

April 21, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Kazuo Horikoshi  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Kazuo,

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you in person at the sea turtle workshop in Waverly, Georgia. However, I regret that we did not have more time together to discuss our mutual interest in pigment changes occurring in the plastron of hatchling green turtles. The note that I prepared on this subject is scheduled to appear in the June issue of Journal of Herpetology. A reprint will be sent to you as soon as it is published. I hope that in the near future you will prepare a short descriptive article on your observations of hatchling turtles in the western Pacific.

Best regards and good luck on your forthcoming study visit to Tortuguero.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Balazs  
HL

April 11, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Ana Chavez  
Escuel de Biologia  
Universidad de Costa Rica  
Ciudad Universitaria  
Rodrigo Pacio, Costa Rica

Dear Ana,

It was good to see you again at the sea turtle workshop in Waverly, Georgia. I hope that you had a pleasant visit to Washington, D.C. after the meeting.

I was certainly pleased to hear of your success in petitioning Costa Rican officials to issue a set of postage stamps depicting sea turtles. This will be an excellent means to focus favorable attention on a prized resource of your nation.

As requested, I am sending you an assortment of Xeroxed photographs from various articles that may be helpful to the artists designing your stamps. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing the completed stamps.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL

882-7310

November 20, 1986 F/SWC2

Mrs. Maddock  
58 Puako Beach Road  
Kamuela, HI 96743

Dear Mrs. Maddock:

Bill Gilmartin, the leader of our Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Program, told me about the frequent sightings of sea turtles you have been making near your home. We would like to learn more about the turtles at this location. As a preliminary step, I am sending you the enclosed descriptive literature. In a few days, after you have had the opportunity to look through this material, I will be telephoning to discuss this further.

I appreciate learning of your interest in sea turtles.  
Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:ey  
cc: Balazs  
HL

December 29, 1986

F/SWCZ

The Brashaw Family  
939 Malania Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Brashaw family:

I am writing to thank you for the important role you played in reporting and retrieving the dead green sea turtle found on Kailua beach on December 18th. The animal is now stored in our freezer and an autopsy will be conducted in the near future in an effort to determine the cause of death.

I have enclosed some literature about the endangered status of sea turtles and our Agency's efforts to aid in their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate your help in documenting this recent mortality.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: Balazs  
HL

GHB:11

November 6, 1986 P/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Clayton Kanae  
631 Iai Drive  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Mr. Kanae:

I am writing to thank you for the assistance you provided earlier this year in reporting a dead green sea turtle near Halepalaoa on Lanai. The turtle was subsequently frozen and shipped to our Laboratory by agents of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. An autopsy was conducted, but no evidence was found to explain why it died. The stomach and intestines were filled to capacity with algae (liau) normally eaten by Hawaiian green turtles.

I have enclosed some literature about the endangered status of sea turtles and our agency's efforts to conduct research beneficial to their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate your help in documenting this mortality.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Ecologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL

November 6, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tim Woczewski  
68-679 Farrington Highway  
Waialua, HI 96791

Dear Mr. Woczewski:

I am writing to thank you for your assistance in reporting the dead green sea turtle that you found on Tuesday, October 21st. An autopsy was performed on this animal here at our Laboratory. However, due to the advanced state of decomposition, we were unable to determine the cause of death. The stomach was filled with algal material (seaweed), indicating that the turtle had been feeding shortly before death.

I have enclosed some literature about the endangered status of sea turtles and our agency's effort to conduct research beneficial to their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate your help in documenting this mortality.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL



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

December 5, 1986

F/SWC2:RSS

MEMORANDUM FOR: GCSW - Martin B. Hochman  
FROM: F/SWC2 - Richard S. Shomura *Richard S. Shomura*  
SUBJECT: Turtle study in American Samoa (George Balazs' involvement)

This is to confirm our discussion regarding a request to have George Balazs undertake a turtle study in American Samoa.

By way of background, I was contacted by a Charles Darby representing KRITA Ltd. based in Auckland, New Zealand, on 2 December 1986. Mr. Darby indicated that their firm was planning to submit a bid to conduct an environmental study of selected coastal waters in American Samoa. Part of the bid specification calls for a study of turtle habitats in the area. Mr. Darby mentioned that George Balazs of the Honolulu Laboratory was probably the most knowledgeable scientist engaged in the study of turtles and turtle habitats in the central Pacific. Thus, KRITA Ltd. wished to retain George Balazs' services for the turtle segment of the study.

I agreed with Mr. Darby that George Balazs was probably the most knowledgeable turtle scientist in the central Pacific region. I also indicated that the Honolulu Laboratory is interested in seeing that turtle research is carried out in the region. Further, I informed Mr. Darby that I would check with our legal advisers to determine if regulations would permit us to participate in this study.

My understanding from the telephone discussion with you on 3 December 1986 is as follows:

1. If the Laboratory is interested in the turtle studies we would be able to provide the services of George Balazs for the study.
2. We should work out travel arrangements with WASC in Seattle to provide for the payment of travel and per diem costs by KRITA Ltd.
3. Since the work is of interest to the Honolulu Laboratory and will require only several days of George Balazs' time, the Laboratory would be willing to cover George Balazs' salary during this study. The Laboratory will be able to use the information obtained during the study for a technical paper.

cc: ✓ G. Balazs



GMB

TELEX VIA WPRFMC 12/5/86 - 0845

TO CHARLES DARBY OF KRTA, LTD. TELEX NUMBER NZ21385

REGULATIONS WILL PERMIT GEORGE BALAZS UNDERTAKE TURTLE STUDY FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACT. PARTICIPATION CONDITIONAL ON KRTA COVERING COSTS. APPRECIATE RECEIVING DETAILS IN WRITING.

RICHARD SHOMURA



December 17, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Robert Wershoven  
Chairman, Endangered Species Committee  
Broward County Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 16343  
Plantation, FL 33318

Dear Robert,

I was absolutely delighted to receive your report on tagging and other studies of immature greens using scuba. This is the first I have heard about your work and I am very impressed. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending it to me.

Enclosed are several items relating to our work here in the Pacific. If there are any additional articles you would like to have, please let me know.

Best wishes to you and Jeanne for the holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

GHB:ey  
cc: Balazs ✓  
HL

December 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Kimo Paishon  
Seafoods of the Pacific  
P. O. Box 518  
Eleele, Kauai, HI 96705

Dear Kimo and Judy,

I appreciated having the opportunity to meet you in person the other day when Don Heacock and I visited Port Allen. Again, thank you very much for assisting with some of the stranded sea turtles Don has arranged to send to our Laboratory from Kauai. The incidence of dead turtles washing up on our shores has been increasing in recent years. We hope to learn more about the cause of this problem by conducting autopsies on as many specimens as possible.

As promised, I am sending you an assortment of literature on sea turtles and our agency's efforts to aid in their recovery.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

GHB:ey

cc: Don Heacock, DAR

Balazs  
HL

December 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kairis  
P. O. Box 747  
Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Dear Brian and Karen,

I certainly want to take this opportunity to thank you for the hospitality and assistance you gave to Don and I during our recent visit to Kipu Kai. Except for feral cats, the beaches along your shoreline appear to be ideal for nesting sea turtles. Hopefully in future years turtles will come ashore in greater numbers to lay eggs. You can play an important role by continuing to report any evidence of this activity that comes to your attention.

As promised, I am sending an assortment of literature on sea turtles and our agency's efforts to aid in their recovery. Best wishes for the holidays, and again many thanks for helping to make our visit a successful one.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

GHB:ey

cc: Don Heacock, DAR

Balazs ✓  
HL

December 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Marilyn B. Major  
Associate Professor  
Department of Nursing  
2528 The Mall  
University of Hawaii  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Marilyn,

I want to take this opportunity to formally thank you for the fine job you did this past summer working on nesting green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. The data you collected following my departure in late June contributed substantially to our census and tag resighting records for the 1986 breeding season. We are most appreciative of your voluntary contribution of time and talent. I hope that circumstances will allow you to be involved in this research again during coming years.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

GHB:ey  
cc: Balazs  
HL

January 8, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Lt. Don Noviello  
6215 Keokea Place, Apt. 229  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Don:

Many thanks for your recent telephone call reporting the sighting of one of our tagged green turtles sleeping under a ledge at a depth of 70' off Kaneohe Bay. This is an especially valuable tag recovery for us because the animal was alive and well in its natural habitat, and you were able to provide the exact location by loran. When our time and funds permit, we plan to survey this site using scuba to obtain more data on its importance as underwater resting habitat.

As I described to you over the telephone, the turtle you saw was originally tagged while nesting at East Island, French Frigate Shoals, in June of 1982. Adult green turtles in Hawaii migrate to this breeding site usually every 2 to 4 years. During the interim, most turtles spend their time in the main islands foraging on benthic algae close to shore and sleeping at depths of 40-100'. I have enclosed several articles about the biology of sea turtles which may be of interest. Again, your report about this turtle is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosures

cc: G. H. Balazs  
HL

COPY

DEC 8, 1986



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

DEAR MR. NIUMATASERE:

I HOPE THAT YOU RECEIVED THIS LETTER.

GOOD WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS,

October 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Voniani Niumatasere  
Drue  
Tavuki  
Kadavu, Fiji Islands

SINCERELY, GEORGE BALAZS

Dear Mr. Niumatasere:

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 1986. I was very pleased to hear from you and receive the excellent answers to the questions I asked about the tagged turtle you captured. This information is valuable to our research program. Thank you also for offering to report any other tagged turtles that are caught in your area. In addition to Samoa, we have also tagged turtles in Pohnpei, the Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands, and here in Hawaii.

As promised, I am sending you an assortment of literature about sea turtles. You may want to share some of this information with your local school. The children of your village may especially enjoy the color poster showing the different kinds of sea turtles.

I wonder if you would mind answering a few more questions concerning turtles in your area.

- 1. Do turtles ever come ashore to lay eggs near Drue?
- 2. Are your nets made especially to catch turtles, or was the tagged turtle caught in a net used mainly to catch fish?
- 3. What is the size of most of the turtles you catch? Are they large ones like the tagged turtle, or much smaller (under 100 lbs)?

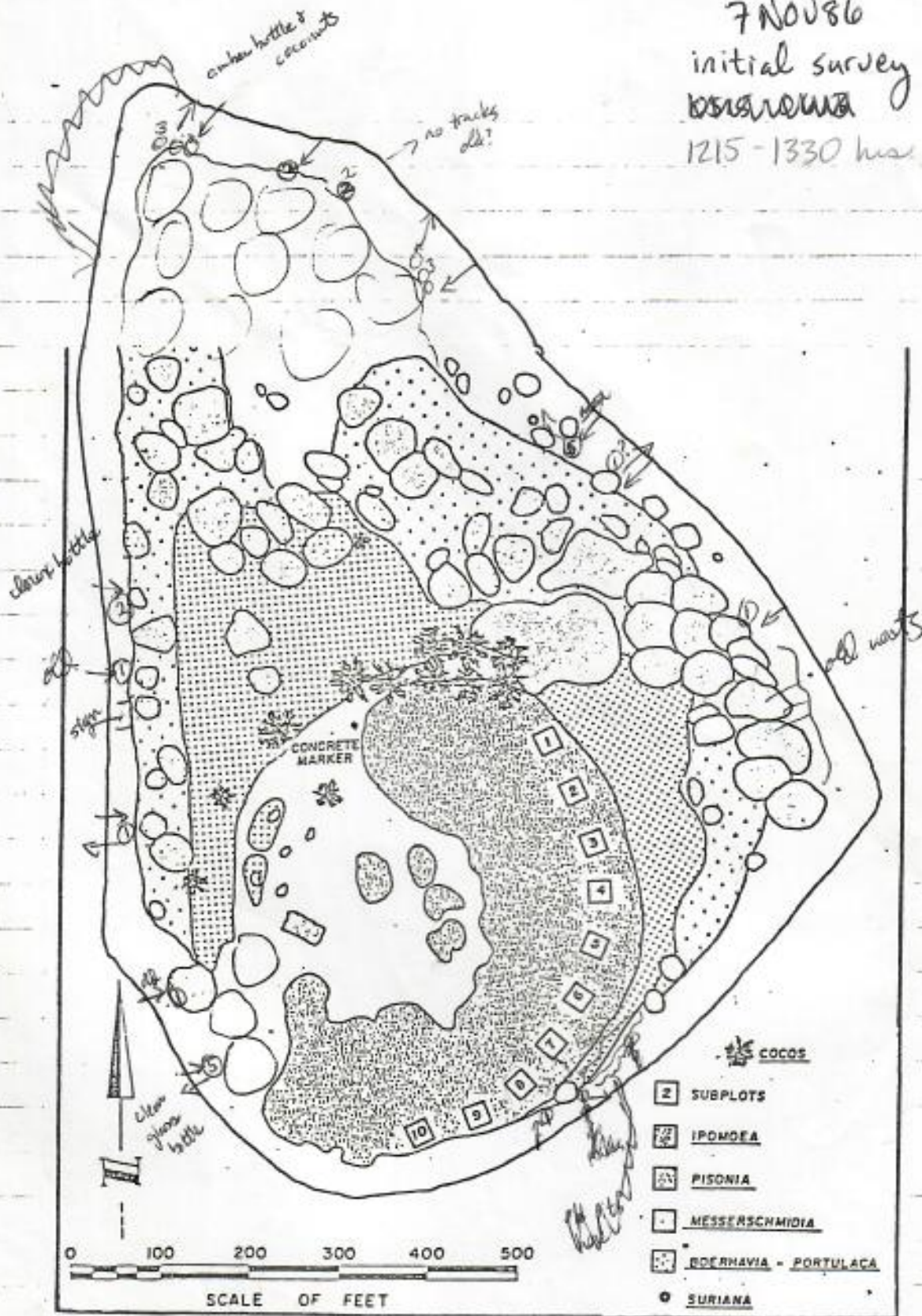
Again, thank you for your help. Perhaps sometime, I will be able to visit your island and have the pleasure of meeting you in person.

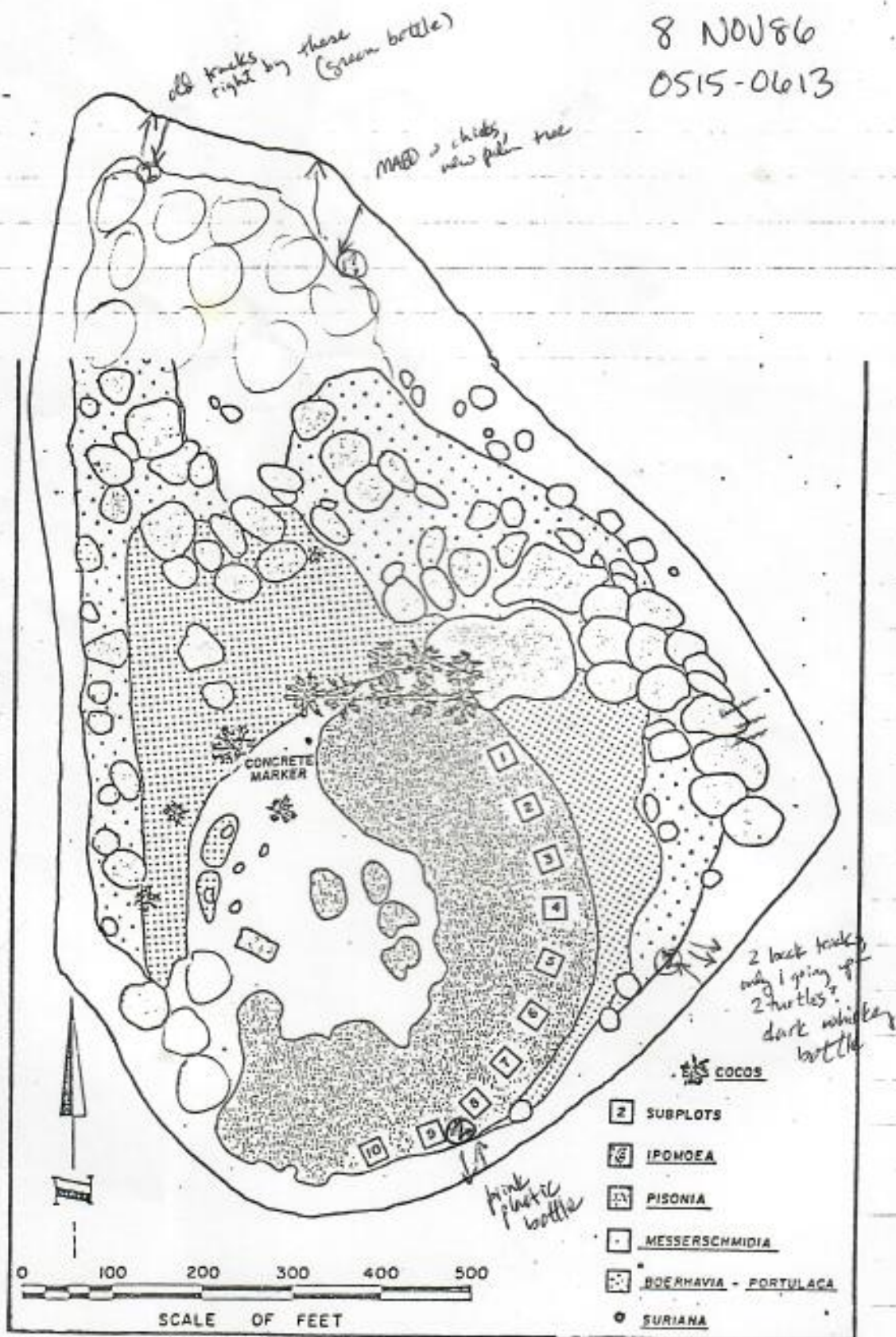
Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist



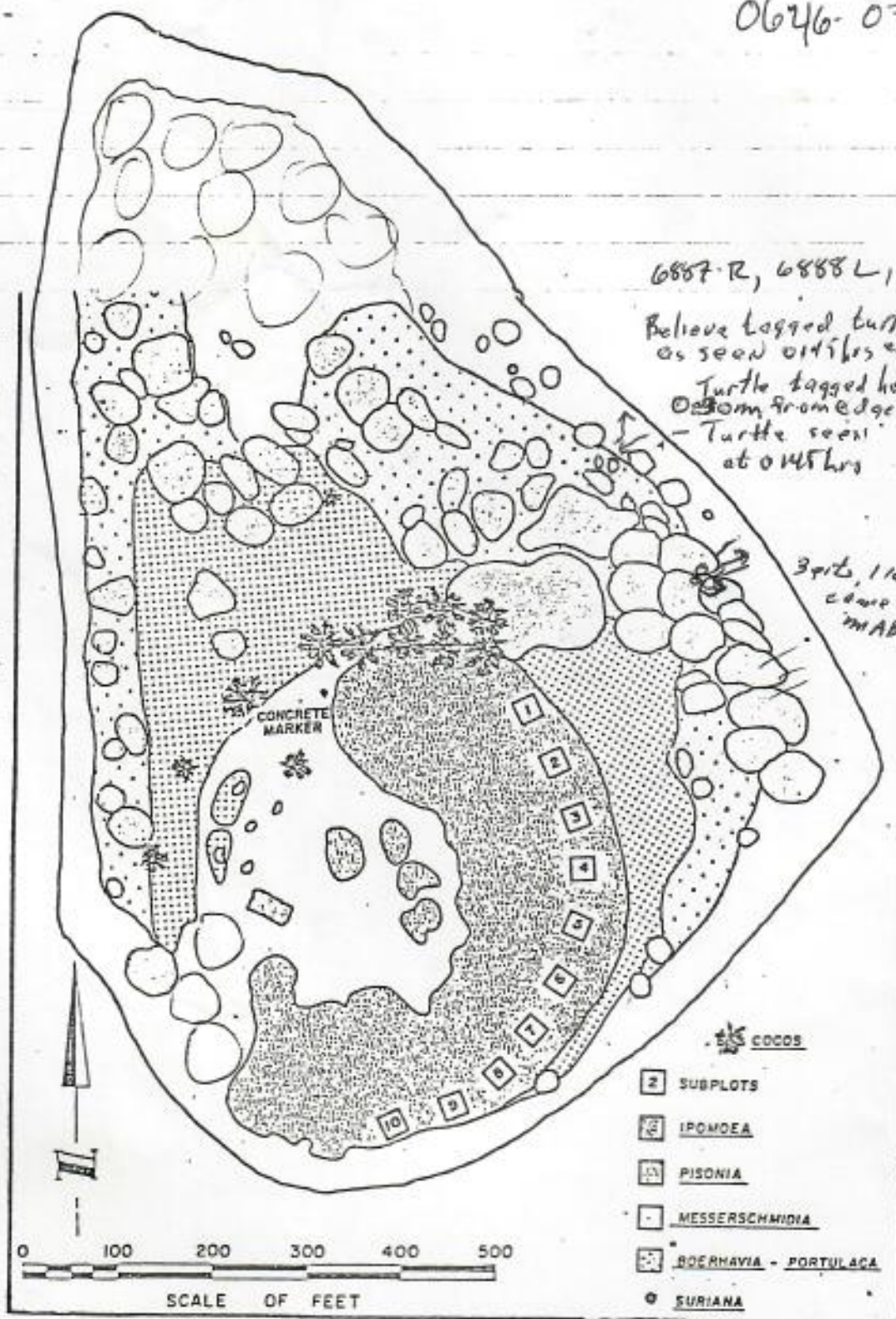
7 NOV 86  
initial survey  
BUSAERUA  
1215 - 1330 hrs



8 NOV 86  
0515-0613



9 NOV. 86  
0646-0734



Dr. G. Balazs,  
Zoologist,  
Marine Mammals & Endangered  
Species Program,  
NMFS, 2570 Dole St.,  
Honolulu,  
HAWAII 96822.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Many thanks for the wealth of useful information on turtles and the news of a green turtle tag recovery.

... I enclose for your information a copy of a recent resource profile on turtles which are consumed in Fiji on a subsistence and, to a limited extent, commercial basis. Hope it doesn't spoil your day.

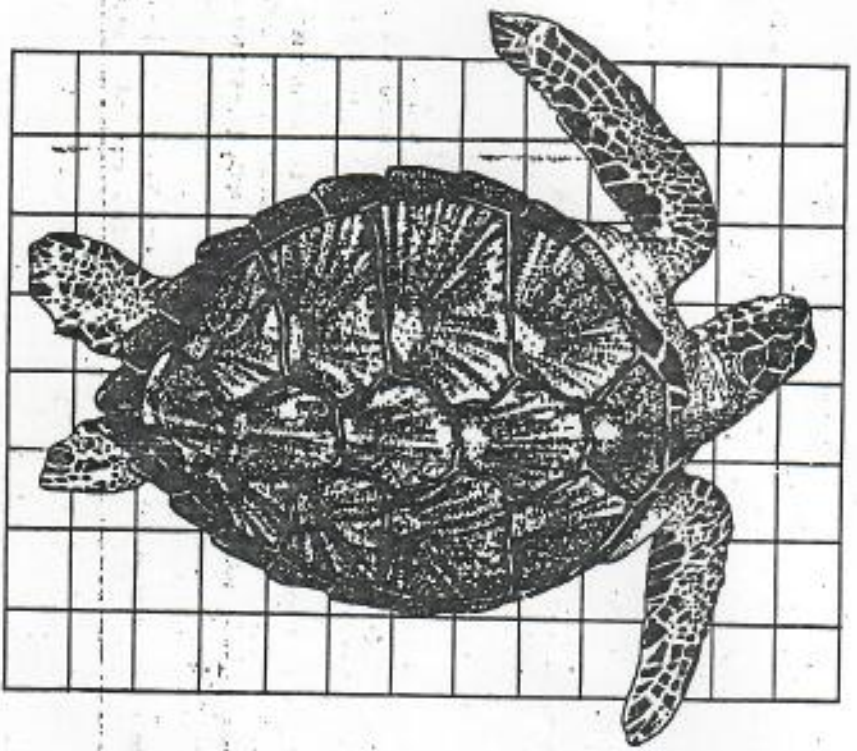
Best wishes,

*Terry Lewis.*

DR. A.D.LEWIS  
PRINCIPAL FISHERIES OFFICER (RA & D)

**FISHERY RESOURCE PROFILE NO.21**

**TURTLE (VONU)**



## 21.1 The Resource

Two marine turtle species are commonly sighted and captured in Fiji, the green (*Chelonia mydas* - vonuind) and the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata* - taku). Both are found throughout the tropical regions of the world and the green turtle in particular grows to well over 200kg in weight. The even larger leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) is sometimes sighted in offshore waters; there are occasional captures of the powerful loggerhead turtle (*Caretta* - tuvon) which has a musky odour and is not generally eaten.

As with all marine turtles, the green and hawksbill turtles come ashore, generally between the months of November and February, to lay their eggs on specific nesting beaches. Typically 100 to 150 leathery eggs are laid in a hole excavated in the sand several times a season. These hatch after 7-10 weeks and the hatchlings run the gauntlet of predatory birds, fish and sharks as they make their way out to the open sea.

Growth of turtles is not well understood; green turtles appear to grow more rapidly but take a longer time to mature (5 years or more). Minimum size at first maturity for females of both species varies with area but can be as small as 80cm (32") and 60cm (24") for green and hawksbill turtles respectively. Males of both species are distinguished by their much longer tails. The green turtle is primarily herbivorous, feeding on various seaweeds, whereas the hawksbill appears to be more omnivorous in its habits eating sponges, sea squirts, seaweeds and other items.

## 21.2 Utilization

Because of their habit of nesting on specific beaches, female turtles and their eggs are vulnerable to predation by humans and variety of animals. They are also caught by spearing, traditional turtle nets, hand capture by divers when asleep or cruising, or even the use of sucker fish (bokawa) attached to a line.

The meat of the green turtle and particularly the green coloured body fat is prized. Turtle soup and canning factories are a facet of Pacific Islands history. The shell of the hawksbill has long been sought after for ornamental purposes (tortoise shell) and even the less attractive green turtle shell is utilized as a receptacle or curio.

In Fiji, turtles are marketed live or butchered. The meat, bodyfat and intestine are sold and other organs are all eaten, or is the softer undershell (plastron).

## 21.3 Production

### (a) Fiji

Commercial sale of turtle meat rose from 10 tonnes in 1979 to over 34 tonnes in 1983 then declining to 20 tonnes in 1984. (Figure 1) The 1983 figure is attributed to Hurricane Relief collection activities. Prices

have risen from \$1.74 to \$2.36/kg. in the same period. Quantities of vonu are consumed at traditional feasts and for subsistence purposes. Vonu is regarded as a chiefly food and is offered first to the chief by the gonodou.

(b) *World*

Despite the addition of marine turtles to the CITES List, trade in turtle meat and turtle products continues. The 1983 FAO estimates list green turtle and hawksbill production of 391 and 320 tonnes respectively, mostly from the Caribbean, with much larger unspecified turtle species production of 3800 tonnes, primarily from S.E. Asia.

21.4 *Status of Stocks*

The status of Fiji turtle stocks is uncertain and probably should be assessed as a matter of some importance. Easier access to remote nesting islands must be resulting in an increased catch of turtles.

21.5 *Management Guidelines*

The Fisheries Regulations currently provide for:

- (a) a minimum size of turtles allowed to be taken (18" - 45cm). This in fact is well below the typical size at first maturity and could be increased to 30" (75cm).
- (b) a closed season on the taking of turtles and their eggs, from November 1st to March 31st. This spans the main breeding season.
- (c) restriction on the size of spear borbs which can be used (not less than 3/8" projection from the shaft) to prevent unnecessary wounding of turtles.
- (d) export of turtle flesh is prohibited.

In addition to an increase in the minimum size, Government could also consider a ban on the export of whole shells. Many purchasers have their shells confiscated on return to countries party to CITES e.g. Australia, USA and are thus unfairly penalized.

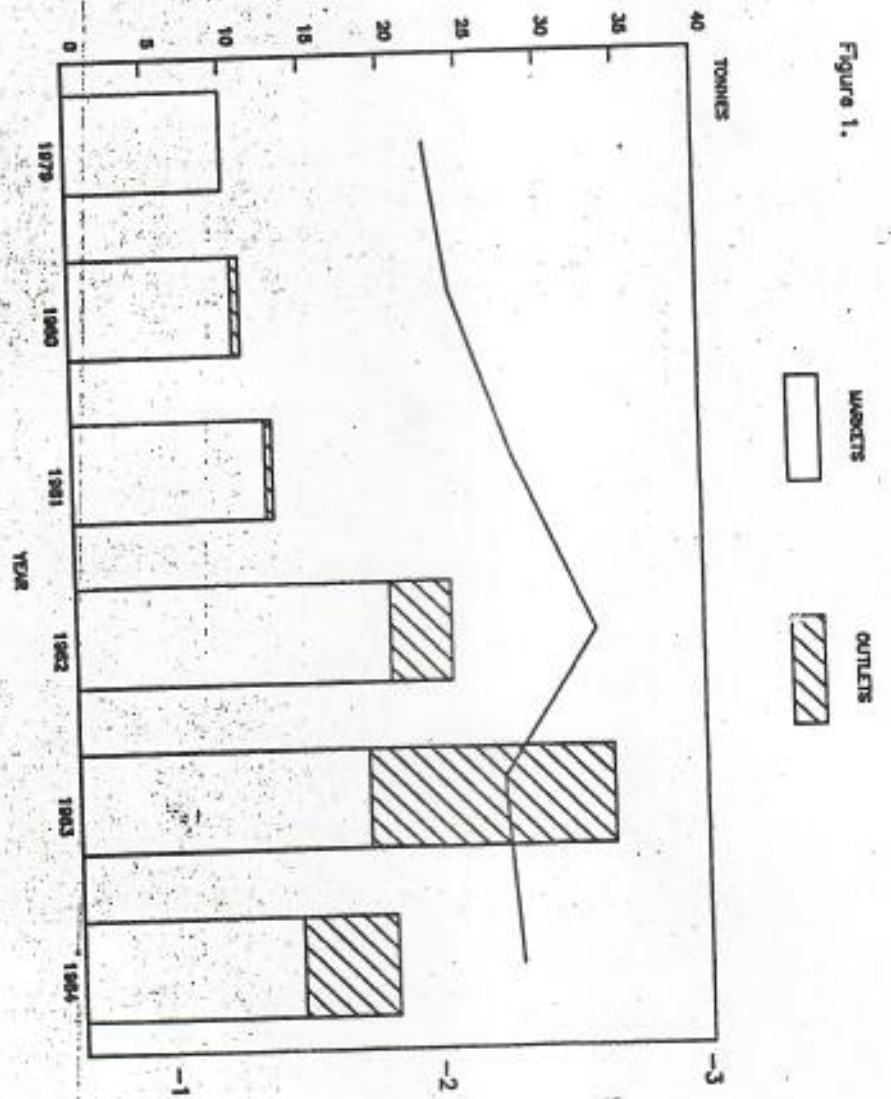
21.6 *Policy and Investment Opportunities*

An assessment of Fiji's turtle stocks should be undertaken as resources permit. If warranted, a ban on the commercial sale of meat and shell should be considered. The consumption of turtle in the traditional context would be allowed to continue, save in the unlikely event that stocks appear to be severely depleted.

Clearly, investment opportunities in the harvest of turtle or turtle product are nil.

# TURTLE MEAT SALES AND AVERAGE PRICE.

Figure 1.



## FISHERY RESOURCE PROFILES

CONTENTS	PAGE	
1. Spiny Lobster (Urau).	1	
2. Giant Clam (Vasua).	7	
3. Trochus (Sici).	13	
4. Beche-de-Mer (Dri).	20	
5. Aquarium Fish (Tiviti).	25	
6. Ornamental Coral (Lase).	30	
7. Collector's Shells (qani vivili).	34	
8. Marine Algae (Lumi).	38	
9. Deepwater Snapper	42	
10. Freshwater Mussel (Kai).	45	
		11. Crab (qari).
		12. Spanish Mackerel (Walu)
		13. Sashimi Tunas (Yatunitoga)
		14. Black Coral (Baka)
		15. Marine Prawns (Ura)
		16. Freshwater Prawns (Ura)
		17. Freshwater Eels (Duna)
		18. Sharks (qio)
		19. Reef Fish
		20. Indian Mackerel (Salala)
		21. Turtle (Vonu)
		49
		53.
		57.
		61.
		64.
		68.
		72.
		75.
		79.
		84
		84
		88.

These resource profiles are intended to provide a concise introduction to various fisheries resources which are attracting attention from potential investors in the industry. Their aim is to highlight the various characteristics of the resource (biological, economic) and management measures currently in place, and identify investment opportunities. More details on any aspects of the report can be obtained from Fisheries Division. It is hoped that profiles of other resources will be progressively compiled as required.



**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

1 December 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tim Guild  
Sea Life Park  
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Dear Tim,

I want to take this opportunity to formally thank you for the important role you recently played in helping our agency capture the tumor-afflicted sea turtle in the Makani Kai Marina. Your assistance and concern for this animal is greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

Best regards,

Sincerely,

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





December 3, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

The Nunes Family  
613 Kaimalino Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Leslie and family:

Many thanks for the important role you played in aiding the large green turtle that recently beached itself near your home. The turtle was subsequently held at our Kewalo Basin Facility for observation. The decision was made that it was healthy enough to release, in spite of the large fibrous tumor on its neck. I let it go yesterday after double tagging it with numbered alloy flipper tags. The turtle swam off and dove in a seemingly normal manner.

I have enclosed a color wall poster and several articles about sea turtles which you may find interesting. Again, your assistance in this case is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

GHB:ey

cc: Balazs  
HL

Bill  
November 19, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Leonard Young  
Queen Liliuokalani Trust  
P. O. Box 2819  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Dear Dr. Young:

I am writing about our correspondence and telephone discussion earlier this year concerning your interest in maintaining a green sea turtle for educational display (for school children) and fish-pond algal research.

The written report which we received from Dr. Brock (an authority on mixonaline ponds) was most encouraging with regard to your pond being secure and likely having environmental conditions suited for a green turtle. Our program leader, Bill Gilmartin, agrees with this assessment. Consequently, when an appropriate turtle becomes available that we have the need to maintain for an extended period, your facility will be given top priority. A loan agreement will be formulated similar to the one we now have for three graft-marked and tagged turtles at the Mauna Lani Hotel.

I will be in touch with you again when we have a turtle in need of captive maintenance.

Sincerely

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

GHB:ey

cc: Paul Kawamoto  
Richard Brock  
Gene Nitta

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

November 12, 1986

Mr. Francis Ruddie  
Kamuela Leisure Corporation  
Marine Division  
P. O. Box 4000  
Kawaihae, HI 96743

Dear Mr. Ruddie:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff, Daniel Pratt and Candie, for retrieving the dead green turtle off Mauna Lani Bay and shipping it COD to Honolulu. It arrived here safely yesterday and is now stored in our freezer for eventual autopsy. I will let you know if we are able to determine the cause of death.

You will be pleased to learn that the green turtle rescued by your staff earlier this year fully recovered from its spear wound. As you probably recall, Dr. Patrick Leadbeater, a veterinarian in private practice, volunteered his services to treat the turtle and apply a fiberglass and foam patch over the hole. Although the wound healed rapidly, the turtle continued to suffer from excessive buoyancy for several months. During this time it was cared for in a tank at our Kewalo Basin Research Facility. The buoyancy problem finally resolved itself and the turtle was deemed healthy enough for release. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> it was marked with small identification tags and released off Niu Valley here on Oahu. The turtle swam rapidly from shore in a normal manner. We have every reason to believe that it will successfully take-up residency with other turtles of a similar size known to live and feed in the immediate vicinity. The decision to release it here, rather than ship it back to the Big Island, was primarily made in the turtle's best interests to reduce the amount of stress.

Again, we certainly appreciate the assistance you have provided.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist



November 13, 1986

F/SWC2

Dr. Alison L. Hess  
Project Director  
Integrated Renewable Resources  
Management for U.S. Insular Areas  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dr. Hess:

A while back you sent me draft copies of your two volume document entitled "Integrated renewable resource management for U.S. insular areas." Unfortunately, I was involved in field studies away from Honolulu at the time and could not meet your deadline for review comments. I am writing now to let you know that the document is, in my opinion, an exceedingly valuable compilation of information about the Pacific islands. When the final copies are published, I would greatly appreciate receiving a set.

Many thanks for making this work available to me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

bc: Balazs  
HL

November 12, 1986 P/SWC2

Mr. Gary Park  
66-128 Haleiwa Road  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Gary,

I want to thank you very much for helping me look for the sick green sea turtle that recently came into Haleiwa Harbor. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed several articles about sea turtles that you may find interesting. Perhaps you will want to share the color wall poster with your teacher and class at school.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Zoologist

Enclosure



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

November 10, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Susan Keliikuli  
Haleiwa Small Boat Harbor  
P. O. Box 178  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Susan,

Many thanks for the important role you played in calling our attention to the tumor-ridden adult turtle now living in the Haleiwa Harbor. We are trying to follow this situation closely. The turtle is strong enough to swim on its own, and apparently wishes to stay inside the harbor for shelter from large waves. Unfortunately, we presently do not have a cure for these tumors (called fibropapillomas). Surgery has been carried out on other turtles we have encountered, but in a few months the tumors grew back.

I have enclosed several items about sea turtles, and their protected status, which you may find interesting. Again, we appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure



November 10, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Jr. Hookala  
P. O. Box 364  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Hookala:

Many thanks for the important role you played in calling our attention to the tumor-ridden adult turtle now living in the Haleiwa Harbor. We are trying to follow this situation closely. The turtle is strong enough to swim on its own, and apparently wishes to stay inside the harbor for shelter from large waves. Unfortunately, we presently do not have a cure for these tumors (called fibropapillomas). Surgery has been carried out on other turtles we have encountered, but in a few months the tumors grew back.

I have enclosed several items about sea turtles and their protected status which you may find interesting. Again, we appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL



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

October 30, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tony Lewis  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Fiji Government  
P. O. Box 358  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Lewis:

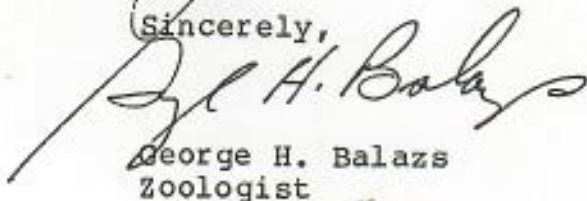
I am writing to inform you about the recent recovery in Fiji of a green sea turtle, Chelonia mydas, originally tagged at Rose Island in American Samoa.

During early August we received a letter from a fisherman in Kadavu saying that he had caught by net a large turtle with two tags attached numbered 3504 and 3505. Our records showed that this turtle had been tagged while nesting on Rose Island on November 10, 1980. At that time it measured 111 cm in curved carapace length.

Rose Island is a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Government of American Samoa. This is the first time that a turtle tagged at Rose Island has been recovered elsewhere. However, it is not surprising, since green turtles are known to be long-range migrant breeders frequently crossing international boundaries.

I have enclosed several articles about our research activities on sea turtles which you may find interesting. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Honolulu  
Office of Marine and Wildlife Resources,  
American Samoa





October 27, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. S. E. Ingham  
Managing Editor  
Australian Wildlife Research  
314 Albert Street  
East Melbourne  
Vic. Australia 3002

Dear Dr. Ingraham:

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to referee manuscript V838/236, authored by C. J. Limpus and N. Nicholls. Overall, this is an interesting and potentially important note, worthy of publication. My suggestions for improvement appear on the attached sheet.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

bc: Balazs  
HL

GHB

Recommendation

Accepted after minor revision.

Please consider the following suggestions:

1. Reword the title to enhance clarity.
2. Incorporate information and citations to reflect the fact that many green turtle breeding colonies are known to have substantial fluctuations in the numbers nesting from year to year. This is a worldwide phenomenon, and by no means confined to the Great Barrier Reef. Consider, for example, changes in annual numbers nesting at Tortuguero (Costa Rica), Europa Island, Surinam, and Hawaii. Publications by Carr discuss these fluctuations at Tortuguero and relate them to possible changes on the foraging pastures. As a minimum, Carr's pioneering work on this subject needs to be cited to tie the Australian findings to the international picture.
3. The question of males exhibiting similar annual fluctuations is not addressed or mentioned. The explanation proposed on p. 2 for a 2-year delay in females would not seem to apply to males. Are large numbers of males present off the GBI rookeries even during those years when few females are present for nesting? If not, then why not? Even if the question can't be answered, it should at least be addressed.



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

November 4, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Karen A. Bjorndal  
Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group  
Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Karen,

This letter responds to your request of 27 October 1986 concerning the IUCN position statement on the commercial utilization of sea turtles. I am very familiar with the 1975 document, since I was one of the participants in Miami that helped to draft it. In fact, I still frequently use the statement as an informative hand-out to people inquiring about the worldwide status of sea turtles and the role of farming/ranching.

I've just reread the 1975 document twice and I can't find a thing I would want to change. In my view, the position remains as valid now as it was in 1975. I therefore recommend that it be resubmitted to SSC in its present form as the continuing informed viewpoint of the IUCN Turtle Group.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist





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

February 18, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Amos Wikoli (#68)  
Airport Ramp Operations  
Department of Transportation  
Honolulu International Airport  
Honolulu, HI 96819

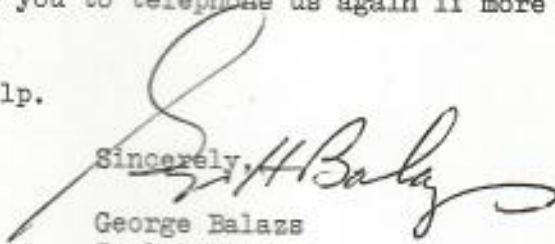
Dear Mr. Wikoli:

I am writing to thank you and your fellow workers for reporting and assisting in the recent recovery of a dead sea turtle at the Reef Runway. An autopsy will be conducted in the near future in an effort to determine the cause of death. It would appear that a blow to the head took place, possibly from a spear or other object.

I have enclosed several articles about sea turtles that you may find interesting. We certainly encourage you to telephone us again if more dead turtles are found.

Again, we appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

  
George Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Gene Witham



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

October 30, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tony Lewis  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Fiji Government  
P. O. Box 358  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Lewis:

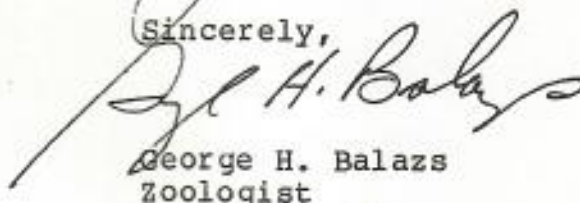
I am writing to inform you about the recent recovery in Fiji of a green sea turtle, Chelonia mydas, originally tagged at Rose Island in American Samoa.

During early August we received a letter from a fisherman in Kadavu saying that he had caught by net a large turtle with two tags attached numbered 3504 and 3505. Our records showed that this turtle had been tagged while nesting on Rose Island on November 10, 1980. At that time it measured 111 cm in curved carapace length.

Rose Island is a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Government of American Samoa. This is the first time that a turtle tagged at Rose Island has been recovered elsewhere. However, it is not surprising, since green turtles are known to be long-range migrant breeders frequently crossing international boundaries.

I have enclosed several articles about our research activities on sea turtles which you may find interesting. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Honolulu  
Office of Marine and Wildlife Resources,  
American Samoa



October 30, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Tony Lewis  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Fiji Government  
P. O. Box 358  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I am writing to inform you about the recent recovery in Fiji of a green sea turtle, *Cheilonia mydas*, originally tagged at Rose Island in American Samoa.

During early August we received a letter from a fisherman in Kadavu saying that he had caught by net a large turtle with two tags attached numbered 3504 and 3505. Our records showed that this turtle had been tagged while nesting on Rose Island on November 10, 1980. At that time it measured 111 cm in curved carapace length.

Rose Island is a National Wildlife Refuge administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Government of American Samoa. This is the first time that a turtle tagged at Rose Island has been recovered elsewhere. However, it is not surprising, since green turtles are known to be long-range migrant breeders frequently crossing international boundaries.

I have enclosed several articles about our research activities on sea turtles which you may find interesting. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Honolulu  
Office of Marine and Wildlife Resources,  
American Samoa

Balazs

HL

July 2, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. Francis Ruddle  
Mauna Lani Hotel  
P. O. Box 4000  
Kawaihae, Hawaii 96743

Dear Mr. Ruddle:

I recently returned from four weeks of isolated field work at French Frigate Shoals and learned about the medical "patchwork" done on the speared green sea turtle. The turtle seems to be recovering very well at our Kewalo Research Facility. However, it is still excessively buoyant and cannot dive properly. We plan to continue to hold the animal until it is back to normal.

I have enclosed several pieces of literature which you may not have seen. Again, I want to thank you for the important role you played in rescuing the injured turtle.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: Balazs  
HL

October 27, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Ray Tulafoa  
Director, Office of Marine and  
Wildlife Resources  
Government of American Samoa  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Mr. Tulafoa:

I am writing to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to visit Rose Island on October 7-10 to investigate the status of nesting sea turtles.

As you have undoubtedly heard, there has been a near collapse of the 1986 breeding season at Rose. Only one nesting turtle was encountered during three nights of beach monitoring. Furthermore, there was evidence that only three nestings had occurred in 1986 prior to our arrival. A summary of my findings has been enclosed for your files.

Again, your assistance in arranging this recent study visit is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass,  
zoologist

cc: D. Gates, WPFO  
R. Buckley  
R. Wass, FWS

bc: Balass  
HL

GHB





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

October 1, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Lon Oreair  
58-140 Maika Way  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mr. Oreair:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for reporting and helping us retrieve the large dead green sea turtle that washed up by your house on Tuesday, September 30th. As you noted, the turtle was severely afflicted with tumors known as fibropapillomas. The incidence of this disease appears to be increasing in the Hawaiian green turtle population. The turtle has been stored in a freezer here at our Laboratory and an autopsy will be conducted in the near future. If you are interested in the findings of this internal examination, please feel free to call me at 943-1221.

I have enclosed some literature about the threatened status of Hawaii's sea turtles and our agency's efforts to conduct research beneficial to their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate the assistance you provided in documenting this mortality. Your report represents the 73d case of a stranded turtle we have recorded this year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Gene Witham  
Paul Kawamoto, DAR



SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER  
HONOLULU LABORATORY  
2570 DOLE STREET  
HONOLULU HI 96822-2306

October 16, 1985 v/cP/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Deborah Goebert  
684 Kaimalino Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Ms. Goebert: Hello!

A few months ago you assisted in the rescue of a green sea turtle that had become entangled in a buoy line in the Kawaiwi Canal. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in helping this protected species, short time after being captured. It is my understanding that the present turtle Our agency conducts research on sea turtles aimed at restoring them to former levels of abundance. The tumors that you saw on the turtle represent one of the serious disease problems we are now investigating. An article on this subject has been enclosed for your information. I am also sending several other items of interests concerning the conservation status of sea turtles. (of jellyfish). In any event, I would greatly appreciate hearing Again, many thanks for your assistance. my work as to the condition and behavior of the turtle.

Sincerely,

I have enclosed some printed material about sea turtles which you may find of interest. Again, we appreciate the information you provided.

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

bc: Balazs  
HL

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: Balazs  
HL

June 30, 1986

F/SWC2

Mr. H. Emmett Finch  
32101 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu, California 90265

Dear Emmett,

I'm sorry that it's been such a long time since I've been in touch with you. Please accept my apologies.

I just recently returned from one month of field work at French Frigate Shoals, most of which was spent on "Gooney Bird Island" tagging nesting turtles. While camped there, I was reminded by your bronze memorial plaque that 10 years have now passed since I accompanied you on your return visit to GBI. Needless to say, it certainly doesn't seem like that long ago! The paint on your little wooden box was starting to peel again, so I took the time to give it a fresh coat. The laminated photos and poem are in excellent condition, only needing a minor clean-up of cobwebbs and other small debris. Unfortunately, no brass cleaner was present on Tern Island or I would have polished the plaque. I'll be sure to take some with me when I go next year. To commemorate the 10-year mark, a photo was taken of me standing next to the plaque and freshly painted box. I'll send you a print just as soon as it is available.

I now have easy access to the FTS telephone at my office which will allow me to call you whenever necessary. I started to call you the other day, but quickly realized that I have misplaced your unlisted telephone number. May I please have it again? I would like to talk to you about some historical aspects of GBI relating to transformers, and other electronic gear on the island. Please don't spend your money calling me, as I can telephone you at no cost when I have your number.

Enclosed are several items that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

bc: Balazs  
HE

October 17, 1986 F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Ed Rayl  
47-657 A Kamehameha Highway  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Mr. Rayl:

Thank you very much for contacting our agency concerning the dead green sea turtle you found near your home on October 14th. The animal is now stored in a freezer here at our Laboratory and an autopsy will be performed in the near future. As you may have noted, the turtle had numerous tumors.

I have enclosed several articles about the threatened status of sea turtles and our agency's efforts to conduct research beneficial to their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate your assistance in documenting this recent mortality. Your report represents the 75th such case we have recorded this year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosures

cc: Noah Pekelo, DOCARE  
Paul Kawamoto, DAR

August 25, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Debina  
66-437 Pikai  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mrs. Debina:

Thank you very much for contacting the State of Hawaii Wildlife Enforcement Office (DOCARE) concerning the dead sea turtle you found near your home on August 15th. The animal is now stored in a freezer here at our Laboratory and an autopsy will be performed in the near future. It would appear that the turtle was struck by a boat.

I have enclosed some literature about the threatened status of Hawaii's sea turtles and our agency's efforts to conduct research beneficial to their recovery. Again, we certainly appreciate the assistance you have provided in documenting this recent mortality. Your report represents the 59th such case we have recorded this year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Noah Pekelo, DOCARE  
Gene Witham, NMFS Enforcement Branch  
WPPO

Balazs ✓  
HL

October 16, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

The Adams Family  
678 Kaimalino St.  
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Adams Family:

A few months ago you assisted in the rescue of a green sea turtle that had become entangled in a buoy line in the Kawainui Canal. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement in helping this protected species.

Our agency conducts research on sea turtles aimed at restoring them to former levels of abundance. The tumors that you saw on the turtle represent one of the serious disease problems we are now investigating. An article on this subject has been enclosed for your information. I am also sending several other items of interests concerning the conservation status of sea turtles.

Again, many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

bc: Balazs ✓  
HL

October 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Darrell Marsh  
Dana School, Room 3 (Sixth Grade)  
13500 Aviation Blvd.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Dear Darnell,

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 1986 requesting information on endangered sea turtles. I have enclosed several items which will be useful in writing your report. I am sure you will want to share the English/Spanish poster with other members of your class.

If you haven't done so already, you should visit your local library to search for additional information about sea turtles. There are many excellent books on this subject. The librarian will be pleased to help you.

Good luck in your studies!

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL

August 27, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. David McCloskie  
98-1478 Kaonahi  
Aiea, HI 96701

Dear Mr. McCloskie:

Mr. Eugene Witham of our agency's law enforcement branch asked if I would send you the enclosed assortment of literature on sea turtles and their current survival problems. As you probably know, under provisions of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, all sea turtles are protected in Hawaii and elsewhere in the United States. In addition, Hawaiian sea turtles receive full protection under wildlife laws promulgated by the State of Hawaii. Our Laboratory has been focusing biological research on the Hawaiian green turtle, Chelonia mydas, in an effort to help it recover to former levels of abundance.

I hope that you will find this material informative. We appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs  
HL





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

September 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Louise Baldwin  
1035 Kaimoku  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for reporting the dead green sea turtle that washed up near your house on September 4th. As promised, I am sending a color poster illustrating the various kinds of sea turtles found throughout the world, along with some descriptive literature on their threatened status.

The turtle that you found was severely afflicted with tumors known as fibropapillomas. The incidence of this disease appears to be increasing in the Hawaiian green turtle population. A manuscript on this subject has also been enclosed which will provide you with more information.

I regret the difficulty you experienced as the result of the misunderstanding about the possibility of keeping the turtle's shell. As Mr. Wong and Mr. Witham of our enforcement branch explained, there are no provisions under the U.S. Endangered Species Act that allow for personal ownership and use.

Again, thank you for your assistance and contribution toward furthering our biological understanding of this species.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Paul Kawamoto  
Division of Aquatic Resources



September 19, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dignan  
46-033 Lilipuna Drive  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Dignan:

I am writing to thank you for reporting the dead and decomposing green sea turtle that washed up by your house on Wednesday, September 17th. The turtle had received a massive blow to its carapace, possible resulting from a boat collision or a powerhead (underwater firearm).

I have enclosed some literature on the biology of sea turtles and their protected status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Again, we appreciate your taking the time to notify us about this case.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL

September 16, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Kaimo Nelson  
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation  
1164 Bishop Street Suite 900  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Nelson:

Thank you for your recent telephone inquiry concerning the occurrence of the green turtle, Chelonia mydas, and hawksbill, Eretmochelys imbricata, in the vicinity of Punaluu Bay on the Big Island. Both of these sea turtles are listed and protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

As promised, I am sending an assortment of articles which may be helpful in your work. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosures

bc: Balazs  
HL

September 15, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Louise Baldwin  
1035 Kaimoku  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

Dear Mrs. Baldwin:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for reporting the dead green sea turtle that washed up near your house on September 4th. As promised, I am sending a color poster illustrating the various kinds of sea turtles found throughout the world, along with some descriptive literature on their threatened status.

The turtle that you found was severely afflicted with tumors known as fibropapillomas. The incidence of this disease appears to be increasing in the Hawaiian green turtle population. A manuscript on this subject has also been enclosed which will provide you with more information.

I regret the difficulty you experienced as the result of the misunderstanding about the possibility of keeping the turtle's shell. As Mr. Wong and Mr. Witham of our enforcement branch explained, there are no provisions under the U.S. Endangered Species Act that allow for personal ownership and use.

Again, thank you for your assistance and contribution toward furthering our biological understanding of this species.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

cc: Paul Kawamoto  
Division of Aquatic Resources  
George H. Balazs  
~~DO~~  
HL

September 9, 1986

P/SWC2:GHB

Ms. Cheryl Willoughby  
Hawaiian Humane Society  
2700 Waiialae Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Dear Ms. Willoughby:

Thank you very much for your recent telephone call concerning human health considerations of captive turtles. As promised, I am sending you some information on this subject which I was able to locate in my files. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Balazs  
HL

July 29, 1986

F/SWC2

Mrs. Pam Randle  
1185 Ili'ohu Place  
Haleiwa, HI 96712

Dear Mrs. Randle:

Thank you very much for calling our agency about the remains of a dead sea turtle found near Waimea Bay on July 25th. The animal has been stored in a freezer here at our Laboratory and an autopsy will be performed in the near future.

I have enclosed some literature for you and your family to read about the threatened status of Hawaii's sea turtles, and our efforts to conduct research to aid in their recovery. Again, we appreciate the assistance you have provided in documenting this recent mortality.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

bc: Balazs  
HL

RR#1 - Box 497-A  
Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790  
August 25, 1986

Dr. George H. Balazs  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
2570 Dole Street F/SWC2  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thank you for the prompt response of my request for the information on the Hawaiian Sea Turtles.

The reprints arrived safely and I shall forward them to Mr. N.T. Hasen Didi of Male, in the Maldives.

I took the opportunity to read the publications and was amazed at the amount of research studies you have done on the Hawaiian sea turtles.

Thank you again on behalf of Mr. Hasen Didi and someday, may we meet to "talk Story" of our past experiences.

Very sincerely yours,

*Fred C. Ziesenhenn*  
Fred C. Ziesenhenn  
Marine Zoologist, Ret.

August 25, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. David Tuikolongahau  
94-125 Pahu #33  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Dear Mr. Tuikolongahau:

Mr. Eugene Witham of our agency's law enforcement branch asked if I would send you the enclosed assortment of literature about the Hawaiian green sea turtle. As you may know, this animal is fully protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii. Our Laboratory has been conducting research on the biology and ecology of the green sea turtle in an effort to help it recover to former levels of abundance.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this material. Possibly you may want to use it to do a special science project for your class when school starts next month.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

\*\*\*\*\*

cc: Balazs ✓  
HL



August 18, 1986

F/SWC2:GHB

Mrs. Joy Takushi  
1325 Aala, Apt. 206  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Dear Mrs. Takushi:

I am writing to thank you for taking the time to report the remains of the dead green sea turtle you found near Ala Moana Beach Park on August 9th. We were subsequently able to pick up the parts and take them to our laboratory for examination. A freshly sawed-off front and hind flipper were located along with a plastic bag full of intestines and viscera. The turtle had obviously been butchered, in clear violation of the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife rules of the State of Hawaii. A copy of this letter is therefore being sent to our law enforcement branch, as well as the State Agency (DOCARE) that you originally telephoned with your report. It is very important to keep track of these violations, even when there are no immediate suspects. If poaching of green turtles is a significant source of mortality, as it appears to be in Hawaii, then management and recovery plans for the species need to take this important factor into full account.

I have enclosed some literature about Hawaiian sea turtles which you and your family may find interesting. Also included are two "sea turtle coloring books" which I am sure your children will enjoy. Again, we appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

Enclosure

cc: Gene Witham  
Noah Pekelo  
WPPO  
Balazs  
HL

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

T. WAYLAND VAUGHAN AQUARIUM-MUSEUM (A-007)  
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093

August 13, 1986

Dr. George H. Balazs  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Marine Mammals & Endangered Species Program  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thank you for providing me with all the information on sea turtles.

Some time after my return from a trip to the San Benitos Islands I shall be working with Sheridan Stone on tagging and releasing our large sea turtles, as we discussed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Snodgrass", written in a cursive style.

Robert E. Snodgrass  
Senior Aquarist