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for
Ross*

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 18, 1973

Mr. George Balazs
Animal Nutritionist
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744


Dear Mr. Balazs:

Many thanks for your letter of January 15, with the material on marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands and your proposals for protecting them. In general the amended version of the proposed legislation seems good. Personally, I would prefer to see a complete moratorium on the taking of all sea turtles throughout the Hawaiian Islands until a careful survey of breeding, feeding and basking populations could be made. This no doubt entered your deliberations, however, so I judge the proposed regulations are simply the strongest you and Dr. Radovsky believe you can swing at present. In any case your proposal would clearly bring a great improvement over the present situation.

To an outsider like myself, the most conspicuous aspects of the Hawaiian sea turtle situation are the dramatic gaps in present nesting distribution, and the decline the species must have undergone there during the past century. I believe that you failed to mention anywhere that the hawksbill, which by the way is mainly carnivorous in most of its range, is classed as an endangered species by the Survival Service Commission of the IUCN.

I am very glad to see this awakening of interest in Hawaiian sea turtles and hope you will be given the support you need.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

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