

**MINISTÈRE
DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE.**

TAHITI - SCILLY
GEORGE H. BALAZS
OCTOBER 1991

WH6BLG

BALAZS

TAGS 5139-5250
left at
MOTU ONE 10/20/91

BALAZS
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TRAVEL SCHEDULE:

HONOLULU TO Papeete	11 OCT. 91 FRIDAY
TAHITI TO BORABORA (AIR)	12 OCT. 91 SAT. /
BORABORA TO Scilly (AORAI)	13 OCT SUN.
To <u>MOTU ONE</u> (AORAI)	14 OCT (MON.) - 17 OCT (THUR)
stopt aboard <u>MOTU ONE</u>	17 OCT. (THURS.)
To <u>SCILLY</u> (AORAI)	OCT. 18 (FRIDAY) - 21 (MONDAY)
SCILLY	21 OCT. (MONDAY)
To BORABORA	22-23 OCT. (TUES. - WED.)
BOORUM & PEASE	23-24 OCT. (WED. - THURS.)
B&P BORABORA	24 OCT. (THURS.)
To TAHITI (AIR)	

Composition Book • 9 1/4 in. x 7 1/2 in.

Available As:

Item No.	Sheets	Ruling
09-9130	60	College Ruled & Margin
09-9132	60	College Ruled & Margin & Paged
09-9134	100	College Ruled & Margin

TAHITI TO HONOLULU
25-26 OCT. 91
(SAT.)

Hawaiian Air
FL 482

ARRIVE
5:30am
Honolulu
OCT 26th

ESSELTE

Esselte Pendaflex Corporation, Garden City, NY 11530
Made in U.S.A. B&P and Boorum & Pease are trademarks of
Esselte Pendaflex Corporation.

Closed Season = Aug - March
(8 months)

AITA
MATAI

3B2AA
net
CONTROL

10/16/91 Pac. IS NET 1

14.315 MHz
0800 Z DAILY

KB6GE/KHO "HUGH"
(SAIPAN)

W7EMZ (AK) Seattle

W6HTH/KH6 "William" in MAUI
0830Z (1030am local)
14.324 MHz SCHEDULE w/AUSTRALIA
PHONE PATCH

W1H6J Mike ^{Ender} 14.347
0730 Z
Tel 878-6096
KULA, MAUI
HE'S ALSO - Seafarers net 14.313
ON 0200 - 0400Z+

IG
WAG ~~WAG~~ Pacific Maritime net
WAGCY 2200 Z
21.402 MHz

Need TAGS
Records before
WASA net in 12/91

TAGS LEFT AT MOTU-ONE (BECKINGHAUSEN)

10/20/91 S-139 Through S-250 (112 TAGS)

10/23/91 TAGS LEFT WITH RENEAL ^{TAPUTU} SCILLY
S-273 Through S-400 (128)

Needs for "next time":

- DRY BAGS OF MY OWN
- PRESCRIPTION HYDROCORTISONE
- ABSORBINE Jr.!
- Packets of Colo, or pullian, or similar. (COOL AID?)
- Antibacterial Bar or lg. Soap
- Dipole type antenna / solar panel / cell gel; meter to tell input.
- Toy FOR GIFTS LEGOS
- PACKAGE & cards for MOTU ONE
- Stagnant for Rene
- Map with arrows going TO Scilly.
- Limu of French Polynesia
- Lego Game - childrens books
- more swim pants; ADHESIVE TAPE
- ✓ - Philippe & Galenon name on Bowen EVOLUTION paper,
- Long socks / TENNIS SHOES FOR REEF WALK
- DICTIONARY - FRENCH / TAHITIAN / ENGLISH

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

- 1) People live on S & B, and have for many years.
- 2) Scilly turtles have been taken and sold in Papeete for many years.
- 3) 14 OCT. MONDAY TO 22 OCT. TUES. NIGHTS = 9 NIGHTS OF SURVEY ABLE TO TAG ~~53~~ ADULT FEMALES. PARTIAL COVERAGE FOR BOTH AREA STUDIED, AND ATOLL AS A WHOLE. ALTHOUGH HISTORICAL DECLINES HAVE CLEARLY OCCURRED, SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS STILL EXIST.

100 kg turtle = 1 kg each
 Turtle divided into 100 parts
 sold for 1000 cpf each (#10)
 ∴ worth 100,000 cpf = \$1000

11 OCTOBER 1991

FRIDAY

DC-8

Depart on Hawaiian Airlines FL 481 5:15pm
for Papeete, Tahiti. Flight time about 5 1/2 hours.
Arrive 10:45 pm

Met by Philippe SIV -
Drove around Papeete.

TO Hotel Tahiti check in. UP 7pm ^{10/12 SAT.}
WALKED TO PAPEETE - SITE SEEING,
MARKET PLACE. RODE PAEA TRUCK 150 ft

"NOIX" french name of nut tree
Black OUTER HUSK - TAN BROWN
SKIN of seed inside w/white meat.

10/12/91 SAT, Walked to 26.8 km after getting off at
26.7 km - WALKED Back to (26.5)
and saw our old house, still much the
same yard, old structure w/ add-ons
to the west toward stream. Wire
fence on property - child's swing in
yard. MANGO tree. Roosters crowing.
WALKED up and down ROAD SEVERAL
TIMES - MANY CARS. ROADWAY Built up
on Rock Bed, with drainage channels
along each side. Walked to where
I thought 25.7 would be (chez
MARCH) - newer cement house on mountain
side - clear grass lot on ocean side.
Returned TO HOTEL TAHITI, checked

Philippe - (7 turtles 9-15-91)
 6 turtles confiscated - Maupiti
 with last 2 weeks
 Pomare family claim to Scilly / Bellinghous
 Melpeliaz, Maupiti. Taken legal issue
 to France.
 Pakalolo growth - Social problems

Since 1952 Scilly inhabited by same family of Copra
 workers for many years.
 Bellinghous also has Copra workers.

10/12 SAT OUT AND WENT TO PHILIPPE'S
 House PUNA Flew to
 Bora Bora on Air Tahiti at
 3:20pm. Saw Tubai when landing.
 Ferry boat from landing strip
 terminal to Vaitape pier and village.

also used 8292.5 kHz

Radio MAHINA

8291.1 kHz USB

2182 kHz emergency calls

2638 kHz ship to ship traffic

"2 new frequencies on AORAI"

TX 4110 kHz / 8279 kHz / 16

RX 4402 kHz / 8803 kHz / 17

10/12/91
SATURDAY NIGHT

OVERNIGHT ON "AORAI" IN
Bora Bora for Radio
repair instructions
NATURE ASSOCIATION

1991 5

Need sent

ATUATU TE NATURA
BP 44 BORA BORA

154

X BRYANT Jacky Maice BP. 154 BB
" (MAIRE)

Queen's Bath

BORA BORA

10/13/91
Sunday

9 - 10:30am "OFAI HONU"
Queen's Bath site
(Queen of Bora Bora)

Emory 1933 site - (Older system)
Many photos w/ MAIRE & COOKIE

Seen
East bank of
VAIATI
STREAM

Left = petroglyph of EMORY STONE
said to be "COMB", PART OF
LAGOON VISIBLE FROM THIS SITE.

Seen
Queen's bath stone, and upper stone,
appear to have holes where
spring water comes from.

seen 3 non tree

Depart Bora Bora at 1pm right
after lunch - ABONED "AORAI"

Need

2¹⁵ local F.P.
contact with "Bruce" W6ZL3
Box 297, Corning, CA 96021

On this frequency, at 2pm daily

21.338.7 MHz local F.P.

1984 - Jean Pierre Cardet lost at Scilly -
 they there were 3 people only
 Rene's father, Rene's brother (the adult
 ♂ he'll now, and _____

1952 - Rene's father first came to
 Scilly to make Caspa.

1952-67 - Report 1000 turtles a
 year sold at Papete from Scilly

1967 - 100 turned in one night
 at Motu Honu.

1987 - Philippe here w/ Courteaux -
 Sea plane (and helicopter from Maui
 to make a TV movie (he has copy

PAL

Bora Bora to Scilly

7

Sunday

10/13/91

"Frank" ZL2

10:30pm

Local Honolulu

talks with William W6HTH/K116 Honolulu
daily at 0830Z (local time is 10 hours
behind Zulu (Z))

14.324 MHz

Backnote - Bora Bora interviews -
(participants of "JACKPOT" fishing
contest in KONA) ~ 1500 persons
Maupiti people eat turtles
taken from Scilly. Suspect
they cut up and ship to Papeete,
"100,000 franc" = "100 parts
and 1000 franc each" = ~ \$1,000 US
"TUPAI" has copra workers -
Turtles nest here, but are frequently
taken and sold, instead of just
eaten for family.

Depart Bora Bora 1pm 10/13, ARRIVE off Scilly
about 7am 10/14/91

10/14

Monday Motored by village (#1) (photo) - Copulating
pair honu seen outside reef but
not by me. Several Bonito caught.

Loaded 2 Zodiacs (photos) and
Rusting Longlines (w/ 1971) processed through very narrow (10 yards)
and shallow (3-4') "pass" marked
nearly strong! Current outward very
toward a single rebar where

"
TARIRAA HONU"
"

Place to carry honu
(PASS ~~of~~ ^{lead} channel (lagoon side)
from ~~to~~ ocean side
of island)

ON MOTU OIA ^{NATIVE MATERIALS}

Set up camp - ^{SHelter} ^{ALREADY} ^{PRESENT}
Proceeded to Motu Honu - far fewer
Coconut trees here. Nice semi coarse white
sand beach around most of islet.

I walked islet and counted
TRACKS (UP & DOWN PAIRS)
LAGOON SIDE 30 "old" 21 "new"
(2 weeks or less)

MOTU
HONU
COUNT
UPON
ARRIVAL

Ocean Side 8 old 1 new
total est. (38) (22) = 60
crawl

Jean-Pierre said "75"

"MOTU" OIA (FROM "TARIRAA HONU"
TO VILLAGE #2 POINT)

COUNTED BY Jean-Pierre = (14)

Pedro =
Captain of Aorai

10/14/91 Mon.

WBFTW

a second narrow channel located leading into Calmer inner lagoon. Light rain showers present. To Village #1 Cement house (1w/copra). Met Rene and young men. Continued along islets to Village site #2 at southern end of Motu Oia. Met Rene's wife and children + O's

Turtles in PEN

→ RENE, DIANA (MAMA), Philippe + O's

10/14/91

Monday

Dinner at Rene Taputu's Village #2 (26 people live here) Rene and I only saw 3 full adults

Scilly

Wife (Mama) ~ 7 months pregnant. 4 days turtle shells in house.

Two

One outside drying. Turtle cooked in the ground. Philippe said they just cut it open to kill. Sometimes hit in head.

Dinner consisted of turtle meat and liver (do they eat all organs?) YES. Baby in shopping basket in house. Sand floor. Coco weaving mats for roof. Girls waves flies away. Mama would not sit at table with men.

Males here all year round. Some nesting also. Males taste better to Rene than females.

"Hook" technique for males. 20 males seen around a single female. Female hides in shallows inside ocean reef to avoid males. not concentrated but scattered out.

0150 Scilly = MANUAE

FOSTER AXEL
VIDEO PERSON

10/15/91

FRIEND ANDY 14 years old 5/9+

323 pm

21,434.0

WAG FXL

21,434 0130 Z

(21,437 0230 Z

Wayne Lucerne, C

KBS MGF 5/8 RICK. EL PASO, TX

HAVE
COPY
AS OF
5/94

Film of Cousteau of Rene
catching A Turtle in the water
reported to be of a feeding turtle.
Not a copulating pair.

Sully

10/14/91 Rene's house, ~~Turtles~~ No disease ever seen, only injuries from

* Shark bites
Stomachs contain lots of water like pieces of coral, plastic, "but no fish"

"I ate
Carpus'
LIVER
Sample"

* How old? "10+ years" (Rene)
other species? "one he saw the (a)
"big headed turtle" but not nesting,
only in the water. only
greens (hau) here,

Jean
TAPU
Fisheries
Chief

In 1971 - permission given for Sully
to take "a week" so rounded
off to 50 a year.

At about 9 pm we returned
to Motu Houu. Rene and ~6 of
his sons came in their copra bunch.
(soup)
We found two turtles nesting
west end, lagoon side of islet.

see 78-
DATA p. 100CCL RMTF 476 RFL #1
HIMB X651 LFL spray
3 Barns X652 LHIND yellow.

#68 (Inconel)
Note width of tag 1 appears entirely
sufficient.

photos RFL and LFL

DOES "Flap" swell during nesting exertion?

Before tag application MAYBE

General Appearance of turtles
 reminds me of
 * Rose and/or TOkelau

FAX 689 43 49 79

Philippe SIU

Programme Coordinator

PATRICK GALONON - DIRECTEUR

ETABLISSEMENT POUR LA VALORISATION
 DES ACTIVITES AQUACOLES ET MARITIMES

011 -

EVAAM 

Home 689-43-12-58

P.O. BOX 20 PAPEETE - TAHITI - FRENCH POLYNESIA

PHONES : 42.03.46 / 43.12.58 / 42.81.48 - TELEX : EVAAM 367 FP

FAX : (689) 43.49.79

PHONE 689-42-03-46

* Nesting UNDER ^{TOHONU IN TAHITI} TASSUNA TREE, Like 13
at Rose - road

Monday night
10-14-91

11 AM All these eggs taken by
Jean-Pierre
Rene helped turtle dig
chamber,

CCL - 104 cm

Scilly

RMP 477 LFL

X 653 RFL

X 654 LHIND

yellow
#2

RHIND $\frac{1}{2}$ crescent (fresh) missing.

photos

Walked Motu Honu w/ Philippe & Jean Pierre
at 4:30 am - no new turtles
had been up.

10/15/91

Tuesday

lobsters for breakfast
brought to us by
Rene's "tribe"
- 10 AM proceeded with Rene's
and boys to inlet on lagoon
side of Motu OPA walked
across to ocean side where
a huicang reported to have
washed out some of the best
sand beach turtle nesting site.

14

10/16/91 W4LLM

21.377 MHz

3pm local

"MATE"

Miami Beach, FL

5/4 signal report



HPH
 Hôtel Prince Hinoï
 プリンス・ヒノイ・ホテル

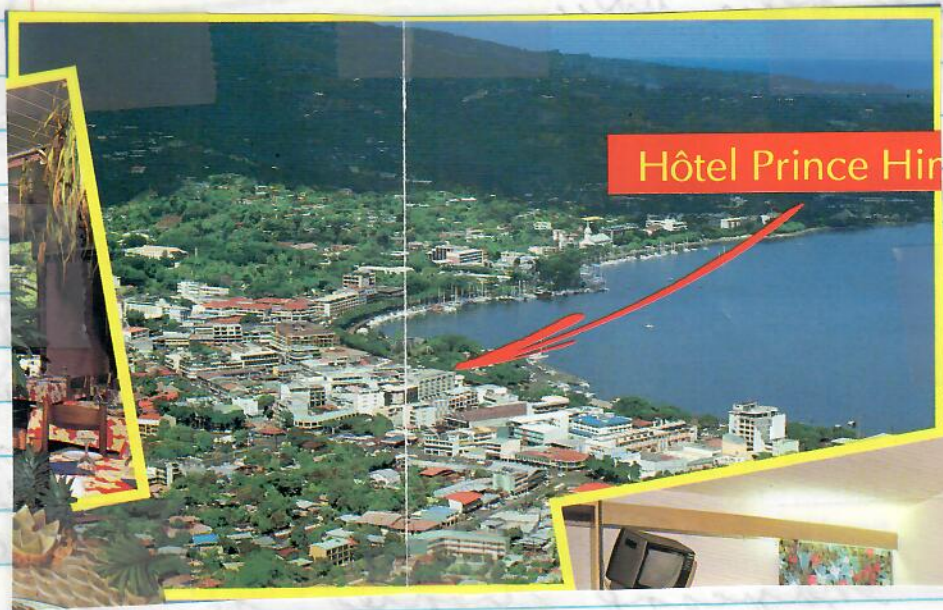


Avenue du Prince Hinoï
 BP. 4545 Papeete - Tahiti
 Polynésie Française
 Tél.: (689) 42.32.77
 Télex: 319 FP - Fax: (689) 42.33.66

what tags? MONZEL SIZE 49
 W/TAHITI FISHERIE
~~CHEXO~~ NO ADDRESS

Last tagged at Scilly 1984 - Le ^{BEAU} ~~BEAU~~

Jean-Pierre never been to MOJU-ONE.
Philippe has anchored there, but never landed.



Silly

15

10/15/91 Rene's boys had walked the beach
TUES: starting midnite this morning and
turned turtles that had come to
nest.

7 Turtles total Report up.
2 got away.
5 TURNED OVER BY US.

AMAZING! that turtles come over the
sharp, jagged beachrock rim to nest
in sand landward! How do hatchling fare
going back out?

Walked on ocean side to village #2. Saw
"pink" sand particles. Some plastic debris -
if useable. Rene picks it up and uses -
ie - plastic float cut in half for bowl;
line used, etc.

Walked thru newly cleared, burned
area at end of MOTU OIA, village #2.

Tagged and released 14 1-year old
turtles + 1 turtle 50cm caught
during recent months in Rene's fish
trap on MOTU OIA.

Returned to MOTU Houu - Roasting
hot - ATE Tahitian grapefruit while
in the ocean.

1:30 pm - 4:30 pm made ham radio
contacts.

Back to Rene's for fish

530pm 5/4

VE7ASZ "BUJ"

10/16

21.330.7 MHz near Vancouver

AE4W
 10/16/91 New Mexico
 CASCOUS
 GUNNAR 5/6
 21.3270

KD50B
 Charlie
 21.327.0
 10/16 5/4
 Houston

KC6ZLX
 21.327
 10/16

~~ZL1AMN~~
 620pm
 10/16 WV9S/KHB
 BRAD
 21.352.0

AASSR
 21.352
 DAVE
 21.352.0
 10/16/91

Report that 1952-1960's
 Seilly Copra workers fed
 their pigs & turtles a day,
 * (Workers ^{were} PAID 300 francs for each
 turtle put in "pen".

10/15/91 dinner + Marquian goat meat, +
 TUES. at Cassardle made by Philippe.

Returned ~ 8pm - Walked the
 beach - one female ashore west end
 lagoon side, Motu Horn. Tagged and
 measured by Jean-Pierre and Philippe
 ~ 11 AM. Went to bed at ~ 10pm.
 DARK CLOUDS (distant lightning). STILL & WARM.

10/16/91 Up ~ 7pm. At ~ 9pm to Village-
 Wednesday then proceeded to inlet crossover
 to ocean side of Motu OIA where
 Rene's boys report 2 turtles
 came ashore last nite, along
 this shore. We walked to
 the north and 6 year old
 Ismael found an adult female
 in the shallows. Captured
 photos - moderately sunken, plastron
 and "skinny" around hind flippers.
 Copulating pair seen just outside
 fringing reef - perhaps 3+ males
 nearby. Photos, including
 of Axel making video.
 Rene trying to swim out to
 catch the female when they
 broke apart, but turtle
 quickly swam away.
 Proceeded to 2 tagged females,
 tagged and released.

Report of what

what happened to the turtles?

Sept 15, 91

7 turtles confiscated by Maupiti Gendarm.

10/16/91 Rene thinks he heard "tuna boat" this morning - someone from Maupiti taking turtles? Philippe reported it to Gendarm to investigate Simone Grand - Head of Service de Peche

Mayor of Maupiti in on turtle taking at Scully.

Dinner at Rene's also included Caulerpa racemosa collected in lagoon 0 to 1 meter on coral heads.

Philippe report 90% coverage at Motu one w/ vinegar or coconut milk

But I sure see that when I dove Motu

10/16/91 Walked back to village
 Wednesday where we talked along timber
 photo of burned and cleared
 region - including Pisonias that
 were cut. Examined pig pens
 * (3 pigs). Turtle skulls seen. one
 humerus retrieved. Talked
 with ODILE TEMERE (18) who
 said (3?) here are Rene's kids -
 She takes care of babies. From Makha
 Papete Red Cross sent
 troubled teens to Scilly.
 (drugs, prostitution, theft)

↳ been here 6 months - will
 stay another 6 months. Good
 command of English. Also speaks
 French, Tahitian and some
 Spanish.

✓ need
 photos
 dictionary

One of Rene's daughters =
 Nadia Taputa - 5 years old.

Went back to Moty Honu,
 then returned to Rene's
 village ~ 4pm for an early
 dinner of Coconut crab, coconut
 bread, and fish (Menpachi).
 Rain showers and heavy
 overcast.

TUES.
 10/15 - Turtle served at
 dinner = Carapace 109 CCL
 (Humeri obtained
 BOTH)

Second carapace 99 cm CCL

Photos of above with
 Bertho (Rene's son)
 and TERE.

4 Shells hanging in house

CCL = 95, 96, 102 & 93.5

photo with ODILE Temere

Hermit crabs
 not in great numbers
 at Honor

10/16 wed. Rene found rotting turtle stomach
 near his house. I collected algae from it.

10/16/91 Renee and boys came
Wed. at night - checked for turtles
every so often. Rainshowers.
No emergencies. At ~11:30am
Jean-Pierre and I walked
around Motu Horn. "Nothing
seen, lots of rain - "West Marine"
band jacket sure came in handy!

10/17/91 Up about 7am. Philippe
Thurs. walked around Motu Horn and
saw 2 emergencies, but
neither appeared successful.

~9am I went with Dominique
Rene's adopted son, and Albert,
when coming to Motu Horn
Rene found an adult
female stuck on mud flats.
Brought to us for tagging
and release.

4 turtles were tagged last
night by Rene's boys on
Motu OIA. One right at the
southern tip. 2 others were missed
Dominique, Albert and I
proceeded to tag, measure
and release each one.
I continue to be amazed by

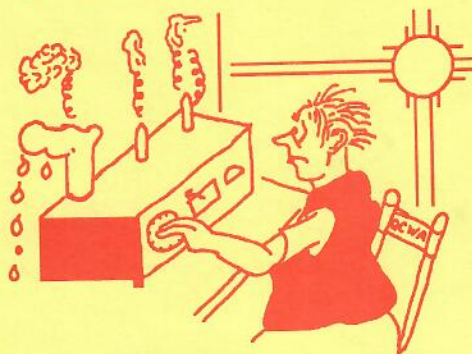
Needs
 # for FP project - Conservation money
 NATURE CONSERVANCY?
 SPEER?
 WWF

CONFIRMING STATION		
WH6BLQ/FO		
DATE		
DAY	MONTH	YEAR
17	10	91
UTC		RST
0346		57
MHz	MODE 2-WAY	
21	SSB	

SHLL-KDQKW

AE4W

NEW MEXICO
U.S.A.



Gunnar C. Carlson Jr.

865 Cedardale Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Dona Ana County

P.O. Box 4067
Ruidoso, NM 88345
Lincoln County

Pse QSL ~~Tax~~

Silly

zone/land 23

10/17/91

Thursday Morning

rugged sharp beachrock the females will come over to get to white sand landward of it. Would be informative to see how hatchlings make out in crawl to the sea.

One turtle had black blotches (up/egg)
RMTP 498 X567, 68, 69 CCL=112

in plastron - photos.

"kene = B/L SPOTS ON PLASTRON

"Chicken shit" honey.

Although this kind of turtles looks fat, when you cut into it the green fat layer is thin. The meat has a lot of water come out of it when cooked. 10 out of 100 turtles have black spots. not good to eat.

MUST ASSUME IS REVE CHIEF INFORMANT

QUESTIONABLE

(see above)

Dominique had said that black spots are where grease is coming out - very fat turtles.

After walking back to village, Philippe informed us that due to possibly worsening swell conditions we will depart for MORU-ONE this afternoon. Jean-Pierre to stay here to collect eggs and tag. "5" tags 51-5150 left

ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF GREEN TURTLES NESTING AT SCILLY ATOLL IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

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Aquacoles et Maritimes (EVAAM)

P.O. Box 20, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia

INTRODUCTION: The three small neighboring atolls of Scilly (16°30'S, 154°40'W), Motu-one (15°49'S, 154°31'W), and Mopelia (16°49'S, 153°57'W) are located in a remote and seldom-traveled region of the South Pacific at the western limits of French Polynesia. Maupiti and Bora Bora, two high volcanic islands with permanent human habitation, are situated 250-300 km to the east. Tahiti and the capital city of Papeete lie another 300 km to the southeast of Bora Bora. Although green turtles, *Chelonia mydas*, used to nest in great numbers at Scilly, Motu-one, and Mopelia, considerable declines have occurred during recent decades due mainly to commercial exploitation for markets in Tahiti. At present, only Scilly continues to have significant numbers of nesting turtles. Few researchers have visited these three isolated nesting sites to tag turtles and gather relevant ecological information. However, turtles intermittently tagged there in the past by local authorities have shown some amazing long-distance migrations across a broad expanse of the Pacific: from longitudes 155°W to 165°E (Doumenge 1973, Anon. 1979). These movements, ranging up to 4000 km, represent some of the longest migrations ever documented for green turtles worldwide. Except for Scilly, there are no other known nesting sites of any magnitude for sea turtles throughout the 130 islands and atolls comprising French Polynesia.

During October 1991, we visited Scilly and Motu-one via Bora Bora aboard the 20-m research vessel Aorai to conduct biological studies that included tagging nesting turtles. Several hundred eggs and hatchlings also were collected for ongoing captive-rearing experiments in Tahiti. The expedition was undertaken by EVAAM, an agency of the Government of French Polynesia. Additional financial assistance was provided by the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme. An overview of the results of the expedition are presented herein, along with some historical aspects of green turtles in the area and preliminary conservation recommendations aimed at preventing the further depletion of this important resource.

10/17/91 with him. Loaded all Thursday gear in "NOA" Rene's boat. Boys drove it direct across lagoon to pass - we took zodiacs along with us to pass. Resting "longlines" (just north of here). Rene reported that he had seen "20 turtles" (resting) in and around this wreck. Motoring out pass - big zodiacs first, then "NOA". Very large wave ran right after they cleared pass. Water sucks out of lagoon. AGRAI departed at about 3pm. Rene with us.

*
None seen when we later visited

Dark when we arrived off atoll at ~7pm. on AGRAI Coconut crab dinner. Slept on board - vessel left to drift seaward.

10-18-91 and people appeared on cement platform FRIDAY near "pass" (actually just a gap in the reef edge, but very shallow water inside. No real channel. ~~Bellinghous~~

OMERE I went in the first zodiac - Rene's brother driving. Motor thru when wave not breaking, then threw rope and men dragged zodiac into shallow safety. 6 men, 2 women (Alice + Sandra) stood (and slipped!) on cement platform - took photos of subsequent arrivals thru pass.

6 Men
2 Women

The relatively small numbers of nesting turtles remaining today at Motu-one and Mopelia are undoubtedly the direct result of persistent exploitation associated with human habitation.

At Scilly, the earliest settlement established to make copra appears to have been about 1952. The elder of the Taputu family (deceased in 1985) arrived in 1952, and his descendants continue to live there. Rene Taputu, who was born at Scilly in 1955, currently oversees 25 residents that include many children. Rene Taputu is also the principal person knowledgeable about the atoll's turtles, since they continue to be a prominent component of the local diet. Up to 50 adult turtles of both sexes are consumed annually under special permission previously granted by government authorities.

The main nesting season extends from October to December, but some turtles sporadically nest throughout the year. Very few immature turtles are encountered, and the green turtle is the only species ever seen. The Taputu family has a history of raising small numbers of hatchlings in captivity for a year or so prior to releasing them as a restocking effort.

According to Rene Taputu, and verified by other sources, between 1952 and 1969 about 1000 adult turtles of both sexes were taken annually for markets in Tahiti, as well as for local consumption that included food for pigs. Eggs are not presently eaten, but it is unclear if they were in the past. During 1967, 100 nesting turtles were captured in a single night on the most southerly islet of Motu Honu. A stone flung by a turtle nesting at this site fatally struck one of the atoll's inhabitants. Pens constructed on the islets of Motu Rahi and Motu Oia along the east side of the atoll made it possible to hold several hundred turtles alive for months until a transport vessel arrived from Tahiti, Maupiti, or Bora Bora.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: As elsewhere in Oceania, green turtles have been and continue to be a prized food to the native people of French Polynesia (Leach et al. 1984). In ancient times, turtles were held "sacred for the gods" and only eaten by kings, priests, and marae (temple) keepers (Henry 1928). Icons of turtles were associated with royalty, the supernatural, and the afterworld. Petroglyphs of turtles as sacred symbols were carved on certain boulders and limestone slabs incorporated into the marae. In the interior of Bora Bora a boulder known as ofai honu (turtle stone), contains numerous turtle petroglyphs. This stone was believed to be the parent of the island and its chiefs.

There is no evidence that permanent human settlements ever existed on Scilly, Motu-one, or Mopelia until recent times, although historically the rugged seafaring people of Maupiti visited these sites to obtain turtles and other resources. Beginning in the late 1800's, longer and more frequent visits occurred to make copra. Mopelia, the closest of the three atolls to Maupiti, appears to have had the most continuous human occupation for copra production. During the 1950's, as many as 200 copra workers occupied Motu-one where a concrete warehouse and other facilities were constructed. However, during the 1960's with the advent of nuclear testing and associated nuclear fallout, the workers in French Polynesia were evacuated to the United States.

MOTU-ONE
BELLINGSHAUSEN
(14 letters!)

inside
carving say "1950" 27

10/18/91
FRIDAY

Nice, though deteriorating, village setting
(with) cement copra storage shed
(1/4 full of copra) adjacent drying
trays (on trucks) (not in use, no
copra in them). Village island has
sandy beach all the way around - I
walked it but saw no trace whatsoever
of nesting turtles. We were housed
in wooden structure w/ tin (leaky) roof.
Wooden cooking area at one end.

By Noel

→ CCL 88 x 79 shell in copra shed.
Said to be a male caught ~ 2 months
ago on ocean side - alone, no females nearby.
Humerus obtained by Sandra in ♀
from area where her boyfriend had set
a small yellow gillnet (which provided
fish for our dinner). Bone cleaned by
her then dried by me over the
cooking fire.

★

As (earlier) said by Rene, bone of turtles
(reportedly burned & not thrown in sea)
as it will drive turtles away.

I examined well-defined garbage pits
(3 of them) and found some turtle remains -
perhaps 3 total - one very old, 1-2
fresh (one was undoubtedly remains of
→ carapace). Bones (when buried
appear to) char totally and disintegrate.
Possibly reason why archaeologists find little
turtle bones at site excavations.

Need to
test from
in campfire

As per Phil Meslin
in Hurricane at
MOTO at
the following year -
woman was rescued
He died while waiting 2 days for rescue.

See page 24

NAMES OF Bellinghousen people:

- ① Moko
 - SANDLIN ♀
 - ② NOEL
 - ③ Jean Pierre
 - Alice ♀
 - MOCO
- 3 OTHER MEN =

TEIKI
ABEL

HOROMANA

10/18/91
WAGUDR "ARLO"
Worked
24,940 & 21,437
12M 15M
1238Z - Riverside, CA.
He made a one-way landline to parents in Va

14.313 MHz } Pacific wide
< 0350 Z } network for yachts.

10/18/91
W60X "Bob" (San Francisco)
640 pm local time

10-18-91

Bellingshausen

MOTU ONE

GARDEN - TRYING TO GROW BANANAS, THEO, ETC.

FRIDAY NO pigs at this island, but chickens running loose. Reported that chicken not eaten - they don't like to kill them - they like to see them in the house.

1 CAT

Philippe says that starting ~1966, when laborers for bomb testing were recruited, the number of copra workers on all islands declined.

*

Atmospheric testing done 1966-1975. Thereafter, underground explosions - said to be in basalt volcanic cap. Trying to explode the smallest A-bomb possible.

Village has 4 domestics.

I described tail wrapping on native divers in Cook IS and Tokelau.

*

Rene said this has never happened to him. Also - that turtles at Sully never try to BITE. Note - A way to stop and control turtles (on the beach) at Sully is to cover and/or squeeze (causing them to shut) their eyes.

POJ

Lots of "talk-story" all day long, but no decision was made by Philippe to go anywhere. Reportedly these residents are all relatively new - groups rotate in and out, coordinated by Coop, on Maupiti. Reportedly, via Philippe, "only" 1-2 turtles a month are taken.

Some people don't like to kill them. In searching around beach, I found

30

10/19/91

K7BPR WACT
21.401.9

0200-0300z

GREAT NET!

net

10/19/91
one way to answer Machine → N7BIW

21.441 Bruce

My tel
code
given to him

10/19/91

TACOMA, WA

Andy

28.495.4

10/18

NN7L

0930z

3D2 CC Fiji
FRED

QSL MANAGER

VE6AKV

MACOLO LAI LAI ISLAND

5/5

28.4954

Muchet Cove

PLANTATION Village

0930z

10 minutes
from NADI

10-18-91

Bellinghausen
(MOTU ONE)

31

~~SATURDAY~~

FRIDAY

pieces of turtle eggs, unhatched, suggesting the people eat eggs.
At about 8pm, 4 local men (not Rene or brother) went across the lagoon to a motu - there about 2 hours. When they returned they said they had turned 2 turtles nesting.

Philippe says that people here recently helped 7 nesting turtles get into the lagoon that were stuck on the flats. (↑ NO above)

During the night (early morning) - the rain and wind came up - roof leaked at various places.

SATURDAY

Rain continued to midmorning. Workers went out to AORAK in their wood flat bottom boat ISMAEL to bring in more supplies sent to them from Papeete. FLOUR ETC.

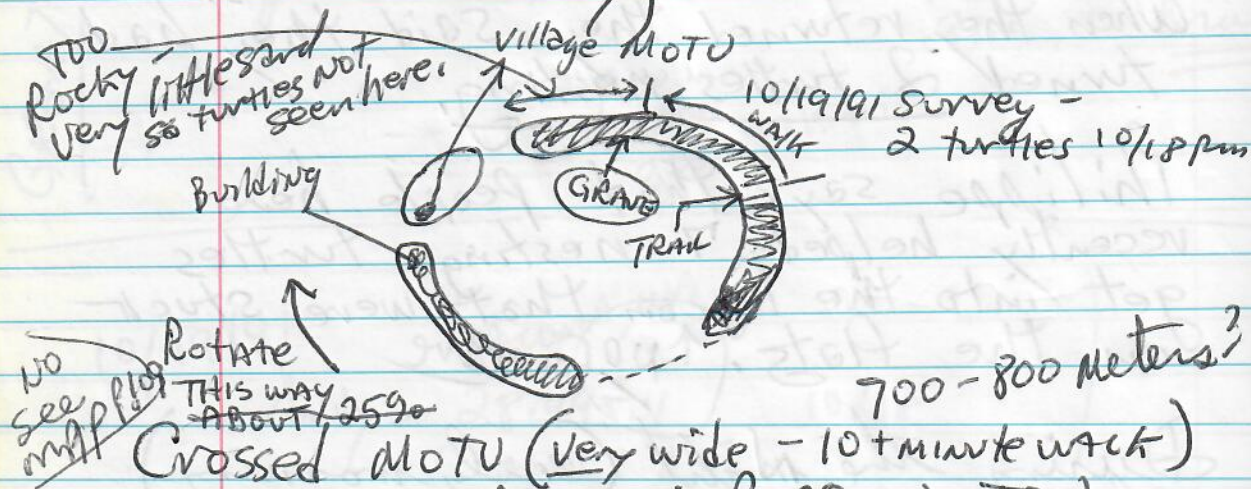
At about noon we heard on 829.1 MHz an announcement in English about "May Day" from a Taiwan ship - fire aboard - 40 crewman in lifeboats at 140° 20' E, 09° 18' South.

At ~ 1pm we motored across the lagoon to tag the turtles turned

10/19/91
SATURDAY

last night.

Atoll seems to be shaped
about like this: (ignoring N-
directionality)



Site where first turtle was
turned had a limestone rock near
reef edge that looked like a turtle
heading landward (photo).

Tagged and sprayed "MOTU-ONE".

Photos and tag demo for Alice and Jean
ETC.

From here we proceeded to the
northwest - counting old and new pairs.

Arrived at second turned turtle, we
was near a surge channel. It
Pere said was often a landing site
for turtles. (In fact, the following day
another turtle came ashore there.)

10/19/91
SATURDAY

Turbinaria seen washed ashore along the way. Last nite villogers had Caulerpa racemosa with dinner.

Also ~28' fiberglass boat NAME - "DARLING" older Australian man named "Mr. Wan" said to have been on it, according to Alice.

1983 - hurricane. Was on the island a week before encountering villogers. Then was on atoll for one month. Lucky he hit the reef where he did, because this side of note, reef is very narrow and boat was shoved right up onto the island.

Serial number PCS 202600483

Count	less than 3-4 days
<u>old (more than 3-4 days)</u>	<u>New</u>

(5)	=	(6)		(7)
(+1)			(10/20 for approx section MISSED)	(8)

Total = 13

TOFFONU tree - Messerschmidia OR Tournefortia

MikiMiki tree (shrub)
also (closely related to MikiMiki)
U²U (In zone where turtles rest).

Reportedly 15 tons copro in shed
Cement Building

10/20/91 14,222

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

W3 NQC

Jon

3/4 to me

5/1^{TO} min

0440 Z

Recaptured/harpooned
27 APRIL 1994 S318
Balabio, N.C. S319

The Rector
Wrote Hims University
Hawaii 96744

Ile Belep
Nouvelle Calédonie
16th May 1994

ORIGINALLY TAGGED -
10/28/91 S318, S319 CCL=99cm
MOTU OVA NESTING
By RENE TAPUTU

Dear Sir,

I am writing to inform you, that a turtle bearing the tags of Wrote Hims University Hawaii 96744 had been caught by Mr. THEAYOUEN Philippe a fisherman at the island of Belep of New-Caledonia.

The turtle was harpooned by a companion of T. Philippe on the 27th of April 1994 at 2:30 pm. off the island of Balabio which is situated at the North East of New Caledonia.

The turtle was of 1.51 m in length and 0.75 m in width. With an estimated weight of 100 - 120 kg.

On the front left flipper, it had a tag with the initials S.318 and on the back left flipper a tag with the initials S.319. Both the tags carrying the University's address.

We regret having killed this turtle bearing your tags. Do receive our sincere apologies, if this turtle had been of a protected species, or for whatever reasons it had been tagged by the University.

You could contact Mr. THEAYOUEN at the above address or Rev. Father KUMAR Sarwan writing on behalf of Mr. THEAYOUEN at the following address
B.P. 10 Pouébo 98 224 Nouvelle Calédonie.

Yours faithfully
Rev. KUMAR Sarwan

T-SHIRT SENT
7/8/94

10/19/91 SATURDAY Straight tall tree that takes
 along time to grow - used in traditional
 house construction - Said by
 Philippe to be rare now in Tuamotu -

"KAHAIA"

Returned to village. Big Dinner this
 night AT ALICE AND JEAN PIERRE
 Strong wind & more rain during the night.

10/20 SUNDAY Workers turned 1 turtle
 last night.

"Moko" ^{WOKÉ} ~~WOKÉ~~ ^{WOKÉ} ~~WOKÉ~~ me up with a
 hatchling turtle - one of (52)
 he found newly emerging from
 a nest on MOTU
 (IMMEDIATELY TO THE EAST OF THE VILLAGE - NOT
 VISITED BY US, EXCEPT ALBERT).

ONE SEEN
 REB
 2009

Ocean side (PHOTOS ON 10/21 AM DEPARTURE)
 HIND FLAPPER TREEING MADE OF
 30+ HATCHLINGS (SEE PAGES 110-117)

Sun out - not as cloudy. Mid
 morning we proceeded across lagoon
 to MOTU trail in workers boat
 ISMAEL. Turtle turned
 of same site, near small
 channel, as second one yesterday.
 Copulation scrabs (healing) noted

During September 1970, FAO consultant Harold Hirth visited French Polynesia as part of a broader survey of sea turtles in the South Pacific region (Hirth 1971). The visit included an overflight of Scilly and Mopelia. Partly because of Hirth's conservation recommendations, legislation was enacted in 1971 prohibiting the sale of turtles throughout French Polynesia. Restrictions were also placed on the time of year and minimum size that turtles could be captured. However, enforcement of these laws has been difficult. In separate legislation that same year, Scilly and Motu-one were given "sanctuary" status that provided some additional but limited protection for turtles.

In April 1972, 67 adult females held in pens at Scilly were confiscated, tagged (with Monel alloy tags supplied by Hirth), and released by government officials. Later that year in December, 168 more females and 13 males were tagged and released from the same holding pens. During 1973-74, an additional 131 adult females were tagged at Scilly. Of these 379 turtles tagged during 1972-74, 12 long-distance recoveries were made, encompassing the islands of Tonga (1 turtle; 2000 km), Fiji (5 turtles; 3000 km), Wallis (1 turtle; 3000 km), New Caledonia (2 turtles; 4000 km), and Vanuatu (3 turtles; 4000 km). All recoveries were made to the west of Scilly, and none occurred within French Polynesia. Two of the recoveries involved males that were recaptured in Kandavu and Druadrua, Fiji. Also, a female, and one of the males, tagged in December 1972 were recaptured nearly 2 years later within 12 days of one another both in Kandavu, Fiji. All of the 12 recoveries were made in coastal waters and presumably involved turtles remigrating to seagrass or algal foraging pastures where they resided before migrating to Scilly to breed. During 1979, 42 females were tagged at Scilly by government officials, and 40 more were tagged in 1983-84 by Lebeau (1985). One turtle from this latter group was recaptured 3 months later in the Cook Islands, 500 km to the southwest of Scilly.

In 1990, several hatchlings were collected at Mopelia by EVAAM and transported to the University of Georgia, via Honolulu, for use in mitochondrial DNA studies of globally distributed green turtle populations. The extensive black pigment seen for a short time in the plastron of post-hatchling green turtles from Hawaii (Balazs 1986) was documented as also occurring in turtles from Mopelia.

FINDINGS AT SCILLY ATOLL: Nesting activity was monitored at Scilly for 10 consecutive nights (14-23 October 1991) on the islets of Motu Honu and the southern portion of Motu Oia. This fairly comprehensive level of coverage was made possible by the fine cooperation of Rene Taputu and several family members who assisted

in walking the beaches throughout the night. The northern segment of Motu Oia, Motu Rahi, and other islets to the north were not surveyed. Eleven nesting turtles were tagged on Motu Honu and 39 were tagged on Motu Oia. Two other adult females were tagged and released from a pen where, along with eight other turtles, they were being held for food. All turtles were triple or quadruple tagged on the flippers (both front and hind) with titanium tags and/or Inconel alloy tags. No previously tagged turtles were encountered, nor were any recently seen by Rene Taputu. Based on limited data, Lebeau (1985) estimated that 300-400 turtles nested annually at Scilly during the 1982 and 1983 seasons. With some speculation, our survey suggests that a similar number of nesting turtles may have been present throughout the atoll during the 1991 season.

10/20/91
SUNDAY

MOTU-ONE

like on all other, examined both here and at Sci 66. Orange-yellow plecton with faint trace of black in seams of margins. CCL = 109.5 x 97
Brownish to carapace. Photo of Rene measuring.

Proceeded to walk on "Sunday picnic" along ocean side of motu counting "old" and "new" pairs of nesting tracks. This covers the section to the east, not covered yesterday.

TOTAL
15

OLD
(11)

NEW
(4)

Lots of plastic debris, along here, in comparison with other areas surveyed. Bottles made of plastic predominate. Glass bottles are scarce! At the eastern end, I was surprised to see how close it is to the south motu. The reef stretch void of motu appeared longer. We proceeded from ocean end of motu to lagoon end of motu. Quite a distance, again showing considerable width of motu. ISMAEL was waiting for us.
At about 3pm we went to

33
88

The curved carapace lengths of 51 of the 52 tagged turtles that we measured ranged from 95 to 112 cm (mean, 103 cm). Six shells used by Rene Taputu as ornaments at his home on Motu Oia ranged from 94 to 109 cm (mean, 99 cm). Carapace coloration was predominately mottled brown, amber, olive, and black-- similar to green turtles seen nesting at Rose Atoll in American Samoa and Fakaofu Atoll in Tokelau. Plastrons were yellowish-orange; however, three of the turtles examined had distinct black spots ranging 1-5 cm in diameter. One of these turtles had multiple spots scattered throughout the plastron, while the other two only had a couple. Rene Taputu indicated that about 10% of the turtles he eats have these spots which he calls, roughly translated, "chicken fecal-drop turtles." Although externally these turtles appear healthy and fat, when butchered they have a thin fat layer, and excessive water comes from the meat when cooked.

Turtles tagged at Motu Honu were found to nest mainly on the lagoon side of the islet where the beach consists entirely of fine-grained coral sand with no offshore obstructions. This beach is accessible at all tidal stages. In contrast, all nesting turtles encountered at Motu Oia, except one, came ashore on the ocean side of the islet, which is bordered by a very shallow fringing reef that drops abruptly into deep oceanic waters. Access along this coastline is further hampered by rugged, often sharp limestone onshore that a turtle must crawl over once it leaves the water. Expanses of this beach rock extend for 10-50 m above the high-tide mark and must be crossed to reach sand areas suitable for nesting. The lagoon-side beach of Motu Oia is narrow and free of obstruction, but composed of coarse coral sand and rubble. Nevertheless, nesting can successfully occur there, as shown by the turtle encountered and information supplied by Rene Taputu.

During one of our nightly surveys, hatchlings were found from a newly emerged nest close to Rene Taputu's home on Motu Oia. The hatchlings were reportedly from oviductal eggs removed from a butchered turtle that were buried as a conservation effort about 2 months earlier. No predation on these hatchlings was observed, nor was the presence of potential terrestrial or marine predators noted in abundance anywhere in or around the atoll.

A partially filled stomach from a nesting female butchered a week earlier was salvaged from a garbage pit near Rene Taputu's home. The contents were found to consist of 50% Microdictyon japonicum, 25% Caulerpa serrulata, and 25% Turbinaria ornata. These benthic algae were not seen in abundance in the lagoon or along the fringing reef. However, Caulerpa racemosa, an alga sometimes grazed by green turtles elsewhere, commonly occurs in the lagoon at Scilly and is often eaten by human inhabitants.

Mating turtles were seen both in the lagoon and just outside the seaward edge of the fringing reef where courtship and copulation, according to Rene Taputu, most commonly occur. Turtles mating in this latter area are openly susceptible to capture by high-speed 12-m bonito fishing boats visiting waters surrounding the three atolls. A month prior to our arrival, seven turtles and a bonito boat were taken into custody at Maupiti for violating the August through March closed season for taking turtles. Considerable incentive exists for poaching, since an adult turtle can be illegally sold in Tahiti for about US\$1000. Turtles inside the lagoons at Scilly, Motu-one, and Mopelia are safe from hunting by bonito boats, because it is impossible for vessels of that size to enter the narrow and extremely hazardous passes. In addition, turtles in the lagoons at Scilly and Motu-one are legally protected under the 1971

10-20-91
 Sunday and Ruben ^{crewman} scuba, and I
 snorkeled, visibility only ~ 20 feet,
 pinngels here and there to
 within 5-10 of surface. Not much
 growing on them. Some "staghorn"
 type coral. Microdictyon of
C. racemosa. No other macroalgae
 seen. At eastern point of Motu we
 saw earlier an adult turtle
 in the lagoon, but it took off
 fast when boat followed it. It
 used to being chased? Lagoon
 had small emergent islet made
 totally of Pahus shells. Most
 seemed very old. Very few live
Pahus kept by me or Philippe. He
 only saw a few old pearl shells.

TAG KIT (PLASTIC CONTAINER,
 " #3" PAINTED #3 BIK PLIER, measuring
 tape, and TAGS:

S-139 thru S-250
 (112 tags) left with Alie
 and Jean-Pierre.

Reve said he would pay 2000 c/pt
 for each turtle tagged - up to 50.

Motu
 ONE

Need
 TAG
 Records

Backnote -

* MAN reportedly died as Motu
 Motu after being hit in
 the head by stone from
 nesting turtle. Man buried
 there.
 (But no grave seen).

Note

Nearly all turtles seen at both
 island had healing copulation scabs.

10/20/91 He said they should only
 SUNDAY eat 1 turtle a month.
 He was concerned that they
 would be turtles left for his
 children when they grow up.

Nighttime we crossed the lagoon
 again and walked the beach. Rene
 went to the west, Philippe and
 I to the east past turtle store.
 No turtles seen ashore, or fresh
 tracks.

10/21/91 Depart MOTU ONE about
 MONDAY 9am. (OMOEI) drove zodiac
 again out ~~MOTU~~ Pass. Big sets at
 times. He drives great. Motored
 along MOTU where 52 hatchlings
 found by Moco. I saw site
 under trees. Photos. Motored
 along NON-MOTU section of atoll 3
 and the to Scilly, arriving
 about 4pm. Waves seemed low at Pass,
 so only Philippe, AXEL and
 Rene and OMOEI went up,
 Albert and I (and Pedro and
 Kuepen) stayed aboard Monday
 night. Motored to off MOTU
 Horn and OIA to drift.

Sally

10/22/91

MOTORED BACK THRU TO
 TUESDAY the pass, fishing on the
 way. Caught Wahoo, ulua
 and Bonito. Motored just
 outside wave-break. Crystall
 clear water. Slope goes quickly
 down! No turtles seen.
 Saw hard bar islets. Piece
 of shipwreck, and WAW

Corals
 ~25
 meters
 or more

rusty but intact near pass.

Taiwan or Korean.

Picked up ~ 10am by
 Zodiac. Rene's boys went
 spear fishing near pass.

Motored to village. Reported
 6 turtles up on OIA last
 night - 4 tagged & 2 got away.

Later learned that one
 turned had been overlooked
 when tagging the next
 morning and had laid flat
 on its back all
 day exposed to the sun.

Very hot day - still calm,
 in lagoons. But some breeze
 on the ocean side.

*

Turtle alive when found
 10/22 pm and tagged. When
 turned upright it headed
 toward veg. when Phillips
 encounter it with a light

10/22 obviously disoriented, so we
 TUE. carried it back to the sea.
 Lunch at Rene's and lots of talk.
 Two turtles turned 10/21 night
 on MOTU Honu were used in
 AXE's VIDEO. I ^{ALSO} took photo from
 boat of turtle returning, after
 being uprighted by boy hiding
 in the bushes.

Afternoon we went to turtle
 holding pens. The first one was
 on MOTU OIA. Stone (coral)
 construction, used by Copra
 chief when Rene's father came
 to Scilly. Actually a dug
 out area where ground
 water collects - very soft
 mud in surrounding area. Photos
 of turtles being held here.
 * Said to be able to hold 300 turtles.
 We then motored to Village
 one #1, further to the north,
 where a snake pen in use,
 made of coral chunks, and wooden
 sticks and fencing (photos).
 5 turtles said to be here,
 all caught during last few weeks.
 Water green, so impossible to
 verify 5, but from breathes

near
 old
 village -
 Copra
 abandoned

Jean-Pierre Carriet reports that when he was last at Scilly there were large numbers of hermit crabs as potential predators of hatchlings

^{Note}
~~DE~~
A. LeB~~AB~~ Abstract from Coral reef Conference in Papeete reports nesting studies on Scilly in 1982/83 and 1983/84.

DATE: RICHARD NAMEL
Agriculture Depart

P.M. & OHO

Tagabe
Villa, VANUATU
S.W. Pacific.

14th March, 1995

See Page 8979
16

George H. Balazs
National Marine Fisheries Service
South West Fisheries Science Centre
Honolulu Laboratory
Hawaii.

notes 10/21/91 MoTU Honu speed
TA VIDEO of

notes 10/22/91 C-106 x94

Dear Sir,

AM. video
by Axel MoTU Scilly

Re: Captured Tagged Turtle No. S111-S114.

I would like to let you know that one of your two NO. S111-S114 was captured by three fishermen from Anagahat Village, Aneityum Island on Friday 10/21/91. It was a female turtle captured sleeping among other smaller turtles at night. Other sources said two other turtles were captured few years earlier on this island. One had the name "Sydney Australia" written on it and the other with the address of Tahiti written on it.

For more information, just contact me at the above address.

Richard

10/22/91
TUES

that seems reasonable, Photos.
Many mosquitos in this
area. Same likely true for
village #1. Philippe said Rene
inhabits are village for 6 months
working copra as that (rotu), then
shifts to other village. Dominique
proceeded to take out 2
turtle which Rene said he
wanted to release (non selective).
Philippe estimated H₂O temperature
38-40°. First turtle had

made many deep gouges in
carapace, P₁ and flipper surfaces,
as if it had been bounced
over beach rock. No Bk P₂.

Second turtle had extensive Bk
in P₂ - most of any seen, note
(Bk) - not deep gray. Photo with
Bertho. Turtles released.

proceeded to Village #1 where
I saw old cement houses, severely
deteriorating (unusable), cement copra
drying racks, copra stored in cement
building, and a somewhat newly
constructed house with new
tin roof (2 skate boards) and
partitioned to rooms. Lots
of old engine parts, other debris
all around. Old and very large
brick-beach rock "oven" - I used

~~Black~~
Black

Scilly, Moty-one and Mopelia
 claimed by Pomsee.

Mayor of Mauiti a powerful
 person. Election that gets Mauiti
 # vote (about 400) said to win.
 Known as seafaring, rugged
 people.
 Mayor refused to register the
 birth of Rene's children born
 at Scilly.

Rene said to P.S.¹⁰ that this was
 starting out to be a good turtle
 season -- last year's wasn't as
 good.

10/22/91 for making bread, according to
 TVB3, Philippe In this area I found
 numerous turtle bones. Was able
 to pick up about 13 humeri -
 photo of me holding them.
 Proceeded back to village #2 and
 Motu Home.

near
 Full
 moon on
 full
 moon

At 9pm that night we started at
 2nd HOA (with carry) walking the
 beach w/ Rene's boys, Axel video
 also. Found and tagged turtle
 that had been left on its back
 since yesterday night. So 4 new
 tagged + 1 yesterday's, + 1 tag (589)
 recovery laying eggs (photos by me).
 Got back to village at about
 midnight, right when hatchlings
 were crawling down the beach
 and being picked up by everyone.
 Said the result from Rene buying
 oriental eggs - so must have been
 laid August 91.
 Motu to MOTU Home and saw
 a turtle just starting to emerge
 on sand point. Turned by
 boys and tagged in the morning.

TO TAKE
 BACK TO
 TAITI
 EVAM

10/23/91 Up ~ 7am. Packed gear
 WEDNESDAY in preparation for departure -
 all loaded into NOA (Rene's
 boat) for later transport to
 AOKAI.

TAAHI
PHONE BOOK

TETUARO Bill PK 46.1 km c/mont MATAIENA
57 36 98

" Maryline gt Sanford Mameo Papee
41 30 82

" Roseline Malina
48 28 73

" Yvonne PK 14.5 c/mer Tautira
57 28 13

DIANA ^{TARUVA} - 25.8 km Paea
Son - Tave
Daughter (deceased) - NANA
Grandchildren - Masua
Harry

Rene Taputu - 36 years old
(OMOREI) - 32 years old
Address given as: PAPEETE
VAININIORE BERNADINO

1981 Born 49 IN 2004

Need
BORA
BORA
Photo + cap

FATHER DIED ABOUT 1985

ALBERT VARNEY
DELEGATION A/L ENVIRONNEMENT
BP

10/23/91 TO Rene's house for photos of
Wednesday various family members.

Motored to site to see "double"
Coconut (near ocean side very near
large "upside down" fly^{ing} saucer rock".
TO PASS AND out to offload
thing unto AORAI. Dominique
dive, Philippe, Axel and I returned
to lagoon and motor the
rusty longlines on reef. Chris
and I inspected it. photo.

When going thru pass again,
Dominique hesitated, tried to
turn around, not enough steering
to zodiac so went up on
reef edge. The 3 of us got out on
reef. Proceeded but after
getting back into zodiac a
55hp Mariner lost over
from Rene's boat. Rope tied to it got around
boys leg and almost killed him in.

Departed for Bora Bora, arriving
10 am 10/24/91.

Went ashore to the market,
bought some food supplies,
then returned to AORAI for
lunch.

Note - Tuna Boat involved in take
of turtles at Scilly is PY 1120
40' - wood planked 385hp cat
engine. Fish BONITO w/ pearlshell lines

Photo Requested By TEMERE ODILE
LOT/CPS NO. B6
MAHINA, PAPEETE

ALSO: EMEZIE TINOMOE
DAUGHTER (1/2 French) HINARETI

10/25/91 MARO LUCIE
FRIDAY

(waitress at Hotel Tahiti
from Philippe home isb
in Tuamotu —
KNOWS RAPPORT
AND JACK WARD.)

A nesting turtle that we tagged on Motu Oia on 18 October 1991 was recaptured 5 months later in a fishing net near Suva, Fiji. A photograph taken shortly after capture showed an otherwise healthy turtle with numerous, partially healed, deep gouges in the plastron. Injuries to this extent were not seen when the turtle was originally tagged, nor

on any of the other turtles examined. Possibly they were caused by the effects of cyclone Wasa that passed by the three atolls on 9-10 December 1991 with winds of 180 km/h.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- The number of turtles taken for food by the residents should be limited to two per month, and preferably should be male turtles.
- The number of people allowed to live at the atoll should be stabilized at the current level or less.
- Rene Taputu should be designated as the official warden of the atoll under the sanctuary status. He should also be supplied with a portable shortwave radio to allow communications with Tahiti.
- The sanctuary status of Scilly and Motu-one should be redefined to include the surrounding waters within one kilometer of both atolls.
- Turtle poachers should be apprehended, prosecuted, and heavily fined.
- Additional tags, applicators, and data books should be supplied to Rene Taputu so he will continue to be motivated, and have the ability, to tag turtles following the training provided during our visit.
- Satellite telemetry should be conducted with several nesting turtles to determine migratory routes, speed of travel, and ultimate foraging pasture destinations. This work should be in conjunction with additional saturation tagging throughout as much of the nesting season as possible.
- The number of nests (eggs or hatchlings) removed annually for experimental captive rearing and restocking efforts in Tahiti should not exceed 3% of the estimated total available.

10/24/91 ^{Bryan} Saw Jacky back on Boraboga
~~THURSDAY~~ and had an interview with a
 newspaper reporter.

Departed on Shuttle boat ferry
 for Boraboga airport motor. Had
 carried hatchlings from Motu-one
 and Village #2 Selly. Met
 ILIMA AND ABERHAM PIINERA
 on the way (they had been in the
 Marquesas). Depart on Air
 Tahiti at 5:30 pm with a
 stop at Raiatea. Nearly
 dark when we landed at FAAA.
 Checked back in to Hotel Tahiti
 (Room 93). Walked to Papeete
 that night and had pizza.

10/25/91 UP ~ 6:30am - Call from Cindy
~~FRIDAY~~ Love. Breakfast at Hotel
 Tahiti. Walked to "Cosh and
 Curry" to browse.

Philippe picked me up at 10:30am
 - Drove to Taravao (actually Papeete)
 to see turtle aquaculture project
 turtles being reared in
 suspended cages. Photos.
 Noted lots of Turbinaria, and
 some Sargassum floating
 drifting in, so suggested
 they be put in with turtles as
 food, and also to distract

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10-25-91
FRIDAY

them from biting each other -
It seemed to work - turtles
went right for it.

Pelleted food high in fish meal is
fed 4x day (made locally).
Water quality here would
seem to be a problem.

Silty bottom, waste-deep water.
Feces reported to not float.
Vissifl high-tech shrimp farming
hatchery in Taravao.

Had lunch at a stand
near Army barracks at Taravao.
Returned to Papeete to meet
with ENVIRONMENT Ministe, EDOUARD
TEREORI FRITCH - P.O. BOX 2551 PAPEETE

to talk about protection of Scilly
for turtles. Very receptive person,
especially for late on a Friday
afternoon.

Also met Simone Grand, head
of Service de la Pêche.

Shopped in Papeete afterwards, then
caught truck back to Hotel.
Had dinner and saw Tahitian show
that evening at Hotel Tahiti with
Philippe and his wife. NAME =

Departed on Hawaiian AIR at
11:30pm, Arrive Honolulu
5:30am 10/26/91 SAT.
MORNING

PHONE 42.24.40
FAX 41.02.70

Minister for Fisheries,
DOMESTIC AIR and Sea
TRANSPORT, Outer Islands
Development & LAND AFFAIRS.

Where are the 3 other
tags that were applied?
Are shed?

Suzie Geermans
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240
Apia
WESTERN SAMOA

10 November 1993

Mr Isikeli Rabuka
Building Section
Public Works Department
Lambasa
FIJI

Dear Mr Rabuka

Thank you for sending information about the turtle tagged R482 which was captured near Lambasa, Fiji on 27 September 1993.

This tag was applied to a green female turtle while she was nesting on Scilly Atoll, French Polynesia (refer to map attached) on 15 October 1991. She had a curved carapace length of 100.0cm.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are involved with the conservation and management of sea turtles within the South Pacific region. Therefore any information you can give us regarding tagged turtles is very important to our understanding of these animals.

Enclosed is a page with some questions about the turtle that was captured. It would be appreciated if you could help us by returning the answers to the address provided.

Some posters and identification sheets are enclosed for you as a reward for reporting the tags.

Yours sincerely,

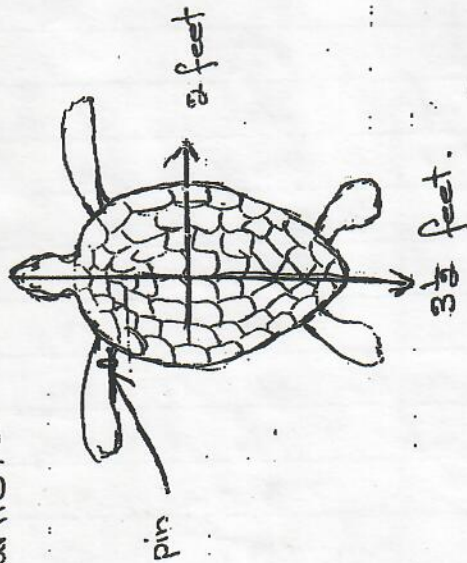
Suzie Geermans

Suzie Geermans
Turtle Conservation Consultant
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

cc. Philippe Siu, EVAAM, French Polynesia
Aisake Batibasaja, Fisheries Division, Fiji
Tara Costello, OCEAN, Fiji
Adrienne Farago, SPREP, Western Samoa
George Balazs, NMFS, Hawaii

93 07:50 SPREP APIA + 6172276386 003

This is a rough sketch of the
turtle: -



APPLIED TAG DETAILS		G F A SC SIU/BALAZS	
515 R	482 R	482 LF	15/10/91 Y P
516 R	482 X	666 RF	15/10/91 Y
608 R	482 X	667 LH	15/10/91 Y
609 R	482 X	668 RH	15/10/91 Y

CAPTURE DETAILS		G F A 15/10/91 SC O M ?	
2442 R	482 P	100.0	0 28 16 40 154 40

Spcep

ISIKELI RABUKA,
BUILDING SECTION,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
LAMBASA.
FIJI ISLANDS.

→ Adresse
RETURN SPC / REP,
BPDS NOUMEA CEDEX,
NEW CALEDONIA.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
PROGRAMME ACTION FILE AP 01511

DATE 03 NOV 1993

ACTION OFFICER - A/BID

Dear Sir,
Ni sa bula, Good morning,
good evening to whom it may concern.
According to the time you receive this
letter of mine.

I ISIKELI RABUKA (aged
29) and an employee of P.W.D and
also a fisherman. On 27th September 1993
I went out fishing with some of my
friends. We were diving and caught
a turtle. On our way ~~back~~ back home
I found a ~~piece~~ piece of iron attached
on the left (wing or hand) what ever
it is.

This were the words written
on it: - RMTP 482 other side was
the address: - Return SPC/REP
BPDS Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia.

So this letter is to inform you ~~about~~ ^{to what happened to}
about the ~~bit~~ turtle.

Wish to hear from you ^{as} soon as possible.

Thank you. Nisa Moe

Yours Faithfully

RMTP 482

TO: Dr. George Balazs, NMIS Honolulu Lab., Hav.
 FROM: A.D. Lewis, SPC, Noumea
 DATE: 16 June, 1994

FILE: PRO 93/3/30

SUBJECT: CONTINUING TURTLE TAG SAGA

MESSAGE:

Dear George,

Back on deck, to report the latest developments in the saga of turtle tag no. S197.

More information from the very helpful Mine Marie Douperé, who ~~has~~ provided a series of measurements, which I shall mail separately to you. In brief, the carapace length seems to have been about 97cm. We have been in telephone contact with her, providing some of the basic details, but it would be best if you send the reward shirt and any more precise release details to her at the address below. It is indeed an interesting recovery, having moved more than 2,000 nm in the 18 months since release.

More importantly, she indicated that quite a few tagged turtles have been recovered in the past in the area (which is a nesting area), but no one knew what to do with them. The classic tagging programme "achilles heel". Perhaps it would not be too late to send a few posters, even if they are in English.

Mine Marie Douperé
 B.P. 58
 98832 VAO
 Ile des Pins
 New Caledonia

Re the SPC leaflet and the turtle recipe, I can only note that turtle remains traditional and much esteemed fare in many parts of the South Pacific, even though its use (particularly in non-traditional contexts, such as export of shell for ornamental use) is appropriately being increasingly restricted. We of course exist only to serve the SPC member countries, and the SPC nutrition folks presumably are just reflecting the fact that turtle is still commonly eaten in many areas. Assuming harvest at traditional levels is sustainable, this seems far less reprehensible than some of the heinous crimes visited on turtle populations by our society in the past for far less valid reasons eg. canned turtle soup, calipee etc. Enough already - the values of the West imposed by hindsight on the developing world always depress me, even if they are correct.

With best wishes,



SPC FAX (687) 26.28.18

A.D. Lewis
 Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator

CONTINUED
 P.63

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,000 \\ 1.6 \\ \hline 12,000 \\ 2,000 \\ \hline 7,200 \text{ km} \end{array}$$

DATA given to me by Jean-Pierre Landret
 on growth and survival of
 green turtles being reared in pen
 floating in bay near shore at
 TAERAWAO.

lot au 25/01/89 origine ? EVAAM TAREVAO-TAHITI
CAPTIVE REARING TURTLES
10/91

I₁₂ Lm = 32.7g. N = 52

I₉₆₉ Lm = 17.99 Kg N = 20. le 10/09/90? 38.5% SURVIVAL

lot de MOPELIA 90

I₁ le 23/01/90 ^{20 MONTHS} N = 52 Lm = 26.7g

I₆₀₈ le 24/09/91 N = 29 Lm = 13.234kg.

55.7% survival

where
lot de ARATIKA 90

I₁₀₆ le 26/02/90 ^{19 MONTHS} N = 21 Lm = 29.3g

I₅₈₄ le 24/09/91 N = 7 Lm = 12.01 kg.

33.3% survival

lot ① de MOPELIA 91

I₂ le 31/01/91 ^{8 MONTHS} Lm = 23.8g N = 15

I₂₃₇ le 23/09/91 Lm = 300g N = 9

60% survival

lot ② de MOPELIA 91

I₂ le 31/01/91 ^{8 MONTHS} Lm = 28.4g N = 25

I₂₃₇ le 23/09/91 Lm = 1813g N = 20

80% survival

lot "♀" MOPELIA 91

I₁ le 07/02/91 ^{8 MONTHS} Lm = 23 kg N = 46

I₂₂₈ le 28/09/91 Lm = 2102g N = 41

91.3% survival

lot "♂" MOPELIA 91 ^{4 MONTHS} | 25-27°C / incubate

I₁ le 06/03/91 Lm = 23.7g N = 45

I₂₀₅ le 28/09/91 Lm = 1489g N = 45

100% survival

TARUW
RENE le 28/05/91 N = 192

le 23/09/91 N = 176

^{4 MONTHS} Lm = 21.4g
Lm = 1275g

91.7% SCILLY

Tagging and Measurement Data for 55 Adult Female Green Turtles Encountered at Scilly Atoll (Manuae) and Motu-One (Bellingshausen), French Polynesia During October 1991

by
Philippe Siu, Jean-Pierre Landret, and George Balazs

1991 Date	Tag Numbers			RH	Curved carapace L X W cm	Motu site
	LFF	RFF	LH			
10/14	X651	RMTP476	X652	--	100 x --	Honu
10/14	RMTP477	X653	X654	--	104 x --	Honu
10/15	RMTP478	X655	X656	--	104 x 94	Oia
10/15	RMTP479	X657	X658	X659	104 x 94	Oia
10/15	RMTP480	X660	X661	X662	105 x 93	Oia
10/15	RMTP481	X663	X664	X665	105 x 95	Oia
10/15	RMTP482	X666	X667	X668	100 x 96	Oia
10/15	RMTP484	RMTP485	X558	--	97 x 90	Honu
10/16	RMTP486	RMTP487	X559	X560	97 x 86	Oia
10/16	RMTP488	RMTP489	X561	X562	101 x 92	Oia
10/16	RMTP490	RMTP491	X563	X564	101 x 87	Oia
10/17	RMTP492	RMTP493	X565	X566	104 x 93	Honu/Oia
10/17	RMTP495	X684	X685	X686	112 x 103	Oia
10/17	RMTP496	X687	X688	X689	99 x 87	Oia
10/17	RMTP497	X691	X695	X693	108 x 99	Oia

SCILLY

1991 Date	Tag Numbers				Curved carapace Cm L X W		Motu site
	LFF	RFF	LH	RH			
10/17	RMTP498	X567	X569	X568	112 x 103	Oia	
10/18	RMTP499	--	S8	--	101 x 96	Honu	
10/18	RMTP500	S9	S10	--	102 x 90	Oia	
10/18	S11	S12	S13	--	105 x 95	Oia	
10/18	S14	S15	S16	--	101 x 93	Oia	
10/18	S17	S18	S19	--	101 x 91	Oia	
10/18	S20	S21	S22	--	99 x 88	Oia	
10/18	S23	S24	S25	--	103 x 91	Oia	
10/19	S26	S27	S28	S29	99 x 88	Honu	
10/19	S30	S31	S32	S33	103 x 96	Honu	
10/19	S34	S35	S36	S37	99 x 88	Oia	
10/19	S38	S39	S40	S41	99 x 87	Oia	
10/19	S42	S43	S44	S45	103 x 101	Oia	
10/19	S46	S47	S48	S49	104 x 97	Oia	
10/19	S50	--	--	--	106 x 97	Oia	
10/20	S51	S52	S53	S54	99 x 93	Oia	

1991 Date	Tag Numbers				Curved carapace L X W cm	Motu site
	LFF	RFF	LH	RH		
10/20	S55	S56	S57	S58	104 x 96	Oia
10/20	S59	S60	S61	S62	106 x 101	Oia
10/20	S63	S64	S65	S66	107 x 99	Oia
10/20	S67	S68	S69	S70	108 x 99	Oia
10/21	S71	S72	S73	S74	106 x 97	Honu
10/21	S75	S76	S77	S78	103 x 96	Oia
10/21	S79	S80	S81	S82	99 x 86	Oia
10/21	S83	S85	S86	S87	111 x 104	Oia
10/21	S84	S88	S89	S90	95 x 94	Oia
10/21	S91	S92	S93	S94	101 x 92	Oia
10/22	S111	S112	S113	S114	106 x 94	Honu
10/22	S115	S116	S117	S118	103 x 95	Honu
10/22	S119	S120	S121	--	98 x 90	(Pen)
10/22	S122	S123	S124	--	97 x 89	(Pen)
10/23	S251	S252	S253	--	104 x --	Oia
10/23	S254	S255	S256	--	99 x 92	Oia

4

1991 Date	Tag Numbers			Curved carapace L X W cm	Motu site
	LFF	RFF	LH		
10/23	S257	S258	S259	108 x 95	Oia
10/23	S260	S261	S262	100 x 95	Oia
10/23	S263	S264	S265	107 x 94	Honu
10/23	S266	S267	S268	-- x --	Honu
10/23	S270	S271	S272	95 x 81	Oia
<u>Motu-One</u>					
10/19	S126	S127	S128	109 x 97	Poromu Tou
10/19	S131	S130	S132	98 x 91	Poromu Tou
10/20	S134	S136	S137	109 x 97	Poromu Tou

Note: RMTP prefix tags made of titanium; X and S prefix tags made of Inconel.

SCILLY1-8T.GHB

Tagging and Measurement Data for 15 Juvenile Green Turtles
Released at Scilly Atoll, French Polynesia
on October 15, 1991

by
Philippe Siu, Jean-Pierre Landré, and George Balazs

Tag no.	Curved carapace		Released by
	length	width	
X670	18.7	16.3	Diana (mama)
X671	19.2	17.5	Rene
X672	20.0	16.7	Janvier
X673	18.2	16.0	Omeri
X674	19.7	18.0	Ismael
X675	17.2	14.8	Tavita
X676	16.8	14.6	Bertho
X677	18.4	16.7	Teva
X678	15.9	14.3	Teheiki
X679	14.0	12.2	JDTK
X680	18.2	15.7	Edy
X681	18.1	15.7	GHB
X682	16.7	14.8	Jean-Pierre
X683	18.8	17.5	Axel
RMTP483, X669	51.0	47.0	Ismael
(This turtle captured approximately 2 ago months in Rene's fishtrap)			

SCILLY2-8T.GHB

CAPTIVE REARED

N = 14

Range = 14 - 20 cm

Mean = 17.8 cm

See Also page 56 and 65

South Pacific Commission
FAX Number (687) 26.38.18
Noumea, New Caledonia



Commission du Pacifique Sud
Numéro de FAX (687) 26.38.18
Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie)

FAX MESSAGE

NO. OF PAGES: 1 (INCLUDING THIS ONE)

FAX NO.: 1 808 236 7443

TO: Dr. George Balazs, HMB, University of Hawaii.

FROM: A.D. Lewis, SPC, Noumea.

DATE: 6 April, 1994

SUBJECT: Turtle tag return - New Caledonia.

MESSAGE:

Dear George,

I have been notified today of the recapture (and presumably consumption) of one of your tagged turtles here in New Caledonia, at the Isle of Pines, details as below :-

Date: 5th April 1994

Location: Baie de Upi (2237S, 16732E), l'île des Pins.

Finder: Mme Marie Douperre

Tag No. S197

I have asked the finder to send the tag to me, with further details if possible. Grateful if you could send details of release, plus any reward or handout that you normally send.

With best wishes,

A.D. Lewis,
Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator.

RECOVERED
S197

FILE: PRO 93/3/30

4/5/94

TAG LEFT
AT SCILLY TAPUTU
WITH RENE TAPUTU
10/91
S273-S400

TAGS LEFT AT
MOTU ONE
10/91
S197
S273
S400
MOTU ONE

ORIGINALLY TAGGED

MOTU ONE
(Bellingshausen)

S197/5198
MOTU
CCL = 101cm
11/91

See Also page 56 and 65

South Pacific Commission
FAX Number (687) 26.38.18
Noumea, New Caledonia

Commission du Pacifique Sud
Numéro de FAX (687) 26.38.18
Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie)



FAX MESSAGE

FAX NO.: 1 808 236 7443
TO: Dr. George Balazs, HIMB, University of Hawaii.
FROM: A.D. Lewis, SPC, Noumea.
DATE: 6 April, 1994

NO. OF PAGES: 1 (INCLUDING THIS ONE)

SUBJECT: Turtle tag return - New Caledonia.

RECEIVED
S197 4/5/94
FILE: PRO 93/3/30

MESSAGE:

Dear George,

I have been notified today of the recapture (and presumably consumption) of one of your tagged turtles here in New Caledonia, at the Isle of Pines, details as below :-

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Finder: Mme Marie Douperet
Tag No. S197

TAG LEFT
AT SCILLY TAPU
WITH RENE TAPU
10/91
S273-S400

I have asked the finder to send the tag to me, with further details if possible. Grateful if you could send details of release, plus any reward or handout that you normally send.

With best wishes,

A.D. Lewis,
Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator.

ORIGINAL TAGGED
(MOTO ONE - Bellingshausen)
S197/S198 CCL = 101cm
MOTO 11/91

TAGS LEFT AT SCILLY TAPU
10/91 MOTO ONE
S197-S198
MOTO ONE

