



Monsieur Georges H. BALAZS
Zoologist and leader
marine turtle research
National marine Fisheries S.
Southwest Fisheries Sciences C.
Honolulu laboratory
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu HAWAII 96822-9396



in me DOREPERE Marie yalynthe
BP58
98822 Vao, Ile des Pins,
New Caledonia.

(Vao, September 13, 1994.)

TO.

Dear Sir Gerge H. BALAZS,
zoologist and leader
marine Turtle Research Program.

I sincerely apologize for being late in answering

your letters. First of all, I thank you for the second white
tee-shirt of the SPREP. Both tee-shirts arrived safely to me.
I am wearing my green one, it fits me nicely. Also, thank
you very much for the literature with information about
biology and history of sea turtles. I understand that
their life are very important to you and me too, now that
you brought me some light on that subject. When I was younger
Turtle meat was blessed food - from God, in some of our islands
only people of high rank can use this and the traditional
fishermen family. The second one is the owner of the ^{sea} and all
sea creatures. In old time, it was forbidden to kill turtles with spears and
harpoons, to hunt and to make bleeding in the sea too. The an-
cient people used to catch them with turtle net, a special
net made with coconut fibres, only the big sizes were caught
you have some samples of turtle net in the museum in Noumea
city. It is only with a chief permit that people can hunt.
Nowadays, only the commerce of meat and eggs is prohibi-
ted. In the traditional feasts, meat turtle is one main source
of fresh protein. and was told there is no limited captured number.
And what about the other predators like sharks, birds. It will
be good to protect them against sharks: see the book Awake
of Jehovah witness (8 September 1992) they said there is a

electromagnetic device against sharks (page 28). I found in the new Testament of the Bible that God doesn't permit to eat reptiles speaking about pure and impure animals (Leviticus 11:20-47.) Can you help me to find another version in the New Testament? I'll be grateful. The ancient ate them, what about the modern ones, are they allowed?

Responding to your questions in the first letter about eating turtles, here people are very fond of eggs turtles. They eat: 1° the green one, Hona called de'o, 2° the Hawksbill, Hona'ea called O'ne'ya - 3° the Loggerhead pear roach called Kahu'upe - 4° that one called waye, the eggs only. TO capture S. 197 the fishermen used a motorboat, after pursuing it they swam and caught it, it wasn't hurt. I don't find or hear

about another tag. People aren't aware about that problem. It will be good to enforce the laws, American laws are good samples. A major problem here is pollution coming from the ships (tourists!...) there are many plastic and glass bottles, nylon papers along the beaches, bad weathers like cyclones can kill these creatures.

All the living nature needs protection and man's respect. Making something now shows us that our future will be optimistic. I agreed to stop harvesting, like said the SRREP program me, the enforcement of laws of protection (fishing nets, pollution, traditional feasts.) your photos of Hawaiian turtles are very beautiful: nos-4.

11-13-14. perhaps one day, I'll admire one leatherback the giant one in the ocean. It's very interesting about scientist's belief on returning females to nesting place they were born - I'll leave you for a while but we keep in touch.

Sincerely Yours,
DOWEN M.

VAO, Isle of Pines 1st May 1995

Dear Sir George H. BALAZS.

I was happy to receive your message: press release on regional marine turtles conservation programme. I think it took a time to arrive here and to respond another time too. I must apologize for that.

It's a good information that 26 Pacific countries and islands have dedicated 1995 "year of sea turtle".

It's a pity that among 1000 hatchlings only a few are surviving and you don't know where they are staying in the sea, before their shell is measuring 35-40 cm long.

one major problem is marine pollution. I used to walk along the beaches here and on the main land in New Caledonia. These areas are like places of garbage: empty bottles of alcohol, plastic bags, tooth brushes, sandals, ropes all these coming from touristic and fishing ships. Is there any law or forbidding the dumping of the oceans? Pacific countries must have a penal tax on that case.

I agree that tourism can promote the conservation of the turtles by creating places of display. It's a wonder to admire sea turtles alive in their environment. The living creation (sea turtles for over 100 million years) needs respect and love like man-kind too. We must survive together among the ages towards future - must God Help us!

Can I have more stickers (50 or plus) like the one you've sent me?

Let our Turtle live! Happy and blessed year to you. 1995!
With my thanks and best regards to you

Doreen