

George Balazs FY16 Performance Accomplishments
October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

Professional – *Maintains and demonstrates technical competence and/or experience in areas of assigned responsibility. Produces scientific or technical products/activities that contribute to the achievement of the agency's mission. (40 pts)*

- I published the following 10 Peer-reviewed journal papers involving the research of marine turtles;
- As First Author of a major paper:
Balazs et al. 2015. Demographics of Hawaiian green turtles – 40 year review. *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*.
- As Co-author contributor of full-length papers:
Parker et al. 2015. Marshall Islands satellite tracking. *Micronesica*.
Work et al. 2015. Green turtle novel antibodies. *J. Immunology*.
Davenport et al. 2015. Leatherback countercurrents. *Biology Letters*.
Wedemeyer et al. 2015. Olive ridley pelagic debris ingestion. *Marine Biology*.
Schuyler et al. 2015. Marine debris pelagic hot spots. *Global Change Biology*.
Harris et al. 2016. Validation of leatherback ultrasound. *J. Zoo Wildlife Medicine*.
Goshe et al. 2016. Skeletochronology validation back calculation. *Ecology and Evolution*.
Alfaro-Nunez et al. 2016. Chelonid Herpes virus in healthy green turtles. *PeerJ*.
Brisco et al. 2016. Active pelagic loggerhead dispersal during lost years. *Royal Society*.
- In addition, I published as co-author and Meeting Chair a major PIFSC Tech Memo Proceedings of the 2015 Fibropapillomatosis International Summit.
- Additionally, I completed as first author a major manuscript on 22 years of satellite tracking breeding green turtles linked to French Frigate Shoals in the Hawaiian Islands.
- I completed a strategic plan for the China-USA Living Marine Resources initiative that lays the foundation for future MTBAP East Asia research collaboration.
- I accomplished my MTBAP Center Milestone relating to green turtle critical habitat in Hawaii and other U.S. Pacific locations.
- I made progress in preparing a manuscript analyzing growth rates of green turtles at two long-term ocean study sites on Oahu – however, carry-over completion to FY2017 will be necessary.
- I co-authored 5 papers presented at the 2016 Sea Turtle Symposium in Lima, Peru.

Administration and Teamwork – *Plans, organizes and executes work logically. Work is accurate, complete and timely. Consistently develops and sustains cooperative working relationships. Willingly participates in group activities. Communicates regularly with team members, supports team initiatives, and demonstrates respect for team members. (30 pts.)*

- As an MTBAP team member, I promoted and contributed to the collection of new data for longterm Center databases.
- I actively promoted a safe and healthy work environment as the top priority for MTBAP activities.
- I contributed daily to a harmonious and respectful working environment.
- I contributed to the training of personnel to monitor green turtle nesting during the 2016 season.
- I contributed to an efficient, harmonious, and hence successful exit strategy for Denise Parker.
- I obtained 19K of Vemco tracking gear at no cost to MTBAP and made good progress in implementation of the Anahulu River green turtle study in collaboration with HIMB researchers.
- I continued to promote and bring together MTBAP team members for the cohesive study of Pearl Harbor sea turtles.
- Working closely with MTBAP Leader T. Todd Jones, a viable plan was developed for phased retirement in FY2017 advantageous to me and the Center.
- I participated in numerous hands-on necropsies as part of the MTBAP working team.
- I periodically served as after-hours contact expert to give advice and guidance to on-call turtle stranding responders.

Advice/Service – *Delivers high quality products and services to external and internal customers in accordance with agreed upon time schedules. Initiates and responds to suggestions for improving service. Anticipates and meets the needs of clients and is committed to continuous improvement of services (30 pts).*

- I participated in and contributed to PIRO's Fishing Around Sea Turtles (FAST) as a Committee member.
- I served on and devoted time and science advice to the Protected Species Advisory Committee of the WPRFM Council.
- I responded in a timely and professional manner, both by email and verbally, to numerous information requests and data requests about sea turtles and their habitats from PIRO, FWS, Headquarters, news reporters, the State of Hawaii, NGOs and the public at large.
- I responded favorably to inquiries for appraisals of past MTBAP personnel relating to job applications.
- I provided aid and advice when requested by MTBAP Leader in an array of topics for smooth transition forward.
- I reviewed three manuscripts at the request of international journal editors.
- I significantly contributed to thesis committees research of two Masters students (K. Clukey and R. Kittle) and one PhD student (S. Piacenza).
- I initiated and facilitated four prominent successful public relations outreach tasks for MTBAP that included 1) Allen Press global publicity feature cover issue article Balas et al. (2015) CCB; 2) article about turtle tagging in UH-MOP SeaWords Newsletter Martin (2016); 3) CLS-Argos web article about PIFSC 13 years of journal publications on pelagic loggerhead tracking and 4) article on Rice/ Balazs 29 years of HPA/ PIFSC partnership Jim et al. (2016).