National Marine Fisheries Service working on problems relating to the biology and management of naturally occurring Pacific sea turtle populations. It has been over 10 years since the publication of my last paper on aquaculture. Nevertheless, I am sending you a set of reprints covering my earlier work. I hope that they will be helpful to your research program.

Can you please put me in contact with a researcher in Burma that studies sea turtles? I am especially interested in the status of nesting sea turtles at a site called "Diamond Island." Thank you very much for any help that you can offer to this request. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii

Dear Sir, Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744 (U.S.A)

26th OCT, 1988

I am one of the M.Sc students at the Department of Marine Science, University of Moulmein, Burma. Now, I am doing research on the "Experimental pond culture of M. rosenbergii (deman) a study on growth and chaemodynamics of pond water". As I have few literature available at my department library, I would very appreciate receiving some of your papers relevent to the subject. I would also be glad if you could provide information relevent to the subject.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sincerely yours,

Nisa

Address

Miss. Yin Nwe Co
Department of Marine Science
University of Moulmein
Moulmein
Burma.



ပူးတွဲ - အပိုပထည့်ရ

AIR LETTER

NO ENCLOSURES ALLOWED



George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,
University of Hawaii,
Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744 (U.S.A)

← Second fold here →

BURMA
Museum
University of Moulmein
Department of Marine Science
Mr. Yin Awe Do

Sender's name and address:

← First fold here →

December 9, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Howard Takata
County Extension Agent
Sea Grant College Program
875 Konoehana Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Howard,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 November 1987 confirming my slide/lecture presentations on the evenings of 1 March (Kona) and 2 March (Hilo). The title will be "Planning for the Recovery of Hawaiian Sea Turtles." Some biographical specifics on my professional life have been enclosed. However, in the flyer you issue, you might want to simply say that I've worked on numerous research problems of Hawaiian and other Pacific sea turtle populations for the past 16 years, first with the University of Hawaii (HIMB), and more recently, for the past 8 years, with the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. I am the leader of the Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Team, which has just completed a draft Recovery Plan for Hawaiian Sea Turtles. The Plan is now in the process of being reviewed and finalized by government officials on the mainland. My talk will cover various aspects of the draft plan.

In the near future I'll be in touch with Enid Kagesa, as suggested, to arrange airline ticketing and per diem. I regret that there are no travel funds available here at our laboratory to cover these costs.

Thank you again for the lecture invitation. Best wishes for the Christmas Holidays and New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

December 9, 1987

F/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Steve Kaiser
Curator of Fishes
Sea Life Park
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your letter of 20 November 1987, concerning headstarting, which I just now had the chance to read upon my return from two weeks at Johnston Islands. Your comments are very helpful.

I would be delighted to loan our "shark-sheared" turtle shell to Sea Life Park for longterm use in your Hawaiian Shark Gallery. I am sure that your visitors will be astonished at how little protection (armor) is afforded by the shell of a green sea turtle when confronted by attack from a tiger shark. Would you also be interested in displaying an enlargement of a photo showing a whole 40 lb turtle protruding from a tiger shark stomach (see attached)?

In the caption that you display with the turtle shell, please consider including some mention that all sea turtles in Hawaii are protected by Federal and State law.

Best wishes for the Christmas Holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Bob Moore

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

November 19, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Sylvia Spring
P. O. Box 830
Civic Square
ACT 2608, Australia

Dear Sylvia,

By now I am sure you have received a letter from Mr. Shomura along with a copy of the debris workshop proceedings. It's quite an impressive compilation of papers, isn't it?

I was pleased to hear from you again, with the passing of several years. My work here on sea turtles has continued "full-speed-ahead" to the limits of my capabilities and the level of available funding. I've enclosed a current list of publications showing our areas of emphasis. In addition, our Hawaiian Sea Turtle Recovery Plan was recently finalized in draft form. As soon as it becomes agency approved for distribution, I will send you a copy. I was fortunate to have both Harold Birth and Larry Ogren on the Recovery Team and available to travel to Honolulu to work on the Plan. We were able to have three full meetings over a 2-1/2 year period of deliberations. The other four members were all from Hawaii.

I'm delighted to hear of your work at the National Parks and Wildlife in Canberra. I'm sure your presence will bolster their marine turtle component. Be sure to write me again if I can be of any additional help. You were always a much better correspondent than Limpus!

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

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

November 16, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

William
Box 931
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear William,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for notifying our agency about the tumor-afflicted sea turtle that became entangled in your fishing line on Saturday afternoon, November 14. We appreciate your contacting us to relay this matter. As I described to you by telephone, the incidence of tumors on Hawaiian turtles has increased considerably over the past few years. Unfortunately, at present we do not know the cause of this disease, nor how to cure it.

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

cc: Lesley Nunes

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

November 16, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Hugh Guerrero
2340 Rose Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

Dear Mr. Guerrero:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency retrieve the disoriented green sea turtle found off Diamond Head on Wednesday, November 11th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. After spending the night at the Waikiki Aquarium, the turtle seemed to have returned to a perfectly healthy and vigorous state. It was therefore tagged (9119, 9120) and returned to the wild.

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

May 14, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tom Hourigan
Hawaii Institute of
Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Mr. Hourigan:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead and diseased green sea turtle found in Kaneohe Bay on Tuesday, May 12th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

March 24, 1987

F/SWC2

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWR1 - Doyle S. Gates
FROM: ^{S/EnB} Jm F/SWC2 - Richard S. Showara
SUBJECT: Proposed TTPI green turtle subsistence amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to review the subject document.

George Balazs and Bill Gilmartin reviewed the amendment and fully agree with the decision to rescind the exception for subsistence taking of green turtles in the CNMI. Other than the inserts made on the attached copy by George, which apparently should have been included in the original statement in the Federal Register, we believe the draft appears in good order.

Attachment


WGG:ey
cc: Gilmartin ✓
HL
DO



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

February 3, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWR43 - Gene Witham
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs 
THRU: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
SUBJECT: Sea turtles being held in captivity

The recent troubling case involving two sea turtles being kept at a private residence in Hawaii Kai highlights a continuing problem in identifying individual animals. A single turtle was being held there 2 years ago which was claimed to have been acquired "pre-Act," before 1978. Now there are two turtles. But is one of them the same individual I saw 2 years ago, or is it a different one? While I can make an educated guess, there is really no way to tell for certain. In order to do so, a turtle would have to have been tagged with our permanent ID tags, measured, and perhaps even photographed. About all that can be concluded with certainty about the Hawaii Kai turtles is that one of them was not in the pond when I was asked to visit the site 2 years ago.

I can foresee this problem re-occurring time and again during coming months and years. Steve Kaiser at Sea Life Park has, in fact, pointed out to me on several occasions a questionable situation involving a captive turtle (turtles) at the Mauna Lani Bay condominium. How many turtles are being held there, and are they the same ones from year to year? I only have comprehensive tag and ID records for turtles at 1) Sea life Park, 2) Kahala Hilton Hotel, and 3) Mauna Lani Bay Hotel. Ideally, we should have similar files for every turtle in captivity in the State of Hawaii. Maybe now would be a good time to actively work toward this goal. There are a number of ways that such an inventory and identification project might be accomplished. It won't be easy, but I believe it will save lots of future headaches. I'm available to help in whatever way necessary.



January 13, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Miller
#10 Namala
Kauia, HI 96734

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Miller:

Thank you for the important role you played in helping our agency to obtain the dead sea turtle that washed ashore in front of your house yesterday morning.

Enclosed are the articles about sea turtles that I promised to send you. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs ✓
HL

August 21, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Steve Hollandsworth
350 Aoloo Street
Kaliua, HI 96734

Dear Mr. Hollandsworth:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency retrieve the dead green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) found floating off Kaaia Beach Park on Tuesday, August 18th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:11

cc: Gene Witham, Law
Enforcement, NMFS

bc: HL
/Balazs

August 16, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Bill Fulton
P. O. Box 7036
Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Mr. Fulton:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the information you provided to our agency on the sightings of sea turtles between Hawaii Kai and Aina Haina on Monday, August 17th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:ll

bc: HL
Balazs

December 29, 1987

F/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Ben Swafford and family
211-6 Kawaihae Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Ben and Ian,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for notifying our Agency about the possibly sick sea turtle seen in the Hawaii Kai canal near your home on Tuesday, December 22nd. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. If the turtle is sighted again, please do not hesitate to call us (943-1221).

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:11

bc: HL
Balazs

December 29, 1987 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Robert Bloom
Alii Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 358
Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96715

Dear Mr. Bloom:

I am writing to thank you for your generosity in providing our research program with a copy of the video production "Hawaii's Underwater Paradise." The copy was delivered to my office a few weeks ago by Mr. Claude Thompson.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ll

bc: HL
Balazs

September 4, 1987

F/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Peter Dawson
Sunburst Designs
P. O. Box 31209
Honolulu, HI 96820-1209

Dear Peter,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead green sea turtle, Cheilonia mydas found near your home in Haleiwa on Tuesday, September 1st. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. We conducted an autopsy on this turtle, but were unable to determine why it died. Its stomach was filled to capacity with the red limu (algae) Pterocladia capillacea, a food source often favored by Hawaiian green turtles.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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. Under separate cover, I have provided you with 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

Enclosures

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL
WPP0

September 2, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Ralph Collien
Box 3483
Van Nuys, CA 91407

Dear Mr. Collien:

Mr. Steve Kaiser of Sea Life Park recently told me that you had telephoned him to obtain a copy of our annotated list of shark attacks in the Hawaiian Islands. I am pleased to make this available to you in the version that was printed this month in Hawaii Fishing News.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey

Enclosure

cc: Steve Kaiser

Balazs
HL

September 2, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Bodo Vanderleeden
c/o Headquarters, Water Safety
3833 Leani Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

Dear Mr. Vanderleeden:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found at Haleiwa on Saturday, August 22nd. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy will be conducted on the turtle in the near future.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:ey

cc: Balazs ✓
HL

September 1, 1987

F/SMC2:GHB

Captain Michael Belcher
P. O. Box 902
Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96714

Dear Captain Belcher:

Mr. Gene Witham, Senior Agent in our law enforcement branch, told me that you would like to receive some literature on sea turtles to use in your zodiac tour narratives. I am pleased to be able to assist you with this request by sending the enclosed materials. As you probably know, all sea turtles in Hawaii are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey

Enclosure

cc: Gene Witham, NMPS Law Enforcement
Don Heacock, DLNR Kauai

Balazs
HL

September 9, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Ken Suiso
Mokuleia Army Beach
c/o Box 1211
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Suiso:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency retrieve the small dead green sea turtle found at Mokuleia Army Beach on Sunday, September 6th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle is now stored in a freezer here at our Laboratory, but an autopsy will be conducted in the near future to try to determine the cause of death.

As you may know, all sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands 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

Enclosures

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs ✓
HL

September 28, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Jane R. Starn
Chair, Personnel Committee
Department of Nursing
School of Nursing
University of Hawaii
2528 The Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Starn:

I am writing this letter in strong support of Dr. Marilyn B. Major's application for tenure at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Major and I became acquainted shortly after she returned to Hawaii to assume her position as Associate Professor. Her interest in the endangered and threatened sea turtles of the world is the basis of our professional relationship. Dr. Major contacted me, as the principal investigator of research activities related to the Hawaiian sea turtles, to explore possible research activities in Hawaii.

Prior to coming to Hawaii, Dr. Major was actively involved in sea turtle conservation and research activities on the East coast of Florida. During the summer of 1986, Dr. Major served as a University co-investigator on the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) research project on sea turtles. In 1987, she served as a biologist on the same research project in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

During these two summers, I became extremely impressed with Dr. Major's abilities as a field biologist. As a researcher, Dr. Major dedicates herself to collecting accurate and complete data about the ecology of the turtles. She is conscientious and consistently double checks her observations for accuracy. She carefully observes each animal for unusual conditions or behavior, as her educational background provides Dr. Major with the ability to assess deviations from the norm. An important characteristic of a good researcher, which Dr. Major possesses, is the ability and wisdom to use consultation appropriately to assess alternate methods of data collection. In addition, Dr. Major demonstrates flexibility to adapt to the field conditions. She willingly goes to the remote and isolated area in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands where living conditions present many hardships. The nocturnal nesting behavior of the turtles requires the researcher to alter her lifestyle which necessitates stamina and dedication to the research project.

During the intervening year, Dr. Major expressed an interest in learning more about the anatomy of the turtles and has become a regular member of the sea turtle necropsy team at NMFS. She willingly shares her knowledge and expertise of sea turtles with community groups through speeches and slide presentations.

During the summer of 1987, I requested that Dr. Major represent me in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to collect the data on the breeding and nesting behavior of the turtles. This was the first season in thirteen years that I was relieved of the responsibility of going into the field due to other pressing duties. This fact more than any other demonstrates my confidence in Dr. Major's research capabilities. Although I am not involved in Dr. Major's other research endeavors, I understand she is currently involved in other research projects.

I wholeheartedly support the application of Dr. Major for tenure at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Major is a valuable asset to the University and I view her as making a significant contribution to the University and the State of Hawaii as a whole. In addition, I look forward to an ongoing professional relationship with Dr. Major. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 943-1221.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist and Leader, Hawaiian Sea
Turtle Recovery Team

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

September 21, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Andrew Dykstra
Hawaii College
5257 Kalanianaʻole Highway
Honolulu, HI 96821

Dear Dr. Dykstra:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead sea turtle found in the water near Hawaii College on Thursday, September 18th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. The turtle has been stored in our freezer and an autopsy will be performed in the near future in an attempt to determine cause of death.

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. 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

Enclosures

GHB:gr

bc: ghb ✓
HL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149-1099

3/8
HL
5/11

September 4, 1987

F/SEC11:NBT:glm

TO: Distribution *RJ Berry*
FROM: F/SEC - Richard J. Berry

SUBJECT: Travel Costs for the WATS II Meeting

The Second Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium will be held from October 12-16, 1987 in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Dr. Nancy Foster, F/PR is the U.S. National Representative to this meeting and will present the U.S. National Report. Participation on panels or as speakers has been requested from the WATS II Executive Committee for the following NMFS personnel:

- Larry Ogren - F/SEC5
- Herb Kumpf - F/SEC5
- Nancy Thompson - F/SEC11
- Wayne Witzell - F/SEC12

In addition, Dean Swanson, F/IA1 and Charles Karnella, F/PR2 have been asked to act as rapporteurs for several sessions. Participation has also been requested of George Balazs, F/SWC2 and Charles Calliouett, F/SEC6.

The limited travel funds available to the WATS II Executive Committee are being used to support costs for representatives from less developed countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Therefore, I would urge you to cover costs and travel ceiling for your employee noted above, if at all feasible. Registration fees for speakers and National Representatives will be waived. Thanks for your help.

9/8
9/11
Richard - you decide - out of your budget.
I3

Distribution:

- F/PR - Nancy Foster
- F/IA - Henry Beasley
- F/SEC1 - Walter Nelson
- F/SEC5 - Eugene Nakamura
- F/SEC6 - Ed Klima
- ~~F/SEC6~~ - Izadore Barrett

SWFC

cc: F/SEC11 - Nancy Thompson

Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

SEP 22 1987

Southwest Fisheries Center
La Jolla, California



FYI & Return.

RSS - FYI GHB

Bill - Return this card to me, GHB
PSE

A

August 25, 1987

P/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Frederick H. Berry
Secretary WATS II
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Dear Fred,

It is with regret that I must decline your kind invitation of 8/13/87 to serve as a panel member at the forthcoming WATS II Symposium in Puerto Rico. I have carefully reviewed my work schedule and arrived at the conclusion that it would be unwise for me to attend.

WATS II has generated alot of interest in the scientific, conservation and fisheries management communities. I am sure it will be a great success and I look forward to reading the proceedings.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs ✓
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

February 4, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWRL - Gene Nitta
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs
THRU: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
SUBJECT: Oil dispersants being tested on lava coastlines--
staff meeting minutes of January 27, 1987.

During our recent recovery team meeting, Larry Ogren gave us an informal overview of the adverse effects of dispersants used on oil spills that had happened elsewhere. In essence, he pointed out that, in the long term, most of the dispersants were far more harmful than the oil itself. He cautioned that great care and scrutiny should be given to any proposals to use such agents here on our own recent oil spill. At that time, we were not aware of any plans to use them. However, the staff meeting minutes under the Wppo report state that dispersants will be (have been?) "tested."

Since our team meeting, I have also noticed that dispersants are discussed at several places in the 1986 final report contracted by Minerals Management Service ("Study of the effects of oil on marine turtles"). Page 173 of volume 2 of this document states, "However, nothing is known regarding the effects of chemical dispersants on marine turtle behavior or physiology and dispersants should not be employed until their safety for marine turtles has been established."

I would appreciate knowing exactly what kinds of dispersants are being tested, at what locations and dates, and in what quantities. This action needs to be carefully considered, possibly through the Section 7 process, if it involves broad expanses of lava coastline.

cc: L. Ogren





January 27, 1987

F/SWC2

Staff Meeting Minutes

Staff meeting was convened at 9 AM, 27 January 1987 by Laboratory Director R. Shomura. Others present: G. Boehlert, R. Brill, W. Gilmartin, D. Hamm, J. Naughton, J. Polovina, S. Pooley, S. Ralston, R. Skillman, R. Sumida and C. Yukihiro. Absent: C. Boggs, D. Gates and J. Wetherall.

Mr. Shomura welcomed everyone to the first staff meeting of the year.

1. Approval of 16 December 1986 staff meeting minutes. Approved.
2. Bi-monthly reports. Bill Gilmartin reported that Doris Alcorn prepared the November-December bi-monthly report and found it to be very time consuming. Her experience in pulling together the bi-monthly report led her and Betty Young to develop a list of recommendations which will "tax contributors little" but save a great deal of effort on the part of the person actually compiling the report. Plans are to discuss this matter further with task leaders and to arrange for an improved system.
3. Credit card statements. Ray Sumida reminded credit card holders that it is their responsibility to verify all credit card purchases and forward them to him as soon as possible, preferably within 5 days. He also stressed the importance of reading and understanding the brochures to which the cards were attached.
4. WPPO report. John Naughton reported that he spent the majority of last week working with the U.S. Coast Guard and contractors monitoring an oil spill which eventually impacted a major portion of the windward Oahu coastline. Most of the impacted coastline was surveyed and the Coast Guard advised as to clean up priorities concerning marine biota and important habitats. As expected, initial impacts have been greatest on several species of seabirds. Fish kills have been relatively minor with most reported from Kailua Bay. A dead green turtle was recovered from Waimanalo Bay and gut contents are presently being tested to determine if oil is involved in the mortality. Dispersants will be tested this week on lava coastlines to remove oil from intertidal areas. WPPO will continue to monitor impacts from the estimated 42,000-gallon spill.

Naughton participated in a survey dive with a U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team and the Corps of Engineers to monitor the initial placement of material for an artificial reef. The artificial reef is being constructed in 60 feet of water outside of Pearl Harbor by EOD divers. Construction of the artificial reef was recommended by NMFS as mitigation for a U.S. Navy project involving blasting on the reef at Pearl Harbor entrance channel.



7.2 Suggested Mitigating Strategies

Identification of effective mitigating strategies to reduce the impacts on marine turtle populations in the event of an accidental oil spill is a challenging problem considering our experimental results. Total elimination of oil spills and anthropogenic input of oil into the marine environment is not feasible. Experimental and field results indicate that marine turtles would indeed be at substantial risk if they encountered an oil spill or large amounts of tar in the environment. Despite the high tolerance of marine turtles to severe physical damage they have proved surprisingly sensitive to oil. The limited ability to avoid oil slicks, and numerous adverse physiological and clinicopathological effects from exposure to oil mean that the marine turtles would be heavily impacted. This impact would be particularly critical if it occurred during the nesting season when turtles lay their eggs and the hatchlings return to the sea in large numbers.

For this reason, formulation of an emergency strategy for dealing with oil spills in areas with marine turtles is essential. Key areas such as heavily utilized nesting beaches should receive special attention. An example is the nesting beaches in Brevard County, Florida. This area has been reported as the second largest nesting aggregation of loggerhead sea turtles in the world (Ross, 1982). The largest aggregation is on the Persian Gulf at Nasirah, Oman.

The first option is to consider ways of stopping the oil from getting to the turtles. Any plans have to consider the threat to adults, hatchlings, and eggs. In certain circumstances, such as a limited access beach, it might be possible to physically restrict a spill by the use of booms, for example. Use of dispersants is another means to consider to prevent the oil from reaching the turtles. Chemical dispersants are accepted as effective tools for breaking up oil slicks at sea. However, many dispersants have proven as or more toxic to marine life than spilled crude oil. (Cowell, 1978; Nelson-Smith, 1978; Boehm, et. al., 1985; Farke et. al., 1985; Hoi-Chaw and Meow-Chan, 1985; Thorhaug and Marcus, 1985). A new technique for enhancing biodegradation of oil + dispersant mixtures seems promising. The procedure, reported by Bronchart et. al. (1985), is simply to mix an appropriate blend of microbial nutrients with dispersant and apply the mixture to oil slicks. This procedure resulted in up to ten-fold reductions in hydrocarbon content

for slicks receiving dispersants amplified with microbial nutrients compared to slicks receiving only dispersant. However, nothing is known regarding the effects of chemical dispersants on marine turtle behavior or physiology and dispersants should not be employed until their safety for marine turtles has been established. Figure 7-4 summarizes some possible effects which should be considered and evaluated before final decisions are made on use of dispersants (Wilson, Cowell, and Beynon, 1974; Getter and Ballou, 1985; Knap et. al., 1985; Linden et. al., 1985; Gilfillan et. al., 1985).

The second option is to consider ways of removing the turtles from an impending oil slick. Clearly contingency plans are required to remove eggs from a beach that was going to receive an oil spill and place them in a hatchery, similar plans are needed to release hatchlings into clean sea water if the off shore waters are contaminated. However, considerations of natal beach imprinting and the incubation temperature determination of sex must be taken into account. Rehabilitation measures for treating oil impacted turtles need to be formulated. These would include a plan for cleaning up oiled turtles, followed possibly by a convalescence period until there was sufficient recovery for the turtle to be released. The treatment during convalescence would depend upon which of the effected systems was most critical for survival. For example, if the temporary inhibition of the salt gland proved to be a serious burden then affected turtles might be held in water that imposed a minimum osmotic and salt burden (dilute sea water or fresh water) until recovery.

And finally the most pessimistic prognosis is that nothing can be done for sea turtles in the face of an oil spill. But if we have a decent estimate of what the effect will be on a sea turtle population then this would allow management to assess the damage, and formulate a turtle rehabilitation plan for the area.

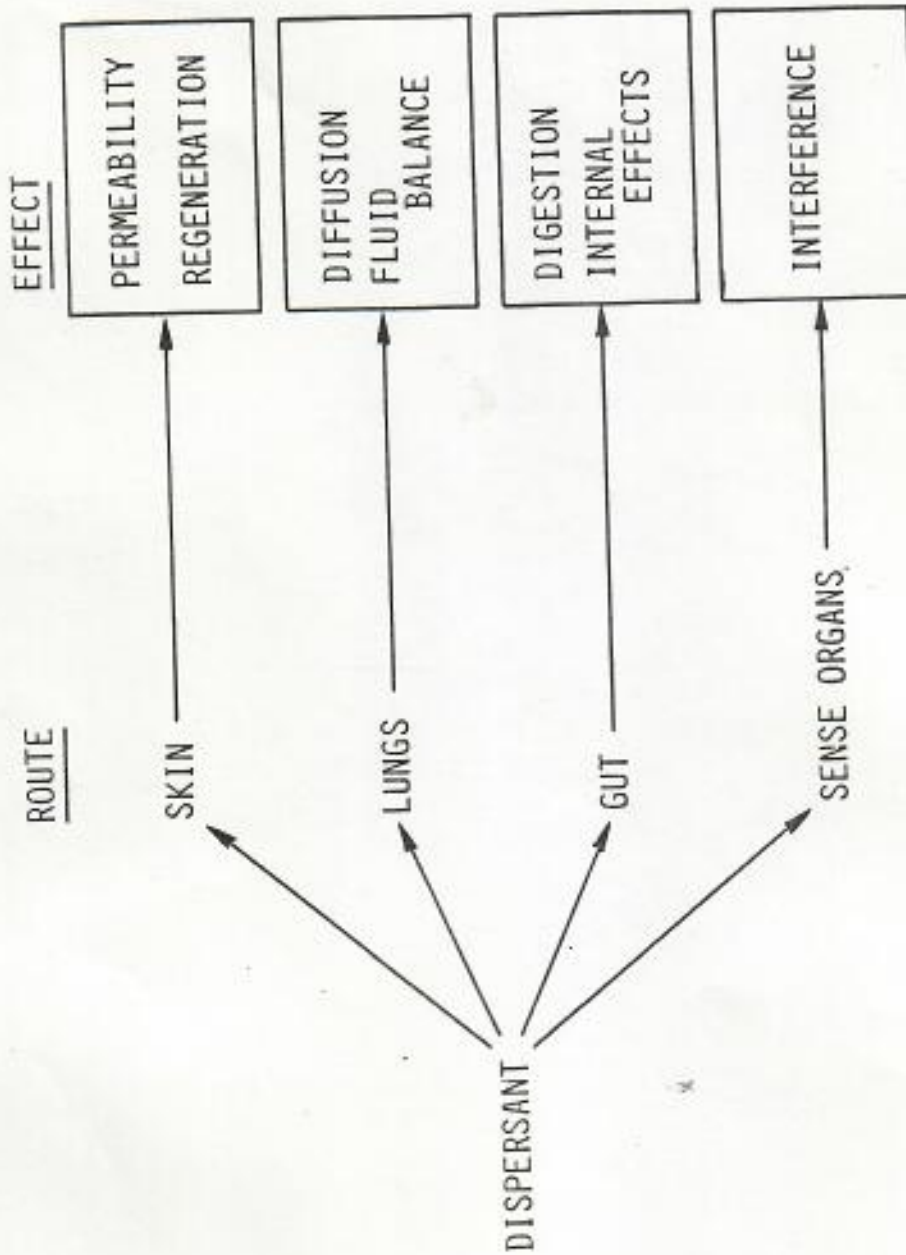


FIGURE 7-4. Potential effects of oil dispersants on marine turtles drawn from literature reports of effects of oil dispersants on turtles and other vertebrates.

FINAL REPORT
STUDY OF THE EFFECTS OF OIL
ON MARINE TURTLES

Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
MMS Contract Number 14-12-0001-30063

Volume 2 - Technical Report

Submitted September 15, 1986

Final Report for September 30, 1983 - October 1, 1985

Availability unlimited with approval of Minerals Management Service

Submitted by

Florida Institute of Oceanography
830 First Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

June 6, 1988

F/SWC2

Ms. Tracy Tabben
22240 Samuel
Taylor, MI 48180

Dear Tracy,

Thank you for your recent inquiry concerning the biology of sharks, specifically the Great White Shark. Although I am not an authority on this subject, I have found several articles in my files that should be of interest to you. I have also included some information on Hawaiian sea turtles. As you may know, large sharks especially tiger sharks, are major predators of sea turtles.

I wish you success in pursuing your academic interests in marine biology and sharks.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

George -

RE: enclosed

I think we're safe using the guidelines
finds approved of - and with the two
you mentioned, go ahead.

If you can manage it, I still think
taking and saving a cc or so of blood in
dilute formalin - for checking at a "later"
date is a good idea - if you can manage it
before chilling -

Bill

9-4

Bill -

MARTY FAST HAS A FREE DAY Wednesday Sept. 16th when she wants to go through the 2 turtles at Kewalo for parasites. The ^{diseasing} Scope should have arrived by then.

My suggestion is to euthanize the turtles by "cold chilling". I've done some tests with carcasses and found that it takes about 15 hours for our freezer out back to freeze the flippers and head, but not the trunk. I could handle this part before hand without Marty's involvement. BUT, it's probably important now for a vet to say euthanasia is appropriate. This should be based on the fact that

- 1) The animals are weak and disabled (sight impaired) (over)

2.) They are "diseased" \therefore hazardous to the population as a whole if released into the wild,
and

3.) Efforts have been tried to "cure" turtles with tumors, and it was unsuccessful.

Actually, I believe Linda gave us her vet opinion in favor of euthanasia before she left. Is that good enough?

June 9, 1988

P/SAC2:GHB

Mr. Chris Winter
61-736 Papailoa Road
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Winter:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency obtain the dead sea turtle found near your home on Wednesday, June 8, 1988. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy will be conducted in the near future in an effort to determine cause of death.

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 M. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: V. Honda, NMFS Law Enforcement

Balazs
HL

June 16, 1988

F/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Eugene Yatiee
61-581 Pokuloa Way
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Yatiee:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in notifying our agency about the sick and possibly injured sea turtle seen near ^{your} home on Thursday, June 16th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. Any additional reports of turtles observed in the area will be helpful to our program.

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

June 13, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. William Dabes
59-730 Maulukua Road
Pupukea, Hawaii 96712

Dear Bill and Celeste,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency examine and investigate the butchered remains of two large green sea turtles found near your home at Pupukea on Friday, June 10th. 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. You may also want to telephone Special Agent Victor Honda at 541-2727. I am sure that Vic will be investigating this case further during the coming weeks.

Again many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: V. Honda

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

June 20, 1988

F/SWC2:JRH

Ms. Linda Shibasaki
1561 Kununa St., Apt. 2106
Honolulu, HI 96814

Dear Ms. Shibasaki:

Thank you for notifying us about the seal you sighted at Camp Erdman. As I mentioned on the phone, sightings in the main islands are rather unusual; we generally receive 5-10 reports a year. Reports such as yours help us to document which areas of the main islands the seals may frequent when they are in the vicinity.

I have enclosed a pamphlet and a "fact sheet" which provide information on Hawaiian monk seals, as well as a pamphlet describing Hawaii's sea turtles, animals which are more ubiquitous than seals in the main islands, but which nonetheless have been depleted in number because of historic over-harvesting. Both seals and turtles are now protected by state and federal law.

I've also enclosed some sighting cards which we would welcome receiving should you sight seals or turtles in the future. Thank you again for your interest, and please feel free to notify us if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,

John R. Henderson
Fishery Biologist

Enclosure

JRH: ey
cc: Henderson
Balazs
HL

June 8, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. S. C. Buckner
Department of Environmental Control
401 Main Street
Islip, NY 11751

Dear Dr. Buckner:

I would like to recommend Diane Mazarakis for the position of Environmental Analyst currently being advertised by your agency. I have known Diane, both professionally and personally for approximately 5 years. In her capacity as Student Coordinator in the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawaii, she coordinated divers and personally participated in a 2-year green sea turtle study at Punaluu Bay, Hawaii. This work was supported by the Sea Grant College Program and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Diane was responsible for the logistics and supervision of student participants, as well as being a participant diver herself. She proved to be an industrious, enthusiastic, and dependable person.

If I can be of any additional assistance regarding a description of Diane's work capabilities, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL



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

May 26, 1988 F/SWC2

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWC2 - William G. Gilmartin
FROM: F/SWC2 - George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Environmental contaminants at French Frigate Shoals

During my recent visit to French Frigate Shoals, I conducted a brief radiological survey on Tern and East Islands using the Heath kit "Radiation Alert Monitor 4" previously purchased for our work at Johnston Island. No levels above normal background radiation were found on East Island. However, on Tern Island a site was identified in the abandoned Loran transmitter building with a level 4-5 times above background (approximately 100 counts per minute). The source was a broken vacuum tube in one of the power amplifier units. As you may know, this equipment was smashed by vandals shortly after the Loran station was shut down in 1978. Numerous vacuum tubes and other components of the radio equipment were broken. In view of this preliminary finding, and the potential hazard of radioactive particles being inhaled, I feel it would be prudent to place the transmitter room "off limits" to our personnel. Ideally, a comprehensive survey by radiation safety experts should be done in the room and accepted clean-up procedures implemented as needed.

During our initial briefing about Tern Island by the Refuge Manager Ken Niethammer, it was stated that asbestos fibers had been found in the facility's fresh water supply. Instructions were given to only drink water from the filtered tap. The level of asbestos contamination was not known, nor was it entirely clear whether or not the filter system removed 100% of the fibers. Also, it was not clear if any risk was involved in showering with asbestos contaminated water. In view of these apparent unknowns germane to the health safety of our personnel, I recommend that steps be taken to obtain reliable, professional answers. A good starting point would be to obtain copies of the most recent chemical analyses conducted on the Tern Island water. Presumably this is being carried out by the Fish and Wildlife service on a routine monitoring basis.

The question of possible PCB contamination from transformer oil in Tern Island's soil and ground-water lenses, first raised by Rick Vetter, has apparently still not been answered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.



May 5, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Joe Bruey
55-479 Kam Hwy
Laie, HI 96762

Dear Mr. Bruey:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency document the dead sea turtle afflicted with tumors found at Laie on Sunday, May 1st. 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:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

May 24, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tom Bottrell
P. O. Box 1622
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Dear Mr. Bottrell:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency obtain the dead sea turtle found near Honakahau Harbor on Monday, May 23rd. 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

May 24, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Elizabeth Rathburn
P. O. Box 517
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mrs. Rathburn:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency obtain the dead sea turtle found at Sunset Beach on Wednesday, May 11th. 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

April 27, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Thomas Youhn
5670 Dovekie Avenue
Apartment A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Dear Mr. Youhn:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in notifying our agency about the dead sea turtle you found at Iroquois Point on Tuesday, April 26th. 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

April 5, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Pete Diaz
P.O. Box 6264
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. Diaz:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency document and examine the dead and decomposing sea turtle found near Hickam Harbor on Thursday, March 31st. 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

cc: Southwest Enforcement

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

March 31, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Robert Ehler
61-425 Kam Highway
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Ehler:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency salvage the dead green sea turtle found on the North shore of Oahu on Saturday, March 19th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. In the near future, an autopsy will be conducted in an effort to determine cause of death.

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/11

bc: Balazs, HL

March 31, 1988

P/SAC2

Ms. Barbara Beaman
15 Ferndale Road
West Milford, NJ 07480

Dear Ms. Beaman:

Thank you for your letter of March 21, 1988 requesting research information on the problems of persistent synthetic debris in the marine environment. In late 1984 our Laboratory hosted a major international workshop on this topic which was very likely the first of its kind. I am pleased to be able to provide you with a copy of the Workshop Proceedings.

If I can be of any additional help, please feel free to contact me again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:11

bc: HL
Balazs

March 30, 1988

F/SVC2

Brent Yoshikawa
527 Halela Street
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Brent,

Thank you for your recent telephone call asking for information about the conservation status of the green sea turtle in Hawaii. I enjoyed being "interviewed" for the report you are doing for your sixth grade class.

As promised, I am sending you some educational literature about sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: HL
Balazs

March 30, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Steve Kaiser
Sea Life Park
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Dear Steve,

As you requested, I recently visited the Kahala Hilton to examine the adult female green turtle showing an abnormal protrusion on her tail. The turtle was basking on the sand bank when I arrived, so I had a good opportunity to look closely at the tail and palpate the protrusion. Although there is a hard core area inside the protrusion, I feel confident in saying that it is not the fibropapilloma disease condition that we are regularly seeing in free-ranging Hawaiian green turtles. The protrusion appears to be more of a "prolapse" that has occurred to the cloaca. I have on several occasions seen similar conditions in green turtles nesting at French Frigate Shoals. I suspect that this results during extrusion of eggs, or possibly from vigorous copulation. In any event, in my opinion, it is not the result of any disease that could be transmitted to Sea Life Park turtles if and when you move the turtle to your facility.

I have asked the caretakers at the Kahala Hilton to keep a close watch on the protrusion to determine if it enlarges, or possibly becomes infected. There is no indication of infection at this time. The turtle was not overly sensitive to the area being palpated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

March 28, 1988

F/SMC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Newman
99-1440 Aiea Heights Drive
Honolulu, HI 96701

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Newman:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in notifying our agency about the dead sea turtle with tumors you saw floating off Portlock on Sunday, March 27. We very much appreciate receiving ^{this} information.

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

March 3, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Trevor R. Dixon, Project Manager
Advisory Committee on Pollution of the Sea
3 Endsleigh Street
London WC1H 0DD
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Dixon:

In response to your request of 1 February 1988, I am sending you a video cassette showing the high-sea discovery of two olive ridley turtles, Lepidochelys olivacea, severely entangled in a derelict drifting wad of fishing net. The incident occurred on August 6, 1986 at lat. 17°N, long. 114°W. The credit for the video goes to Mr. William K. Irwin of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Center, La Jolla, California.

Please return the cassette to me at your earliest convenience. I wish you success in your endeavor to educate ship's crews and other people on the problems of synthetic trash in the sea.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: J. Coe, Entanglement Research Program
NMFS Northwest Fisheries Center

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION OF THE SEA

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TRD/ajc

Dr G. Balazs,
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory,
National Marine Fisheries Service,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
Honolulu,
Hawaii,
U.S.A.

1 February 1988

Dear Dr Balazs,

I have been advised to seek your assistance in connection with a current project. This involves the development of a training package for ships' crews on the subject of the prevention of marine pollution by solid wastes, notably plastics. The venture is supported by the International Maritime Organisation and will hopefully assist the implementation of regulations contained in MARPOL's Annexe V, when it enters into force in December 1988.

Having reviewed the literature on the impact of marine litter I would like to draw attention to the effects of plastics upon turtle populations in the video part of the training package. I would therefore be very grateful for any assistance you could offer in tracking down any suitable visual materials, including existing footage or transparencies. Any materials you may care to send will be fully acknowledged and returned within a short period of time.

Alternatively, any suggestions where visual materials might be located or any general advice you might care to offer, would be most welcome.

2/25/88

Yours sincerely,

~~10000~~ R Wilson

Trevor R. Dixon

(Project Manager)

Please use the video;
credit to: William K. Irwin

Bob

P.S. Enclosed are
some preliminary
turtle plots I ran
off - thought you might be interested.

London Office: 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD Tel: 01-388 2117 Telex: 261681 Eascan G
Paris Office: 16 rue Cino del Duca, 92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France Tel: (010.33.1) 47.48.04.95 Telex: 649671
Company No: 1867863 Charity No: 29076

2/22/88
Bob - Would it be alright with you if I submit a copy of your video showing the entangled oliv ridley? Will give you full credit for it.
Gayle

VIA TRONK COMPTONISE ON MAILING

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

January 14, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. G. L. Preston
Assistant Fisheries Officer
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Preston:

I regret to inform you that your letter of 30 November 1987 arrived here only yesterday, and that I will not be able to attend the Workshop on Pacific Island Inshore Fishery Resources. My current address, shown on this letterhead, has been in effect for the past several years. I am no longer affiliated with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB). However, the delay in my receiving your letter took place somewhere prior to being received at HIMB's address. I can only assume that the international postal service slowed down considerably over the Christmas and New Years Holidays.

I was pleased to see that marine turtles have been included on the workshop's draft agenda. You are undoubtedly aware of the Joint NMFS/SPC Workshop on Marine Turtles in the Tropical Pacific Islands held in Noumea in December of 1979. The report of that meeting should be helpful to discussing the survival status of turtles at your forthcoming workshop.

A current list of my publications relating to turtles has been enclosed for your information. I wish you much success with your workshop.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:gr

bcc: GHB ✓
HL

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

B.P. 05
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTHACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26.26.18



COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE 05
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
"SOUTHACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26.26.18

In reply, please quote
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

CONF 2/41/1
PRO 713/30

22 January 1988

Dr. G.H. Balazs
Zoology NMFS
SWFC Honolulu Lab.
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu
Hawaii 96822

Dear George,

Thank you for your response to the invitation to participate in the Inshore Fishery Resource Workshop. Sorry the mails were so uncooperative and hope that has not influenced your decision not to attend.

Although organization of the workshop is proceeding well, we do not presently have a keynote speaker for the turtle session. There are several persons who could contribute minor experience papers, but any papers additional to the useful ones you have already sent would be appreciated. The Joint NMFS/SPC Workshop papers and proceedings from 1979 are of course available here.

Thank you for your response.

Best Wishes,

Dr A.D. Lewis
Workshop Coordinator

TL/tf

July 8, 1988

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Karen Bjorndal
Director, Center for
Sea Turtle Research
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of 29 June 1988 offering me the opportunity to comment on the proposal dealing with sea turtle conservation in northern Cyprus.

1. Nowhere in the proposal is it stated who will actually do the work. Who is "the consultant"? The success or failure of this short, expensive consultancy project will likely depend upon the credentials and professional expertise in sea turtles of the consultant. How can the World Wildlife Fund expect a proper review of this proposal to be undertaken if they don't require the name of the person requesting to do the work?
2. The amount presumably for salary being requested for the consultant is clearly excessive. \$7,900 for at the most 30 days of work comes out to an annual pay of \$63,000, assuming a 5-day work week; or is the \$7,900 meant to pay more than one consultant? Again, the proposal lacks sufficient information to make such a determination.
3. The proposed travel period of 15-20 days is given as "June-July 1988." It would appear that this time frame has already been breeched, and that the proposal was submitted much too late for the work to be done this season.
4. Based on my limited knowledge of sea turtles in the Mediterranean region, I would support the work being proposed assuming it will be carried out by a capable sea turtle specialist and that the salary request is cut by 50%.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist and Leader,
Hawaiian Sea Turtle
Recovery Team

June 22, 1983

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Chris Barty
68-711 Farrington Hwy.
Waialua, HI 96791

Dear Mr. Barty:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the important part you played in helping our agency obtain the dead green sea turtle found at Mokuleia on Monday, June 13th. We very much appreciate your assistance in this matter. An autopsy will be conducted in the near future in an attempt to determine cause of death.

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