From: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU> on behalf of honu world <itsahonuworldinhawaii@HOTMAIL.COM>
Sent: Saturday, December 18, 2021 11:03 PM
To: CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU <CTURTLE@LISTS.UFL.EDU>
Subject: [CTURTLE] Indigenous Australians Have the Right to Use Natural Resources from Land or Water for Traditional Purposes Within Their Traditional Country

CTurtlers- I am grateful to Col Limpus for sharing the following statement with us. Some folks aren't aware of this important point, or they are unclear about it. All indigenous people of Oceania, including here in Hawaii and the USA Territories (Guam, CNMI, & Am. Samoa), should have this same right, as indigenous Australians have, of self-determining traditional use in a self-regulated community manner that strives for sustainability. George Balazs

"In Australia, under native title legislation an indigenous Australian has the right to use natural resources for traditional purposes within their traditional country (land or water). This legislation overrides the commonwealth and State conservation legislation . As a consequence, traditional owners of country do not answer to conservation agencies with respect to the use of wildlife for traditional purposes within their traditional country.

It is therefore inappropriate to imply anything “illegal” with respect to indigenous use of wildlife for traditional purposes within their own country within Australia. And taking wildlife for food and for other customary activities is therefore their right.

“traditional use” is all that is required to define these within Australia.

As I understand it a very similar situation exists within Papua New Guinea."

Dr Col LIMPUS, AO PSM
Chief Scientific Officer
Aquatic Threatened Species Program
Wildlife and Threatened Species Operations / QPWS & Partnerships
Department of Environment and Science

Ph: 0427 002 633; col.limpus@des.qld.gov.au

Adjunct Associate Professor,
School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland.
Adjunct Associate Professor,
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, James Cook University.
Adjunct Associate Professor
Griffith Uiversity

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><> To leave the CTURTLE list, send a message to: listserv@LISTS.UFL.EDU with the message: signoff CTURTLE
If you experience difficulty, send an email to: CTURTLE-request@LISTS.UFL.EDU <><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>