

Date: Wed, 26 May 1999 07:57:57 -1000 (HST) 26 MAY 1999
From: "George H. Balazs" <gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu>
To: Osha Gray Davidson <osha@pobox.com>
Subject: December 1, 1972

ASAC. Clearly a turning point, but I never knew how significant it would be at the time. I have been wondering.. What would the course of history have been for Hawaiian honu if I had rejected Hilde's hounding of me to testify at the meeting? I did you know, at first. In fact I was quite upset with her at the time, because she had already "volunteered me" without asking my permission. It was with reluctance, and downright fear, that I went. I had no prepared speech, only notes and thoughts based on Carr, Hirth and Hendrickson's writing that I had in recent months read over and over again. There were clearly sea turtle problems elsewhere distant from Hawaii. Serious ones. Could Hawaii's situation be so different, especially in the face of no protection, no meaningful regulations, and substantial hunting by very efficient methods (bullets, use of scuba and turtletangle nets hundreds of yards long (like Alika used on Maui, Molokai, Big Island)? Or, was it "simply" that our heads were in the sand, too many other things keeping state and federal folks occupied? Were the honu, in some mystical manner, just waiting for someone to come along and speak for them? I had read the "The Voice of the Turtle" by Bill Travis (whom I had met) and the title still rings kind to my ear, as it did then.

So what would have happened if I had not testified, gotten involved? Well, my career would almost certainly have taken a different course. But would it have changed anything for the honu? I think not. Someone else, soon, surely would have come along, grasped the issue, and helped the turtles. So to me, the defining moment of the ASAC meeting was most significant to me, for me. Even if my career- heck, not career- My Life! had not swung to that path, I would have had the satisfaction of knowing I spoke out. I said what I believed needed to be said. I was scared like hell. But the satisfaction of doing/saying what was needed will always be one of the highest points of my life. Bless Hilde for that. Geo.

* George H. Balazs, Leader *
* Marine Turtle Research Program *
* National Marine Fisheries Service *
* SWFSC Honolulu Laboratory *
* 2570 Dole Street *
* Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396 USA *
* Tel: (808) 983-5733 *
* Fax: (808) 983-2902 *
* gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu *

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ANIMAL SPECIES ADVISORY COMMISSION
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
DECEMBER 1, 1972 - JUNE 24, 1975
RELATING TO PROTECTION FOR HAWAIIAN
MARINE TURTLES

MINUTES
OF ANIMAL SPECIES ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
December 1, 1972
Lt. Governor's Conference Room, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Ronald J. Endrizal, Chairman
2. Michio Takata
3. Dr. Alan C. Ziegler
4. Dr. John W. Beardsley
5. Dr. Frank J. Radovsky
6. Dr. Garth I. Murphy
7. Mrs. Ruth Aline Gay
8. Dr. Wilbert Y. K. Yee
9. Philip M. Yamagata



MEMBERS ABSENT:

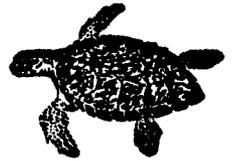
1. Dr. Andrew J. Berger
2. Earl J. Pacheco

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Steve Montgomery, Natural Areas Reserve System Commission
2. Eugene Kridler, U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Kailua, Oahu
3. George H. Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Kaneohe, Oahu
4. Ernest Ross, " " " " " " " "
5. William P. Mull, Hawaii Audubon Society, Honolulu
6. Mrs. Mae E. Mull, Life of the Land, Honolulu
7. John Knox, Honolulu Advertiser
8. Rosamond S. Morgan, Honolulu
9. Patricia Morgan Swenson, Honolulu
10. Paul L. Breese, Division of Fish and Game
11. David H. Woodside, ditto
12. Henry M. Sakuda, ditto
13. Eugene K. Burke, ditto
14. Lillian A. Nishihira, ditto

AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes of October 1972 meeting.
2. Regulation of Green Sea Turtle.
3. Protection and Conservation of the Hawaiian Crow and Hawk.
4. Legislative Proposals.
5. Volunteer Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer Program.
6. Hunting on Maui.
7. Sheep on Mauna Kea.



APPROVAL OF
OCTOBER 1972 MINUTES:

Mr. Yamagata moved that the Minutes of the October 1972 meeting be approved as submitted. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

REGULATION OF GREEN
SEA TURTLE:

The Commission members deliberated for three hours on the question of whether a regulation should be imposed on the protection of the green sea turtle.

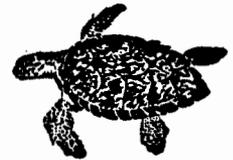
Mr. Eugene Kridler, Wildlife Administrator for the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, stated that his agency protects the turtles' breeding grounds in the Leeward Islands. Studies thus far have been confined to the Leeward Islands, more specifically to the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Since they are completely protected on the refuge, he felt that the turtles should also be completely protected in Leeward waters. Their nesting grounds at French Frigates Shoal are the largest and most important green sea turtle hatchery in the United States. As far as he knew, no nesting occurs on the beaches of the main islands.

To date about 700 turtles have been tagged in the refuge. Although most of the recaptures have been made in the area of tagging on succeeding trips, some turtles tagged at French Frigates Shoal have been recaptured at Pearl and Hermes and also some tag returns have been obtained from Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Kauai and Oahu.

The adult turtles average about 275 pounds, are 24-25 inches in straight line measurement, and believed to live to be 150 years old.

Mr. Kridler pointed out that there are great gaps in the scientific knowledge of these turtles throughout their range and in the waters of the State of Hawaii. There are big gaps as to what they feed on once they get out in the ocean, where they go, and what the population is. Reef fish take a heavy toll on the hatchlings. Although it is not known what percentage of the eggs are hatched, he surmises that about 1 to 2% that are laid would survive into adulthood.

Mr. Kridler said that he had brought back with him some eggs and hatchlings from one of his trips to the refuge to conduct a series of experiments. The main purpose of this study was to see if these turtles can be raised economically in captivity to provide protein to the market and at the same time relieve the great strain placed on the wild stock.



In answer to a question by Dr. Murphy, Mr. Takata said that the only turtle catch statistics kept by the Division of Fish and Game are the commercial catches. He stated further that the commercial turtle landings are relatively insignificant and that there is reason to believe that more turtles are being caught by sport fishermen.

Mr. Kridler suggested that non-commercial fishermen should be required to report their turtle catches. Mr. Takata replied that he did not know how feasible this would be but felt it would be feasible if a license is required. The Division could also make tags available but the big question is whether the fishermen will come in to pick up the tags. He also said that if there is any unauthorized commercial sale of turtle being carried out, and there probably is, it is a very difficult thing to enforce.

Mr. Kridler commented that although some people advocate complete closure on the taking of the green sea turtle, he was not in favor of this complete closure until there was some documentation to justify this action.

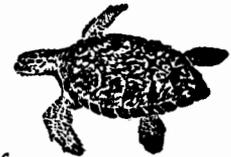
Mr. Takata agreed with Mr. Kirdler and further commented that on the basis of present knowledge there would be merits for the protection of the turtle in the Leeward Islands where we know they are nesting to protect the breeding population. Thus, it might be well to prohibit the taking of turtles in the Leeward Islands. However, he said that before we begin to regulate the taking of turtle in the main islands we should get adequate supportive data.

Mr. Kridler said that he hopes to get independent investigators to continue the research on the turtles at French Frigates Shoal.

Mr. Takata added that the Division's efforts to obtain funds to support the research program dates back to a number of years even before Dr. Hendrickson came to Hawaii. At that time an attempt was made to obtain funds from the legislature but it failed to pass. Dr. Hendrickson had even submitted a research proposal so Mr. Takata felt that there are people who are more than willing to undertake this study if funds are available. Mr. Takata also mentioned that this project does not qualify for D-J Federal Aid funds.

Mr. George Balazs, a research biologist with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, made a strong plea for the preservation of the green sea turtle. He told the Commission that he has learned through correspondence that many other states and Pacific nations have passed laws protecting the turtle; namely, Texas, Georgia, Florida, Tahiti, Midway, Tonga, Fiji, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Panama.

Mr. Balazs stated that in effect there is no regulation in the State of Hawaii on the green sea turtles except for the law that prohibits fishing with firearms and spears.



He passed out to Commission members informational copies of an article entitled, "Great Reptiles, Great Enigmas" by Dr. Archie Carr which appeared in the March 1972 issue of the Audubon magazine; sea turtle statistics for Hawaiian Waters which he extracted from the Division of Fish and Game annual fish catch reports from 1967 through 1971; and an excerpt of a report prepared for the Fisheries Development Agency Project by Dr. H. F. Hirth, Marine Biology (turtles) Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1971.

According to the Fish and Game commercial fish catch statistics, the following amounts of sea turtles were harvested during the period 1967-1971:

1967	5,021 lbs.
1968	3,350
1969	10,175
1970	12,506
1971	19,884

Dr. Ziegler said the increasing numbers of turtles being caught by local fishermen could reflect a surplus of turtles. He said he could not agree to restrictions until such questions are answered.

He then suggested that since there is no funds in the Division of Fish and Game budget, the ASAC should ask the legislature at the next session for funds to continue research on the sea turtles. Dr. Murphy agreed to this suggestion.

DR. MURPHY MOVED THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED (PERHAPS MR. TAKATA AND MYSELF) TO MEET WITH MESSRS. KRIDLER AND BALAZS AND DR. HESTER TO GET WHATEVER TECHNICAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE GREEN SEA TURTLES.

Motion was seconded by Dr. Ziegler.

Chairman Endrizal asked if anyone else wished to be included in this sub-committee. Since there was no response, a vote was taken and Dr. Murphy's motion passed unanimously.

At 3:00 p. m. Chairman Endrizal because of another business commitment excused himself from the meeting and appointed Dr. Murphy as Chairman Pro-tem.

More discussion followed on the green sea turtles.



PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION
OF THE HAWAIIAN CROW AND HAWK:

Mr. Breese mentioned that his wildlife staff had prepared a news flyer on the preservation of the Hawaiian crow as suggested by the Commission at its October 1972 meeting. He had in the meantime talked to Mr. Winston Banko, research biologist with the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife stationed at Kilauea, Hawaii, about the Hawaiian crow and hawk and he made the following interesting observation. He felt that it would be a mistake to put too much emphasis on these birds as this might elicit a negative response from the public which might result in more shooting of these birds.

Mr. William Mull of the Hawaii Audubon Society and Mr. Steve Montgomery of the Natural Areas Reserve System both felt that this public awareness will help more than it will hurt.

Mr. Yamagata expressed his concern about the possibility of the crow becoming a nuisance as it is on the mainland U. S. once they are protected and establish themselves. Mr. Mull replied that the mainland crows and the Hawaiian crows are of different species and he did not feel that we will have an overpopulation of the crows where they would become pests.

DR. ZIEGLER MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION OFFER AN ADVISORY OPINION AND THAT THE HANDOUT ON THE CROW BE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MEANS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY TO THE PRESS.

Motion was seconded by Dr. Beardsley.

Mrs. Gay said that the handout should not be directed only to the hunters. She suggested the deletion of the words "Do Not Shoot" at the top and "Hunters are reminded" because its present focus on hunters might produce a backlash effect among hunters. She also mentioned that emphasis should be placed toward the last part of the handout about reporting sightings to the Division of Fish and Game.

Mr. Mull suggested that if the Division of Fish and Game is to do the distribution of the handout to its contacts, including the ranchers, that the Division of Forestry also do the same. He said he was making this suggestion because of lack of field data on field observation.

ALL MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR OF DR. ZIEGLER'S MOTION, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS MADE BY MRS. GAY AND MR. MULL.

Dr. Radovsky asked if the Fish and Game Division had done anything on his motion made at the last meeting to provide the Commission with a plan for the protection of the crow.

Mr. Takata replied that the plan is still in the mill. We did not specifically prepare a research proposal for the crow because the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expending more effort than we can at the present level of our funding. He further stated that he is agreeable to the collection of more crows to send to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center where an attempt was initiated to propagate the crow in captivity. They have highly qualified personnel and wonderful facilities to do this kind of work and they are willing to propagagate the crow but with the apparently small population of crow in existence in Hawaii, it is not an easy thing to catch a crow. Mr. Takata suggested that before we attempt a propagation project of our own we should "beef up" our captive crow stock at Patuxent.

Mr. Takata assured Dr. Radovsky that the Division of Fish and Game will look into the feasibility of coming up with a plan to insure the protection of the Hawaiian crow.

Dr. Radovsky suggested the posting of signs as an I&E effort.

Mr. Mull suggested similar posters for all endangered bird species and said the Audubon Society might help finance the educational effort. He told Mr. Takata that he would be happy to work with the wildlife staff on the wording and location of these signs.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:

Mr. Takata informed the Commission that the Division of Fish and Game has proposed two bills for introduction at the 1973 legislative session:

1. To remove conflicting provisions existing in the statutes concerning the taking of coral.
2. To provide an additional \$200,000 for loans to construct new commercial fishing vessels.

This matter was brought to the Commission's attention for informational purposes only. No action needed.



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VOLUNTEER FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM:



Mr. Eugene K. Burke, Chief of the Enforcement Branch of the Division of Fish and Game, briefly reported to the Commission the new Volunteer Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer Program.

The Deputy Wardens program as it was formerly called was revamped upon passage of Act 54, 1972 session, which provides benefits to the Deputy Fish and Game wardens should they incur any injuries while performing volunteer services for the Division. Subsequently, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the change of the Deputy wardens' title to Volunteer Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers and also approved a working agreement and employment standards for these volunteer officers. Intensive training had been completed and about 50 names will be submitted to the Board of Land and Natural Resources at its meeting on December 15, 1972, for appointment as Volunteer Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officers.

HUNTING ON MAUI:

Dr. Yee mentioned that out of a population of about 40,000 on Maui, 3,000 are hunters. The Maui hunters are complaining that hunting has been status quo for the last twenty years. Some of the areas of concern are: (1) importing more pheasants; (2) acquiring bigger game areas; and (3) opening of deer hunting on Maui.

Mr. Takata suggested that Dr. Yee get together with Mr. Breese to discuss the wildlife program on Maui.

SHEEP ON MAUNA KEA:

Dr. Ziegler asked about the sheep on Mauna Kea and requested a status report on the number of sheep taken from this area.

Mr. Breese replied that he had on his desk, job completion reports for 1972 in draft form which are in the process of being finalized. Included in these reports is the Mauna Kea Game Management Area Sheep Study from District Biologist Ernest Kosaka. Mr. Breese felt that this report which will be available to the members shortly should give a better insight of what is happening at Mauna Kea.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Nickerson

William A. Nickerson

JOHN A. BURNS
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



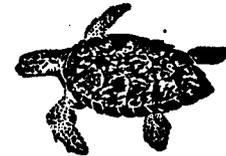
DIVISIONS:
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME
1179 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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January 8, 1973



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MEMORANDUM

To : Members, Animal Species Advisory Commission
From : Ronald J. Endrizal, Chairman
Subject: January Meeting of the Animal Species Advisory Commission

The January meeting of the Animal Species Advisory Commission will be held on Friday, January 12, 1973, beginning at 1:00 p. m. , in the Lt. Governor's Conference Room, 5th floor of the State Capitol.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of December meeting.
2. Mauna Kea Mamane/Sheep Problem.
3. Progress Report on Jones and Stokes Comprehensive Long-Range Fish and Wildlife Plan.
4. Proposal to Change ASAC Meeting Date from First Friday to Second Friday of Each Month.
5. Proposed Green Sea Turtle Regulation.
6. Other Matter of Concern.

Purchase Orders for neighbor island members' air travel are attached.

Michio Takata
(for) RONALD J. ENDRIZAL, Chmn.
Animal Species Adv. Commission

MT:ln
attachs. Minutes of December meeting
P. O. 's or Parking Permits
Draft of "Status of Marine Turtles in the Haw'n. Islands" and
Proposed Protection for Marine Turtles by George H. Balazs

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM

P. O. Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 • Telephone 847-3511

TO: Other Members of Animal Species Advisory Commission

FROM: Frank J. Radovsky

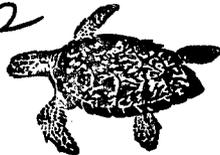
SUBJECT: Proposed Protection for Marine Turtles, drafted and forwarded by
George H. Balazs.

The subject proposal and the status report on marine turtles by Mr. Balazs were mailed to each of us with Mr. Endrizal's memorandum of January 8. The "Proposed Green Sea Turtle Regulation" is on the agenda for the meeting of January 12.

I felt that the legislation proposed by Mr. Balazs would not adequately protect the turtles. In particular, the addition of some control on commercial use of turtles seems essential for an effective law. Mr. Balazs indicated to me that his proposal was strongly compromised in his expectation that it would find greater acceptance. He agreed that it would be desirable to have broader controls. We have prepared the enclosed amended version of his proposal for consideration by the Commission.

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Enclosure

cc: George H. Balazs

Sincerely yours,

Frank J. Radovsky, Member
Animal Species Advisory Commission

January 10, 1973



PROPOSED PROTECTION FOR MARINE TURTLES

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Prepared by George H. Balazs and emended by George H. Balazs and Frank J. Radovsky

Recognizing the fact that title to all wildlife belongs to the State in its sovereign capacity, and that the State holds this title in trust for the people of Hawaii, and that the State has a right and an obligation to protect, perpetuate and control wildlife within its boundaries, the following bill for an act relating to the protection of marine turtles is hereby proposed:

PK 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, kill, possess, mutilate or in any way disturb any Leatherback (Dermodochelys sp.) or Hawksbill (Eretmodochelys sp.) in or from the territorial waters of the State of Hawaii, except as specified in section 7 of this act. 3 miles

OK 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, kill, possess, mutilate or in any way disturb any green turtle (Chelonia sp.) in or from the territorial waters of the State of Hawaii which surround the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, except as specified in section 7 of this act. add Midway; Kure (and islets between)

2. 3. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, kill, possess, mutilate or in any way disturb any green turtle in or from the territorial waters of the State of Hawaii which surround the major islands (Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau) for purpose of resale.

2. 4. It shall be unlawful for any person to import any marine turtle or part thereof into the State of Hawaii for purpose of resale.

OK 5. It shall be unlawful to sell any marine turtle or part thereof, including the sale or serving of turtle-derived food products in restaurants or markets or elsewhere. (Green turtles may be used as food, without sale, when legally taken as outlined in section 6 of this act).

OK 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to take, kill, possess, mutilate or in any way disturb any green turtle in or from the territorial waters of the State of Hawaii which surround the major islands, excepting green turtles having a straight line carapace measurement of more than thirty-four (34) inches that are taken under permit from the Division of Fish and Game, tagged, and reported to the Division within a time to be specified, or except as specified in section 7 of this act.

OK 7. It shall be unlawful for any live and eggs marine turtle to be captured or held in captivity or transported within or across the boundaries of the State except by special permit which will be granted by the Division of Fish and Game only for educational or scientific purposes. The number of animals held for such purposes by any one person or institution shall not exceed that as deemed reasonable, prudent and necessary by the Division of Fish and Game.

8. Any officer or agent authorized by the Division of Fish and Game shall have authority to execute any warrant to search for and seize any animal or animal product held in violation of sections 1 through 7 of this act. Such material shall be held pending proceedings in any court of proper jurisdiction. Upon the conviction of any person charged with a violation of section 1 through 7 of this act the animal or animal product seized shall be forfeited and either released, offered to a recognized institution for scientific or educational purposes, or destroyed.

OK 9. Any person convicted of violating any section of this act shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
January 19, 1973



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Dear ASAC Member,

I would like to call your attention to two changes that should be made in my manuscript "Status of Marine Turtles in Hawaii" which I sent to you at an earlier date.

These are:

1. On page 7 and 8 reference is made to the tagging of nesting turtles in the Refuge by Sport Fisheries and Wildlife personnel. Recent discussion with the Bureau Administrators has revealed that the vast majority of the 700+ turtles tagged were "basking" individuals; that is to say that the turtles (both male and female) were lying on the sandy beaches sunning themselves when they were marked. Basking is a habit peculiar to Northern Pacific Green Turtles and is probably related to the cooler environment. Only a few animals (10-15) have ever been tagged in the Refuge while nesting.

The awareness of this fact is of major importance. At the December 1, 1972 ASAC meeting Dr. Garth Murphy used the 700 number that was stated to try to make some sort of a rough estimate of the total breeding population. The basic assumption for his calculations were that the 700 turtles tagged were all females. It is now evident that this is not the case and that far fewer animals probably exist.

2. On page 9 a value of 100 pounds was given for a sexually mature Green Turtle. Two hundred and fifty pounds is the true value, or 100 kilograms. I failed to indicate the proper units.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs

GHB:bd

Comments on First Draft of
Hawaii Fish and Wildlife Plan
(as prepared under contract with
Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.)

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4. The reference to the green turtle (II-RE-58) is inadequate and misleading. This species is believed to be the most valuable reptile in the world, and it could be a critically important protein source for man in the future if it is properly protected now. I agree with the authors that a species plan is urgently needed, and, in view of current proposals for regulation in the State, they are probably well advised not to attempt a formal species plan now. However, the species deserves more attention than is given.

Although it is not rare at present, the turtle is considered endangered from a world standpoint through over-exploitation; the IUCN includes the species in the Red Data Book. The Hawaiian turtle population is unique in that it can be totally managed (both breeding and feeding areas) within one political jurisdiction. The catch in Hawaii is substantial in endangering preservation of the species, but not relative to the total marine fishery or the economy of the State. The Plan says the commercial take is fairly substantial and then adds

F. J. Radovsky
Page 4

"paradoxically, it has been suggested for possible inclusion as a rare and endangered species." This is quite misleading; there is no paradox, but rather a causal relationship. It was similarly argued in the 1870's that the American bison was not endangered -- millions had been slaughtered and the species barely survived. It was similarly argued in the 1880's that the Passenger Pigeon was not endangered -- billions had been killed and the species died out, apparently unable to sustain itself once the population was brought by man down to a level of 10's of thousands. The Arctic whaling fishery has been destroying its future viability as well as endangering all species of large Cetacea. We have no excuse for doing anything similar in Hawaii.

I recommend that the statements concerning the green turtle be enlarged and corrected to reflect its endangered situation from a world view, the special attributes of the Hawaiian population, and the need for a plan that will maintain the species at a high level.

5. Pages I-29-30. The statements regarding the particularly adverse effects of feral game animals are commendable. However, the indicated approach is not carried over into the species plans. For example, the goat plan (II-Wildlife-24-31) indicates elimination of the goat only on Lanai; reduction of goats on Kahoolawe to 200 or less, rather than extermination which would be less costly and more effective in permitting plant regeneration; actually increasing the goat population on Kauai where the species has been decreasing. The species plans are meant to be shorter range than the objectives expressed in Vol. I, but the short-term plans cited are not justifiable in terms of the overall objectives.

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P. O. Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 • Telephone 847-3511

DATE: January 24, 1973
TO: Consultant Firm of Jones & Stokes Associates, Sacramento, California;
State of Hawaii Officials; and Other Interested Persons.
FROM: Alan C. Ziegler, Mammalogist Member, State of Hawaii Animal Species
Advisory Commission.
SUBJECT: Advisory Comments on First Draft of Jones & Stokes' Comprehensive
Long-range Fish and Wildlife Resource Plan, dated December 15, 1972.



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p. II-58 (List of Reptiles Without Management Plans)..... To accurately reflect the present uncertain status of the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), along with the certainly "endangered" international status of both the hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) and leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) turtles (see U.S. List of Endangered Foreign Fish and Wildlife), it would seem advisable for the Consultants to have their marine resources personnel prepare projected Operational Management Plans for these three species of Hawaiian waters for inclusion in the final Plan.

p. II-58, last par. "It [the green sea turtle] enters the commercial catch statistics in fairly substantial numbers and, paradoxically, it has been suggested for possible inclusion as a rare and endangered species."..... If there is one thing we should have learned by now, it's that the objective is not to get a species put on the "Rare and Endangered List" but, rather, to all work together to keep it off the List!

Volume III: Supporting Data

Although figures for monetary gain from hunting and fishing activities are noted several times in this and other Volumes of the present draft Plan, nowhere does there seem to be any discussion of the relatively great sums of money entering the State each year for scientific study of our native terrestrial and marine resource Research and development grants from the International Biological Program (Island Ecosystems Hawaii Sub-program), other U.S. National Science Foundation, the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and Endangered Species Program are only a few of the organizations providing such funds. It is hoped the Consultants will be able to obtain exact financial figures for inclusion and discussion in their final Plan. At this stage, however, even a very conservative estimate indicates well over a milli dollars a year enters the State from these sources--a sum at least equal to the total annual budget of the Division of Fish & Game, and far greater than the amount of out-of-state money generated in relation to hunting. (And this is not even considering that portion of the multi-million dollar yearly non-hunting tourist revenue that results from the attraction of our native resources.)

In fact, in terms of both immediate and, especially, long-range economic gain to the citizens of Hawaii, it is obvious that it would be much more profitable for the Wildlife Branch of our State Fish & Game Division to get out of the hunting business altogether, and turn their attention to protecting and restoring our native natural resources rather than continuing to allow these irreplaceable assets to be destroyed by maintaining the present populations of foreign game mammals and birds. In making this change, the Wildlife Branch would then be receiving 100% of Hawaii's

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5 February 1973

Representative John S. Carroll
State House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



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Dear Representative Carroll,

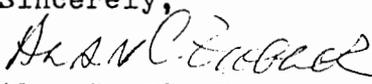
I am writing to express my great appreciation for your recent introduction of H.B. 245: relating to an appropriation for a research management program for the Green Sea Turtle, as well as H.R. 41 and H.C.R. -9: relating to preservation of the Green Sea Turtle.

I will most happy to speak in behalf of these measures when they are scheduled for appropriate Committee Hearings. Two colleagues, Dr. Frank Radovsky of the Bishop Museum and George Balazs of the University's Institute of Marine Biology have prepared a draft of proposed Regulations concerning the taking of the Green Sea Turtle and will be submitting the draft soon to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or so I understand.

Thus, your Resolutions will undoubtedly be of great aid to the eventual enactment of these needed and timely Regulations. We all note with favor your 1971 H.B. 1218 and H.R. 196, also dealing with the Green Sea Turtle. With the much-heightened environmental conservation sentiments of 1973, the current Bill and Resolutions should stand a very good chance of passage.

I personally would additionally like to thank you for the present introduction of H.B. 246: relating to environmental preservation and (amended) functions of the Environmental Council; and wish it a smooth passage through the Legislature, also.

Your long-standing, and continued, concern for the best possible preservation of all of our Hawaiian natural resources is extremely heartening to us all. May we all wish you the continued best of fortune in this and all other matters !

Sincerely,

Alan C. Ziegler
Vertebrate Zoologist

JOHN A. BURNS
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

LIBRARY OF
GEORGE H. BALAZS



DIVISIONS:
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME

1179 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 5, 1973



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MEMORANDUM

To : Members, Animal Species Advisory Commission

From : Ronald J. Endrizal, Chairman

Subject: March Meeting of the Animal Species Advisory Commission

The March meeting of the Animal Species Advisory Commission will be held on Friday, March 9, 1973, beginning at 1:00 p. m., in the conference room, 4th floor of the Bishop Museum.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of February meeting.
2. Report on Access Road to Mauna Kea Observatory -- by Mrs. Gay.
3. Notice of public hearing and news release regarding Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve, Maui, on March 12, 1973, 7:00 p. m.
4. Notice of public hearing and preliminary draft on Regulation 23 relating to game mammal hunting on Hawaii on March 19, 1973, 7:30 p. m.
5. Notice of public hearing regarding Wilderness Proposal on April 14, 1973, 9:00 a. m.
6. Reimplementation of Mouflon sheep hybridization project on Mauna Kea -- by Ron Walker.
7. Status report on Fish and Wildlife Comprehensive Plan revision.
8. Proposed legislation.
9. Progress report on green sea turtle regulation.

March 5, 1973

Purchase orders for neighbor island members' air travel are attached.



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(for)

Lillian A. Nishikawa

RONALD J. ENDRIZAL, Chairman
Animal Species Advisory Commission

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In

- attachments:
- February 1973 minutes
 - Purchase orders for airlines
 - Copy of 2/20/73 letter to legislative committee chairmen
re: turtle legislation
 - Public hearing notice and Reg. 7 relating to Ahihi-Kinau, NARS
 - Public hearing notice on wilderness proposal
 - Board submittal of 2/23/73 regarding Reg. 23 public hearing
 - Legislative bills: HB 636, 642, 814, 826, 827, 828, 829, 940, 983, 984
HR 130, 170, 213, 241, 248
SB 385, 576, 739, 758; SCR 14

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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ANSON CHONG

Vice-Chairman:
Water/Land Use & Development
Public Employment

Member:
Finance
Labor
Tourism
Agriculture

To: The Green Turtle People July 20, 1973
From: Anson Chong
Subj: New Developments to protect the Green
Sea Turtle

Animal Species Advisory Commission adopts protective
regulation

The efforts of Dr. Frank Radovsky and Dr. Alan Ziegler of the Advisory Commission has produced a draft regulation to protect the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle. The Commission adopted the regulation on July 13th. The entire text of the meat of the regulation is enclosed seperately.

Administrative Procedures to get the regulation officially adopted

Today or early next week, the draft regulation will be send to the Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee of each county. The Governor appoints the members of each county committee, but the Chairman of the County Committees are automatically on the Advisory Commission. Hence, there should be a minimum of hassles at the county committee level.

If the county committees have no strong objection to the regulation, the Fish & Game Division will ask the Board of the Department of Land & Natural Resources for permission to hold public hearings. If approval is granted, the Fish & Game Division will hold the public hearings after adequate advertising in local papers are placed. Twenty days following public hearings (to give the public adequate time to provide feedback to the Fish & Games Division on the regulation), a report is submitted to the Animal Species Advisory Commission which must again approve or disapprove. Simultaneously, the Attorney General's office will render an opinion on its constitutionality.

If everything is okay at this point, the regulation is submitted to the Board of Land & Natural Resources for final approval, and if it is approved, the Governor must sign it & transmit it to the Lt. Governor for filing. Ten days after filing, it becomes a regulation with the full force of law. Keep an eye out for the hearing dates! So will my office!

###

draft regulation relating to THE PROTECTION OF MARINE TURTLES
 Adopted by the Animal Species Advisory Commission on July 13, 1973.
 Introduced by Dr. Frank Radovsky, Commissioner. Also pushed strongly
 by Dr. Alan Ziegler, Commissioner.

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful to mutilate, injure, take, kill, possess or sell or offer to sell leatherback turtles (*Demochelys* sp.), hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys* sp.) and green sea turtles (*Chelonia* sp.) or any parts thereof or the eggs thereof from or within the State of Hawaii and waters subject to its jurisdiction except as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. Any marine turtle caught within the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii may be used for scientific, propagation or other purposes approved by the Board of Land & Natural Resources and with a permit issued in accordance with Sections 187-4 and 190-4. Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision of this regulation to the contrary and except as prohibited by any other rule, regulation or law, green sea turtles having an upper shell measurement of 36 inches (straight line measurement) or more may be taken for home consumption from or within the waters under the jurisdiction of the State surrounding the eight major islands (Hawaii, Maui, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai and Niihau) provided that a permit is first obtained from the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Any turtle caught, taken or possessed through the provision of this section shall be kept whole or unbutchered while in transit over sea or land from the fishing area to the permittee's residence.

SECTION 4. It shall be unlawful to use nets for the taking of green sea turtles.

SECTION 5. Any person violating the provisions of this regulation shall be fined \$100 or imprisoned not more than 30 days or both.

Current Members, Animal Species Advisory Commission	Expiration Dates of terms
Mr. Ronald J. Endrizal (Chairman)	12/31/74
Mr. Michio Takata (Division, Fish & Game)	
Dr. Garth I. Murphy	12/31/73
Dr. Alan C. Ziegler	12/31/76
Dr. Andrew Berger	12/31/75
Dr. John W. Beardsley	12/31/73
Dr. Frank J. Radovsky	12/31/75
Mrs. Ruth Aline Gay	12/31/76
Dr. Wilbert Y.K. Yee	12/31/73
Mr. Earl J. Pacheco	- " -
Mr. Philip M. Yamagata	- " -



From the Office of
 ANSON CHONG
 State Capitol, Suite 305
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
 Phone 548-4183

ANSON CHONG

FOR: The Green Turtle People August 28th, 1973
From: Anson Chong 

Vice-Chairman:
Water/Land Use & Development
Public Employment

Subj: Monthly Green Turtle & other news

Member:
Finance
Labor
Tourism
Agriculture

Green Turtle Regulation hearings set for September 21st

Public hearings for the draft regulation to protect Hawaii's Green Sea turtle (see our July 20th newsletter for the full text of the regulation) are scheduled for Friday, September 21st, 1973, 7:30 p.m. at the Bishop Museum Conference Room. Please activate your group to present testimony at that time! And encourage your friends too!

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GEORGE H. BAJAZ



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Save Hawaii's Reef fishes

Another controversy that has developed over the summer is the concern over commercial exploitation of Hawaii's reef marine life. The very active and akamai State Animal Species Advisory Commission (see our July 20th newsletter which lists the names of these dedicated, unpaid individuals) has recommended to the State Department of Land & Natural Resources, Fish & Game Division, that aquarium fish permits be issued only "for purposes of propagation, public display, education or research relating to such unique, colorful and highly vulnerable species."

Aquarium fish permits expire on September 30th and anyone who wants to help support the Animal Species Advisory Commission recommendation could write to the Director of the Fish & Game Division to let him know of his or her stance. His address: Mr. Michio Takata, Director, Division of Fish & Game, 1179 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Wildlife Management of Hawaii under critical review

A detailed memo. by the Animal Species Advisory Commission to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Washington, D.C. dated July 16th, documents potential inadequacies of current State wildlife management programs. While the memo. is too long to reproduce here, the summation is worth noting:

"...We believe that the Bureau should insist that the Hawaii State Division of Fish & Game review and revise its philosophy of operation so that it will accord with the spirit and letter of both State and Federal laws, regulations, and resolutions regarding the protection of rare and endangered species and the enhancement ... of habitat for all wildlife. With the initiative, advice, and aid of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, this can be accomplished ..."

Note: A copy of this lengthy memo. can be read at my office anytime. Copies were also sent to the Congressional delegation, the Governor, the Assistant Interior Secretary, all members of the State Board of Land & Natural Resources, all members of the Animal Species Advisory Commission, Rep. Jean King (Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee), and others.

*****see you on the 21st of September at the Bishop Museum,

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM

Mr. George H. Balazs P.O. Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 • Telephone 847-3511

24 June 1975

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Dear George,

LIBRARY OF
GEORGE H. BALAZS



The turtle meat question was on an ASAC agenda last Friday. Kenji Igo presented the enclosed report. The only logical response was a clear thanks and praise on a good job of predicting.

I did bring up question, as once before, of providing ASAC with names of those places stocking turtle - ie restaurants - so that we might help "police". Mitch's response was that if we note any restaurant selling turtle, we should call them. I said "That few?" and he nodded.

It would appear that control of commercial turtle sales is now pretty good shape.

Best regards,

Frank

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Monthly break-down in pounds of remaining Turtle Meat acquired prior to May 30, 1974 by Island.

Year	MAUI	HAWAII	KAUAI	MOLOKAI	OAHU
1974					
MAY	3901	1200	500	306	20
JUNE	3725	1200	400	0	20
JULY	3517	1200	350		20
AUG	3269	1140	275		0
SEPT	2877	600	200		
OCT	2243	500	40		
NOV	0	300	0		
DEC		200			
1975					
JAN		175			
FEB		150			
MAR		110			
APRIL		75			
MAY		50*			
JUNE					

* Checked and weighed by enforcement officer

typed 6/19/75