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MARINE TURTLE DATA USEFUL TO GEORGE BALAZS

I. Turtle census (baskers and offshore)

A. Size distribution

1. hatchling - umbilical scar visible
2. juvenile - up to 40 cm carapace length
3. sub-adults - 40 to 80 cm carapace length
4. adults - greater than 80 cm carapace length

B. Sex ratios

1. variations in tail lengths of juveniles and sub-adults

C. Presence of tumors

1. location and size

D. Injuries

1. location and extent

II. Tag number recovery

(if obtainable without excessive disturbance)

A. Number and inscription

B. Approximate location of tag on flipper

III. Signs of nesting

A. Numbers of pits (pit = excavated depression in ground)

1. approximate age
2. areas of greatest activity

Notes: Pit probing or premature human excavation of nests may adversely affect productivity.

Color slides of as many different turtles as possible at locations other than French Frigate will be valuable for comparative purposes. Full frame views taken with a telephoto lens would be the most useful.