

CHINA/USA

SAMPLE
INVITATION
LETTER

2 May 2014

Dr. Tien Hsi CHEN
Institute of Wildlife Conservation and Technology
National Pingtung University of Science and Technology
Taiwan

Dear Dr. Tien Hsi CHEN:

On behalf of the NMFS Pacific Islands and Southwest Fisheries Science Centers, we invite you to participate in a Workshop on Sea Turtle Foraging Ecology and Health Assessment August 25-28, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The goal of the workshop is to promote meaningful information exchange, share research techniques on sea turtle foraging ecology and health, and strengthen collaboration among Chinese and U.S. scientists. We expect that this workshop will help foster long-term collaboration to promote the recovery of sea turtle populations in the China region.

Understanding the causes of disease and mortality are critical for determining why sea turtle populations may fluctuate. Further, learning about foraging ecology can help identify important marine habitats and foods for sea turtles, and thus pinpoint essential coastal areas for conservation and management efforts. The workshop will rely on acquiring "hands-on" experience to consolidate practical techniques in collecting baseline information about sea turtles for conservation. We also expect that participants can reinforce the communication network for better management of the migratory sea turtles.

The tentative agenda of this 4-day meeting follows:

- Day 1 - Presentations and Discussions by China participants and the U.S. (NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey).
- Day 2 - Demonstrations of turtle necropsies by experts, including lavage sampling for diet contents. Practice sessions for necropsies by those participants wishing to do so.
- Day 3 - Field work at a nearby study site to capture free-ranging live turtles to tag, health screen, and collect samples, including lavage diet samples. Activities to encompass the operation and enhancement of a turtle stranding network.
- Day 4 - Discuss days 1-3 and arrive at conclusions and recommendations for future China/NOAA and USGS turtle joint activities.

Thank you for considering this invitation and we look forward to seeing you at this important workshop. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are able to attend. If you have any questions, please contact us at your convenience.



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