



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

In Reply Refer To:
Sea Life Park Hawaii

SEP 13 2011

Jeff L. Pawloski, Curator
Sea Life Park Hawaii
41-202 Kalaniana'ole Highway #7
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

Subject: Transfer of six green sea turtle hatchlings from Sea Life Park Hawaii to Maui Ocean Center

Dear Mr. Pawloski:

This letter authorizes you to transport and transfer six green sea turtle hatchlings (*Chelonia mydas*) from Sea Life Park Hawaii to the Maui Ocean Center, 192 Maalaea Road, Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 (John Gorman, Curator; telephone: 808-270-7030).

Since 1998, Sea Life Park Hawaii has transferred green sea turtle hatchlings to the Maui Ocean Center as part of a loan program referred to as the "Turtle Ambassador Program." The goal of the program is to increase the scope of public display for this species while providing education and awareness. The Maui Ocean Center has been an important partner with Sea Life Park Hawaii and has helped to make this program very successful in raising public awareness for this species.

The Maui Ocean Center maintains several holding and exhibit areas consisting of artificial pools supplied with natural seawater and employs several full-time aquarists responsible for the care and husbandry of the turtles at the facility, and has contracted the services of Dr. Bethany Doescher, DVM who has extensive experience in treating and diagnosing diseases in this turtle species. Additionally, Dr. George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (NMFS-PIFSC) and Dr. Thierry Work, DVM with the U.S. Geological Survey - Biological Resources Division, provide technical assistance for this facility. The holding and exhibit pools have been found to be adequate for the size and number of turtles being held at this facility, and the animal caretakers maintain good communication with Sea Life Park Hawaii through written progress reports and oral reporting by phone.

Sea Life Park Hawaii coordinates all transfers of the turtles with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture and the NMFS-PIFSC. All hatchlings are transferred in accordance with standard protocols for this species and are reviewed by NMFS-PIFSC. Sea Life Park Hawaii has set as a condition of the loan agreement that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands

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Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO), NMFS-PIFSC, and Sea Life Park be notified in advance of requests to release or transfer turtles from the Maui Ocean Center (e.g., the Maui Ocean Center will contact Sea Life Park, PIFWO, and NMFS-PIFSC when it wishes to release or transfer turtles it received from Sea Life Park).

A copy of this letter, all applicable permits, and specimen history reports must accompany the transport and transfer of these individuals. Within three days of transferring the six green sea turtle hatchlings to the Maui Ocean Center, please notify my office in writing that the transfer has occurred, describe any problems that were encountered, include final specimen history reports, and copies of all applicable.

It is our understanding that Sea Life Park Hawaii is transferring the turtle hatchlings *gratis* to the Maui Ocean Center and there will be no exchange of funds, nor any type of transaction that could be construed as commerce. Please note that this letter does not relieve your facility of its responsibility to comply with applicable State and local regulations with regard to transporting endangered species. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Nelson, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at (808) 792-9400.

Sincerely,



^{LM}
Loyal Mehrhoff
Field Supervisor

cc:

ES-Region 1, Portland, OR (Attn: Dan Perritt)
Maui Ocean Center, Wailuku, HI (Attn: John Gorman)
NMFS-PIFSC, Honolulu, HI (Attn: George Balaz)
USFWS-LE, Honolulu, HI (Attn: George Phocas)
NMFS-PIRO, Honolulu, HI (Attn: Patrick Opay)