

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOHE, HAWAII 96744

October 22, 1982

Mr. John Forehan
Stockbrands Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 September along with the sample of tags. We are indeed interested in your superior Titanium tag for sea turtles. I am somewhat familiar with their trial use in Australia, but did not know that they have been used in the United States. Would you please let me know what project in the U.S. used them and what results were obtained. Also, could these Titanium tags be made in a one-third to one-half smaller size of the same design? If so, what would the price be? Is there a minimum number that must be ordered?

Thank you for your continuing help with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Larry Ogren
Jack Woody
George Hughes

BALAZS, G. 1982

BALAZS, G. 1983 - 1984

BALAZS 1983



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

October 8, 1982

Dr. Don Moll
Associate Professor of Biology
Department of Life Sciences
Southwest Missouri State University
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Don:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 15th and the various interesting reprints that you sent.

While in general I support the broad objectives that you mentioned for a proposed research program in the South Pacific, I am hesitant to write a formal letter of endorsement as an officer of the Marine Turtle Group. For one thing, my position in the Group is Deputy Chairman (assistant to Dr. Carr), not Co-Chairman as you wrote in your letter. Any endorsements under the title of the Group should therefore appropriately come only from Dr. Carr's office. Also, in my view, it would be better suited to obtain letters of support after you have composed a full draft proposal and sent it out for review to Dr. Carr and others. There is no question in my mind that you have superb credentials for research and publication, but I do think letters of support should be aimed at a written proposal that contains some detail of the objectives and methods. Especially in the case of a 2-3 year study.

I am writing this letter from Samoa, so am unable to send you copies of my three papers/reports that you requested. However, I will make copies and mail them to you just as soon as I return to Honolulu in a few weeks. I will not be attending the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, but hope to be at the WATS gathering in Costa Rica in July of next year.

I look forward to meeting you in person one of these days in the not-too-distant future so we can discuss all of our common interests in sea turtles.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs (M.S.)
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

September 14, 1982

Mr. K. Gilbey Hewlett
Curator
Vancouver Public Aquarium
P. O. Box 3232
Vancouver, B. C.
Canada V6B 3X8

Dear Mr. Hewlett:

Thank you for your letter of April 6, 1982 informing me that two of the Hawaiian green turtles shipped to Vancouver in 1956 are still living. I was indeed pleased to learn this fact. I am currently making some inquiries to other sea turtle researchers, however at this time it certainly appears to me that 26 years is a longevity record for Chelonia mydas in captivity. I will provide you with more information on this subject as soon as it becomes available.

Because we know the approximate size of the turtles when you received them, it would be valuable to have accurate measurements of the straight-line length of the carapace taken along the midline (see attached). Calipers are needed for the measurement. If calipers are not available, then a flexible measuring tape placed over the curve of the carapace is the next best measurement. I am uncertain how the measurements were taken that were listed in your letter. Perhaps you could clarify this important point for me. Green turtles that are 24" in carapace length would normally weigh about half of what was listed (100 and 140 lbs). Also, I would greatly appreciate knowing the approximate average temperature of the sea water of the turtle's tank.

Again, I want to thank you for your help with this inquiry. I look forward to hearing from you again when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

September 14, 1982

Mr. Asaeli Bale
Sukuni
Ono ilau Island
Lau, FIJI ISLANDS

Dear Mr. Asaeli Bale:

Dr. Archie Carr, my friend and fellow researcher at the University of Florida, has told me about the turtle you caught on Christmas Day of 1980 that had tag no. T755 attached to it. I study sea turtles here in the Hawaiian Islands and I would be very interested to learn more about turtles and catching turtles, at ono ilau. Are turtles very plentiful? Do they lay their eggs on the sand beaches of your island? How many different kinds of turtles do you have? How do you catch and cook them? Have you ever found other tags on turtles?

If you still have tag no. T755, I would like to request that you send it to me so I can have the metal examined for corrosion. If you are willing to do this favor for me, please flatten out the tag and wrap it securely for mailing. If you wish, I will mail the tag back to you after it has been examined.

I have enclosed a color identification poster that shows the different kinds of sea turtles. Please accept this from me as a small gift.

Thank you for your kind help. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOHE, HAWAII 96744

September 14, 1982

Mr. Christer Friberg
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Dear Christer:

This morning I had a pleasant and interesting discussion with Elisabeth Weinstein, who is here in Hawaii with her doctor husband Stephen for advanced studies. In her spare time, Elisabeth has been taking care of several sea turtles that are being held at the laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. She seems very much interested in turtles and came to me for information relating to the Solomons, their next destination after Hawaii.

During our visit, Elisabeth mentioned that a very large shell from a green turtle is attached to the wall of a building (or church?) at Penrhyn. If and when your time permits, would you please measure the total length of this shell for me? I would be interested to learn just how big it is. If you know approximately how long ago it was caught, I would also appreciate that information.

Thank you for your help with this request. I hope that you received the report on Tokelau sea turtles that I mailed to you last week. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

September 10, 1982

Dr. Gerry P. Reyes
Assistant Director
Task Force Pawikan
Natural Resources Management Center
Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I regret that I missed seeing both you and Dr. Ramos during your recent visit to Honolulu. Under separate cover, I am sending several reprints dealing with my recent research of sea turtles here in Hawaii. If there is any way that I can help the Task Force Pawikan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

September 10, 1982

Mr. Paul Harada
Kalaupapa, Molokai 96742

Dear Mr. Harada:

You will probably recall that I wrote to you a couple years ago concerning your knowledge of sea turtles at Kalaupapa. I greatly appreciated the information that you sent me at that time.

The enclosed identification poster showing the different kinds of sea turtles was recently issued by the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service. I thought that you would like to have one for use at Kalaupapa. I am still interested in receiving sighting reports, so have also enclosed a supply of forms with the appropriate map.

I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to visit Kalaupapa and meet you in person.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

September 10, 1982

Paul Callaghan
Dept. of Economics
Univ. of Guam
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96913

Dear Paul:

Thanks for your letter and thoughtful suggestions about my upcoming study on the economics of the precious coral industry. Your suggestion on wage structure and operational costs are excellent. Odd that I didn't think of doing this before since as you point out it is really the first side of the cost/benefit equation. Thanks very much for the ideas; I will definitely try and fill in the whole picture this time.

As for Tewid, I'm afraid I have bad news. I have gone through all of my Palau slides and alas, no Tewid. I either loaned it out or it got lost in my filing system or I should say non-system. Anyway I'll keep looking and, if successful, you'll be the first to know.

With Aloha,

Richard W. Grigg
Associate Marine Biologist

EWG:md

cc: Wadsworth Yee

September 9, 1982

Mr. Steve Omar
Surfing Writer
The Maui News
P. O. Box 550
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

Dear Mr. Omar:

I am interested in collecting records of shark attacks in the Hawaiian Islands in order to eventually update the enclosed article that I authored last year. In past years, there have been several cases of shark bites on the outer islands that have not been reported in the Honolulu newspapers. Consequently, I would appreciate any help that you can offer in calling my attention to cases occurring on Maui.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

September 9, 1982

Mr. Sam Lee
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 1671
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Lee:

Mr. Don Heacock of Aquatic Resources passed on to me the information you gave him about sea turtles along the Kaunakani-Kikiuloa coastline of Kauai. I appreciated learning these facts and I am writing to thank you for your assistance. There are undoubtedly many things that you could tell me about your diving experiences with sea turtles. I look forward to meeting you in person one of these days so we can talk about these adventures. In the meantime, could you please write me a short note concerning the following questions.

1. Did you ever find metal tags attached to a turtle?
2. What was the most common size turtle (approximate weight) of the turtles you saw in this coastal area?
3. What depth were most turtles seen sleeping in caves in this coastal area?
4. Did you ever see any other species of turtles besides the green turtle (honu)?

I thought that you might like to have the enclosed identification poster showing the various species that occur throughout the world.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

September 9, 1982

Dr. Robert Guss
Center for Coastal Marine Studies
University of California
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Dear Dr. Guss:

I recently had the opportunity to read a report you authored that contained records of sea turtles seen off the coast of northern California. I would be interested to learn if you know of similar documentations for the coastal waters of southern California? Any information or references that you can offer on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

September 9, 1982

Mr. Koichi Masaki
Box 236
Waimea, Kauai 96796

Dear Mr. Masaki:

Thank you very much for the letter you sent me last April 7 concerning your knowledge of sea turtles on Kauai. I greatly appreciated the information you gave me. I was looking forward to meeting you in person here in Honolulu, but I never heard from you. When you do travel to Oahu again, please telephone me at 946-2181. I have an office at the National Marine Fisheries Service on Dole Street where it would be convenient for us to meet and talk more about sea turtles.

In your letter, you mentioned that turtles used to go on the beaches at Waini, and possibly Nualolo Kai and Milolii. Can you please tell me if the turtles were on the beaches to lay eggs, or were they just coming up to sleep? Did the ones you caught at these places have shelled eggs inside them? Also, how big was the largest turtle you ever caught? Did you ever catch any other species besides the green turtle?

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

September 9, 1982

International Turtle and Tortoise Foundation
P. O. Box 125
8700 AC Bolwærd
The Netherlands

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to ask if you would be interested in publishing an article in your journal (or newsletter) that lists all known postage stamps that depict sea turtles. Dr. Edgardo Gomez and I will soon have this paper completed and we are looking for a suitable place to have it published.

We look forward to your response and helpful suggestions.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

nik



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 15, 1983

Mr. Richard Parsons
Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 3654
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Parsons:

I am submitting this letter as testimony in strong opposition, on scientific grounds, to the Services' Notice of Intent to once again consider allowing the commercial importation of maricultured sea turtle products into the United States (Federal Register, vol 48, no 1, Jan. 3, 83). For the past 11 years I have been the principal researcher of sea turtles here in the Hawaiian Islands. For the past 5 years I have been a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN. In 1974 I served on a task force convened by IUCN to examine the commercial exploitation of sea turtles, with special emphasis on mariculture. I have visited the Cayman Island facility twice on fact-finding missions. My personal library contains a comprehensive historical record of correspondence and published and unpublished reports dealing with sea turtle mariculture, especially for Cayman Island. In 1977 I served as a special consultant to the South Pacific Commission to constructively review their experimental sea turtle farming project in Fiji and the Cook Islands. In 1979 I attended the CITES conference held in San Jose, Costa Rica. In 1979 I also served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, which was sponsored in part by the Services. At this conference I presented two scientific papers covering the status and natural growth rates of sea turtles in the Pacific. At this same conference several other papers were presented dealing with sea turtle mariculture. A special session on the subject was held which included talks by present and past owners and scientific personnel of the Cayman farm. I have studied these materials, along with all others that have subsequently become available. It is with this informed professional foundation that I voice my opposition to the Notice of Intent issued by the Services. Briefly stated, my principal reasons are as follows.

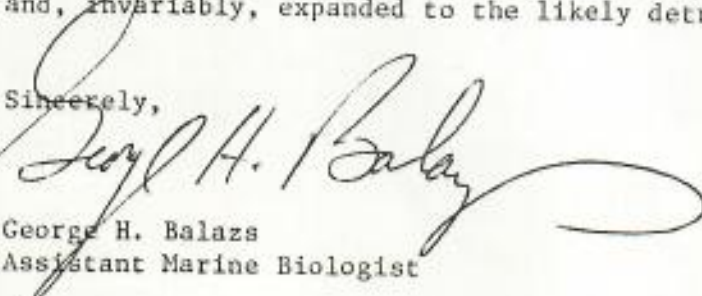
1. The question of whether or not the U.S. should allow commercial import of sea turtle products, including those from mariculture, has already been comprehensively reviewed within the recent past, both administratively and by the judiciary. A complete Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by the Services. The conclusion reached in each case has been to prohibit import. The Services themselves arrived at this decision after much time, expense, and scientific input from staff biologists and the public. There is

consequently no valid need to review the question again at present. There is nothing contained in the Federal Register Notice of Intent, or the ranching proposals submitted to CITES, to justify another review. No new scientific or economic information has surfaced since the last review was undertaken. The biologists and economists of the Services must surely be aware of this fact.

2. The Cayman Turtle Farm is still not a "farm" under the scientific and legal definition of being a closed-cycled operation. Recent assurances by the company's personnel that the operation is closed-cycled are not supported by scientific fact. Furthermore, it now appears even more unlikely that it will achieve this status anytime in the foreseeable future. In making this judgement I have relied solely on the available scientific data relating to the Farm's reproductive record. This same record is on file with the Services in the form of testimonies submitted by the Environmental Defense Fund and the Center for Environmental Education. The Cayman Turtle Farm does not fulfill the definition established by CITES. This definition is scientifically clear, and no real confusion exists on the subject as implied in your Notice of Intent.

3. If maricultured products are allowed back into the U.S., it is my scientific judgement that there will be a high probability of wild populations of Threatened and Endangered sea turtles being further jeopardized. The Environmental Impact Statement that would have to be prepared on this action would undoubtedly arrive at this same conclusion, as is contained in the original Environmental Impact Statement. There are currently no "established" commercial markets for sea turtle products in the United States. Consequently, markets will have to be redeveloped and, invariably, expanded to the likely detriment of wild sea turtles.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

January 14, 1982

Director
ARAMCO
Department of Loss Prevention and
Environmental Affairs
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Dear Sir:

As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am interested in learning about studies that are being conducted by your company on sea turtles in the Arabian Gulf. In your fine book entitled "Biotopes of the Western Arabian Gulf", there is mention of tagging being undertaken on Karan Island. I would like to correspond with the researcher doing this work.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

January 14, 1982

Ms. Cynthia Minarik
Apartado Postal 188
Choluteca, Choluteca
Honduras, Central America

Dear Cynthia:

Jack Woody recently sent me copies of the letters you exchanged relating to sea turtles in Honduras. At this time, I have nothing to add to Jack's excellent response to your inquiry. However, I would very much like to receive a copy of the letter you send to Jack answering his questions.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 14, 1982

Shirley Maina
Scientific Event Alert Network
National Museum of Natural History
Mail Stop 129
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Ms. Maina:

The following information relates to a dead green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) that I found floating at Pier 40, Honolulu Harbor, Island of Oahu, Hawaii.

- Date - 12 January 1982
- Straight carapace length - 67 cm
- Condition - slightly decomposed with extensive tumors (fibropapillomas) present on proximal areas of both front flippers
- Injuries - none
- Cause of death - Unknown
- Ectoparasites - 3 *Chelonibia* and numerous *Platylepas*

The stomach and intestines were filled with food material consisting principally of the green alga, *Ulva*. Except for a sample of the stomach contents, the specimen was not retained.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 14, 1982

Mr. Rene Sylva
P. O. Box
Paia, Maui, Hawaii

Dear Rene:

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to give me your views on the enclosed letters relating to the capture and use of turtles by Hawaiians. Any information or comments that you can offer on this subject will be greatly appreciated and beneficial to helping me formulate an enlightened opinion.

Best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:mf

Enclosures

Department of the Army
Page Two
January 14, 1982

I appreciate having the opportunity to review this FEIS.

Sincerely,

January 14, 1982

George H. Salas
Assistant Marine Biologist

Department of the Army
U. S. Army Engineer District Honolulu
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858
at: U.S. Environmental Center

Dear Sirs:

The following comments and questions are being submitted in relation to the "Final Detailed Project Report and Environmental Statement for the Kaulana Bay Navigation Improvements Study."

1. The results of the formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are not contained in the FEIS as would be expected. Will an addendum to the FEIS covering this important evaluation be prepared and distributed to the consulted parties?
2. The FEIS does not contain a written response to the testimony submitted by Mr. Susumu Ono of the Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources (page B-26). In view of the fact that nearly all other letters of testimony were answered in the FEIS, why was a response not included for Mr. Ono's concerns?
3. Nestings by the hawksbill sea turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) are known to occur at several sites along the Kau coast. These occurrences are listed in the paper "Terrestrial Critical Habitat for Sea Turtles under United States Jurisdiction in the Pacific Region" which I authored in October of 1978. The FEIS makes no mention of the presence of this endangered species.
4. Kaulualu Bay on the Kau coast has historically been an important aggregate foraging site for green turtles. An adult female that I captured and tagged at Kaulualu in May of 1977 was found two years later nesting on East Island at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Department of the Army
Page Two
January 14, 1982

I appreciate having the opportunity to review this FEIS.

Sincerely,

January 14, 1982

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

Department of the Army
mk 5, Army Engineer District Honolulu
cc: U.H. Environmental Center

Dear Sirs:

The following comments and questions are being submitted in relation to the "Final Detailed Project Report and Environmental Statement for the Kaula Bay Navigation Improvements Study."

1. The results of the formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are not contained in the FEIS as would be expected. Will an addendum to the FEIS covering this important evaluation be prepared and distributed to the consulted parties?
2. The FEIS does not contain a written response to the testimony submitted by Mr. Sumuru Ono of the Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources (page 8-26). In view of the fact that nearly all other letters of testimony were answered in the FEIS, why was a response not included for Mr. Ono's concerns?
3. Nestings by the hawksbill sea turtle (*Trachemys labialis*) are known to occur at several sites along the Kau coast. These occurrences are listed in the paper "Terrestrial Critical Habitat for Sea Turtles under United States Jurisdiction in the Pacific Region" which I authored in October of 1978. The FEIS makes no mention of the presence of this endangered species.
4. Kaula Bay on the Kau coast has historically been an important aggregate foraging site for green turtles. An adult female that I captured and tagged at Kaula in May of 1977 was found two years later nesting on East Island at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

January 11, 1982

Mr. Rene Marquez M.
Apdo Postal 79-052 Col. Doctores
Mexico 7, D.F.

Dear Rene:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled
"Anidacion de la tortuga land en el Pacifico Mexicano."

Thank you for your assistance, and best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. J. Fretey
Museum National d'Histoire
Naturelle (Reptiles et Amphibiens)
57 rue Cuvier
F-75005 Paris, FRANCE

Dear Dr. Fretey:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of your articles entitled "Predation des tortues marines par les oiseaux en Guyane francaise" and "Predation des nids de tortues luth par les chiens des villages indiens galibi en guyane francaise."

Thank you for your assistance. Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIRAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. S. Howlett
WWF/IUCN
Gland, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Howlett:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article
entitled "Pakistan's turtles nest on holiday beaches."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 11, 1982

Dr. J. A. Ogden
Department of Surgery (Orthopedics)
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Dear Dr. Ogden:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled
"Pathobiology of septic arthritis and contiguous osteomyelitis in a
leatherback turtle."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. B. Y. Chen
Department of Biomorphics
National Defense Medical Center
Taipei 107, TAIWAN

Dear Dr. Chen:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Hemoglobin fingerprint correspondence and relationships of turtles."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 11, 1982

Dr. S. C. Rabalais
University of Texas
Marine Science Institute
Port Aransas Marine Laboratory
Port Aransas, Texas 78373

Dear Dr. Rabalais:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "The occurrence of sea turtles on the south Texas coast."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. H. R. Bustard
Central Crocodile Breeding
& Management Training Institute
Rajendranagar Road
Hyderabad, INDIA

Dear Dr. Bustard:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of your articles
entitled "Turtle farming and conservation of green turtles"
and "Annual nesting of the Pacific Ridley sea turtle."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. R. Duguay
Museum de la Rochelle
28 rue Albert 1^{er}
La Rochelle 1700, FRANCE

Dear Dr. Duguay:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Observations de tartues luth sur les cotes de France en 1980."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1982

Dr. C. McCarthy
Department of Zoology
British Museum (Natural History)
London SW7, United Kingdom

Dear Dr. McCarthy:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article
entitled "Turtle remains from a late 18th century well at
Leadenhall Buildings."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 11, 1982

Dr. O. A. Flores-Villela
Universidad Nacional
Autonoma de Mexico
Mexico D.F., Mexico

Dear Dr. Flores-Villela:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your thesis entitled "Reptiles de importancia economica en Mexico."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 11, 1981

Dr. J. C. den Hartog
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie
Leiden, The Netherlands

Dear Dr. den Hartog:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Notes on the food of sea turtles: Eretmochelys imbricata and Dermochelys coriacea."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 19, 1963

Mr. Lindsey Faye, Jr.
Kekaha Sugar Company
Box AA
Kekaha, Kauai 96752

Dear Mr. Faye:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with any historical information on the occurrence of sea turtles along the Na Pali coast or elsewhere on Kauai. A couple of years ago when I met Linda Collins at Aloha Magazine she gave me your name and address and suggested I contact you about this subject. She felt that you would have interesting information based on your own personal observations made over the years. I regret that it has taken me so long to write to you.

The general kinds of information that I am interested in are as follows: approximate numbers and locations of especially large groups of turtles; locations of nesting (egg laying); evidence of historical declines, increases or other population changes; and descriptions of catching methods known to have been used on Kauai. Virtually anything along these lines that you can relate to me would be most appreciated.

I have enclosed several items on sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

typed on 2/25/83
(dept certified)

Federal Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sirs:

The enclosed report entitled "Recovery records of adult green turtles observed or originally tagged at French Frigate Shoals, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands" is being submitted to your office in compliance with the reporting requirements of my 1983 Permit No. PRT 2-3593.

I would like to request a renewal of the permit at this time. All information and conditions in the original application are correct and should remain the same, except for the following:

1. The name and title of the Principal Officer of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is now Dr. Philip Helfrich, Director.
2. In condition nos. 3,4 and 6, landings on Trig Is. at French Frigate Shoals should also be allowed for the purpose of occasionally tagging basking turtles in a "least disturbance" manner. This has always been allowed in the past, and perhaps was an oversight on my part when the previous application was submitted. There is virtually no pupping of monk seals on Trig Island.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

February 11, 1983

Mr. Derek Green
Texas Memorial Museum
2400 Trinity
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

I have painted numbers on the shells of adult male and female green turtles each June for the past 10 years at French Frigate Shoals. I use Dupong Lucite spray paint - usually white, light blue or light green. The numbers are irregular in shape and size due to the nature of using spray cans that frequently clog or otherwise malfunction under field conditions. The numbers are almost always painted on the 2nd and/or 3rd lateral scutes on both the left and right sides. A photo showing eight basking turtles with painted numbers in various states of wear appears on pages 6-7 of the February-March 1983 issue of National Wildlife Magazine. There are also several other photos of Hawaiian greens in this issue in case you're interested. Sometime I would like to see a comparable set of pictures showing Galapagos green turtles. Do you have a few duplicate slides you can send me?

I paint these numbers for short-term easy recognition of turtles basking at French Frigate Shoals. The paint usually stays readable for only about one interesting interval. All of the turtles that receive a painted number also get double or more tags. My use of painted numbers is mentioned on page 6 of my 1980 NOAA-TM "Synopsis of Biological Data...." I believe I sent you a copy of this report.

It would be very surprising indeed to find that one of the greens I number painted and tagged at French Frigate actually traveled to the Galapagos. Please write and tell me more about the turtle you saw in 1978. Was it nesting? What size and sex? What month? Was it healthy, etc.? Tag scars? Most important, do you have a photo?

I hope that all is going well. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Nicholas Mrosovsky

February 11, 1983

Lt. J. G. Donald Delikat
Staff Engineer
Merchant Marine Technical Div. (G-MUI)
Survival Systems Branch
U. S. Coast Guard Building
Washington, D. C. 20593

Dear Lt. Delikat:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your article "IXTOC oil spill and Atlantic ridley survival." If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you also send a copy to:

Mr. Jack Woody
Endangered Species Specialist
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Mr. Woody will undoubtedly be able to answer your questions about hatching success, and other recent data needed for your article update.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 11, 1983

Mr. Gren Lucas, Chairman
Species Survival Commission
c/o Royal Botanic Garden
Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 3AE, ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Lucas:

The copy of your letter to Dr. Archie Carr dated 14 January 1983 just now arrived here in Hawaii. Thank you for sending this material to me. Unfortunately I am writing to ask for some clarification on the list "6.2.2.21 Marine Turtles (Priority Group)." Most of the projects shown on this list are totally unfamiliar to me. Have the projects with dollar values for 1982 actually received funding? If so, I just didn't know that IUCN-funded marine turtle projects existed in India (6.2.2.21.6), Senegal (6.2.2.21.7), Mexico (6.2.2.21.9), French Guyana (6.2.2.21.10), and Thailand (6.2.2.21.12). I have no recollection of reviewing project proposals for these locations, however possibly decisions were made 4 or more years ago before I became actively involved. In any event, I need some additional guidance before I can provide constructive input for the requested review of priorities for marine turtle conservation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Carr

February 10, 1983

Mr. John Forehan
Stockbrands Company, Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

Mr. Richard Croft, Chief Fisheries Officer of Ponape, recently visited with me here in Hawaii to talk about sea turtles and tagging. I told him of Stockbrands ability to manufacture titanium flipper tags in small quantities for about \$1 each. Mr. Croft is interested in ordering about 300 of the small size tags (approx. 8x30 mm) with appropriate numbering and return address inscription. He will also need at least two of the applicator pliers. I told Mr. Croft of our earlier correspondence on this subject, and indicated that I would write to you again on his behalf. At your earliest convenience, would you please provide Mr. Croft with the necessary price quotation, production time, and other details. I know that he is anxious to obtain these tags as soon as possible. His address is:

Mr. Richard Croft
Chief Fisheries Office
Ponape District
Kolonias, Eastern Caroline Is. 96941

Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: R. Croft

January 17, 1983

Mr. Brian Harry
National Park Service
300 Ala Moana Blvd
P. O. Box 50165
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Harry:

I am writing to request information on the boundary lines of areas administered by the National Park Service here in Hawaii. Specifically, I would like to know if any of your areas encompass coastal ocean waters. It has recently come to my attention that the Virgin Islands National Park includes at least several hundred acres of adjacent coastal waters (see attached map). Do similar conditions exist for any of Hawaii's National Parks? Also, can you tell me how many other National Parks throughout the United States include marine areas?

Thank you in advance for any information you are able to offer to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 17, 1983

R. K. Thompson
Consultant Biologist
Camarons Hatchery Co., Ltd.
c/o Mon Tresor Mon Desert S. E.
Union Vale
Mauritius (Indian Ocean)

Dear Rogene:

Many thanks for sending the reprint of your article about a green turtle nesting on Mauritius. It was very interesting. Yes, I recall that we did meet briefly way back in 1974. I am pleased to learn that your work with prawn diets is going so well. My studies in this field phased out in about 1975. It was a timely shift to more exciting work with wild populations of animals (sea turtles).

I really would appreciate hearing from you again if there are any further developments with sea turtles on Mauritius. Also, if you come across any current papers, reports or information on the Reunion project, I would welcome copies being sent to me.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balszs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 17, 1983

Mr. D. S. Delikat
National Response Center
U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Delikat:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "LIXTOX I Oil Spill and Atlantic Ridley Survival" which I understand appears in Volume 1 of "Coastal Zone '80" " edited by B. L. Edge. I have been unable to obtain your paper through other sources. Thank you for your help with this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 29, 1982

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville 4810 Australia

Dear Col:

Recently while looking over existing information on Pacific turtle migrations, as they relate to New Caledonia, I noticed that Anne Meylan's Conference paper lists the Bustard (1974) report of a loggerhead tagged at Mon Repos subsequently recovered in New Caledonia. You will recall that in your letter to me of 10 March 1980 you indicated that Bustard's records were something of a mess, and that the loggerhead movement should not be shown as coming from Mon Repos. I don't know if you informed Anne of this, but it does present something of a dilemma for those of us citing papers on Pacific turtle movements. Do we quote Bustard as written for Mon Repos to New Caledonia? Or should we list a "personal communication" from you saying Bustard was mistaken? If we ignore the whole thing, it could be interpreted as doing sloppy literature research by having missed that particular loggerhead movement. The problem needs to be corrected in some manner. Possibly the best avenue would be for you to specifically make the correction in one of your own future publications. Please give this suggestion some consideration.

I imagine that you have now seen Mary Mendonca's Journal of Herpetology paper on growth rates. Overall, it's certainly a fine and welcome contribution to the literature. I was, however, surprised to see that she did not reference the early tag and recapture growth work of Schmidt, and also Carr and Caldwell 1956. These were key studies deserving of recognition. In addition, shortly after the Washington Conference I sent Lew Ehrhart and Mary a copy of the growth paper that I presented. Sorry to see it wasn't mentioned, but I guess that's part of the price one pays when proceedings aren't issued shortly after the event.

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
Page Two
January 29, 1982

I hope that you are having a good turtle season, with lots of tags being applied. Were your Titanium tags made in time?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: Anne Meylan

January 27, 1982

Chief, Permit Branch
Federal Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 3654
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Sir:

In compliance with Condition 12 of sea turtle permit PRT 2-3593, I am sending you three reports which provide detailed results of our Hawaiian research program through 1981.

Request for the renewal of this permit for 1982 is respectfully requested. I hereby certify that the information contained in the original application is still correct.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

Enclosures:

1. Radio Telemetry of Hawaiian Green Turtles at their Breeding Colony
2. Basking Behavior of the Hawaiian Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
3. Factors Affecting the Retention of Metal Flipper Tags on Sea Turtles

January 27, 1982

Sr. Mario Hurtado
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Box 5918
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Sr. Hurtado:

As a fellow member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely welcome your participation and expertise in our efforts to conserve the world's sea turtle resources. I am confident that you will make valuable contributions over this next three-year period of service. I look forward to meeting you in person when circumstances permit.

In order to make you better aware of my own activities here in Hawaii, I have enclosed several articles and reports of possible interest. I will be sure to send you new items as they become available.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

January 29, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr III
Assistant Director
Animal Research and Conservation Center
Bronx Zoo
Bronx, New York 10460

Dear Chuck:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 11, along with the interesting project proposal by Jonathan Reed. I took the liberty of contacting Dr. Rob Shallenberger, Manager of FWS Refuges throughout Hawaii. Rob is an authority on Procellariiformes and other seabirds. He is familiar with the project on Kauai, and indicated the following to me in a note:

"I think Reed's study is excellent and has substantial potential of contributing to the survival of this species. Unlike most studies with listed species, the results are likely to yield applicable management options (i.e. design of shades/filters, etc.) that can be implemented. Together with our fallout retrieval project and efforts to control predators in colony areas, there is good reason to believe we could put this species back on its feet - unless the mongoose gets firmly established on Kauai. Jon is a very hard worker and Dr. Hailman, in my opinion, is a very sharp scientist with much to offer in the direction of this study. I hope that NYZS can help substantially."

On your question about doubling-up the proposed study with green turtles (hatchlings and/or nesting adults), yes, if the investigators are indeed interested in the problem I am willing to "help out" in whatever way possible. However, at this point, I

Dr. Archie Carr III
Page Two
January 29, 1982

don't feel I have the time (or talent) to be a formal part of such a study. Keep in mind that almost all of our turtle nesting occurs at French Frigate Shoals, some 500 miles from Honolulu. Access to the facility, on Tern Island is by small chartered aircraft costing approximately \$2,300 a flight. Of course, we could get a permit to bring some hatchlings back to Kauai for experimentation at that site. Anyway, whatever is decided in the way of interest, time, funds and expertise by the investigators, you can count on me to be of assistance.

I'm glad you were able to see Colin Limeus in Australia. I have yet to get there, but Col visited with my project here in Hawaii a few years ago. We are something of friendly competitors in our studies of green turtle growth rates. He had best watch close for sting rays when jumping on those turtles at night in shallow water. Two years ago my assistant had a sting ray barb driven into his arm when we were checking a turtle net at 4 a.m. It took a surgeon over an hour to get it out. Luckily it "only" penetrated muscle.

I'll be sending you some turtle papers under separate cover. Best regards. Call me if and when you ever get over here.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: W. King
A. Carr

February 12, 1982

Mr. Leon A. Thevenin
104 Puako Beach Drive
Waimea, Hawaii 96743

Dear Mr. Thevenin:

Your name has come to my attention as an individual having knowledge about the status and usage of marine resources along the Puako coastline. As a biologist that studies Hawaiian sea turtles, I am especially interested in obtaining both current and historical information on turtles in your area. Would you be kind enough to provide me with some personal perspectives of this subject? Were turtles more abundant during former years? Are you aware of any beach sites that were ever used for nesting? I noticed with interest that you referred to indiscriminate netting of turtles at Kiholo in your letter of May 1978 to Hawaii Fishing News. Can you give me more details on this case, or refer me to someone who may know more about it?

I have enclosed several articles relating to sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting. Thank you very much for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 12, 1982

Lord Howe Island Board
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Dear Sirs:

As a researcher of sea turtles here in Hawaii and at other areas of the Pacific, I would like to obtain information on the present occurrence of sea turtles at Lord Howe Island. In my historical readings, I noted with interest that when the vessel Supply visited Lord Howe Island in 1788 turtles were found to abound, and 16 were taken for food. This description appears in the book, "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales" by David Collins. Can sea turtles still be found at Lord Howe Island? What species are present, and do they lay eggs at this site? Perhaps you would be kind enough to pass this letter on to a resident of the island who would be interested and knowledgeable in such matters.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 12, 1982

National Film Library
Tape Duplicating Service
Department of Education
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a recording of the Tokelau narrative that is offered in your publication, "Atoll" by G. Keen (1976). I wish to use this for research and education purpose here at the University of Hawaii. A 60-minute cassette has been enclosed as specified.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 10, 1982

Dr. Grenville Lucas
Chairman, Species Survival Commission
International Union for Conservation of Nature
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, SWITZERLAND

Dear Dr. Lucas:

Thank you for your recent letter asking if I would be willing and able to serve for another 3-year term as Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I accept this invitation with pleasure. I will continue to work closely with our Group Chairman, Dr. Carr, to promote a better biological understanding of marine turtles, and at the same time enhance their conservation status.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Carr

February 9, 1982

John Lusty Ltd.
57, Standard Road
Park Royal
London NW10, U.K.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request a copy of your informative pamphlet
entitled "John Lusty and the Turtle."

Thank you very much for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 3, 1982

Dr. A. Binion Amerson Jr.
Environmental Consultants Inc.
14325 Proton
Dallas, Texas 75240

Dear Dr. Amerson:

You will probably recall that we had the opportunity to talk briefly about Pacific sea turtles when you visited our laboratory several years ago. I am writing to you at this time to ask for your assistance on the same subject. In your comprehensive 1971 publication, "The Natural History of French Frigate Shoals," you cited correspondence from A Louis K. Agard Jr. relating to fishing operations at Tern Island and green sea turtles. Copies of the pages where these references appear have been enclosed for your convenience. If it wouldn't be too difficult for you to locate in your files, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of Mr. Agard's letter. I would like to have this correspondence as part of my personal reference library on sea turtles. Hopefully you can accommodate this request.

I have enclosed several items that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 2, 1982

Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a complete copy of your document entitled "Preliminary Fishery Management Plan for the Trawl Fisheries and Herring Gillnet Fishery of the Eastern Bering Sea and the Northeast Pacific."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:nd

February 2, 1982

To: Dr. Fred Kamemoto
Chairman, Department of Zoology

From: George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(Currently under IPA agreement with NMFS)

Subject: Application for membership on the Graduate Faculty

Many months have now passed since I submitted my application and supporting documents for membership on the Graduate Faculty. I am anxious to learn of the outcome of your Department's evaluation of this request.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

GB:md

February 2, 1982

To: Dr. Jack Davidson
Director, Sea Grant Program

From: George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(currently under IPA contract to NMFS)

Subject: Sea Grant Funding for Projects Starting in June 1983

I would appreciate being informed of the various requirements and deadlines that will be in effect for submitting a project proposal for possible funding starting in June of 1983.

Thank you for your assistance.

GB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOE, HAWAII 96744

February 2, 1982

Mr. Shou-Hsian Mao
Department of Biomorphics
National Defense Medical Center
Taipei (107)
Taiwan, Republic of China

Dear Mr. Mao:

I am writing to ask how I may obtain a copy of your 1971 publication entitled "Turtles of Taiwan." I would like to include this document in my reference library.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1982

Mr. Cliff Ratcliffe
Principal Fisheries Officer
Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 14, Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga

Dear Cliff:

Dr. Archie Carr recently mentioned to me that about 10 sea turtles have been captured (and tagged) over the past two years in conjunction with a "Japanese trap net" set near Nuku'alofa. I am not familiar with this type of fishing gear and would greatly appreciate receiving a brief description from you. Are the nets set offshore by Japanese fishing vessels, or is the "Japanese" designation just the origin of a gear type that is now being used by Tongans?

Many thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:nd

February 23, 1982

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219 (c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Brian:

I hope that you received the short manuscript I sent you a few weeks ago concerning entanglement of leatherbacks in squid drift nets. I understand that it will likely appear in the June issue of *Voryx*, so if it's not too late, you may want to make brief mention of it in your RDB sheet. The sooner we can focus worldwide attention on such new impacts, the more likely we are of getting the problems resolved. RDB can be a big help in this respect.

I have seen the manuscript review comments that Anne Meylan sent you, and I feel she superbly covered many critical points. You have most certainly done an excellent job, but Anne's contributions will make it even better. Under "Conservation Measures Proposed," I especially agree with her questioning of the 15% figure. I feel you will be on much firmer ground by referring to Action Project No. 57 of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. This "Strategy" document doesn't seem to appear in your "References" section. In my opinion it should be cited in each one of the RDB sheets. It is the most important piece of paper for sea turtles to be forged out in a long time. It shouldn't be forgotten.

One other comment I have of a far less important nature relates to your mention under "Habitat and Ecology" of "...Tunicates such as *Pyrosoma* (Thaliaceae)" being among the main diet items of leatherbacks. In looking through the literature, I have only been able to find one record of *Pyrosoma* being found in a leatherback (Capra 1949, quoted by Leo Brongersma 1969). In contrast, *Salpa* (also a Thaliaceae) have been recorded on several occasions, as well as ascidians (also pelagic Tunicates, class Ascidiaceae). Maybe you should mention all of these instead of just *Pyrosoma*.

In closing, I would like to find out what system is used to arrive at an RDB designation. It was my understanding that the leatherback is in the Endangered category. How and when did it get moved to Vulnerable? As the Deputy Chairman of the SSC Marine Turtle Group, I'm surprised that I missed hearing about this somewhere along the line. I would have voted firmly against it.

Dr. Brian Groombridge
February 23, 1982
Page 2

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 26, 1982

Mr. Larry B. LeSage, Curator
Stanley Park Zoo
2099 Beach Ave.
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6G 1Z4

Dear Mr. LeSage:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with any information on the three green sea turtles that were sent from Hawaii to the Vancouver Zoo in 1956. A copy of a newspaper clipping referring to this event has been enclosed. Do you have any records for these turtles that tell of their growth rates, survival, or any other history? Could any of these turtles still be alive at your facility? As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you on this interesting subject.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 26, 1982

Dr. Walter A. Starck
PMB 1, Daintree
Queensland, Australia

Dear Dr. Starck:

Mr. Mike McCoy of Honiara in the Solomon Islands has given me your name and address in response to my request for information about the reference in his book to a loggerhead turtle seen feeding at a depth of 300 meters. Mr. McCoy indicated that you would probably be able to offer more details, or at least direct me to the appropriate individual or literature source.

I would certainly appreciate any help that you can offer in this interesting matter. As a researcher of sea turtles here in Hawaii, I am continually trying to expand my knowledge of these amazing animals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 30, 1982

Mr. Koichi Masaki
P. O. Box 286
Waimea, Kauai 96796

Dear Mr. Masaki:

I am trying to gather information on the past and present abundance of sea turtles on Kauai, and I have been told that you are an excellent source of knowledge. Can you tell me about coastal areas where turtles were abundant in past years? Do they still occur at these sites? Do you know if any of the beaches on the Na Pali Coast, or anywhere else on Kauai, were used by turtles to lay eggs? Have you ever heard of turtles crawling ashore to sleep or bask during the daytime?

Any help that you can give to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 30, 1982

Sir Henry Wigley
Chairman
World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
P. O. Box 12-200
Wellington North
New Zealand

Dear Sir Henry:

The enclosed report dealing with the conservation of sea turtles in Tokelau is the result of a small grant I received last year from the World Wildlife Fund - U.S. I thought that you would be interested in the information I was able to gather during my short visit.

I would greatly appreciate receiving information on any other environmental conservation efforts in Tokelau that may have come to your attention.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist
Group

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 30, 1982

Mr. Susumu Nakagawa
Retired Research Entomologist
U. S. Department of Agriculture
75 Aupuni
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nakagawa:

I recently had the opportunity to read the excellent article about your Keaukaha fish pond that was published in the Hawaii Tribune Herald. Because of the long experience of you and your family working in this aquaculture environment, I would like to ask you some questions that relate to my own research of Hawaiian sea turtles. Are sea turtles ever kept in Hawaiian fish ponds for the purpose of controlling limu, or for aiding in the culture of mullet and other fish? Someone has told me that the Hawaiians used to do this, but thus far I have not been able to have this confirmed. A friend of mine on Molokai spoke with pond operators and was also unable to substantiate this point. In fact, he was told that sea turtles might be harmful to the fish because they would try to bite them. What is the approximate temperature and salinity of the water in your pond? Perhaps the environmental conditions in many Hawaiian fish ponds would not even be suitable for sea turtles.

Any information that you can give me on these subjects will certainly be appreciated. I have enclosed some literature on turtles that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 30, 1982

Dr. Judith Huntsman
Department of Anthropology
The University of Auckland
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Judith:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of my report dealing with the sea turtles of Tokelau. My study visit was very short, but I did my best to record as much information as possible. Needless to say, I have no formal training in ethnology. In writing the report, I felt it was necessary to provide some detailed background information. Most of the people (sea turtle biologists) who will be reading it will only have a general idea of where the islands are located, who lives there, and the style of life that is followed.

Any corrections, additions or comments that you may want to offer on this work will be accepted with appreciation. In particular, I would like to know your thoughts on the location of the "Vavau" mentioned in the Hina tale.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 19, 1982

Mr. Jack Woody
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, N. M. 87103

Dear Jack:

I may have mentioned this to you before, but if you ever want to use a couple hundred of my size 681 Inconel tags on the Kemp's ridleys down at Rancho Nuevo you would certainly be welcome to do so. They carry a "University of Hawaii" return address with no reward, however depending on how it's viewed, this could be an advantage. Please understand that I'm not pushing for their use, but rather simply want you to know that I am happy to make a limited quantity available for special projects like this.

Enclosed is a copy of my report to WWF covering a small project they funded for me last October. Thought you would be interested.

Hope that all is going well. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 19, 1982

Mr. Harry Sperling Jr.
Regional Fisheries Coordinator
Office of the Regional Representative
UNDP
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Sperling:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of my report covering an investigation of sea turtles and their usage in Tokelau. You will probably recall that I mentioned this study to you in a letter written in November (copy attached).

After you have the opportunity to look through my report, I would be most appreciative to learn if this is an area of work for other Pacific island areas that could possibly be funded by your office. Any information or advice that you can offer on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHb:md

Enclosure

cc: P. Helfrich

March 17, 1982

Dr. C. E. Birkeland
General Editor, Micronesica
The Marine Laboratory
University of Guam
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96913

Dear Dr. Birkeland:

I am sending you the enclosed report in order to obtain a preliminary appraisal on its suitability in subject matter and scope for possible publication in Micronesica. I realize there are a number of sections that would have to be modified to make the transition from a "report" to a "manuscript suitable for publication." I also suspect that it can be shortened by about 20% without losing content. However, before undertaking a rewrite, I thought it would be appropriate to ask for your advice.

I appreciate any assistance that you can offer.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 17, 1982

The Council
Fakaofo Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Puleuku, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 17, 1982

The Council
Nukunonu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Puleuku, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1982

The Council
Atafu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuke, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1982

Mr. David Evans
Senior Fisheries Officer
Fiseries Division
Ministry of Natural Resources
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear David:

This short letter is long overdue, but I still want to write and tell you what a fine report Peter Vaughan prepared on the Solomon Islands' turtle project. It really is well written, and just full of interesting and important information. I wrote to Peter at his mainland U.S.A. address a few months ago and expressed these same views. I regret that he didn't stay on with you. Has the project continued under the guidance of other workers? Did the World Wildlife Fund come through with additional funds? I certainly hope so.

Feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do for you pp here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 17, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
IUCN, avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

This is in response to your letter of 11 February 1982 asking comments on the proposal from Suriname to transfer their green turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II. I have delayed writing to you in the hope that the additional information you requested in your letter of 18 November 1981 would be forthcoming from the Suriname Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I have not received any additional information from your office, so I assume that Suriname did not give you a response. Perhaps the recent change of government has now significantly altered the situation with respect to sea turtles.

I am in full agreement with the views expressed in your letter of 18 November stating that the proposal's justification is too general, that more data are needed on the wild population, and that study reports and supporting references were not provided. Without such material, I find it difficult to make any sort of meaningful evaluation. However, if Suriname stands on the proposal as it is now written, then I would certainly recommend rejection on the grounds that justification has not been given to warrant an Appendix change.

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the "New Delhi Resolution on Ranching Conf. 3.15". I do not currently know the exact wording of this Resolution.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: A. Carr

March 12, 1982

Nancy E. Hammond
Program Administrator
World Wildlife Fund-U.S.
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

Enclosed is my final report to the World Wildlife Fund covering the work with sea turtles in Tokelau which you kindly funded. I hope that the expanded scope and detail that I have incorporated in this document will make up for the few weeks it is late being sent to you.

I am simultaneously sending a copy of the report to the Office for Tokelau Affairs, in recognition of the fact that this study is a cooperative and continuing venture. You may recall that the Tokelau administration provided my vessel transportation, and food and lodging while I was in Tokelau. The Council of Elders on each atoll will also be sent a copy, since they are directly in charge of sea turtles and have the power to implement suggestions for conservation.

With some slight modification, I intend to send this manuscript to Micronesica for possible publication.

Best regards, and thank you again for all of your help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 30, 1982

Mr. Arnold Howard
P. O. Box 4
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Arnold:

A few weeks ago I heard an interesting story that I thought I would pass on to you. On August 1st of last year a Hawaii Army National Guard helicopter was flying along the Kau Coast at low altitude when they spotted a large turtle lying on its back close to the water. They landed, turned the turtle over, and watched it crawl safely into the sea. They saw a jeep trail leading into the area, but could find no evidence of anyone around that could have been responsible for catching the turtle. The episode remained a mystery, so they left to continue on their flight.

Unfortunately, by the time this story was related to me the men could not identify the exact site. They are all from Oahu and apparently not that familiar with the Big Island. Although I can't be certain, it is probable that they were in the area of Kamehame. Do you recall hearing any reports of a helicopter landing during the first part of August? If it was at Kamehame, then perhaps the turtle had crawled up to nest and somehow fell off a low cliff onto its back. I recall your telling about a case like this several years ago. I can't imagine that someone would turn a large turtle over and then just leave it there. Any information that you can give me on this matter would certainly be appreciated.

Alan Kam is now working on a 5 month contract for the National Marine Fisheries Service. He is living in a tent on Lyysan Island with another person recording information on monk seals and gurtles (but there aren't many turtles there). In about 2 months a small boat will pick them up and move them 100 miles to Lisianski Island. They will stay there another 2 months before returning to Honolulu. I gave him the dacon throw net to try and catch small turtles along the shore. Maybe he can find one that we tagged before.

Did you ever find the photo taken some years ago of Mr. Cooper's flat bed truck loaded with turtles? I would still like to have a copy.

Best regards to you and Jeanette.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 7, 1982

Mr. Robert Truland
Director
Chelonia Institute
P. O. Box 9174
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Rob:

I hope that you safely received the post cards that I sent to you by insured surface mail last December 14. I haven't heard from you since that time, but assume that I would have if the cartons had not arrived. In looking over my records, I see that I still owe you about 400 cards that weren't sent with the original shipment due to space limits in cartons. I will therefore be mailing these remaining numbers to you in the next day or two. I hope that you will accept some of my Chelonia and Eretmochelys cards as partial replacements, since the few leatherback and depressa cards I kept are now nearly exhausted. All of my correspondents over the past few months have been sent samples of the cards for use in their programs. I am sure they were put to good use.

The next issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter will carry a short ad offering my two cards for sale. I have them listed at US\$10 per 50, but almost half of that price will be needed for foreign overseas air mail postage. The post office advised me not to send them by boat because transit time from Hawaii can take several months. I don't really expect to get a large response from my ad, but thought it might be fun to try.

Mr. Robert Truland
Page Two
April 7, 1982

My supply of turtle buttons is now nearly out and I hope that you can send me a couple hundred more. I found the buttons to be a very popular item during my study visit to the Tokelau Islands last October. Pin on a button and watch a smile light up! It nearly always works, with adults as well as children. I have enclosed a copy of my report that resulted from this trip. Also a photo taken during a turtle distribution ceremony that shows workers wearing the buttons. I realize that this sort of thing seems far removed from our traditional concepts of conservation. However, for their own reasons and needs, the people of Tokelau are just as fond of turtles as we are, and certainly want them to be around in the future.

I haven't come across any additional photos for making our other post cards. Perhaps you have come across something that is to your liking.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 6, 1982

Dr. Cecil H. Brown
Department of Anthropology
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Dr. Brown:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Growth and Development of the Folk Zoological Life-Forms in Polynesian Languages".

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 6, 1982

Mr. Bud Doty
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Bud:

A few weeks ago I heard an interesting story that I thought I would pass on to you. On August 1st of last year a Hawaii Army National Guard helicopter was flying along the Kau Coast at low altitude when they spotted a large turtle lying on its back close to the water. They landed, turned the turtle over, and watched it crawl safely into the sea. They saw a jeep trail leading into the area, but could find no evidence of anyone around that could have been responsible for catching the turtle. The episode remained a mystery, so they left to continue on their flight.

Unfortunately, by the time this story was related to me the men could not identify the exact site. They are all from Oahu and apparently not that familiar with the Big Island. Although I can't be certain, it is probable that they were in the area of Kamehame. Do you recall hearing any reports of a helicopter landing during the first part of August? If it was at Kamehame, then perhaps the turtle had crawled up to nest and somehow fell off a low cliff onto its back. I can't imagine that someone would turn a large turtle over and then just leave it there. Any information that you can give me on this matter would certainly be appreciated.

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 6, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle Group
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Archie:

I was happy to receive your letter of March 17th which seeks to poll all Turtle Group members about the possibilities and problems of holding a Group meeting. It is good that you have done this, and I am anxious to learn what sort of responses will be given. The early one from Dr. Hirth that you sent me certainly was thoughtful. The "half-funding by IUCN" idea seems worthy of pursuit.

A few days after I received your letter, Wayne also wrote to me and mentioned the regional meeting of the Turtle Group tentatively scheduled for Bali in October of this year. This "regional" meeting concept comes new to me, but it sounds like a great strategy, assuming major decisions aren't made on controversial issues thereby opening the door for complaints by non-regional Group members who don't attend. As the situation stands right now, I think it highly unlikely that I would want to or be able to, attend. I need to save my potential funding sources (and bank account) for the full Group meeting which is now destined to occur within 12 months, or so I predict. If you plan your trip with a one-day stopover in Hawaii on the way out, that would give us a nice opportunity to meet and exchange views. Presumably this would make up in part for my absence at the meeting. I hope that your travel schedule will allow this to be possible.

And speaking along those lines, I still cast my vote for Australia, in collaboration with Limpus' offer, as the location for a full Group meeting. If Limpus' offer for some reason can't be fulfilled, then my second choice would be Sarawak and/or Trengganu. Having sessions held at two locations might have merit and shouldn't be all that difficult to arrange. At least it's an idea to consider.

Don't be too surprised if you raised some eye brows by saying in your letter that "our last two sessions have been on this continent" (N. America).

Dr. Archie Carr
April 6, 1982
Page 2

Both the ad hoc gathering in Miami, and the Toronto group, were "limited-entry" sorts of things. I know that some Group members contend that a full meeting hasn't been held for over a decade. Depending how it's viewed, this may be true, but it fails to take into consideration the many good things that have been accomplished in the Group's name over these years.

I really enjoyed reading that nice piece in National Audubon. You should be very proud of the article.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 6, 1982

Dr. William Kikuchi
Kauai Community College
3-1901 Kaunualii Hwy.
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Dr. Kikuchi:

I am sure you will recall that we corresponded during past years concerning petroglyphs, place names, holding pens, and other Hawaiian aspects relating to sea turtles. Once again, I would like to ask for your assistance and advice.

I have recently read some material written by Mr. Alike Cooper, a commercial fisherman from the Big Island, which states that his "aboriginal rights" include the "traditional Hawaiian practice" of keeping turtles in fish ponds to 1) control seaweed, 2) fertilize the pond, and 3) stir up the bottom, as an aid to fish culture. Do you have any information along these lines that could confirm, or reject, these notions? I have not previously heard of turtles being used for such purposes and as near as I can tell, they are not mentioned in your various publications or thesis. Of course new information can always become available, but in this instance I am admittedly skeptical. Any insight or thoughts that you can offer on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

I recently had the opportunity to look through your thesis, in conjunction with the above question. I was interested to see that the definition of Hawaiian aquaculture that you set forth included "turtles" in the full context of controlled culture. This same definition was also contained in the 1975 report which you coauthored with Mr. Apple. Do you still feel that turtles rightfully belong in this definition? I am also curious about the mention in your thesis that turtles are "occasionally" caught and kept in ponds, while in the 1975 report the wording is changed to "often" caught and kept in ponds (p. 47). Did Mr. Apple come across additional information to warrant this change?

Once again, let me say that I will greatly appreciate your help on these questions. I hope that at some time in the not-too-distant future

Dr. William Kikuchi
April 6, 1982
Page 2

we will have the opportunity to meet in person and talk about our common areas of interest.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 12, 1982

Mr. Jack Harter
P. O. Box
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Jack:

I am writing to ask if you would be willing to do another turtle census along the Na Pali coast during the month of June in the same manner as the one you carried out last year. I feel this would be valuable information to collect, assuming, of course, that it doesn't cause any problems or added expense to your flights.

There are some people who would like to be able to legally catch turtles. These few individuals are now saying that many more turtles are present since the protective laws went into effect. This may very well be the case in certain areas, but it probably involves mostly small juvenile turtles that have many years to grow before reaching a breeding size. As near as we know, green sea turtles in the wild grow at a very slow rate (see my enclosed article). I therefore believe it will take awhile yet to replace all of those big breeding-size turtles that were eaten at the Green Garden, Wailua Marina, and numerous other restaurants around the state over the past years. As a steward of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am in the position of periodically being "challenged" (if that's the proper word) by a few vocal advocates of eating turtles. Consequently, the more comparative data I have (i.e. June 1981 vs June 1982), the better I can serve the biological and survival needs of our turtle population.

If you are willing to do this repeat census, I will send you the same data-collection book that you used last year. I can xerox the pages from last year to protect against the unlikely event of the book being lost.

Have you seen any more turtles basking on the beach?

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 12, 1982

Mrs. Maisie Fitter
Fauna Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regents Park
London NW1 4RY
United Kingdom

Dear Maisie:

I am writing to request information on how one goes about applying for a small grant under the "Oryx 100% Fund." If there are application forms and printed guidelines available, I would appreciate receiving them when your time permits.

I thought that you would like to have a copy of the report I recently submitted to WWF-U.S. covering my sea turtle study visit to the Tokelau Islands.

I am looking forward to seeing my "leatherbacks in driftnets" article in the next issue of Oryx. I returned the edited version to Dr. Morris, just as quickly as I could, a few weeks ago.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 20, 1982

Mr. Harry T. Kami
Chief, Division of Aquatic
and Wildlife Resources
Government of Guam
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Harry:

Many thanks for your letter of March 31 offering further discussion on Guam's request/complaint to the NMFS that subsistence taking of green turtles be allowed within the territory. I know that you have the best interests of the turtle population in mind, as you have stated on several occasions, however I am still confused and concerned over why you are approaching your objective in this manner. If there are a considerable number of people in the Northern Mariana Islands that do not qualify for the true subsistence exemption (as defined by ESA regs), then this point should be brought into direct focus for evaluation. I don't really understand the need, or rationale, of asking for an exemption for your territory as a means of attracting attention to what you believe to be an unfair exemption now held by your island neighbor. This seems to me to be an unusual reverse way of doing things. But who knows, maybe the strategy is appropriate, and will result in a better situation for both turtles and people. Only time will tell.

I hope that you received my Tokelau report that I sent several days ago. I view the Tokelau situation as a classic example of true, valid subsistence use of turtles in today's Pacific Island community. I am positive there are many outlier islands in the Trust Territory where similar situations exists. Mike McCoy has brought one such case to our attention.

The enclosed sea turtle ID poster was just recently issued by NMFS. Thought you would like to have one. I will also send one to Judy Beaver of your division in the near future.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 19, 1982

Mr. Semu Tili
Mr. John Larkindale
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Semu and John:

There is a good possibility that I will be able to have my Tokelau sea turtle report published in the near future in a scientific journal. I am therefore in the process of soliciting comments, corrections and other advice from interested parties. Obviously, the Office for Tokelau Affairs is very high on my list. If you have had the time to read through the report, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you. It would also be to my advantage to receive comments from Hosea, Kalolo, and other members of your staff. I will welcome all suggestions.

As you will read in the attached correspondence, I have already written to Judith Huntsman with a similar request. I would especially appreciate your comments on the comments she has offered with respect to "tushivalu" (p. 12, par. 2), "kea" (P. 12, par. 3), and "Vavau" (p. 19, par. 1).

Under separate cover, I will be sending you (and each atoll) a recently published wall-size poster illustrating the various sea turtle species.

Best regards to all. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
and Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

CHB:ec

Enclosure

April 14, 1982

Mr. John Thompson
Meteorological Office
P. O. Box 722
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear John:

Thanks very much for the recent set of sighting reports for Raoul Island, and especially for the high-seas observation of a large turtle by the Union Rotoiti. If this latter report is published in "The Marine Observer," please send me a copy of the page upon which it appears. Since the turtle was so large, and the ship passed so close, I wonder if we could possibly get a species ID on the critter. It was probably a leatherback, and it would be good to have this confirmed. I have enclosed several of my species ID sheets for you to pass on to the crew of the vessel, when your time permits. As you know, the leatherback is so distinctive that the observers should easily be able to distinguish it when they see these drawings.

In October of last year I had the good fortune and pleasure to visit New Zealand's Tokelau Islands north of Samoa. I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed report that resulted from this short trip. Perhaps one of these days I can undertake a similar first-hand survey of the Kermadecs.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 14, 1982

Mr. Harry Sperling, Jr.
Regional Fisheries Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Sperling:

Many thanks indeed for your helpful, candid and interesting letter of 31 March. I greatly appreciated your suggestions, along with the nice comments you made about my report. Under separate cover, I sent you the extra copy you requested. A third copy is being enclosed with this letter. Just yesterday I received a letter from Dr. Birkland at the Guam Marine Lab indicating that he would like me to modify the report slightly so it can be formally considered for the journal, Micronesica. He felt that the contents were worthy of publication. Apparently the journal also covers regions outside of Micronesia.

It was good to see the pages from your report that express many of my own feelings on the conservation of sea turtles (and other small-island resources). It is a shame that SPC has been unable to develop an effective project for turtles exactly along the lines you suggested.

You will be hearing from me again within the next few months.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 14, 1982

Felicidad S. Matillano
Coral Reef Research Project
Fisheries Research Division
1184 Ben-Lor Bldg
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Felicidad:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 9 requesting information on the artificial rearing of turtles in management programs. I regret my delay in responding to you, but my research activities here in Hawaii have kept me very busy over the past few months.

The enclosed "fact sheet" by Dr. Ehrenfeld may give you some guidelines and ideas for your project. Within the next few months, the Proceedings will be available of the November 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. This compilation should be of great help to you, and I urge you to order a copy from the Smithsonian Press in Washington, D. C. You may also want to contact Dr. Gomez or Mrs. DeCelis of your country, both of which attended the Conference.

It was good to hear from you, and I wish you well in your conservation and research activities with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 26, 1982

Mr. Richard Roe
Marine Mammals and Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
3300 Whitehaven Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dick:

It has been a couple of years now since we met in Washington, D. C. to talk about sea turtles (or was it at CITES in Costa Rica?). Nevertheless, I want to take this opportunity to renew correspondence with you, to send you the enclosed report, and also to inquire about an administrative action that potentially impacts Pacific turtles. Concerning this latter topic, for some time I have been trying to find out how or why Threatened and Endangered species of sea turtles were dropped from the Emergency Provisions that were made part of the Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan of the Western Pacific Region. I know that turtles were part of this Provision right up until the final stage, but for some reason were deleted at the last minute thereby leaving only the monk seal to be covered. Are you aware of this action and, if so, can you tell me why this took place? There would seem to be no biological basis for such a deletion, since there is a clearly documented severe entanglement of a leatherback (Endangered species) in lobster fishing gear in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but no known records of monk seal/lobster gear entanglement. I have made inquiries of this nature to personnel of the NMFS Southwest Region, both in Honolulu and at Terminal Island, but no one seems to know the answer.

I hope that your work is going well. Hopefully we will meet again in the not-too-distant future, possibly at the Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium scheduled for next year.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(I.P.A. CONTRACT to NMFS,
Honolulu Lab)

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 26, 1982

Mr. Harry B. Hill
College of Fisheries, WH 10
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Mr. Hill:

I recently had the opportunity to look through your excellent thesis, "The Use of Nearshore Marine Life as a Food Resource by American Samoans," that is on file at Hamilton Library. As a researcher of Pacific sea turtles, I am writing to ask if you gathered any data on the capture and usage of sea turtles during your field work in Samoa. As near as I can determine, this resource was not mentioned, but perhaps I overlooked it during my reading. Any information that you can give me on this subject will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 26, 1982

Dr. James Maragos
U. S. Army District, Honolulu
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Jim:

I am writing to inquire about the attached letter that I sent to the Army Engineer District during September of last year. Has a "Final Navigational Report" for the Hilo area now been completed? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy. Any other information that you can provide on the status of this study, or the comments/suggestions made in my letter, would also be most welcome.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHE:md

Enclosure

April 21, 1982

Ms. Margie L. Stinson
1553 Avocado Drive
Vista, California 92083

Dear Margie:

I am writing to ask if you are aware of any reports of sea turtles becoming entangled in the drift gill nets used off the California coast. I am currently trying to compile information on drift net/sea turtle interactions for the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. You will undoubtedly recall that I mentioned this subject to you during August of last year. Your input on this potentially important impact would be most valuable.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 21, 1982

Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator, Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I am writing to ask if you would give further consideration to issuing a set of Ascension Island postage stamps that portray sea turtles. You will probably recall that we corresponded about this subject during May of last year.

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service recently printed a color identification poster showing each of the species of sea turtles. I have enclosed a copy of this publication for your information and reference files.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Prof. A. Carr

April 30, 1982

Ms. Laura Mumaw
The Seattle Aquarium
Pier 59, Waterfront Park
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Laura:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th, along with the article on our cooperative turtle project that appeared in your quarterly newsletter. As you anticipated, I am indeed dismayed by the inaccuracies and misspelled words that were allowed to go into print. In the future, I think it is essential that all draft news articles of this nature be sent to me for prior review. This would only take a few extra days, but guarantee that both of our organizations are properly represented to the general public. I hope that you will be in agreement with this suggestion, and take responsibility for seeing that I have the opportunity to undertake such reviews.

I have made the appropriate corrections on the enclosed copy of the news article so you will be aware of the errors present. However, the greatest problem as I see it is the portrayal of the project as primarily a "headstart" endeavor. This is simply not the case. The otherwise "doomed" hatchlings that are being taken for your facility are first and foremost intended for public display to foster public interest, education and appreciation. The headstart aspect is only very secondary. Yes, it provides a few tagged juveniles for release into the wild. However, the most important reason for developing this idea was to give your facility a means of disposing of the turtles when they reach about one year of age and become too large for your tank. Certainly it would not be appropriate to emphasize this latter point in a news article, but it is also not appropriate to emphasize headstarting or portray the project as a headstart endeavor. It is an educational display project, and that alone makes it worthy and commendable.

It is unfortunate that the display has not yet been opened to the public. I realize the unforeseen problems you have experienced, and I sincerely hope everything can be resolved by late summer. Assuming that the display does open to the public, I feel that we have a good project here and you can count on my continuing cooperation and enthusiasm. I do, however, want to keep communication open so that additional problems like this recent one are encountered.

Ms. Laura Mumaw
April 30, 1982
Page 2

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Enclosure
cc: P. Helfrich, HIMS Director
R. Glazier

May 5, 1982

Mr. Bill Puleloa
P. O. Box 175
Kualapuu, Molokai, HI 96757

Dear Bill:

The 13 turtle sighting forms that you recently sent me really did contain some interesting information and comments. I appreciate the effort you are putting into this small project.

Within the next week I will definitely be mailing you 10 turtle tags, special applicators, and illustrated directions on how to apply the tags. It will be good for you to have these on hand in the event that a live turtle becomes available (stranding, incidental capture in net, etc.).

So we can have a tentative schedule, how about if we plan for 5 days of turtle work during the latter part of July or early August? Pick 5 days out that are convenient for you and our research associate, and let me know the dates.

If you can use them, I'll send over several more of the sea turtle ID posters just as soon as a resupply arrives from Florida.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 3, 1982

TO: Dr. Fred I. Kamemoto
Professor and Chairman
Zoology Department

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA contract with NMFS)

I was disappointed to learn that the Graduate Division did not accept the recommendation for my appointment to the graduate faculty. I would, however, like to sincerely thank you for the effort and time that was spent on the review process. It is rewarding for me to know that Zoology faculty members commented favorably on my application. The requirement of having "the highest earned degree associated with the field of study" mentioned by Dr. Gething comes as a surprise, since the UH graduate catalog lists some faculty members that do not hold a PH.D.

When the need arises, I would be most willing to serve on a graduate student's committee under the case by case basis described in Dr. Gething's letter.

GHB:ac

cc: P. Halfrich

May 5, 1982

Dr. A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Senior Staff Ecologist
Environmental Consultants, Inc.
4951 Airport Parkway, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75248

Dear Binion:

Many thanks for your letter of April 29th about my request for a copy of Mr. Agard's letter. I do hope that your search will be successful. I also sent a note to Roger Clapp at the Smithsonian asking if he might know of a copy in the files. Thus far, I haven't heard back from him. You are undoubtedly my best hope for ever obtaining this reference item.

Again, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your efforts. If there is every anything that I can do for you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to ask. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 7, 1982

Dr. Peter C.H. Britchard
Florida Audubon Society
1101 Audubon Way
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Peter:

I appreciated being able to read your analysis pros and cons of downlisting the leatherback within the official IUCN categories. I fully agree with your preference for having the species be listed as "protected." And that is exactly the problem that has aroused my concern. I am worried that many governments, administrators, etc. may now equate the IUCN "endangered" category with "protected," and the lesser categories with partial or no protection at all. Also, will this proposed downlisting, if it goes through, make it necessary or somehow stimulate CITES to change leatherbacks from Appendix I to II, or take them all the way off the list? Will the U.S. then want to move leatherbacks from Endangered to Threatened, or drop them entirely from protection under the Endangered Species Act? As you mentioned, will governments in PNG, Trinidad, and elsewhere have less concern (less protection) for their leatherbacks, if and when the above take place. I honestly don't know the answers to these questions, but feel there is ample reason to be conservative, and exercise great caution. By copies of this letter, I am therefore suggesting to Drs. Carr, King and Groombridge that any proposed changes in the IUCN categories for sea turtles (all species) be held in abeyance until we have held our full Marine Turtle Group meeting. I am assuming that this will occur within the next 12 months, as has been discussed. Waiting for a year or so to downlist (if that's the decision) can't do any harm, but on the other hand, if it's done now it will not have the full and careful scrutiny of Group members working face to face.

If you, or anyone else receiving this letter, feels this is a bad suggestion, by all means please let me know. I only want to be certain that all longterm ramifications are being considered.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Brian Groombridge
Wayne King
Many other Group
members

May 6, 1982

Mr. Jack Harter
P. O. Box 306
Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Dear Jack:

Here is another turtle patch to replace the one you sent to Mrs. Langhan in Canada. She certainly deserved it for being kind enough to send the picture. I am especially impressed with the picture because it shows all of the turtles in the shade from the cliff. Obviously, they are not getting any solar radiation under these conditions. So what are they doing there? Avoiding sharks? Resting? Your guess is as good as mine. Dr. Whitton (U.H. Physiology Department) and I have a full paper coming out later this year on basking in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I'll send you a copy when its available. After your June survey, I'll try to write up something short for publication reporting the basking aspect at Nualolo Kai. This is very important, since its the only place I know of where basking occurs in our main Hawaiian Islands. You will, of course, be my co-author on this note.

I hope you safely received the data book and color ID poster that I sent. Good flying.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

May 6, 1982

Mrs. Elaine Langhan
7110 Tahsis Street
Powell River, B.C.
Canada V8A 1G5

Dear Mrs. Langhan:

As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for sending Mr. Harter the photograph of 5 green turtles basking on the beach at Nuaiolo Kai, Na Pali Coast. This behavior is exceedingly rare in our main Hawaiian Islands. I am trying to gather as much information as possible on its occurrence, and your photograph aids considerably in this effort. I was especially interested in the fact that the turtles were heavily shaded by the cliff, and that there were footprints from at least two people present in the dry sand above the turtles.

If it wouldn't be too much trouble, I would appreciate learning of the date and approximate time that the photo was taken. Any other information that you may recall will also be welcomed.

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 5, 1982

Sandy Conrad
Co-Chair, Miloli'i Committee
P. O. Box 576
Waimea, Hawaii 96796

Dear Sandy:

I'm not sure if we met in person, but you may recall that I gave a slide show on sea turtles at a KUA meeting in December. I just received the May newsletter, KUA Kako'o (nice name!), and read about the trip in late June that is being planned for Miloli'i. I would really like to join with you, but during this time I will still be camped-out on an islet at French Frigate Shoals tagging big nesting turtles. What I would like to do, however, is send you a supply of turtle sighting forms that include a map of the Miloli'i coastline. As a part of the trip, perhaps you could ask all participants to keep a special eye out for turtles, and record whatever they are able to see. Please let me know if this will fit in with the planned dives and other activities.

A week or so ago I sent the club a newly printed sea turtle ID poster. Hope it arrived safely. I'll send several more soon when the next supply shipment arrives from the source in Florida.

Best regards. Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 12, 1982

Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez, Director
Marine Sciences Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City 3004
Philippines

Dear Ed:

Thanks ~~very~~ much for your letter of 4 May. It was good to hear from you, and I was pleased to learn that you liked the poster. My current supply is now exhausted, but I hope to receive another bundle soon from the NMFS source in Florida. Thus far, they have provided them free, and I can certainly mail more to you in reasonable numbers just as soon as they arrive.

Your mention of starting to collect sea turtle stamps strikes a fond note to me, because that is exactly what I have been doing for about the past 5 years now. When you come to Honolulu I'll take you out to my home and show you the "Bride and Joy" collection. I have them all mounted in koa wood frames hanging on the wall. It makes an attractive presentation and good conversation topic. The idea to ask various governments to consider issuing sets of sea turtle stamps for educational purposes was actually an outgrowth of my hobby. Thus far, it has been quite successful. As a result of those letters, Pakistan, Mauritania, Suriname and Dominica have issued stamps. Also, Mexico and New Guinea are scheduled for the next year or so. Just last week Archie and I received a letter from Prince Ranier's palace in Monaco saying they are keen on the idea. The U.S.A. and Australian proposals are still pending, but some encouraging signs have been received. So you see, your mention of a set possibly coming out of the Philippines is more news good on this topic. I don't have a complete set of photos to send you, but how about using one of the ID posters, my set of postcards, and some miscellaneous photocopied items that I can pull together? I can send it all to you shortly after the resupply of posters arrive.

The idea of writing up something in the form of a sea turtle stamp checklist also crossed my mind. I mentioned it to Nicholas a year or so ago, along with some other ideas for articles. He seemed moderately receptive, if I remember right, but indicated it would indeed have to be short. My more elaborate thought was to have something published where all of the stamps could appear in color. You may recall that the cover of Australian Fisheries had commercial fishery stamps on it a few years ago. It was very impressive.

Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez
May 12, 1982
Page 2

I hope that your visit to Honolulu will be in July, instead of June. For most of June I will be at French Frigate Shoals doing my annual tagging and census work. Let me know of your plans just as soon as they get firmed up.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 12, 1982

Mr. Kisuk Cheung
Chief, Engineering Division
U.S. Army Engineering Division
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Mr. Cheung:

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 1982 responding to the recent note I sent to Dr. Maragos about my 24 September 1981 testimony to the Army Corps concerning the draft EIS for harbor construction in the Hilo Bay area.

The information contained in your letter was not entirely clear to me, so I would appreciate receiving clarification on the following points.

1. Was a written response sent to me from your office in relation to the testimony I submitted on 24 September 1981? If so, would you please forward a copy of the letter, as the original was not received here at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. If a written response was not given, would you please clarify this action or procedure. The comments I offered were significant, appropriate and fundamental to the sections of your draft EIS covering Hawaiian marine turtles. Does the Army Corps have an obligation to respond to testimony submitted on draft EIS documents circulated to the public for review?
2. Were any changes made between the draft and final EIS versions with respect to the sections on marine turtles?
3. Does the final EIS, which you indicated is now being reviewed for approval, contain my letter of 24 September 1981? Is a response to my letter contained in the final EIS?
4. Would you please provide me with the address of the office that is reviewing the final EIS. Presumably, this is in Washington, D.C.
5. It seems inappropriate to me for you to suggest in your letter that I now contact the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if I "disagree with those assessments" made for marine turtles in your draft EIS. Unless a letter sent to me was somehow lost in the mail, many months have now gone by without your office responding to my testimony

Mr. Kisuk Cheung
May 12, 1982
Page 2

of 24 September 1981. The draft EIS was authored and distributed to the public by your office. Since my testimony of 24 September 1981 indicated that the sections on marine turtles were flawed and seriously incomplete, I believe it is the responsibility of the Army Corps to undertake further evaluation, including contacting the appropriate parties for further information if necessary. Would this not be the proper way of handling discrepancies received in different testimonies? What mechanism does your office use in resolving such problems?

Thank you for your continued assistance with my inquiry into this important matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

CHB:ec

cc: UH Environmental Center
NMFS
FWS

May 12, 1982

Mr. Jeff Deacon
Sealife Divemaster
Leanda Lei
Lord Howe Island
N.S.W. Australia

Dear Mr. Deacon:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of April 24th concerning sea turtles at Lord Howe Island. I certainly appreciate this response, and look forward to receiving any other information you may come across.

Do the inaccessible beaches you mentioned ever get visited? If so, the tracks and diggings of turtles would be apparent, even several months after nesting takes place. What would the size be (approx. shell length) of the largest turtles you see around the island? Have you ever seen turtles copulating? What are the turtles doing when you see them underwater? Feeding? Sleeping on the bottom? If the turtles present are green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas), then they undoubtedly feed on seaweed (algae) or sea grasses. Do you have areas where this marine vegetation is abundant? Do you know what kinds are present? At what depth are most of the turtles seen? What is the greatest number you have seen at one time?

I realize that I've asked you many questions, and hopefully you won't view this as an inconvenience. I have a keen interest in the turtles at your island. Working together, we should be able to find out some interesting things about them. For your interest, I have enclosed several pieces of literature dealing with sea turtles. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Enclosures

May 12, 1982

Mr. Jim Sternberg
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund
Center for Environmental Education
624 - 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Jim:

I have just finished a delightful, but much too short, visit with Pamela Williams who has been here in Hawaii for a few days on matters relating to monk seals. During our discussions, she mentioned that you may be leaving the Center in the not too distant future. In view of the many fine accomplishments you have made on behalf of sea turtles these past few years, in my view it would certainly be a shame to lose you during this current Washington administration. If at all possible, I do hope that you will reconsider your plans, and continue on in the role of educator and spokesman for sea turtles.

As in the past, if there is any way I can be of help to you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 12, 1982

Dr. Joseph K. Curray
Geological Research Division
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Dr. Curray:

I am writing to you once again about our continuing detective work on deep-diving sea turtles. When you last wrote to me in November of 1980, you hoped to review the movie, along with your notes and tapes, in order to get more reliable information on depth of dive and exact location off Najarit. In an earlier letter, you also mentioned the possibility of having seen the tracks of turtles at about 180 meters. If correct, this would be a valuable point to include in our short article.

Since last writing to you, I have followed up several leads on turtle diving records. The enclosed correspondence is somewhat self-explanatory. As near as I can tell, the story of a "loggerhead" seen at "300 meters" off Southern California results from confusion with the turtles (olive ridleys) you saw off Mexico. With Rick Grigg's assistance, I was able to look through notes of tapes taken during dives in the La Jolla Canyon (Feb. 1964). There was no mention of turtles being seen in these records. However, if a Jim Stewart is still at Scripps, it would be good to check with him.

It has indeed been interesting tracking this information down all these years, but I hope we can now wrap it up soon and get what we know into print. I hope to hear from you again soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 24, 1982

Dr. J. A. Ottenwalder P.
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Plaza de la Cultura
Sano Domingo D.N.
Dominican Republic

Dear Dr. Ottenwalder:

I would greatly appreciate receiving one of the black and white leatherback posters entitled "Camino a la Extinction?" that was mentioned in the May 1982 Marine Turtle Newsletter. If there is a cost involved, I would be happy to send you payment.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of my Hawaiian green turtle synopsis that you recently requested in writing.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 19, 1982

To: Jack R. Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA contract with NMFS through May of 1983)

Subject: Intent to submit research proposals to the Sea Grant College Program

The two enclosed preliminary drafts for possible proposals are being submitted for consideration in accordance with your memorandum of April 22, 1982.

My intended proposal dealing with the population dynamics of green turtles at the Big Island would logically fall within the program tentatively envisioned by Rick Grigg. I would welcome the opportunity to once again be a part of this sort of team effort under Rick's coordination.

I am not asking to have both proposals funded during the same year, but rather seeking your views as to which project might receive the highest endorsement from your office. Thank you in advance for your guidance in this important matter.

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 13, 1982

Mr. David Mack
Assistant Director
Traffic (U.S.A.)
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear David:

Thanks very much for the copy of the letter you sent to Mike Bean on April 2, 1982.

I am surprised to the point of nearly disbelief by the quantity of tortoiseshell shown during recent years coming from CTF and going into Japan. In your letter, you mentioned ".....imports of tortoiseshell from the Cayman Islands (which I assume comes from CTF)." I wonder if this assumption might be in error? During the two times I have been to Cayman (1973 & 1974), I saw large hawksbills making up part of the turtle catch brought in by boats fishing off Nicaragua. We need to find out to what extent this still takes place. I'll bet a fair percentage of your values represent "wild" tortoiseshell. Also of interest, do you know the weight of "tortoiseshell" resulting from a single market-size CTF green turtle?

I know you are now very busy with other matters, but if Mike is relying heavily on these values we want to be certain they are accurate. I'll also dig through some of my files to see what I can come up with.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Mike Bean

May 13, 1981

S. E. Cornelius
R.R. 3, Box 216
Mtn. View, MO 65548

Dear Steve:

Thanks very much for your quick response of 3 May. I appreciate this additional general information. My short article on driftnets catching leatherbacks in the North Pacific will be out next month. I will automatically send you a reprint. By the way, how did you come by the information on turtles in purse seines? Were they U. S. vessels? Did the captain or crew members send you recovery information? or did it somehow come from NMFS? I'm especially interested in this aspect because NMFS in California has still not analyzed the data and prepared a report on observer records involving several hundred turtles seen caught in purse seines in 1974 and 1975. They stopped collecting such data in later years, presumably because it was identifying a new fishery impact problem.

In looking over my correspondence file, I see that I neglected to answer your nice letter of 24 February. Sorry that this slipped my attention. I am indeed pleased to learn that my tagging note provided some help. My reaction to your comment about the tag "fitting" better when through the flipper scale is entirely positive. I use this form of application for at least one of the 3-4 tags I put on each adult turtle. When piercing through the scale like this, usually the tip will not lock well with the applicators. Consequently it has to be bent over manually with pliers.'

Sounds like your work has really been coming along well. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 25, 1982

Mr. Richard B. Roe
Acting Director
Office of Marine Mammals
& Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dick:

I want to thank you very much for sending me such a detailed and quick response to my recent inquiry about the absence of sea turtles in the Emergency Provisions of the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan. While your letter was indeed greatly appreciated, I must tell you that I disagree with several of the points you set forth (i.e. entanglement being a rare occurrence; green turtles having a history of not being susceptible to human disturbance). However, we can talk more about these aspects at a later date, hopefully in person at the WATS symposium next year in Costa Rica.

The main reason I am writing back to you at present is to provide some added background information on why I wrote my original letter of inquiry. In your letter, you stated that a short review of the Section 7 consultation, dated February 18, 1981, would answer the question I raised. I, of course, have a copy of this consultation, but my puzzlement, and resulting letter to you, was mostly based on actions that took place well after February of 1981. Specifically, I have enclosed two memos written during late August, and the minutes of a meeting I was asked to attend on September 8, 1981. These items will show you why I believed (along with others) that sea turtles were in fact a part of the Emergency Provisions right up until the final stage (September 1981).

Yes, I am aware of the five-year status review of listed species that each jurisdictional agency is required to undertake. As you stated, sea turtles come up in 1983 (September). It is for this reason that I am wondering why such a review is already being conducted by the NMFS Regional Office here in the Pacific (at least from Hawaii extending to the west). Through appropriate channels under my I.P.A. contract, I have expressed the view that a Recovery Team/Recovery Plan approach would now be a far more fruitful manner of expending this same money and personnel.

Mr. Richard B. Roe
May 25, 1962
Page 2

Best regards, and again thank you for your time and help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
cc: Bill Gilmartin
Enclosures

May 25, 1982

Mr. Ron Walker
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ron:

I am writing to tell you about the recoveries of two turtles that you were originally involved in tagging, and also to ask for your help in possibly locating original data for a third turtle just recently reworked.

Many years of tagging turtles in Hawaii are now paying off with superb results like the following:

- 1) Tag 1048 (an adult female) tagged basking at Pearl and Hermes Reef on March 13, 1964; recovered 10 years, 3 months, later nesting on East Island at French Frigate Shoals; recovered again 6 years, 1 month later (June 1980) nesting on East Island and, most recently, recovered basking at Pearl and Hermes Reef on May 7, 1982.
- 2) Tag 1060 (an adult male) tagged basking at Pearl and Hermes Reef on September 16, 1964; recovered basking (with mating wounds) at East Island 11 years, 10 months later (July 1976); recovered again one year later (July 1976); recovered again one year later (July 1977) basking back at Pearl and Hermes Reef.

On March 26, 1982 an adult female with Fish and Game tag 1014 (severely corroded) was observed basking at Lisianski. My records for this number, as obtained years ago from Gene Kridler and Dave Olsen, are not clear. I show tags 1006 and 1007 being attached to adult female turtles at Laysan in September of 1961. Also tag 1018 to an adult male turtle at Lisianski in March of 1964. Tags 1008-1017 have a "?" recorded by them along with "Leewards Kramer and/or Woodside." Can you shed any light on this? As long as you are looking, if you find anything for tags 1001-1005, I would also appreciate these data. I have a handwritten note saying "main islands." Presumably this was during or before 1961.

Mr. Ron Walker
May 25, 1982
Page 2

Many thanks for your help with this inquiry. Hope to hear from you as soon as your time permits.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

P.S. Are you on the mailing list for Marine Turtle Newsletter published out of the University of Toronto? If not, let me know and I'll get you on (no cost).

May 25, 1982

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Central Florida
Box 25000
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

Thanks very much for your recent note and the various reprints. I appreciate having copies of these fine papers to add to my reference library. My sea turtle file really has grown, especially over the past five years. I only wish that the proceedings of the 1979 Washington conference would have gotten out much sooner, as originally envisioned. I talked to people at Smithsonian Press by telephone the other day (concerning a lost figure) and was told that the volume would be available by late summer. I forgot to ask in what year, but assumed they meant 1982!

I have given some thought to whether or not I should mention the following to you, and decided that I should. I certainly don't want to sound overly critical or concerned, so I hope you will accept these comments in the constructive but questioning way they are intended. Both you and Mary were present at the Washington Conference when I gave my paper on immature green turtle growth rates and other foraging pasture studies. In addition, I'm fairly positive that I sent you a copy of the full text shortly after visiting the two of you in January of 1980. I was therefore surprised to find that my conference paper wasn't used as a reference in your recent paper in Copeia. Instead, a sentence in the introduction states "Recently, studies on the movements and growth of immature turtles in the wild have begun (my emphasis) in Australia (Limpus 1979; Limpus and Walter 1980) and the Hawaiian Archipelago (Balazs 1979)." The Balazs (1979) refers to my short piece in the January issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter. In that note, it was clear that my work with immature wild turtles had been going on since at least 1976. In fact, it has been progressing since May of 1973, as shown in my paper in Biological Conservation 9, 1976: 125-140. So why would you want to say "recently begun", when your own study itself was only started in July of 1976? Why did you not want to reference my conference paper that contained far more information than the note in the Marine Turtle Newsletter? To add to my confusion over this matter is the fact that Mary wrote to me during mid-1979 (following the note in Marine Turtle Newsletter) and asked if I would be willing to review and comment on her growth/foraging pasture papers. I wrote back and said that I certainly would, but then she never sent them to me.

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart
May 25, 1982
Page 2

Right about now you're probably saying that I should have sent this letter to Mary, and not you. You are probably correct, but since we've exchanged letters on other issues, I made the decision to broach the topic directly with you. Of course, you should feel free to send a copy of my letter to Mary if you wish. And by all means, please call me to talk if I've missed an important point here, or if you think I'm just being too picky.

Look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 25, 1982

Dr. C. E. Blanck
Department of Biology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Blanck:

If reprints are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Hatchery practices in relation to early embryology of the loggerhead sea turtle."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 26, 1982

Dr. John E. Burchard
U.P.M. Box 1903
University of Petroleum & Minerals
Box 144, Dhahran International Airport
SAUDI ARABIA

Dear Dr. Burchard:

As I mentioned in my brief postcard-note to you last week, your informative and interesting letter of 21 February 1982 only recently arrived here in Hawaii. I can't imagine what happened to it, or where it's been. The envelope was in excellent condition and the registered label was still attached. The long delay was indeed unfortunate, because it may have caused you to think that I neglected to respond, or somehow felt that the status and ecology of your turtles were unimportant. Let me assure you that this is by no means the case.

My original letter of inquiry to the ARAMCO address came about after reading "Biotopes of the Western Arabian Gulf" because I was unaware of any other sea turtle research projects focused on these islands. Consequently, it is indeed good news to hear of your recent return to Arabia, and continued interest in sea turtles. In order to provide you with some rapid initial assistance within the framework of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group, I intend to carry out the following.

1. Send copies of your letter to our Group Chairman (Dr. Archie Carr - Univ. of Florida) and several other members requesting that they provide you with some of their recent reprints and any other background information that they feel may be helpful.
2. Under separate cover, send you by air mail both an English and French version of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy that resulted from the November 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. The many valuable papers presented at this meeting are now due to be published by Smithsonian Press in about five months. I will let you know how and where to order the volume when it becomes available.
3. Send a copy of your letter to the private WWF-funded organization called TRAFFIC in Washington, D. C. requesting information and/or investigation of the lively curio trade in stuffed sea turtles and other wildlife taking place in your area.

Dr. John E. Burchard
May 26, 1982
Page 2

4. Request Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky of the University of Toronto to place your name on the mailing list for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. Nicholas is the editor of this informative publication, and also a member of the Marine Turtle Group.
5. Under separate cover, send you an assortment of my own reprints covering work on sea turtles here in Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific.

In addition to the above, I would like to ask the following questions and suggest a few possible ideas for your consideration.

1. What inscription and number series did the tags have that you used at Jana and Karan?
2. Have you ever seen or heard reports of turtles basking ashore during the daytime on any of these islands (see enclosed article from Sea Frontiers)?
3. What possible action might you recommend that could be undertaken by the Marine Turtle Group to help conserve the sea turtles in your area? Would a letter from our Group Chairman (or a high official in IUCN) written to Saudi authorities on behalf of sea turtles and their nesting habitat be an appropriate and effective action?
4. It would be very worthwhile for you to write a short note for publication summarizing the information contained in your letter. I feel certain that Dr. Mrosovsky would want to print this in the Marine Turtle Newsletter just as soon as space permits. The "Biotopes" books is a beautiful presentation, but not widely known.
5. I would also suggest that you consider submitting a small proposal to WWF/IUCN in Morges dealing with tagging studies on your islands. This certainly seems like a high priority to me.

I hope that this letter will be of some help to you. During the month of June I will be tagging green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. However, I look forward to hearing from you sometime after I return in early July.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 28, 1982

Mr. Dale Coggeshall
Pacific Islands Administrator
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Coggeshall:

This letter is in response to the request you sent to me here at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology on 22 April 1982 asking for comments on the draft Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Islands Strategy Plan. The following review deals mostly with sea turtles, since this wildlife component has been the focus of my research over the past 10 years. In making these suggestions and remarks, I have assumed that the July 1977 "Memorandum of Understanding" between your agency and the National Marine Fisheries Service is still in effect. That is, that the Fish and Wildlife Service has primary responsibility for sea turtles while they are on land (nesting-basking), and the National Marine Fisheries Service has primary responsibility when they are in the ocean. While it would be unrealistic to adhere to such a strict partition under all circumstances, the jurisdictional assignment nevertheless gives your agency a defined segment of life history and habitat where emphasis should be placed.

p. 2, lines 10-11: "reptiles" should be included in "FWS responsibilities for management of resident fishes, mammals, and non-migratory birds . . ."

lines 31-32: The resource category "Endangered Species" would be more appropriately titled "Endangered and Threatened Species."

p. 23, lines 22-24: "environmental contaminants" are a clear and recognized threat to the "fragile island ecosystems and the Pacific Basin." The use of the word "perceived" (threat) seems inappropriate and unnecessary.

lines 32-37: If "Direct mortality and repetitive harrassment of nesting birds result from bombing activities" at Farallon de Medinilla Island (N. Mariana Islands), then the Strategy Plan should identify the specific steps FWS must take to mitigate the problem. Paragraph 5.3.2.1 on p. 33 is vague and does not fulfill the above.

p. 25, lines 19-20: I suggest that this sentence be modified to state - "The significance of this harvest on localized seabird populations, along with its modern-day cultural importance to the islanders, remains to be determined."

Mr. Dale Coggeshall
May 28, 1982
Page 2

p. 32, 5.1.3.4: Farallon de Medinilla Island should be added to this paragraph.

p. 33, 5.3.2.1: Kaneohe MCAS should be added to this paragraph. (However, please note my above comment for p. 23, lines 32-37).

p. 34, 5.3.3.2: The Polynesian rats at Kure are a native species. Why is eradication being considered?

"Endangered Species, I. Overview,

A. Status and Distribution" p. 37-50: The organization and content of this section does not fully reflect the title headings. Also, please note that the Table of Contents does not list the various sub-headings, as a reader would expect. A distinct category entitled "Endangered and Threatened Sea Turtles" is clearly needed in this section so that consistency will exist with the other categories present (e.g. "Endangered Hawaiian Plants", "Endangered Hawaiian Seabirds"). As it is now written, sea turtles appear only in a secondary manner within the categories "Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Species", "Mariana Islands Species" and "Caroline Island Species". This fails to give proper emphasis to the species as an Endangered/Threatened group. At the same time, it also prevents the undertaking of the adequate discussion called for by the headings "I. Overview" and "A. Status and Distribution". For example there is no mention, or focus of attention, on nesting by hawksbills at certain sites in the main Hawaiian Islands, the nesting of green turtles (and probably hawksbills) at Rose Atoll, Guam (Tarague Beach), Howland, Jarvis, Bikar (and several other sites in the Marshalls), plus the specific known nesting sites of the Caroline Islands (see Pritchard 1977 & McCoy 1974). In addition, mention should be given to the unique land basking behavior of green turtles in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. It would seem important to note that the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation (sponsored in part by FWS and NMFS) designated French Frigate Shoals as a green turtle breeding area worthy of special attention and high priority by reason of its isolation and unique ecology (basking behavior).

p. 48, lines 22-23: Hawksbills are not found in the vicinity of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. While leatherbacks have been documented in the waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, there are no records of nesting. The mention of leatherbacks in this paragraph may serve to confuse the reader, since the Fish and Wildlife Service's primary responsibility for sea turtles covers nesting and nesting habitat.

p. 51-53: The placement of green turtles and hawksbills in "Priority 3", the lowest priority ranking afforded by your office for the Endangered/Threatened species under your jurisdiction, is unjustified and potentially

very harmful to the recovery of these species here in the Pacific. Since the Fish and Wildlife Service's primary responsibility for sea turtles covers the critically important nesting and basking phases, it seems to me that the species warrant Priority 1 emphasis. If this change in designation is not made in the final draft, I recommend that the reasons for the low priority designation be spelled out in the text.

- "II. Area Objectives", p. 53 - No specific mention is made of an area objective that focuses on nesting sea turtles and their habitat.
- "III. Problems affecting objective attainment", p. 54-56 - No specific mention is made of nesting sea turtles and their habitat (please note my above comments for p. 37-50).
- "IV. Strategies", p. 56 - It is stated that ". . . strategies available to the FWS (contained in the ESA) will provide sufficient authority for attempting to prevent extinction of endangered species, preventing threatened ones from becoming endangered, and others from becoming endangered or threatened." Two of the major strategies shown to be available (listed on p. 56) include "development and implementation of Recovery Plan Section 4(g)" and Critical Habitat declaration Section 4(a)". It is therefore appropriate for this reviewer to point out that neither of these major strategies have been undertaken for nesting sea turtles and habitat here in the Pacific. This would apply to the hawksbill and the green turtle. The hawksbill was listed as Endangered under the ESA over 11 years ago, and the green turtle as Threatened 3 1/2 years ago.

"Fishery Resources", p. 67 - The inclusion of "Turtles" as a full category under "Fishery Resources" does not seem appropriate or warranted in view of the Fish and Wildlife Service's primary responsibilities being nesting turtles and habitat. A full category (and complete discussion) for sea turtles should appear in the "Endangered and Threatened Species" section (p. 37-50), as previously suggested. I should also point out that the capture of turtles in the TTPI for "subsistence" purposes (as defined by ESA regulations) is only allowed for green turtles when they are in the water. Nesting turtles may not be legally taken. These important facts are not included on page 67.

p. 69, lines 28-33 - "sea turtles" should be included in this sentence.

p. 74, 2.1.1 - A definition for the word "subsistence" should be provided so the reader has a clear understanding of the term as it is being used in this section. "Subsistence" also appears in five subsequent places in Table 2.

Mr. Dale Coggeshall
May 28, 1982
Page 4

I hope that these comments and suggestions will be helpful to your agency.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc
UH Environmental Center
William Gilmartin-NMFS
P. Helfrich-Director HIMB

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
E. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOE, HAWAII 96744

June 7, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Executive Secretary
CITES
IUCN, Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

I am writing this short letter to let you know that I fully concur with the views expressed by Dr. Carr in his letter of May 21, 1982. I do not believe that either the Surinam or French island populations should be downlisted for the international commercial trade being sought by turtle ranchers.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman

GHB:md

cc: A. Carr
R. Scott
W. King



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

June 1, 1982

Mr. Henry Sakuda, Director
Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Henry:

During this coming August I hope to undertake two short study visits to the neighbor islands in conjunction with my I.P.A. contract to do research on sea turtle for the National Marine Fisheries Service. The approximate dates of these trips will be August 9-14 on Kauai, and August 23-28 on Molokai.

The field work on Kauai will focus primarily on Nualolo Kai along the Na Pali coast. I would like to learn more about the aggregation of green turtles that occurs in the Nualolo Kai reef flat. During recent months, I have received positive documentation that a few large turtles periodically haul out to bask on the adjacent sand beach. This is the only case that I know of basking now taking place anywhere in the main islands. I anticipate that my work at Nualolo Kai to be mostly observational, but some tagging may be carried out if the circumstances are appropriate.

The field work on Molokai will consist primarily of interviews with resident fishermen, especially those who incidentally catch turtles alive when setting nets. The underlying objective here is to hopefully develop a working relationship with one or more conscientious individuals

Mr. Henry Sakuda
Page Two
June 1, 1982

who would be willing to put tags on these turtles before they are released. While the details have yet to be worked out, it may even be possible to offer a small cash incentive for the extra time taken to do this task. While on Molokai, I also want to spend a day or two at Halawa Beach to update my data on the hawksbill nestings occurring at this site.

For both of these planned trips, I feel it would be beneficial to your division, and of course helpful to my field work, if your resident staff biologist on each island could work along with me for at least part of the time. In a preliminary fashion, I have mentioned the possibility of such cooperative work to each of them (Donald Heacock and Bill Puleloa). They both seemed interested, but indicated that permission must first be obtained from your office. This would be a good opportunity for the two of them to gain some additional first-hand knowledge of sea turtles, along with methods for applied research. I therefore hope that you will approve of this suggestion, and that their work load during the dates I indicated will not prevent their involvement.

I will be at French Frigate Shoals through June, but look forward to hearing from you after I return in early July.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: Bill Puleloa
Don Heacock
Bill Gilmartin

bcc: P. Helfrich

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island-P. O. Box 1346-Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-1346

June 1, 1982

Mr. Harry Sperling
Regional Fisheries Coordinator
Office of the Resident Representative
for the South Pacific
United Nations Development Programme
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Sperling:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the response on my Tokelau report that you received from the Project Operations Officer at FAO. This was indeed disappointing to me because it shows that the officer has little, if any, faith in the "statistics" that can be obtained from elder fishermen native to our Pacific Islands. My view is exactly the opposite. With careful selection of the people to be interviewed, I am convinced that completely reliable and important management data can be obtained. Furthermore, it can be obtained in a fraction of the time that it would take to obtain the same information by other more classical means of research. As I mentioned earlier, work of this sort should be undertaken in partnership and harmony with the native people that are culturally linked to the animals/ecosystems under investigation. Since it is their resources, certainly we have an obligation to go directly to them for information and viewpoints.

Thank you for bring the turtle conference to my attention. I was, in fact, aware of this gathering and hope to attend. The title is "Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium" and it will be held in Costa Rica in July of 1983. The focus will be on the Caribbean countries. I understand that FAO is somehow involved. Possibly the Project Operations Officer will be in attendance and I will have the opportunity to give him a more realistic perspective of marine biological matters here in the Pacific.

Best regards, and again thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

June 1, 1982

Mr. Thomas M. Murphy
Poco Sabo Plantation
Green Pond, SC 29446

Dear Tom:

Thanks very much for your letter of 26 April 1982. Yes, I know how administrative/bureaucratic problems can develop at times. I do, however, regret that your final report was not available to me at an earlier date so it could have been referenced in Marine Fisheries Review paper. This is now scheduled for the May issue (out in June).

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

June 1, 1982

His Excellency, Giordano
Bruno Reffi
Prime Minister
Republic of San Marino

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to ask you to consider having your Republic put out a set of postage stamps that feature sea turtles. San Marino is well-known among collectors as a source of fine and attractive stamps. The issuance of stamps with a theme involving the world's graceful sea turtles would undoubtedly be very popular.

As you may know, sea turtles have experienced serious population declines in recent years due to excessive exploitation for meat, shell and hides. Coastal development has also caused the destruction of important sand beaches where nesting takes place. Because of these various survival problems, many countries now have laws that protect sea turtles and restrict international trade in their products. Education can play an important role in helping to conserve these marine animals. Portraying them on postage stamps can represent a very positive step in this direction.

I have enclosed several illustrations and photographs of sea turtles to help you evaluate this suggestion. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist, and
Deputy Chairman IUCN Marine
Turtle Group

mk
Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Cable Address: UNIHAW

June 1, 1982

Dr. Richard Byles
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

Dear Dr. Byles:

I recently had the opportunity to read your interesting report entitled "Radio-tracking of a Kemp's ridley off the Virginia Coast" prepared for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If you haven't done so already, I would certainly encourage you to try to have this work published.

I am interested in the fact that the ridley was hooked on an unbaited longline. Is it possible that the hook had bait when the turtle first approached it, and the bait later washed off? At what depth was the hook set from the surface? Was the hook in the right front flipper, or right hind flipper? Are you aware of any other captures of turtles in longline gear in your area?

I am the co-author of a paper that will be coming out soon in Marine Fisheries Review dealing with radio tracking of adult green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. I will be sure to send you a reprint when they are available.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

June 21, 1982

Mr. Henry Sakuda, Director
Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Henry:

An idea has occurred to me that I would like to offer for your consideration. During one of my future trips to French Frigate Shoals to tag turtles, I propose that a biologist from your Division accompany me for the purpose of gaining first-hand experience in this type of research. It seems to me that such an arrangement would be mutually rewarding. I regret that I did not think of this earlier as a possibility for French Frigate Shoals, since someone of your choice could conceivably have spent time with me during the present breeding season. Nevertheless, there will be opportunities in the future.

My Refuge permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service would have to be altered slightly to include one of your biologists, but I do not anticipate any problems along those lines.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this suggestion.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
(I.P.A. contract with NMFS)

GHB:ec

bcc: Bill Gilmartin, NMFS



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 6, 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Anton K. C. Fernhout
WWF/IUCN Project Manager
Asia, Pacific and Oceania
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Anton:

Thank you for your letter of 9 June along with the project report on the Pakistan sea turtle project. I regret the delay in responding to your questions, but I have only now returned to Honolulu from one month of field work at French Frigate Shoals. I am pleased to have the opportunity to look over this report and provide you with assistance.

Concerning the two specific points raised in your letter:

- 1) The extended incubation times mentioned on page 3 of the report are certainly abnormal. Incubation time in sea turtle eggs is directly related to incubation temperature. A lot of work has been done on this subject lately in relation to adverse impacts of sex determination unknowingly resulting from "conservation" hatchery projects. The enclosed article that recently appeared in Science will bring you up to date on this subject.
- 2) The repeated use of a beach area for hatchery work should not cause contamination (from "rotting" eggs) under normal circumstances. Of course, the site selected should be nearly identical to the natural beach and have good drainage (percolation) of rain water down through the sand. This will serve to continually cleanse the substrate. Also, the unhatched remains of nests should be taken out and discarded elsewhere on a regular basis. The flooding problem mentioned in the report makes me wonder if the site selected is indeed adequate.

My other comments and questions are as follows:

- 1) The hatching (survival?) rate of 31% (56,726 hatchlings from 183,250 eggs) is exceedingly low. I am unable to understand the "seasonal variation" explanation given for this. Does this pattern follow the natural, undisturbed nests?

Mr. Anton K. C. Fernhout
July 6, 1982
Page Two

- 2) A delay of up to 12 hours between egg laying and reburying is probably excessive. If at all possible, the transfer should be accomplished within a few hours. Care should be taken to not excessively rotate the eggs.
- 3) The reason stated for moving the eggs in the first place is to circumvent natural predation. How extensive is this natural predation? Approximately what percent of the eggs and hatchlings would be preyed upon under natural conditions? Possibly it would be better to leave the nests where they are laid. As stressed in the enclosed Science article, we shouldn't be moving eggs around if there is not a very clear and proven need to do so.
- 4) I recommend that a top official of IUCN write a short letter to the Governor of Sind urging that the planned housing colony be shifted away from the nesting beaches (p. 5). The lights and human activity from such a colony would surely result in the destruction of the nesting habitat over the next decade or so.
- 5) I see no reason to weigh the adult nesting turtles. It is stressful, and potentially harmful, to both the turtles and the researchers. It is, however, of absolute critical importance for the project to obtain turtle tags and start using them. This delay should not have occurred. If asked, I could have ordered them from Hawaii and mailed them directly to Pakistan.

At some point in the future, it would be extremely helpful for an experienced sea turtle biologist to visit Pakistan to provide on-site assistance and advice. I believe it may be needed if the project is to continue.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

July 29, 1962

NSW State Fisheries
P. O. Box N211
Grosvenor Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request copies of "Kapala Cruise 66, 67, 68
and 69" (see attached).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 20, 1982

Apina Nui Residencia
Hangarua
Easter Island, South Pacific

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Easter Island. I would like to know the following:

1. Do sea turtles ever come ashore to nest and lay their eggs on the sand beaches at Easter Islands?
2. Do the people ever catch sea turtles while they are fishing in the waters around Easter Island? If so, do they eat the turtles?
3. What kinds of sea turtles occur at Easter Island? To help you answer this question, I am sending you (as a gift) the enclosed color identification poster showing the different kinds of sea turtles.

I am a biologist that studies sea turtles here in Hawaii and at other areas of the Pacific. Any information that you can write to me about sea turtles at Easter Island will be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 20, 1982

Mr. Cesar Z. Luna
Biologist
Task Force Pawikan
Parks and Wildlife Center
Quezon Boulevard Extension
Diliman, Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines

Dear Mr. Luna:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 1982. I am sorry that it has taken me so long to respond to your inquiry. I have only recently returned from field work at French Frigate Shoals where I go each June to tag nesting turtles.

My three methods (hand, scoop net and tangle net) used to catch and tag green turtles here in Hawaii are fairly straight forward. The basic procedures are given in the papers I previously sent you, however the enclosed short report may be helpful in using tangle nets. In all of this work, a fair degree of experience and talent is needed in order to efficiently catch turtles and prevent mortalities.

In developing your program in the Philippines, I would like to suggest that you initially place all of your research emphasis on tagging and assessing turtles at their terrestrial nesting sites. This sort of work will yield important results that are critically needed for effective management in your area of the Pacific.

Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of further assistance. I am pleased to be able to help you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 20, 1982

Commissioner for Pitcairn
British Consulate General
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Commissioner:

Mr. Steve Christian of Pitcairn Island suggested that I write to you concerning my suggestion that sea turtles be featured on postage stamps issued by Pitcairn. Mr. Christian thought that this might be a good subject. He tells me that the loggerhead sea turtle is the only species found in the waters around the island. This turtle is also seen at Oeno Island when the people visit there during the summer months.

To aid you in your evaluation of this suggestion, I have enclosed a color identification poster which shows all the different species of sea turtle. If there is any way that I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

September 9, 1982

Mr. Eddie Robinson
Kekaha, Kauai 96752

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Mr. Ron Evans recently suggested that I contact you concerning my interest in compiling historical information on the occurrence of sea turtles along the Na Pali Coast and elsewhere on Kauai. I understand that many years ago you used to visit Milolii to catch green turtles when they came up on the beach. I would be most appreciative if you would tell me about some of these experiences. How many turtles would you see during a night? Were the turtles there to lay eggs, or simply to sleep on the beach? Approximately how large were the turtles? Did you ever see other kinds of turtles besides the green turtle? Any and all information that you are able to send me will be greatly appreciated.

I thought that you might enjoy the enclosed identification poster showing the various species of sea turtles. I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

August 31, 1982

Dr. John D. Stevens
Research Scientist
CSIRO Marine Laboratories
P. O. Box 21
Cronulla, N.S.W. 2230
AUSTRALIA

Dear Dr. Stevens:

Many thanks for your letter of 16 August answering my inquiry about sea turtles in driftnets and in the stomachs of sharks. I appreciated the information that you provided. Two reports that I have authored on these topics have been enclosed in order to give you a perspective for our area of the Pacific.

Needless to say, I am quite interested in obtaining more data on the sea turtle taken by the Taiwanese driftnet fishery in the Arafura Sea. You indicated that observers are periodically aboard these vessels, consequently I am wondering if records exist on numbers, species, sizes and survival rates of sea turtles accidentally taken. Perhaps you can tell me who to write to for these data, if they were gathered.

Yes, if and when your time permits, I would appreciate receiving the records of turtles found in tiger sharks from the gillnet and longline fishery. The record that you sent me of a 20 cm whole flatback turtle found in a shark in Western Australia is, I believe, of special importance. I have pointed this out to my former colleague and friend, Dr. Bob Johannes, in Western Australia. He will probably also be contacting you on this interesting subject.

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

August 25, 1982

Chief Administrative Officer
Mitiaro Island
Cook Islands

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Mitiaro. I would like to know the following?

1. Do sea turtles come ashore to lay eggs on the sand beaches at Mitiaro? If so, would you please mark the places where they usually nest on the enclosed map. During what months of the year do the turtles nest?
2. Do the people of Mitiaro eat the sea turtles or their eggs? How many turtles are taken each year?
3. What kinds of turtles occur at Mitiaro? To help you answer this question, I have enclosed (as a gift) a color identification poster which shows the different kinds of sea turtles.
4. Has a metal tag with a number and address stamped on it ever been found attached to a sea turtle at Mitiaro? If so, would you please tell me the details of this discovery.

I am a marine biologist here at the University of Hawaii that studies sea turtles in the Pacific Ocean. Any information that you can write to me about sea turtles at Mitiaro will be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much for your kind help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encls.

SAME LETTER TO: 1) Manihiki Atoll; Rakahanga Atoll; Pukapuka Atoll; Mauke Island; Atiu Island; Mangaia Island.

August 24, 1982

Mr. Richard Volk
Fisheries Development Officer
Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 14
Nukualofa, Kingdom of Tonga

Dear Richard:

Many thanks for your interesting and somewhat encouraging letter of 29 July concerning a comprehensive survey of sea turtles in Tonga. The summer months up here are the busiest for me in terms of field work, so lately I have been spending most of the time away from my office. Nevertheless, I have been giving serious thought to your letter and, within the next few weeks, will be meeting with University and NMFS administrators to discuss the subject. Also, I have written to the Executive Officer of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to ask informally just how funding from the World Wildlife Fund might be achieved. As you may know, the Solomon Islands received money from WWF for several years to assess their turtle stocks. While it may not prove to be necessary, I wonder if it would be possible (and appropriate) for your Division to request the King of Tonga to write directly to the Secretary-General of IUCN asking for financial assistance in undertaking a turtle study? Such action may indeed be needed to obtain results.

The inexpensive study that I carried out in Tokelau was funded in part by the WWF - United States appeal. The WWF - U.S. is, of course, a part of WWF - International, but in certain instances can act somewhat independently. My small study was one such case. The WWF - U.S. paid for my air travel expenses, while my salary continued to be paid by the NMFS through a continuing contract with the University. The project proposal for work in Tokelau was originally my own idea, being pursued after receiving encouragement, endorsement, and partial financial help (vessel travel and an assistant) from the Tokelau administration. The WWF - U.S. could not be approached for the larger, longer and more complex study we envision for Tonga. The WWF - International in Switzerland would have to be our (Tonga's) contact point.

I was surprised to learn from your letter that the CPTC would be "very unlikely" to accept a non-commonwealth member as a chosen consultant, if funds were made available. This apparently fails to take

Mr. Richard Volk
August 24, 1982
Page 2

into account the fact that marine turtle biologists with experience in the Pacific (and knowledge of Pacific-island cultures) are simply few in number and not readily available for large assignments.

My current contract and research responsibilities are such that I have no available time for added field work until July of next year. Consequently, the initiation of a study in Tonga under my direction would best be in November of 1983. I'm sure it will take at least that long for both of us working together to come up with the necessary money.

Let us continue to correspond as new information becomes available.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 24, 1982

Dr. Robert Scott
Executive Officer
Species Survival Commission
I.U.C.N.
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I am writing to you informally to ask for some guidance and advice for the Kingdom of Tonga to obtain WWF funding for a two-year sea turtle assessment and conservation program. As you know, a very successful project of this sort was recently accomplished in the Solomon Islands. On their own initiative, the Fisheries Division in Tonga has decided that urgent attention is needed to their sea turtle stocks. Apparently this interest extends all the way to the King. I have been asked by the Division to aid them in whatever way possible.

Would you please help me out with this important matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 24, 1982

Mr. David Penhallow
Kauai Museum
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Penhallow:

I am writing to ask if you are aware of any photographs in the Kauai Museum that show sea turtles. Linda Collins (Mr. Lindsay Faye's sister) suggested that I contact you for possible historical information on the occurrence of turtles along the Na Pali Coast. She also thought that some interesting photographs might be on file at your Museum.

Any help that you can offer to this inquiry will be greatly appreciated. I am compiling such information on a continuing basis as part of my research project on Hawaiian and other Pacific Ocean sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:md

Enclosure

August 24, 1982

Mr. G. D. Harraway
Office of the Governor of Pitcairn,
Ducie, Henderson and Oeno Islands
c/o British Consulate-General
Private Bag
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

Dear Mr. Harraway:

Many thanks for your encouraging letter of 10 August 1982 concerning a sea turtle stamp issue for Pitcairn. Please count on me to help you with this project in whatever way that is possible and appropriate.

I look forward to learning of the information you receive back from the Government Adviser living on Pitcairn. It is my understanding that turtles nest during the "summer" months on Oeno, but certainly more details are needed. I have also heard that several homes on Pitcairn have turtle shells as decoration. If you can obtain photos and approximate total lengths of these shells for me, I can tell you the species, and possibly other important information. A small pocket camera is all that would be needed for this purpose. Photos taken of nesting sites and turtles at Oeno (or elsewhere within the group) would of course also be valuable.

If justified, a sequential strip showing the cycle of breeding would indeed make an attractive stamp presentation. To my knowledge, this has not previously been done by other countries.

I look forward to hearing from you again.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 24, 1982

Dr. Paul Callaghan
College of Agriculture & Business
University of Guam
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Dr. Callaghan:

Recently I had the opportunity to read your interesting 1978 report concerning the household consumption of seafood and fish on Guam. At the end of the report, the local names for the green and hawksbill sea turtles were presented. However, there was no reference to turtles as a household food item in the body of the report. Were turtles mentioned to you by any of the people interviewed? To my knowledge, at the time of your study there were no legal prohibitions in Guam against the capture and selling of these turtles.

As a researcher of Pacific sea turtles, I would greatly appreciate any information you can offer on this subject. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 19, 1982

Dr. J. C. Yaldwyn
National Museum of New Zealand
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Dr. Yaldwyn:

In your excellent paper on Tokelau land crabs which appeared in Atoll Research Bulletin, you referenced a report by A. Wodzicki (1968a) pertaining to sea turtles. I have been unable to obtain a copy of this report here in Hawaii, and a request to Dr. Wodzicki has not been answered. If it wouldn't be too difficult for you to locate, would you please send me a copy of page 67 of the report, and any other pages that refer to sea turtles.

Thank you for any assistance you can offer.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 10, 1982

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond
Project Administrator
World Wildlife Fund - U.S.
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your letter of July 30th asking for my views on the question brought up in Steve Cornelius' letter of July 19th. I am sorry for this hurried response, but your letter just arrived and I am now in the process of leaving for a one-week study visit to Kauai.

Briefly stated, I feel that an agency like WWF-U.S. should remain completely neutral on a question such as whether or not egg harvesting should be conducted, when such harvesting is proven to be biologically defensible. The decision, in my opinion, should be left entirely up to the biologist, conservationists and resource administrators that are citizens of the country in question. Legitimate human needs and economics would obviously be a central part of such a decision. After having stated this, I want to emphasize that, according to Steve's letter, egg harvesting on these beaches has not yet been proven to be biologically defensible (note page of letter ". . . suspicion. . .", and ". . . if (my emphasis) production data show. . ."). Consequently, I believe that WWF-U.S. should be opposed to egg harvest until such a time that it is "biologically defensible," and at that time assume a neutral position that allows the people of the country to make their own decision.

I hope that these comments will be helpful.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:ec

August 10, 1982

Professor K. Ronald
College of Biological Science
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
Canada N1G 2W1

Dear Professor Ronald:

I appreciated receiving a copy of your most recent Monk Seal Newsletter. It is clearly a valuable contribution ~~to~~ the protection of these endangered animals. Although there was no mention of the Hawaiian monk seal in this issue, I wonder if you would like to receive news items on this topic for inclusion in future issues? If so, I would be happy to help out.

I am interested in the attractive stamp that appeared on the cover of the newsletter. Do you know of anyone who has compiled a list of all postage stamps that depict monk seals? I have only casually come across two others (Bulgaria and Italy), but undoubtedly many more have been printed over the years. Perhaps this would be a worthwhile topic of interest for a future issue of the newsletter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 9, 1982

Mr. Derek Green
Texas Memorial Museum
2400 Trinity
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

Many thanks for your letter of July 30th. Yes, indeed, I would be pleased to serve as a reviewer for your Galapagos sea turtle monograph. My only request is that you give me sufficient time, two months or more, to do this for you. Thank you for asking me.

I was both surprised and disappointed to learn that your migration paper was turned down by Copeia. I can't imagine what the objection was, but if you want to send me the reviewers' and editor's comments I will try to give you some help. I strongly recommend that you modify the style, as appropriate, and send the manuscript off to Journal of Herpetology, Bulletin of Marine Science, Biological Conservation, or other similar journal.

My seasonal tagging work at French Frigate Shoals went really well this year. We had about 250 breeding females. My tag encounter rate was 40%, so there is no question in my mind about the superior nature of Inconel tags size 681. I have yet to find out that one shows signs of corrosion.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA contract with NMFS)

GHB:md

August 9, 1982

Mr. Semu Jili
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Semu:

Thanks very much for sending me the name of the girl that appeared in my photo used on Pacific Magazine. Is Tohina the daughter of Amusia Patea, the Faipule of Atafu? As requested, I am sending you (under separate cover) a copy of the magazine. I will also send a copy directly to Tohina. I should point out, however, that this magazine issue does not contain an article about Tokelau, it just features the cover photo that I took at Atafu.

Semu, on 27 September I will be flying to Pago Pago to take a chartered boat out to uninhabited Rose Atoll. I will stay at Rose for about 10 days with several other people censusing and tagging green turtles that come ashore to nest. Would you be interested in joining me on this research trip? I certainly would welcome you. Your only expenses would be air fare to Pago, and hotel accommodations before and after the boat trip to Rose. I will make all other arrangements. The boat we will be using is the American Samoa government's new fishing boat, which is about 65 feet in length. If you are interested in this offer, please let me know in writing immediately and I will make the necessary contacts to have your space reserved.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 4, 1982

Commanding Officer
U. S. Coast Guard LORAN Station
Marcus Island
FPO Seattle 98762

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining current information on sea turtles in the waters around Marcus Island. The enclosed "sighting forms" and sea turtle identification poster will hopefully be useful for this purpose.

Thank you for any help that you and your men can offer.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 30, 1982

The Chairman
Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamps and Philatelic Branch
Australia Post Headquarters
P. O. Box 302
Carlton STH, Vic 3053
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir:

I am writing to send you the enclosed "sea turtle identification poster" as a supplement to the letter you received from Mr. Peter Davis (copy attached). I hope that the topic of Australian sea turtles will be judged worthy to portray on your fine postage stamps.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 30, 1982

Mr. J. D. Stevens
Mr. T. L. O. Davis
CSIRO
Division of Fisheries & Oceanography
P. O. Box 20
North Beach, Western Australia 6020

Dear Sirs:

I have just read your fine article in the April 1982 issue of AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES. I am writing to ask if any sea turtles were caught incidental to the shark gillnetting survey that you conducted. Also, I would be interested to learn if the remains of sea turtles were found in the stomachs of sharks that were examined.

Thank you for any information of these subjects that you can offer.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec