

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

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NOUMEA CEDEX
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CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTHPACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26.20.00
TELEX: SOPACOM 139 NM



COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE D5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE
ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
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In reply, please quote
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRO 59/3/5
PRO 59/3/30

Noumea, 31 July 1987.

Dr. George BALAZS,
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE,
P. O. Box 3930,
2570 Dale Street,
HONOLULU. Hawaii.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Following our phone conversation on 24 July, I would like to provide you more information on proposals from the FSM Government for support by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) re, sea turtles.

1. Green Turtle Survey, Fouew (Fayu) Island, Truk.

Enclosed is an incomplete draft project proposal. Your comments and suggestions on developing the proposal would be greatly appreciated.

In particular, could you advise us:

- Whether one month's field work is sufficient?
- What time of year would be best?
- What information should be collected, with what methods?
- Who would be a likely suitable, available researcher?
- What materials and equipment, and their costs, are necessary?
- Any other background information on the Fouew sea turtle situation?

2. Oroluk Atoll Reserve

We have a vague request from FSM to assist with protection of Oroluk Atoll. In discussions with Flynn Curren in July, it appears there is interest at Pohnpei State level to pursue this. The disturbance to turtle nesting by settlers' dwellings and pig pens is clear and we are encouraging the Public Lands Authority, which has control of the island, to act on this.

Beyond this, what do you feel are the priority needs for research and management on Oroluk. I have Teresa Herring's report on the previous two years' tagging. It is unfortunate

.../...

the tagging was unable to continue this year. If outside research, beyond continued tagging by locals, is appropriate, do you have thoughts on how that could be linked to Fouew Island work - perhaps getting researchers involved in a combined activity.

3. Pacific Region Activities

Sea turtle conservation needs perhaps could be assisted by SPREP over the medium-term in a more comprehensive package, in an attempt to secure greater funding and more co-ordinated applied research and management activities. What do you feel are the priority issues and locations in the Pacific islands?

We appreciate your taking time to assist us and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Holthus,
Project Officer (Scientist)
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

Encl.

PH/jbd

September 3, 1987

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Paul Holthus
Project Officer (Scientist)
South Pacific Regional
Environmental Program (SPREP)
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D5
Noumea, New Caledonia
South Pacific

Dear Paul,

By now you should have received my letter of August 17, 1987 providing you with a copy of the booklet, "Manual on sea turtle research and conservation." I hope this provided you with helpful insight and ideas on how best to encourage and evaluate project proposals dealing with sea turtles. I can tell you that there is a critical need among the tropical Pacific islands for remaining sea turtle nesting colonies to be monitored and protected. We are quickly loosing what is left at these no-longer-remote sites. Funding and other forms of action need to be taken at the earliest possible time. In nearly all cases, very little money is needed to get the work started using local people.

The outline of the proposal for Fouew island near Truk lagoon looks fine to me. The basic points are adequately covered in the objectives. I can't advise you whether or not 1 month of field work is indeed sufficient. Mike Gawel, the government contact for the proposal, would be in the best position to make such a determination. The same would apply to the time of the year that the work should be undertaken.

Concerning Oroluk, I understand that Flynn Curren will be providing your office with a written proposal in the near future. It is unfortunate that funds could not be obtained sooner so that further tagging could be conducted this season. As I mentioned earlier, I fully support and endorse any and all tagging and conservation work directed at Oroluk's seriously endangered green turtle colony. Our recent tag recovery from the southern tip of Taiwan shows that, as elsewhere, green turtles breeding at Oroluk are highly migratory. They are most vulnerable while on land nesting and, at the very least, they should be fully protected there.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

GHB:ey
cc: Balazs
HL

South Pacific Commission
FAX Number (687) 26.38.18
Noumea, New Caledonia

Commission du Pacifique Sud
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Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie)

F A X M E S S A G E

FAX No.: (691) 320, EXT 2383 - No. of Pages: ... (including this one)
To: Mike Gawcl, Advisor, National Marine Resources Division, Dept. of Res. & Dvpt.
From: Peter Thomas, SPREP
Date: 20 March 1990 File: PRO.59/4/2/1
Subject: MARINE TURTLE PROJECT - OROLUK.

Message:

I have today received confirmation from the Canadian International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) that SPREP's Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme has been accepted for funding and joint support. I included funding for turtle tagging and conservation work on Oroluk this year as one component of this comprehensive programme and can therefore confirm that SPREP together with ICOD will fund the work this year.

Funding for up to 3 subsequent years will depend on how a review committee sees Oroluk fitting into the overall regional pattern of marine turtle census work and of course our progress towards getting Oroluk established as a turtle sanctuary or wildlife preserve which is one of the primary objectives of the programme.

So, please proceed with planning for the tagging and conservation work this year and provide me with an up-to-date project description and budget. George Balaz made an urgent plea for SPREP support which arrived at the same time as the ICOD confirmation and he indicated you would need \$5-8000 which I would be able to cover. I assume that it is still intended to have someone on Oroluk for 2-3 months as originally proposed? Could you also give me information on the tagging and census methodology. Do you offer rewards for the return of tags?

I still have to work out the details of the financial administration of the ICOD support so I am unable to be specific about when I can forward the funds. Please let me know your needs and deadlines.

I hope this is welcome news and look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,


Peter Thomas
Protected Areas Management Officer
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

cc: George Balaz, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, FAX: (1)(808)
942-2067, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

PT/ewg

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

WORKSHOP ON INSHORE FISHERY RESOURCES
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 14-25 March 1988)

Status of sea turtles in the South Pacific and management needs

by

J.D. Parrish

1. Sea turtles are a widely distributed but rapidly diminishing resource in most of the region. Their status is a matter of considerable concern to fishery managers and conservation interests alike. The green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is circumtropical in distribution and is commonly one of the most widespread and abundant species. It occurs in most countries of the region and nests in several. It is exploited in several countries in subsistence fisheries, and there is some commercial sale of meat, eggs, hides for leather, and stuffed juvenile specimens. The hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) occurs widely in the region; it is the most commonly reported species in several countries and the second most common in others, with widespread nesting in the region. Exploitation is widespread and heavy, especially for commercial sale of the shell. The leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) occurs much less widely (reported from about half the countries in the region). Nesting is reported in a few countries (never in great quantities), and typically the species is reported as an occasional visitor. The loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) is reported from much the same areas as the leatherback, also always in small numbers with only occasional or uncertain reports of nesting. Olive ridleys (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and flatbacks (*Chelonia depressa*) are reported even less frequently and widely, with very little evidence of nesting. For all species and almost all areas, where historical information is available and trends in abundance are reported, decreases have been observed.

2. The status of sea turtles in the region was reviewed in some detail in 1979 and recommendations developed at an SPC workshop (SPC 1979). It was then recognised that turtle stocks were generally depressed and in need of improved management. Large voids in data to support management were cited. High priority was given to additional tagging of turtles, to increased reporting of tagged animals, and to analysis of the tag return data. Subsequently Balazs (1982a) reported on the migrations indicated by tag returns to date. These results made it clear that migrations are extensive and widespread in the region and that the same turtle populations are shared among a number of widely distant countries. Unquestionably multilateral management and collaborative research are required for these migratory species. There is a continuing need to share current data among countries regarding distribution and apparent abundance of the various turtle species, and specifically to report any tags placed or observed on turtles. This collaboration appears to merit more vigorous effort within individual countries and an improved exchange mechanism, perhaps through the SPC. Current tagging methodology/technology appear to be effective. A properly managed tagging program with broad country collaboration could be useful in improving knowledge of migration routes and the fidelity of reproductive adults to fixed nesting sites, permitting population estimates, and improving estimates of growth rates.

3. Much life history information on all the turtle species is still lacking. Balazs (1982b) has used tagging results on immature *Chelonia mydas* throughout Hawaii to produce growth estimates of carapace length ranging from 8 to 44 mm per month. There appears to be considerable variability along the length of this archipelago, and it is uncertain how these rates compare with those in other areas. Over 15 years of visual tagging and short-term radio tagging at the nesting grounds, together with some measurements of behavior of basking animals on nesting beaches in Hawaii, have provided considerable detail about the breeding and nesting processes and strong fidelity to restricted nesting sites. Among the more difficult problems everywhere are (1) the 'lost years' between hatching and a size of about 35 cm carapace length, for which almost no specimens are available; and (2) methodology for sexing subadults, juveniles and hatchlings nondestructively. Collaborative research among countries is clearly needed.

4. The health of turtle populations (and perhaps even their existence in some areas) is threatened by local consumption as food; local commerce in turtles and products; international trade in products; mortality incidental to fishing and maritime activities, mortality or morbidity from encounters with marine debris (including ingested plastics); environmental pollution; alteration of nesting beaches; harassment or disturbance of adults on beaches and destruction of eggs by people and introduced predators; diverse and sometimes conflicting legislation, enforcement, and governmental attitudes among various jurisdictions, and their failure to manage cooperatively. All these threats to turtle populations are exacerbated by certain biological characteristics of turtles, eg. slow growth, high natural mortality, and the apparently compulsive return to established nesting sites. In the face of these threats and the depressed state of turtle stocks, reasonable management policies would include: an end to commercial exploitation, at least until biological data and population estimates indicate that sustainable levels can be set; careful monitoring and control of non-commercial/subsistence harvest; reduction of incidental mortality through prudent restrictions on fishing and maritime activities where necessary, development and application of methodology to exclude turtles from fishing gear, and education of marine operators; reduction of marine debris through education of the maritime community and the general public, and changes in legislation and infrastructure as needed; protection of critical habitat from modification, pollution and disturbance by humans and introduced animals, including nesting beaches and prime feeding, resting and migration areas; development of a conservation education program for marine users and the general public; development of necessary national and international legislation; and implementation of cooperative programs for information, education, research and conservation among the many public and private entities of the several jurisdictions involved.

References

- BALAZS, G.H. (1982a) Sea turtles: a shared resource of the Pacific Islands. SPC Fisheries Newsletter 23: 22-24.
- BALAZS, G.H. (1982b) Growth rates of immature green turtles in the Hawaiian archipelago. pp 117-125. In: BJORN DAL K.A. (Ed) Biology and conservation of sea turtles. Proceedings of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. Smithsonian Institution Press.
- SPC (1979) Joint SPC/NMFS workshop on marine turtles in the tropical Pacific Islands. Noumea, 11-14 December 1979. Report of the meeting.

ADDENDUM to p. 34, (e), Turtles,
just after "Moderator Dr. James D. Parrish"

Sea turtles are a widely distributed but rapidly diminishing resource in most of the region. The most widespread, abundant and widely nesting species are the green and hawksbill turtles. Other species that occur in small numbers in fewer countries are the leatherback and loggerhead, and olive ridleys and flatbacks are reported occasionally. The 1979 SPC turtle workshop recognized the need for improved data and management to maintain generally depressed stocks. Tagging is an important activity, and results of turtle movements in the region were accumulated and summarized as of 1982. The extensive migrations documented make it clear that the same stocks are widely shared among countries and require multilateral cooperation in research (including further tagging) and management. Research on turtles in Hawaii and Australia in recent years has indicated slow and variable growth (e.g. 40-50 years to attain sexual maturity). In Hawaii 15 years of widespread flipper tagging and a little radio tagging on the nesting grounds have added much detail on movements, behavior on nesting grounds, and high fidelity in the use of some limited nesting beaches. Among many research needs that require joint effort by countries of the region are information on the "lost years" between hatching and a size of about 35 cm carapace length, and methodology for sexing turtles younger than adults nondestructively.

Turtle populations in most of the region are threatened by various types of fisheries with utilization ranging from subsistence to an international market in turtle products; mortality incidental to other fishing and maritime activities or related to marine debris; other marine pollution; alteration of nesting beaches; and harassment, disturbance or destruction of nesting turtles, eggs or hatchlings on nesting beaches. Slow growth, relatively low fecundity, high natural mortality, and an apparently compulsive return to established nesting sites make turtles especially vulnerable to these threats. Wise management measures are available within countries and for joint multilateral activities. These include an end to commercial exploitation (certainly a speedy end to international commerce in turtle products), technological solutions to some incidental fishing gear mortality, regulatory and educational initiatives addressed to the other problems, and widespread collaboration in information, education and research programs by the many interested public and private entities of the several jurisdictions involved.

Mr James Prescott presented a report on the commercial turtle fishery in the Torres Strait south of Daru in Western Papua New Guinea. The rate of exploitation has been relatively high for a number of years. Recently good lobster harvests and demographic factors have resulted in a large increase in boats and motors. Increases in catch of turtles have not been detected, but the great increase in fishing power provides a high potential for great increases. For 4 years the fishery has been monitored by examining a major fraction of the catch landed at Daru. Data are taken on the fishermen, vessels, gear, effort, and time and location of fishing. Catch is counted and measured and sex is recorded. Data on market distribution are taken. Samples collected include eye lenses, deposited fat from inside the carapace, and stomach contents. Previtellogenic, developing and mature follicles are observed and counted, as well as corpora lutea, ovarian scars and large and small atretic follicles. The oviduct is examined and the width measured to detect previous reproductive history. Chloroform-methanol chromatography was performed on fat inside the carapace to determine total lipid content in order to assess the nutritional state of the turtles and the changes with reproductive condition. Preliminary results were reported based on 2555 green turtles and 43 hawksbills. The catch appears to be comprised of turtles that breed in the general area, turtles migrating through the area enroute between feeding and nesting grounds, and resident feeding turtles. The fishery

appears to land at least several thousand kilograms of meat per year (a large amount compared to the local population) and to provide a very attractive income to the fishermen. Planned research includes attempts to assess the population by netting, performing live sex determination of turtle specimens, and tagging turtles. A long-term monitoring programme - biological, catch, and socioeconomic - is planned.

Dr Robert Johannes commented on the use of turtles by Torres Strait islanders in 17 communities. Counts of all turtles caught in a few villages were made. The people of these communities appear to have no conservation ethic, probably because turtles and other seafood have always been superabundant. A great deal of turtles meat per capita is consumed - about 200 g per day. In many communities, female turtles are preferred, and a high fat content is always desired. A significant management consideration is that in Torres Strait, turtles are fortunately concentrated in great numbers that migrate widely and are also harvested by many other peoples elsewhere in their migrations. Meaningful management must include efforts by all the harvesting groups and probably will require much more population research. If adequate management does not come about soon enough, the life history characteristics of turtles may lead to a sudden, catastrophic crash.

Dr Rene Grandperrin made some comments on turtles in New Caledonia. There has recently been a very active public education programme on turtle biology and conservation. Four species occur. Green turtles are very commonly and widely seen throughout the lagoon about New Caledonia. In 1979 an aerial survey of all beaches in the country was made to estimate the turtle populations in all areas including the Loyalty Islands. Some additional data on turtle fisheries and turtle use were accumulated by personal interviews with fishermen in a number of areas. At Isle Huon (in the extreme north) in December, a very large concentration of nesting turtles was surveyed. Tagged turtles from Queensland are often sighted in New Caledonia, and at least some tags have been reported from Scilly Islands.

The problem of morbidity and mortality of turtles due to consumption of plastic and other nonbiodegradable debris was discussed. The U.S. NMFS in Honolulu has been instrumental in promoting a good deal of national and international activity to develop control measures for the debris problem.

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13-15 August 1990)**

**A REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION**

**Developed by the Marine Turtle Working Group
at the Fourth South Pacific Conference
on Nature Conservation
and Protected Areas
(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 4-12 September 1989)
and adopted by that Conference**

INTRODUCTION

It is now generally accepted that the conservation of migratory species such as marine turtles cannot be achieved solely by conservation measures at the national level. International and/ or regional co-operative efforts that involve 'range' countries are necessary to ensure the long term survival of marine turtles and other migratory animals. In recognition of this situation and the importance of marine turtles as a cultural and subsistence resource of the peoples of the South Pacific, the second Intergovernmental Meeting of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, 27 June - 1 July 1988, endorsed the recommendation 'that a project for the co-ordination and integration of regional marine turtle management initiatives be developed which will focus on the promotion of field conservation activities, the development of supporting legislation and public education programmes and the development of regional arrangements for marine turtle management.'

The meeting further requested the representative of UNEP, which is the Secretariat of the Action Plan for the Protection and the Development of the East Asian Seas Region, to bring the problem of marine turtle management to the attention of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Meeting convened under that Action Plan with a view to seeking inter-regional co-operation between SPREP and the East Asian Seas Region on the subject.

To implement the recommendation SPREP sought the assistance of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service with the development of a draft regional programme for consideration by a special purpose working group at the Fourth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Utilizing assistance from the CITES Secretariat for the conference, a number of people with regional experience in aspects of turtle conservation, management and research were drawn together to finalize the proposed programme, which was subsequently endorsed for inclusion in the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific region adopted by the Conference.

A phased work programme will be developed for the overall programme and funding support for its implementation will be sought from appropriate international conservation and development assistance agencies. The overall implementation of this programme will be co-ordinated by SPREP. It must be recognized that the success of the programme will also require the co-operation and support of the member countries of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme and other regional and international institutions as well as SPREP. Of particular importance is the support and involvement of the many national and regional marine resource management agencies either located or working within the South Pacific region.

SPECIES OCCURRENCE AND DISTRIBUTION

Six of the seven species of marine turtles found in the world today are found in the South Pacific Region. They are the Green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, the Hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*, the Loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*, the Olive or Pacific Ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea*, the Flatback turtle *Chelonia depressa* and the Leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*. Of these, the flatback turtle has a very restricted distribution in northern Australian and southern Papua New Guinean waters. The distribution of the remaining five species of marine turtles in the South Pacific region is shown in Table 1.

The most abundant, widespread and migratory marine turtles in the South Pacific region are the green and hawksbill turtles. Although the loggerhead turtle appears to be less widespread and abundant than the green and the hawksbill, tag recoveries indicate that Australian nesting loggerheads migrate to feeding grounds in Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia.

Tag recoveries from existing mark-recapture programmes (Figure 1) provide an indication of the movements of marine turtles throughout the South Pacific region. More intensive tagging programmes throughout the South Pacific region will provide a more comprehensive and accurate picture of marine turtle movements.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF MARINE TURTLES TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC PEOPLES

In areas where they are abundant, green and hawksbill turtles have been hunted for centuries to supply the basic needs of the traditional subsistence village community e.g. food, tools, decoration and items for trade. Hunting practices which have evolved over many years represent the oral knowledge of the village relating to the turtle, where it lives, its habits and the most efficient ways of hunting it. The complex social interactions involved in observing the many rules, rituals and traditional ownership patterns contribute to make the hunt an organized and disciplined affair and the consumption of turtles a special social event in the village. Where they occur, these traditional patterns of capture and consumption have helped to regulate the exploitation of marine turtles.

Limiting factors

PRESSURES ON MARINE TURTLE POPULATIONS

In many areas in the South Pacific today, easier access to natural resources and the increasing trend to sell marine turtles for cash in town markets has resulted in many situations where turtle exploitation is unregulated. If unchecked the depletion and possible disappearance of the resource and its economic, social and cultural values could occur. However, if wisely managed, it should be possible to combine conservation goals with sustainable levels of harvest of marine turtles for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The IUCN Red Data Book lists the green and hawksbill turtles as endangered. The primary cause of decline in green turtle populations is the systematic commercial exploitation of eggs and adults. While the green turtle has been traditionally used as a food source, the introduction of cash economies, access to improved technology and the increase in human populations are factors which could raise subsistence harvests to levels which are no longer sustainable. The primary cause for the widespread depletion of hawksbill turtles is the commercial trade in raw tortoiseshell and tortoiseshell products.

OVERALL AIM OF THE PROPOSED REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The overall aim of the proposed Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme is:

To conserve marine turtles and their cultural, economic and nutritional values for the coastal peoples of the countries served by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

OBJECTIVES

The Regional Programme has the following objectives:

1. Implementation

1.1 To implement the Programme by:

- a) seeking the agreement and support of the SPREP Member countries and action by the governments and peoples of the region for an integrated long-term programme to conserve marine turtles, and
- b) establishing a Project Team Leader and a Project Team based in the South Pacific to implement the objectives of this programme.

To be achieved by this Conference:

- a) endorsing the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme, and its adoption as an element of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific region, and
- b) recommending the inclusion of the programme into the SPREP Work Programme.

2. Information

2.1 To develop a regional database for marine turtles.

To be achieved by the establishment and maintenance of an ongoing regional database and information network for marine turtles. This database should include existing databases on marine turtles, if relevant to the region (e.g. database held at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre).

2.2 To review all previous work carried out on marine turtles in the region with the aim of identifying the current status of research and management efforts in the region.

To be achieved by contracting a consultant (consultants) to carry out a literature search of published and unpublished material, reports and articles, and to interview government agencies and marine turtle researchers who have worked/are working in the South Pacific region. This information to be included into the regional database.

2.3 To contact government agencies within the region with the responsibility for the management and/or conservation of marine turtles with the aim of:

- a) identifying existing legislation, protected areas and enforcement mechanisms relating to marine turtles in the region, and
- b) determining existing gaps in management coverage.

To be achieved by contracting a consultant to collect the information required, and identifying priorities for action. This information to be included in the regional database.

3. Institution Building

- 3.1 To assist countries, where necessary, to develop appropriate legal, policy and administrative measures for the preparation and implementation of national marine turtle conservation and management programmes.

To be achieved by regional/international funding agencies making specific grants to governments to assist them to establish adequately staffed and funded long-term programmes which are consistent with the regional priorities for the continued survival of the marine turtle resource in the region.

- 3.2 To provide training and education opportunities for appropriate personnel involved with marine turtle conservation in the region, as requested by governments.

To be achieved by co-ordinating a regional training programme involving institutions, local community groups (e.g. NGO's, traditional landowners) and government agencies.

4. Management Related Research

- 4.1 To gather reliable data on the population status and distribution of marine turtle species occurring in the region.

To be achieved by:

- a) the establishment of a series of baseline survey sites in countries and along important migratory paths throughout the region,
- b) the encouragement, financial support and regional coordination of tagging programmes including standardization of tags, centralization of return address, publicity and record keeping; and
- c) the identification of genetically discrete populations of marine turtles in the region.

- 4.2 To encourage continuing research on all aspects of sea turtle biology (e.g. growth rates, life histories, population dynamics, mortality rates); management techniques, and the socio-economic, cultural and nutritional values of marine turtles for traditional communities.

To be achieved by seeking the co-operation of funding agencies to give greater priority to funding research on marine turtles and on the development of effective management techniques for the conservation of marine turtles, both within and outside the region.

- 4.3 To investigate ways of obtaining information on marine turtle activity in isolated areas.

To be achieved by:

- a) investigating existing resource surveillance activities such as overflights, coast watching, and fishery patrol vessels, by evaluating the potential for integrating surveillance of key turtle habitats in isolated areas into these activities, and
- b) by recommending implementation measures to relevant government agencies.

5. Traditional Knowledge

- 5.1 To encourage the development and implementation of national programmes to document traditional knowledge and the socio-economic importance of the hunting and consumption of marine turtles.

To be achieved by regional and national agencies undertaking marine turtle projects within countries to collect this information using cost-effective means (e.g. questionnaires and postal surveys such as those developed by Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu).

- 5.2 To promote the inclusion of relevant traditional ecological knowledge in conservation and management strategies for marine turtles.

To be achieved by encouraging governments to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge, established rights and traditional tenure systems into the design of marine turtle conservation and management programmes.

- 5.3 To promote the involvement of traditional landowners and traditional resource users in the management of the marine turtle resource.

To be achieved by facilitating joint participation in management decisions by government authorities, traditional landowners and traditional resource users.

- 5.4 To encourage the incorporation of appropriate traditional ecological information relating to marine turtles into curricula and educational activities for schools.

To be achieved by encouraging educational institutions to design projects relating to traditional information on marine turtles, and encouraging close liaison between conservation agencies and education institutions in designing curricula.

6. Conservation Measures

- 6.1 To identify important breeding and feeding sites and encourage countries to protect and manage these sites.

To be achieved by the Project Team Leader and in consultation with the Project Leader Team developing a list of critical and key habitats (both terrestrial and marine) for marine turtle populations within the region and encouraging countries through the provision of technical expertise and/or financial assistance, to prepare and implement plans for the protection and management of these habitats, in consultation with traditional landowners.

- 6.2 To develop applicable guidelines for the management of turtle harvesting for incorporation into national marine turtle legislation.

To be achieved by encouraging and supporting countries to:

- a) survey turtle nesting sites and to monitor all forms of impact including traditional/subsistence harvesting, local/national/regional/international levels of commercial exploitation; incidental catch through fisheries interactions and the impact of pollution or habitat degradation (both terrestrial and marine);
- b) identify trends and to set realistic guidelines for traditional utilization, and
- c) encourage countries to take where necessary specific action to reduce or minimize these impacts.

7. Conservation Education/Publicity Programmes

- 7.1 To develop an education programme promoting the conservation of marine turtles in the region.

To be achieved by the Project Team Leader and in consultation with the Project Team co-ordinating the implementation of a regional education programme on marine turtle conservation, and assisting individual countries in the production and translation of various educational materials into local languages.

- 7.2 To promote community involvement by non government conservation groups, church groups etc. in development of local or community projects involving marine turtles (e.g. nest protection, recording traditional uses for turtles); and for the distribution of educational material to local communities.

To be achieved by the Project Team Leader and in consultation with the Project Team co-ordinating in consultation with government agencies, a programme of community involvement through the provision of technical and/or financial assistance and educational materials to community groups.

8. International Efforts

- 8.1 To encourage countries to accede to international and regional species conservation agreements (especially CITES) and to review the need for specific provisions relating to marine turtle conservation in regional agreements.

To be achieved by the provision of technical expertise and financial assistance to enable countries to establish administrative procedures required to accede to and implement international agreements.

- 8.2 To participate in international efforts promoting the conservation, management and wise use of marine turtles.

To be achieved by the regional programme linking in with marine turtle programmes in other regions through liaison with the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, the UNEP East Asian Seas Programme, the IUCN/WWF TRAFFIC Network and other non-government organizations.

- 8.3 To encourage the exchange of information and development of joint conservation programmes between "range" countries within the region.

To be achieved by those countries entering into bilateral/multilateral agreements to establish the framework for the development of long-term management and conservation strategies for shared marine resources.

Table 1. Distribution of Feeding and Nesting Populations of Marine Turtles in the South Pacific Region

	Green	Hawksbill	Loggerhead	O/Ridley	Leatherback
Australia	N/F	N/F	N/F		
Cook Islands	N	N*			
Federated States of Micronesia	N/F	N/F*			
Fiji	N/F*	N/F*			
French Polynesia	N/F*	*			
Kiribati	N/F	F			
Marshall Islands	N/F*	N*			
New Caledonia	N/F	LN	N/F		
Northern Mariana Islands	F	F			
Palau	N/F	N/F			
Papua New Guinea	N/F	N/F	LN/F	LN/F	N
Solomon Islands	LN/F	N/F			N
Tonga	N/F	LN*			N
Tuvalu	N/F*	F*			
Vanuatu	N/F*	N/F*			

* denotes little information available
 N denotes nesting population
 F denotes feeding population

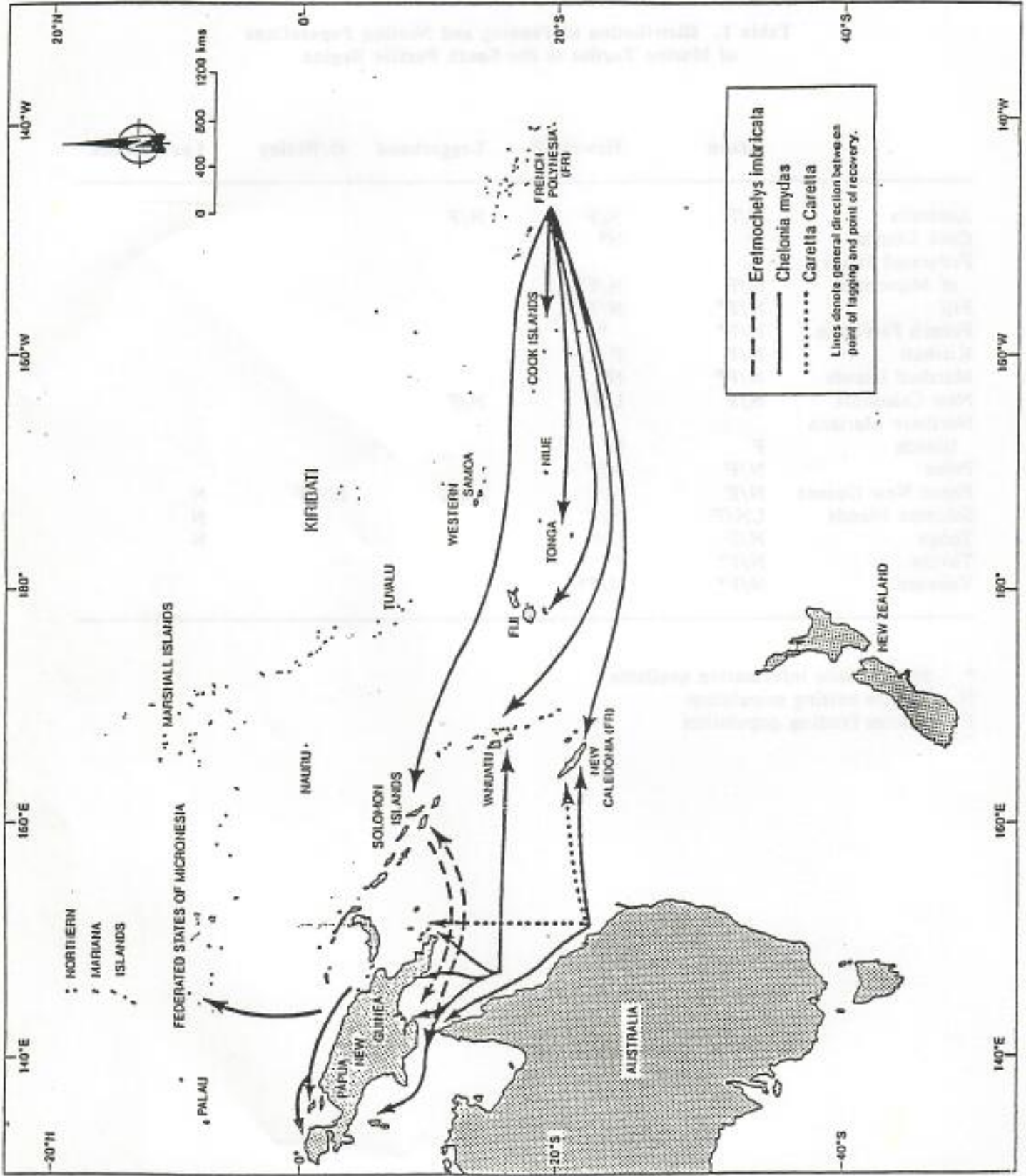


Figure 1: Marine Turtle Migrations in the South Pacific Region.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

September 17, 1990 F/SWC2:GHB
SPREP-7.GHB

MEMORANDUM FOR: George W. Boehlert
THROUGH: William G. Gilmartin *WGG*
FROM: George H. Balazs *George H. Balazs*
SUBJECT: Report of Foreign Travel to New Caledonia

On Saturday, August 11, 1990, I traveled to Noumea, New Caledonia via Sydney, Australia, to participate in a steering committee meeting and workshop of the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program's (SPREP) newly instituted Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Program. The sessions of this meeting covered three full days: August 13-15, 1990. I returned to Honolulu on the earliest available flight following the meeting, arriving in Honolulu the morning of August 17. All travel costs were paid by SPREP. My appointed role in the SPREP marine turtle program is that of a technical advisor on matters relating to the research and conservation of marine turtles. I have been asked to serve in this capacity with Colin Limpus of the Queensland National Parks Service and Sylvia Spring of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Annual steering committee meetings of the program are anticipated over the next three years. Funding for the program is derived mainly through grants from Canadian and Australian sources. The overall objective of the SPREP marine turtle program is "to conserve marine turtles and their cultural, economic and nutritional values for the coastal peoples of the countries served by the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme."

National representatives in attendance at the meeting were from Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. In addition, there were attendees representing Greenpeace Australia, Traffic Australia, and a prominent New Caledonian conservation organization: Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature. Moses Nelson of FSM was elected chairman of the meeting.

The meeting was conducted in an informal, yet efficient and effective, manner. Peter Thomas, Protected Areas Officer for SPREP and principal of the marine turtle program, supplied background information and necessary guidance to accomplish the meeting's goals. Major topics covered during the meeting



included: a review of marine turtle research and conservation activities underway in the Pacific region; data bases and standardization of methodology for tagging; population censusing techniques; and educational activities needed to promote marine turtle conservation. Extended background presentations, using 35 mm slides and other illustrative materials, were given by Limpus and Balazs covering research underway in their respective areas.

Considerable time was spent discussing and reviewing research and conservation proposals submitted by the national representatives present. A proposal was also submitted from Tokelau. Suggestions for improvement were made, where appropriate, thereby resulting in a package of sound and workable project proposals. I was especially impressed with the high level of cooperation shown amongst the participants. For example, the research project to tag and monitor nesting hawksbill turtles in the Solomon Islands has been proposed in cooperation with use of the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* to transport personnel between various remote islands.

A formal report of the meeting will be prepared and distributed at a later date by Peter Thomas. A copy of the meeting's Working Paper 1 ("A Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme for the South Pacific Region") has been attached for your information.

Attachment

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

B.P. 05
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTH PACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 28.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 28.28.18



COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE 05
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
"SOUTH PACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 28.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 28.28.18

In reply, please quote
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

PRO 59/4/2/1

Noumea, 20 September 1990

The Executive Director,
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Centre Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St.
HONOLULU
Hawaii 96822-2396
United States of America

Dear Sir,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to you and the National Marine Fisheries Service for your support for the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme Workshop which was recently completed in Noumea, New Caledonia. Mr. George Balazs, whose time was generously made available by the Service to attend, made a substantial contribution to the success of the meeting which benefited considerably from his wealth of expertise and knowledge on marine turtles.

The workshop succeeded in its main objective of securing the support of the Pacific Island countries which will be participating in the programme over the next three years and hopefully, into the future beyond that. A number of individual country projects have been, or are being developed and these will focus on population census and tagging activities. The task ahead of SPREP is to implement these effectively and in doing this we will be seeking the assistance and guidance of agencies with experience in the marine turtle conservation field such as the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mr. Balazs has indicated that although it is unlikely that he would be in a position to undertake field work, there are a number of other practical ways the Service can assist the programme. These include the exchange of information and data, advice on the establishment of a regional data base, provision of a limited number of tags and tagging instructions and technical advice on the country projects and the programme in general.

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13-15 August 1990)

PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Australia

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**Federated States
of Micronesia**

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Environment Conservation Division
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**United States
of America**

Mr George Balazs
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National Marine Fisheries Service
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ORGANISATIONS

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sauvegarde de la nature
néo-calédonienne

Mr Jean-Louis d'Auzon
Président
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Australia

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Fax : 61-2-5557154

Trade Records Analysis
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Commerce (Oceania) Inc.

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Director
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Telex : 176177
Fax : (61) 2 9773437

MR. PETER THOMAS
SPREP/SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
B.P. D5, NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

FAX (687) 26 38 18

FAX MESSAGE

FAX No.: (See below)

No. of Pages: 1 (including this one)

To: - Dr. Colin Limpus, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, Brisbane, Australia, FAX (61 07) 227 7676
- Ms. Susanne Geermans, ANPWS c/o Dr. Colin Limpus, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage, Brisbane, Australia, FAX (61 07) 227 7676
- Mr. George Balazs, Marine Turtle Conservation Officer, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory, Honolulu, Hawaii, FAX (1 808) 943 1290

From: Vili A. Fuavao, SPREP Director

Date: 10 July 1991

File: PRO 59/4/2/1

Subject: **SECOND MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME STEERING COMMITTEE, 12 - 14 AUGUST 1991, NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA**

Message:

Introduction

The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the South Pacific Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme will be held at the South Pacific Commission Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia 12 - 15 August 1991. The meeting will be held immediately following the Regional Technical Meeting Fisheries (RTMF) scheduled for 4 - 9 August and it is anticipated that some delegates from that meeting who are also involved in the implementation of the Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme (RMTCP) will remain in Noumea to attend the Steering Committee meeting.

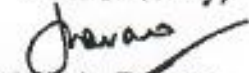
Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to review overall progress with the implementation of all aspects of the RMTCP since the first meeting of the Committee was held in August 1990 and to plan Programme implementation for 1991/92. The meeting will include:

- a) presentations of country statements updating the status of turtle conservation and reviewing projects undertaken under the RMTCP in 1990/91
- b) a review of progress with the regional components of the RMTCP
- c) assessments of projects and programmes submitted for 1991/92 (participants are requested to bring proposals for on-going projects to be implemented under the RMTCP).

As a technical adviser to the Steering Committee I would like to extend this invitation to you to attend the meeting and confirm that SPREP will be in a position to meet the airfare and per diem associated with your attendance. Where other arrangements haven't already been made, SPREP will forward a PTA to you. I would appreciate your early confirmation of attendance and any comment or suggestions you may have on the principal meeting activities.

Yours sincerely,



Vili A. Fuavao

Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

VF/PT/mtb

HONOLULU LABORATORY
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
NOAA, U.S. DEPT OF COMMERCE
2570 KOLE STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822-2396

REP
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
P. DS
EA CEDEX
LEDONIA
ADDRESS:
OM NOUMEA
NE 26. 20. 00
NM SOPACOM
7 26. 38. 18



PROE
PROGRAMME REGIONAL OCEANIC DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
B. P. DS
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE
ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
"SOUTH PACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26. 20. 00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26. 38. 18

In reply, please quote
PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE DIRECTOR

PRO 59/4/2/1

JUL 01 1991

*yes, plz pay respect.
your ideas?*

*CHB
JAW
WGE*

Notre référence

VEUILLEZ ADRESSER VOTRE RÉPONSE
AUX DIRECTEUR

Nooumea, 31 May 1991

CIRCULAR LETTER TO: **SPREP National Focal Points**
All Regional Fisheries Officers
FAO Regional Fisheries Officer, Suva

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Marine turtle conservation

On behalf of SPREP and as part of the South Pacific Marine Turtle Conservation Programme, a general database is being set up concerning sea turtle populations in the South Pacific region.

Any information from your country that you could send regarding the following items would be appreciated.

1. Tag recoveries

- information on sea turtle captures and sightings; ie: tag numbers, where sighted, method of capture, fate of turtle (in conjunction with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) tagging programme)

2. Legislation

- hunting restrictions, export and protection of sea turtles

3. Literature

- reports, surveys and papers on sea turtle behaviour, such as nesting and feeding

4. Statistics

- statistics on trade and local consumption of turtles.

Yours sincerely,

Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

VF/mtb



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

July 8, 1991

F/SWC2:GHB:LCW
VILI-8L.GHB

Mr. Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environmental Program (SPREP)
B.P. D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Vili:

Thank you very much for your recent letter asking for background information regarding marine turtle research and conservation. As you know, my resident marine turtle specialist, George Balazs, serves (along with Colin Limpus of Australia) as a member of the advisory committee to SPREP's regional marine turtle program. In that capacity, he will continue to supply SPREP with the information you requested, not only from Hawaii but for elsewhere throughout the tropical Pacific.

Your regional turtle program is an important undertaking. Please continue to count on us to provide information, advice, and other forms of assistance as may be appropriate.

Sincerely,

George W. Boehlert
Honolulu Laboratory Director



**SECOND MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF THE REGIONAL MARINE
TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (RMTCP)**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12-14 August 1991)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Introductions and Welcome
 2. Election of Chairman
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Meeting Objectives
 5. Review of RMTCP and Overview of Progress in 1990/91
 6. Review of Turtle Conservation Activities by Country
 - Palau
 - Federated States of Micronesia
 - Fiji
 - Marshall Islands
 - Papua New Guinea
 - Solomon Islands
 - Vanuatu
 - New Caledonia
 - Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage
 - U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Greenpeace International
 7. Census and Tagging Projects - Programme for Future In Country Activities
 8. Progress with the Information and Data Base
 9. Research and Related Programmes
 10. Progress with Education
 11. Progress with Conservation Measures and Traditional Knowledge
 - 12. RMTCP for 1991/92
 13. Closing Session.
-

**NOTE TO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND PARTICIPANTS
TO THE
SECOND MEETING AND WORKSHOP OF THE REGIONAL MARINE
TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME (RMTCP)**

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 12-14 August 1991)

Enclosed are copies of the Agenda, Working Paper 1 *A Regional Marine Turtle Conservation and Management Programme for the South Pacific Region* and miscellaneous reports on RMTCP activities for 1991/91.

The meeting will commence at 9.00. Monday 14 August in the South Pacific Conference Room. You will note from the Agenda that the early session will focus on the marine turtle management activities in the various countries represented at the meeting. Participants are requested to be prepared providing a brief (10 minutes) summary to the meeting. It would be appreciated if this could also be made available in written form.

Thank you.



Peter Thomas
Protected Areas Management Officer
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

SPREP

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

B. P. D5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTHACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: 26. 20. 00
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FAX : (687) 26. 38. 18



PROE

PROGRAMME REGIONAL OCEANIE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

B. P. D5
NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
"SOUTHACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE : 26. 20. 00
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FAX : (687) 26. 38. 18

In reply, please quote

PRO 59/4/2/1

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE DIRECTOR

Notre référence

VEUILLEZ ADRESSER VOTRE RÉPONSE
AU DIRECTEUR

Noumea, 20 August 1991

**CIRCULAR LETTER TO: SPREP National Focal Points
SPREP Institutional Focal Points
Participants to the Second Meeting and
Workshop of the Regional Marine Turtle
Conservation Programme (RMTCP)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Second Meeting of the SPREP Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme Steering Committee was concluded on 14 August following two days of discussion on the issues concerning turtle conservation in the South Pacific and the implementation of the Programme. The Steering Committee which included members from the current participating countries (Marshall Islands, FSM, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Palau and French Polynesia) and experts from Australia and the United States, passed a number of resolutions relating to turtle conservation in the region and these are attached for your information.

I would be grateful if you could bring relevant resolutions to the attention of other agencies and organisations in your country which may have an interest in promoting turtle conservation. I refer in particular to Resolutions 1-3 of the attached.

Yours sincerely,

Vili A. Fuavao
Director
South Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)

Att.

TRANSMITTAL SHEET



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
 2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396
 Commercial: (808) 943-1221
 Telefax: (808) 943-1290

TELEFAX FOR: SPREP
PAUL HOLTHUS

DATE: 5 SEPT 91

FROM: GEORGE BALAZS TELEPHONE EXT: 808-943-1240

NUMBER OF SHEETS TRANSMITTED (including this page) 3

MESSAGE: PAUL - I HAD PROMISED PETER TO
 SEND SPREP THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:
 FOR JAPANESE BEKKO RESOLUTION - 1991

- 1.) MR. IWAO HARA, CHAIRMAN
 JAPANESE TORTOISE-SHELL FEDERATION
 4-23, SAKE-MACHI
 NAGASAKI CITY, 850 JAPAN
- 2.) MR. HIKARU MATSUNAGA, MINISTER
 MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
 AND INDUSTRY -
 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
 3-1 KASUMIGASEKI 1-CHOME
 CHIYODA-KU
 TOKYO, 100 JAPAN

FOR 1990 RESOLUTION RELATING TO DR. CAER -

MRS. MARJORIE CAER
 ROUTE 2, BOX 906
 MICANOPY, FL 32667

FOR 1991 RESOLUTION RELATING TO ALAN BANNER -

MS. KAY BANNER (ALAN'S SURVIVING SISTER)
 819A PUUNANI PLACE
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817



PAUL HOLTHUS

P.2 of 3 pages

PLEASE SEND ME BLIND (bcc) COPIES OF
OF THE COVER LETTERS AND RESOLUTIONS SENT
TO THESE FOUR PEOPLE. I PRESUME THAT VILI
WOULD SIGN THE LETTER.

SUE GERMAN'S VISIT TO HAWAII WENT
EXCEEDINGLY WELL, IN MY VIEW. I HOPE
THAT SPREP CAN CONTINUE TO KEEP HER INVOLVED,
AND THAT AS OFTEN AS NEEDED SHE (AND YOU)
WILL TURN TO ME (AND LIMBUS) FOR
ADVICE. I AM COMMITTED TO RMTCP AS A
POSITIVE FORCE FOR SEA TURTLES, AND NATIVE
PEOPLES, OF THE PACIFIC. HOWEVER, WITH SUE
BASED IN BRISBANE, AND HAVING ORIGINATED FROM
THE QUEENSLAND TURTLE RESEARCH PROGRAM, I
BELIEVE THAT EXTRA CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO
INSURE THAT THE IDENTITY OF RMTCP REMAINS
DISTINCT, AND WITH SPREP, RATHER THAN QUEENSLAND.
I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS CONCERN WITH SUE, AND
SHE IS IN AGREEMENT. BUT IT WILL BE AN
ONGOING PROCESS.

WITH THIS FAX, I AM INCLUDING A
COPY OF FAX I JUST SENT TO SUE
REGARDING THE POSTER PROJECT. I WANTED
TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS WITH YOU.

Best regards,





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

687-26-38-18

3 OCT 91

TO: PAUL HOLTHUS
SPREP

FROM: GEORGE BALAZS

Dear Paul - Sorry to have missed you during your visit to Honolulu. I was looking forward to showing you several of my foraging pasture study sites in Kaneohe Bay. The offer still stands for your next trip to Hawaii. Just let me know the dates.

My trip to Scilly and Bellinghousen is still "on" for the middle of this month. As mentioned earlier, NMFS is not sponsoring the travel, nor my salary. I'm taking vacation time, because I believe this is an extremely important site to investigate. Philippe has offered me some per diem compensation, however, the \$760 plane ticket I have purchased is out of my own pocket. It didn't occur



to me earlier, but if SPROF wants to be a "cosponsor" to this study effort, all they would have to do is reimburse me for the Hawaii-Tahiti plane ticket. This is simply a hindsight offer on my part (not a plea for \$!), as I'm perfectly happy to be sending my money for such a worthy cause.

If you are away from Noumea when this FAX is received, there is no urgency to respond. Things can always be done retroactive, after I return.

Hopefully the ocean conditions will be suitable to allow us to land on the two atolls.

Best regards,
Guy

TRANSMITTAL SHEET



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Commercial: (808) 943-1221
Telefax: (808) 943-1290

TELEFAX FOR: -SPREP- PAUL HOLTHUS DATE: 30 Oct 91 ^{FAYED}
FROM: GEORGE BALAZS TELEPHONE EXT: _____

NUMBER OF SHEETS TRANSMITTED (including this page) 2

MESSAGE: Dear Paul -

My RECENT VISIT TO SCILLY ATOLL AND BELLINGSHAUSEN WITH PHILIPPE AND HIS STAFF WENT EXCEEDINGLY WELL. WE WERE ABLE TO EXAMINE AND TAG 55 NESTING GREEN TURTLES, WHICH IS REALLY QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR SUCH A SHORT TIME. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ONLY HAD 25 SPREP TAGS WITH US, AS THE 400 SENT FROM NOUMEA DIDN'T ARRIVE UNTIL AFTER OUR DEPARTURE.

I HAVE SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING OF THE SPREP TAGS, ONE OF THE 25 WE USED BROKE RIGHT AT THE BEND OF THE TAG (SEE ACCOMPANYING PAGE). THE "R" OF RMTP IS STAMPED RIGHT AT THE BEND. WHILE NO OTHER TAGS BROKE LIKE THIS, I AM NEVERTHELESS WORRIED THAT CRACKS ARE HAPPENING IN THE TAGS THAT APPEAR TO BE WORKING FINE. I WOULD LIKE TO RUN SOME TESTS HERE IN HONOLULU, SO PLEASE SEND ME 50 TAGS AND AN APPLICATOR. I'LL USE THEM ON HAWAIIAN TURTLES IN CAPTIVITY.



CONTINUED P. 2

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

B. P. 66

NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIACABLE ADDRESS:
SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
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TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM

FAX: (687) 26. 38. 18



PROGRAMME REGIONAL OCEANIE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

B. P. 66

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NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIEADDRESS TELEGRAPHIQUE:
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TELEPHONE: 26. 20. 00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26. 38. 18

FAX MESSAGE

FAX No.: (808) 943-1290, HONOLULU, HAWAII No. of pages: 1 (including this one)

To: DR GEORGE BALAZS, NMFS

From: PAUL HOLTHUS - SPREP

Date: 12 NOVEMBER 1991

File: ...PRO.59/4/2/1

Subject: TURTLE BUSINESS


Message: Dear George,

Thank s for your faxes of 4 and 31 Oct. Glad to hear the Tahiti trip went well. I've heard nothing from Philippe yet and have not had time to sort through the financial situation and transfer the funds we belatedly agreed SPREP could provide. We are only to glad to cover the costs for your travel. Your commitment to turtle conservation is inspiring. Please send a copy of your ticket or an invoice verifying the cost (accountants are upon us).

Sorry the 400 tags didn't arrive. They got sent as soon as we received them. The letter position problem was addressed in the current batch by only having the 'R' on that side of the tag, so it's not to near the bend (thankfully, as we have 6,000 of the things). Do you still want 50 tags and an applicator to trial the tags in Hawaii?

Attached is self explanatory fax from Andrew and Steve in Yap. I await feed-back from you and Sue/Col before replying.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Holthus

 Project Officer (Scientist)
 South Pacific Regional
 Environment Programme (SPREP)

XEROX
2-Sided

Marine Resources Management Division
Box 251, Yap, FM 96943
Federated States of Micronesia
Fax: (691)350-4113; Tel:(691)350-2294

FACSIMILE

FAX #: (687)26.38.18
TO: Paul Holthus, SPREP, Noumea, New Caledonia
FROM: Dr Andrew Smith & Steve Kolinski
DATE: 24 October 1991
SUBJECT: Yap's Turtle Project

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION
ACTION FILE <i>PLA 91/10/1</i>
28 OCT. 1991
ACTION OFFICER <i>J. L. ...</i>

B. D. ...

No. of Pages: 2 Charge Account: 4017-6

Message:

Mr Paul Holthus,
SPREP,
B.P. D5,
Noumea Cedex,
New Caledonia.

Dear Paul,

We have recently been corresponding with Lawrence Hamilton, who represents the MacArthur Foundation, copies of which I believe have been sent to you. The correspondence arose from a proposal we submitted to the MacArthur Foundation for extra funding for our turtle project. From the last letter we received from Lawrence Hamilton, I understand that any request for funding from them needs to be approved by you, and (as I read it) channeled through the SPREP turtle program.

Our request for supplemental funding (ie, in addition to SPREP's and Yap State Legislature's) is for three main purposes. Firstly, since the meeting in August we have found out that considerably more turtles nest at Ngulu Atoll than we had originally thought, possibly almost as many as were found at Gielop (Ulithi). Therefore, for next year's project we have decided to tag at more locations, but for shorter periods of time. Those locations will be: Ngulu, Ulichj, Gafanit and Elato. At the moment our budget, with modifications, may just stretch to cover those islands. Our main need will be to employ more field workers. Secondly, at the August meeting, Col Linpus offered to train any of our workers that we could send to his project. Supplemental money will be needed for airfares and stipends. Col has recommended two weeks in late January as the best time and duration for training. Thirdly, due to the revised plans for field work, resulting in a greater total time in the field, our office may not be able to provide the small boat and motor for the whole time, as has occurred for the last two years. In addition, MRMD's boats are becoming old and unsafe. Most of our 'turtle islands' are remote from the inhabited islands, and requires a small boat to permit fishing for food, and as emergency transport. A 16'-18' fiberglass boat and 25hp are needed.

Operator:
Date:
Time:

Authorized by: *A. W. ...*
Title: *Chief, MRMD*

21/10/91

Unfortunately, most of these needs arose after I was in Noumea, and after our proposals went in. Any assistance you may be able to provide, either through your support of our request to the MacArthur Foundation, or through SPREP's program, would be greatly appreciated. Steve is in the process of preparing revised budgets for a number of scenarios, depending on the amount of funding finally obtained. One other thing, at the meeting in Noumea, when Peter was requesting estimates of the number of tags needed, I said 1500 for Yap. If we include Ngulu, we think that estimate will be to be raised to 2000! We feel it is better to have too many tags than not enough, resupplying field workers in our outer islands from Noumea/Apia will be a nightmare. Perhaps a store of SPREP tags should be kept with George Balazs in Hawaii, at least he could get them to us slightly quicker.

In your fax you mentioned submitting the '1992 programme documents' when we request the SPREP money. What documents are they? When I talked to Peter last August he said we just needed to write a letter requesting the money, who to address it to and where to send it. Please let us know what we have to do, as we are ready to receive it!

My time here is up at the end of November, so after that Steve will be running the show. I think he will also be on leave for December.

Regards,

Andrew
Andrew Smith

Thanks for your fax of 23 October. We're about ready to send copies of the Gielop data sheets to you at SPREP. We were wondering if your move to Apia will be a problem? We'll also enclose slides of the Gielop project (although the photographer and camera are not the best). The slides of turtles with lesions have been sent to George Balazs, so copies of these will be forthcoming at a later date.

Andrew told me that turtle T-shirts might be available for persons associated with our turtle project. The number of people involved with this project is growing as the project itself is expanding. To date, we have had six persons (not including MRMD staff) who have taken part in the tagging program, and 15 people who have sent us turtle catch data and/or are now responsible for doing so on a voluntary basis.

It is also important for us to consider the chiefs and landowners who allow us to conduct the tagging projects on their islands using "their" turtles and resources. In certain cases, such as on Gielop, we were given permission to bypass traditional regulations in order to carry out the project (such as catching and releasing a turtle). The situation here is a little tricky based on who owns land and who owns the turtles. To give a shirt to one chief would mean that 15 chiefs to date would also need to get one.

As you can see, the number of T-shirts we would require is quite large and will undoubtedly grow. Because of the numbers involved, we're wondering if we would need to purchase shirts at cost from SPREP for distribution to the above mentioned people? Any amount of shirts SPREP could supply would be greatly appreciated. We have set up a priority list for who should get shirts first, but would like to supply shirts to all the above mentioned people out of respect for their help with the project.

I hope to have the Gielop report finished before my leave in December. I'll be returning to Yap early January. Any correspondence during this period can be sent through John Iou (Chief, MRMD). Thanks for your help!

Best Regards,

Steve Wainwright



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

Commercial: (808) 943-1221
Telefax: (808) 943-1290

SPREP

TELEFAX FOR: PAUL HOLTHUSDATE: 11 DECEMBER 91FROM: GEORGE BALAZS

TELEPHONE EXT: _____

NUMBER OF SHEETS TRANSMITTED (including this page) 1

MESSAGE:

Done PAUL -

THE 400 SPREP TAGS AND 2 APPLICATORS ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY IN GOOD CONDITION, ALTHOUGH WE HAD SOME PROBLEMS GETTING THEM OUT OF CUSTOMS. THE SHIPPING FORM LISTED "T-SHIRTS," BUT THERE WERE NO T-SHIRTS IN THE PACKAGE. THIS CREATED SOME CONCERN WITH THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS! IT ALL WORKED OUT FINE, THOUGH.

I DON'T KNOW WHY PHILIPPE IS ORDERING INCONEL TAGS. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO USE THE NEW "R" SPREP TAGS. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WANTS THE SMALLER SIZE ON HAND FOR JUVENILES RELEASED FROM THEIR REANCHING PROJECT. THE LARGE SPREP TAGS ARE NOT REALLY SUITABLE FOR TURTLES THAT SMALL.

I HAVE ALL OF THE TAGGING DATA FOR SCILLY AND MOTU-ONE TYPED INTO TABLES. I SENT COPIES TO PHILIPPE AND URGED HIM TO SEND IT TO YOU. I'M SURE HE WILL BE DOING SO SOON. I'LL REMIND HIM. I WANT IT TO COME FROM HIM, NOT ME. THERE ARE SENSITIVITIES HERE, AS YOU KNOW, I SPENT A VERY PRODUCTIVE 2 DAYS WITH STEVE KOLINSKI.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



P. 2
PAUL HOLTHUS
SPREP

NOTE -

BREAK OCCURRED ALONG THE BACK
OF THE "R" OF RMTP.
THE "R" IS STAMPED RIGHT
ALONG THE BEND OF THE
TANG.



I'VE SENT SUE A LETTER ALERTING HER TO
THIS POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM, BUT YOU WILL GET
THIS FAX LONG BEFORE SHE RECEIVES MY LETTER,

IN ANY EVENT, THE RMTP SHOULD
BE STAMPED FURTHER TO THE RIGHT, WELL
AWAY FROM THE BEND, SO THE BACK OF THE
"R" DOESN'T SERVE AS A PERFORATION. IT
WAS VERY FOOLISH FOR THE AUSTRALIAN TAG
MANUFACTURER TO STAMP RMTP WHERE THEY
DID!

Best regards,
Paul



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

7 JAN 92

TO: PAUL HOLTUS
SPREP, FAX (689) 45 17 25

FROM: GEORGE BALAZS
FAX 808-943-1290

ALOHA -
GJB

Dear Paul -

I have just today received a letter from the Philippines reporting one of my ^{"HIMBII"} X'pofis tags found on a turtle 14 November 91. The tag was applied by Philippe and I, along with RMTF 476. There are some discrepancies in the letter, which I must write to her for clarification. In the meantime, I am wondering if the same person, ^{Ms.} Corazon Marallag, has reported RMTF 476 to the SPREP address? She does not make any mention of RMTF 476 in her letter to me. Confusing things like this are bound to come up, no matter how careful we are. I'll give you full details just as soon as I'm confident of accuracy.



Pascal Hamel
ORSTOM
BP A5
Noumea Cedex
NEW CALEDONIA

14th January 1992

Dear Pascal,

I refer to your recent letter regarding the tagged green turtle you recovered during the survey of the Surprise Islands.

This turtle, T15386, was first tagged on the 4th February 1985 in the feeding ground of Wistari Reef, near Heron Island. It was then captured on the 20th July 1985, again at Wistari Reef.

This is an important tag recovery, as it is the second turtle which has been discovered nesting in the Surprise Islands after being tagged in a Queensland feeding ground.

Did you notice any other tags on the turtle (ie. on the right front flipper)? Did you apply another tag to the turtle? Any more information you have regarding T15386 would be more than welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Suzie Geermans

Suzie Geermans
Turtle Conservation Consultant
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

cc. Paul Holthus, SPREP
George Balazs, NMFS

CENTRE DE NOUMEA

BOITE POSTALE A5 NOUMÉA Cedex
NOUVELLE - CALÉDONIE
☎ (687) 26 10 00 Télax 3193 NM
Fax (687) 26 43 26

Nouméa, le



Pascal HAMEL

to

WILD LIFE
Box 180
North Quay
4000 Queensland
Australia

92/00503

S

Dear Sir,

I just come back from a cruise in Surprise Islands where we have tagged 270 turtles (SPREP). I am glad to let you know that we have discovered a Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) tagged by your services under the number T 15 386 AG during the night of 12.12.91 in Huon, the northeast islands of Surprise, North of New Caledonia.

The measurement was :

length : 102 cm
large : 92 cm

I would appreciate if you could send me further information about this turtle. When was it previously tagged ? Where ? What was it measurement ? Or any information you could have.

Sincerely yours,

Pascal Hamel



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

9 FEB 92

4 PAGES TOTAL

TO: PAUL HOLTUS
SPREP

FROM: GEORGE BALAZS
FAX 808-943-1290

Dear Paul -

Quite some time ago I sent
Peter a copy of the attached new
law governing sea turtles in French
Polynesia. I recall he was going
to have SPREP translate it into
English. Do you know if that was
ever accomplished? If so, I
would very much appreciate receiving a
copy, even if it's an abbreviated one.
FAX would be welcome.

Hope that all is going well.
I'm still in regular contact with
Suzie.

Albz,



Les tortues marines de Polynésie Française peuvent enfin être heureuses

Le gouvernement prend les choses en main

Les rapporteurs de la commission permanente de l'assemblée territoriale ont voté le rapport relatif à la protection des tortues marines en Polynésie Française vendredi matin en présence du ministre de la Mer, Boris Lœontioff.

Depuis l'annonce dans la presse en novembre 1987, des massacres de tortues en Polynésie Française, de vastes campagnes de mobilisation ont été entreprises et rituellement à terme de l'année l'image de marque du territoire.

C'est pourquoi, la sauvegarde des tortues marines est devenue une nécessité capitale non seulement en Polynésie française mais égale-

ment par le conseil des ministres et des dérogations étaient accordées pour des raisons scientifiques. Les dispositions réglementaires ont malheureusement entraîné une détérioration constante du

parc naturel de tortues vertes (Chelonia mydas) qui évoluent dans nos eaux. Elle n'a pas empêché le braconnage intensif, menaçant ainsi les générations et donc la survie de l'espèce dans les eaux polynésiennes.

Une réglementation plus stricte des captures par l'extension du champ d'application de la loi, il

s'agit d'interdire la pêche des tortues marines sur toute l'étendue du territoire quelles que soient la taille et la période de capture.

Touche pas à ma tortue

Afin de pallier aux risques de fraude favorisés par une géographie archéologique particulièrement hostile au contrôle du respect de la loi, l'interdiction porte non seulement sur la capture mais encore sur le transport, la détention, la commercialisation, l'importation et l'exportation des tortues.

elle couvre tous les stades d'évolution de la tortue (œuf, juvénile, âge adulte), tout probant provenant de la tortue (chair, carapace, écailles, tortues naturalisées), et les tortues vivantes ou mortes.

Dérogation spéciale

Toutefois, pour tenir compte des contraintes sociales, des traditions économiques et des besoins scientifiques, une certaine souplesse d'application est nécessaire. Ainsi bénéficieront de dérogation, sous certaines conditions :

- les habitants de certaines îles, confrontés à des besoins alimentaires liés de problèmes de dessertes maritimes et aériennes.
- les pêcheurs professionnels pour leurs besoins alimentaires en mer.
- les personnes physiques ou morales pour les programmes de recherche scientifique.
- les aquariophiles pour les besoins éducatifs et touristiques.

Jusqu'à la commercialisation des tortues d'aquaculture, à titre exceptionnel, les associations à l'occasion de manifestations culturelles.

Un parc d'élevage

Il n'est pas assuré que la disparition des tortues de nos eaux soit évitée. Il conviendrait de développer les programmes d'élevage de tortues ce qui limiterait l'intérêt financier du braconnage en casant la situation de monopole.

Comme beaucoup d'espèces animales au voie de disparition est entre les mains de l'homme.

Assemblée Territoriale

Des questions écrites comme s'il en pleuvait

A l'issue du jour de cette session de la commission permanente de l'assemblée territoriale, était inscrite une série de questions écrites.

Après une pose en fin de matinée, les travaux reprennent, pour être rapidement interrompus à la fin des débats qui s'instaurent, il paraît évident au président de séance que la totalité des textes devraient être transmise au conseil des ministres.

C'est donc le gouvernement qui aura à répondre, dans un délai d'un mois à la question adressée par Jean Tupu et Marcel Hart, concernant le projet de vente de l'atoll de Tupou à des investisseurs japonais.

Cette question vise à faire la lumière sur les développements actuels de ce dossier, et plus spécialement à des fonds ont été versés. Le texte préparé par ailleurs que les deux conseillers territoriaux réitérent leur opposition à toute cession du patrimoine foncier à des investisseurs étrangers.

Cette question est accompagnée d'un vœu relatif à la nécessité d'interdire la vente des terres aux investisseurs de nationalité étrangère.

Arthur Chung avait de même déposé une ques-

tion écrite relative au délai de paiement des divers impôts et taxes existantes, en ce sens que cette réglementation, en tant que continue à être appliquée, pourrait déléguer la trésorerie d'entreprises déjà en difficulté.

Le délai vient en effet d'être porté de trois à deux mois. Pour le conseiller territorial, il serait plus opportun de prolonger ce délai, en vu de la situation économique du territoire.

Et enfin, une série de quatre questions, signées Quito Braun-Ortega.

La première porte sur une disposition du nouveau statut du territoire: "Bien que l'on pourrait admettre le fait que les ministres soient désignés par le seul président du gouvernement dans les conditions prévues par le nouveau texte, il me semble impossible d'envoyer que le vice-président, lequel serait susceptible d'assurer un rôle prépondérant jusqu'à trois mois et ainsi assumer les compétences propres qui sont dévolues au président du gouvernement par l'assemblée territoriale, soit désigné sans que l'assemblée ait à se prononcer sur le choix du vice président du gouvernement".

La deuxième question est plus potémique, et

touche au fonctionnement de l'Etat. Le conseiller territorial demande des explications quant à certaines transactions concernant un véhicule du service.

Le fait est de nouveau la cible de la méfiance, mais concerne cette fois, le financement social "Tutu", à Nuku-Hiva, et "Tiputa Aritinau", à Bangorua. Quito Braun-Ortega requiert des éclaircissements quant à l'adéquation de la fourniture des matériels aux besoins réels de la construction des deux lotissements.

Quatrinement, enfin: l'affaire de la succession Braun-Petersen, et l'examen des droits proportionnels se rattachant à la transaction immobilière, en raison des difficultés propres à la succession, ces droits ne pouvaient être calculés, ce qui a suggéré au président du gouvernement la prise de mesures conservatoires.

Quito Braun-Ortega demande en conséquence l'échéance juridique annoncée, et un énoncé des mesures que le gouvernement entend prendre pour garantir la perception de ces droits.

On le rappelle, le gouvernement doit répondre avant un mois.

C.J.

Philippe Riquer, nouveau tavana ha «AVANT TOUT UN CONSEILLER TECHNIQUE» POUR LES I.D.V.



Le nouvel administrateur des Îles-Sous-Le-Vent, Philippe Riquer, est prêt à remplir son rôle de conseiller des élus communaux.

Le nouvel administrateur de la Subdivision des Îles du Vent donnait vendredi après-midi une conférence de presse dans les bureaux de son administration. Philippe Riquer souhaitait se présenter, et expliquer dans ses grandes lignes la façon dont il entend occuper ses nouvelles fonctions.

ARRIVÉ vendredi 6 juillet sur le Territoire, accompagné de sa famille, le nouvel administrateur de la Subdivision des Îles du Vent a pris ses fonctions dès le lendemain. Sa visite à Paœ le samedi lui a eu effet permis de prendre d'emblée des contacts.

Pour l'instant, Philippe Riquer entend rencontrer tous les maires avec lesquels il sera assés à collaborer, et consulter les dossiers de son portefeuille, entassés en piles impressionnantes sur son bureau. Il s'est déclaré « en phase de prise de connaissance », et il est par conséquent trop tôt pour parler de projets précis.

Les mots qui reviennent le plus souvent dans sa bouche au cours de cette conférence de presse étaient

«collaboration» et «travailler ensemble». Il considère que pour remplir son rôle, il devra être disponible et prêter une oreille attentive aux requêtes des maires et des élus.

Chaque conseil municipal des Îles du Vent pourra soumettre ses problèmes et ses desiderata au nouveau tavana ha, qui examinera ce qui peut être fait, quel que soit le domaine abordé. M. Riquer nous a déclaré qu'il arrivait « sans a priori ».

Fonctionnaire d'Etat chargé de la tutelle administrative et financière, il se considère avant tout comme un conseiller technique. SON aide devrait permettre aux communes d'habiter des dossiers qui pourront aboutir de façon satisfaisante. Loin d'être préparé, le terme de tutelle définit selon Philippe Riquer le contrôle de la légalité des actes, sans exclure le nécessaire dialogue.

Le champ de ses pouvoirs et capacités d'investigation reviennent à préciser, mais Philippe Riquer ajoutait qu'il apparaît aux maires de diversifier un peu tout dépend des dossiers qui lui sont soumis.

Il pense rencontrer rapidement l'ensemble des maires des Îles du Vent, certains rendez-vous à déjà pris. Il était ainsi dans le 2^e qu'il se samedi, accompagné de femme et ses enfants.

Ses diverses missions, au cours de son début de carrière, l'ont amené à connaître les problèmes des 5 africains. C'est à ce titre que ministre de la Coopération avait proposé un poste en Afrique.

Un poste à Mexico lui avait également proposé, mais ses parents allaient aux départements territoriaux d'outre mer. Philippe Riquer est donc très heureux d'avoir affecté au poste qu'il a choisi, et espère que cette nomination lui permettra d'accomplir son rôle d'administrateur et de voir de nouvelles choses.

Bienvenue au Polynésie et à Paœ !

Laurence GRANCHAMI
François BURCHIDOLI

Elles sont arrivées nos K7 Vidéo (3 heures) à 900 F seulement

C) AQUACULTURE DE TORTUES MARINES

Article 10 : Des dérogations :

- à l'interdiction de la collecte, du transport de la détention, de l'importation et de l'exportation des œufs de tortues marines,
- à l'interdiction de transport, de détention, de commercialisation, d'importation et d'exportation des tortues marines.

peuvent être accordées par le Ministre chargé de la Mer pour les programmes d'élevage après avis du Ministre chargé de l'Environnement.

Les dérogations à l'importation et l'exportation seront délivrées sous réserve des conventions internationales applicables en Polynésie française.

Article 11 : Des arrêtés en Conseil des Ministres fixent les conditions d'octroi des dérogations pour les personnes physiques ou morales désirant se livrer à l'aquaculture de tortues, les normes d'élevage. Un pourcentage de jeunes tortues à rélécher, les mesures prévalables à la commercialisation et les conditions de la commercialisation des tortues marines d'aquaculture.

Toute utilisation des œufs de tortues marines, ou des tortues marines d'aquaculture à des fins autres que celles expressément spécifiées dans l'arrêté portant dérogation fera l'objet d'une suspension immédiate de la dérogation et les auteurs de l'infraction seront passibles des peines prévues à la présente délibération nonobstant la révocation immédiate de l'autorisation d'occupation du domaine public maritime dont bénéficiaient éventuellement le propriétaire des installations aquacoles.

TITRE III CONTROLE ET SANCTIONS

Article 12 : Le Service de la Mer et de l'Aquaculture pourra, à tout moment, procéder à des contrôles des bénéficiaires des dérogations.

Article 13 : Les infractions à la présente délibération seront constatées par les officiers et agents de police judiciaire ainsi que par les agents spécialement commissionnés et assermentés devant le Tribunal de première instance. Le serment peut être fait par écrit. Dans ce cas, il doit être enregistré par le Tribunal de première instance.

Article 14 : Sous réserve d'une homologation par la loi de la présente délibération :

- les auteurs des infractions aux dispositions de la présente délibération et de arrêtés pris pour son application seront punis d'un emprisonnement de 3 mois au moins et un an au plus et d'une amende de 100.000 F CFP à 300.000 F CFP (5.500 à 15.000 FF) ou de l'une des deux peines seulement ;

- les navires, moyens de transport, engins de pêche et leurs accessoires ou tout autre outil ayant aidé à l'accomplissement des infractions sont susceptibles de saisie immédiate dès constatation de l'infraction

tion et feront l'objet d'une confiscation prononcée par le Tribunal avec vente ou d'une destruction dès leur saisie, si les engins de pêche sont prohibés.

Jusqu'à leur vente, ils seront placés sous le contrôle du Service de la Mer et de l'Aquaculture qui fixera l'endroit où ils seront déposés et désignés, éventuellement, le gardien de la saisie.

Article 15 : Les œufs de tortues marines collectés, les tortues marines pêchées, transportés et tout produit obtenu à partir des dites tortues, détenues ou commercialisées en infraction aux dispositions de la présente délibération seront immédiatement saisis par l'agent verbalisateur et feront l'objet selon les circonstances, après avis du Service de la Mer et de l'Aquaculture, d'un rejet à la mer, d'une remise contre décharge à des établissements sociaux et de bienfaisance ou à des personnes reconnues. Eventuellement, s'il ne peut être procédé ni à un rejet ni à un don, dans les conditions prévues précédemment, les œufs de tortues ou les tortues marines pourraient être détruits.

Article 16 : Jusqu'à l'entrée en vigueur de la loi d'homologation, les auteurs des infractions à la présente délibération sont passibles, en application de l'article 65 de la loi N° 85-820 du 26 septembre 1984, des peines applicables aux auteurs de contraventions de la 5^eme classe.

Article 17 : En cas d'importation ou d'exportation illicite, les auteurs de ces infractions sont passibles des peines édictées par les articles 235 et 238 du Code des Douanes de la Polynésie Française nonobstant l'application éventuelle des peines prévues aux articles 14 et 15 de la présente délibération, si l'importation ou l'exportation illicite se double d'une violation à d'autres interdictions prévues par le présent texte. La totalité des peines sera saisie par l'agent verbalisateur dans les conditions prévues à l'article 13.

TITRE IV DISPOSITIONS TRANSITOIRES

Article 18 : Les personnes physiques ou morales détenant des carcasses et des tortues naturalisées avant la publication de cette délibération au Journal Officiel de la Polynésie Française devront les déclarer au Service de la Mer et de l'Aquaculture dans un délai de six mois à compter de la date de la publication. Au delà de cette période, les carcasses et les tortues naturalisées sont interdites à la vente et pourront être saisies. Elles pourront faire l'objet d'une confiscation prononcée par le Tribunal et d'une vente au enchères au profit du Territoire.

Article 19 : La délibération N° 71-209 du 23 décembre 1971 et son arrêté d'application N° 757/PRE-CHE du 02 mars 1973 sont abrogés.

Article 20 : Le Président du Gouvernement est chargé de l'exécution de la présente délibération qui sera publiée au Journal Officiel de la Polynésie Française.

Mr. Peter Thomas
c/o
The Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program
South Pacific Regional Environmental Program
B.P. Box D5
Noumea. New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Enclosed you will find a proposal from the Marshall Islands government for a marine sea turtle tagging and monitoring project that we wish to implement in our country.

To date, there has never been a concerted effort to study and monitor this important resource in the Marshall Islands. Traditionally, sea turtles have always played a significant role in our lifestyle and culture. Throughout our long history, marine turtles have figured prominently in our customs as a special cornerstone in the evolution of our heritage. We hope to always preserve this prerogative but now with the advent of modern technology we find ourselves at a distinct disadvantage in attempting to sustain this resource. Despite our understanding of the need to implement a viable management program, we presently lack the necessary biological data and experienced personnel to begin such a course of action. Furthermore, our country is in its infancy and beset with the many problems associated with the growth of any new nation. Most of our national treasury is committed to resolving other priorities, and therefore very little money is left to manage our natural resources. Hence, we have begun to rectify this situation by soliciting outside technical assistance, explaining the tenuous status of the turtle stocks to local ruling chiefs (thereby gaining tentative approvals to implement a management strategy), and by assigning certain staff members to this end. What is still lacking is the necessary funding to begin our modest research project as outlined in the accompanying proposal. In light of our dilemma, we hope you will receive this request from the government of the Marshall Islands with understanding and empathy. The successful completion of this project will not only benefit the people of the Marshall Islands but will also contribute to the possibility of attaining a sustainable turtle resource within the Pacific region as a whole.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at the address below.

Yours Sincerely,

Donald or Danny
RepMar

The Marshall Islands is an island group consisting of 29 atolls and 5 low islands situated between Hawaii and the Federated States of Micronesia resting between 4 and 15° N latitude and 160 and 173° E longitude. The atolls themselves are rings of coral reefs studded with small islets barely rising above sea level. Some atolls consist of as few as two islets while others contain as many as 100 or more. The more than 1,200 islets which make up the archipelago amount to a dry land mass of merely 70 mi² and is scattered over an ocean area of over 500,000 square miles. The human population of the Marshalls totals over 45,000 people at last count and is increased yearly by one of the highest birth rates in the world. While only 26 atolls and islands are inhabited by people, the remaining atolls are still considered crucial by Marshallese because they function as sanctuaries for the flora and fauna upon which the people depend for their subsistence. Uninhabited atolls such as Bikar, Erikup, and Jemo since time immemorial have long served the Marshallese as a larder for food items such as fish, lobster, coconut crabs, tridacna clams, sea birds, coconuts, and turtles. Historically, regular expeditions to these uninhabited atolls were made to gather foodstuffs and certain medicinal plants which were then distributed under strict traditional customs to both the ruling class and commoners alike. Moreover, because these atolls were remote and not primary sites for human habitation, much advance preparation was necessary prior to setting out to them. Food, water, and gear had to be prepared and stored in the sailing canoes to ensure a successful voyage. All of this work was accomplished under prescribed traditional mores which further served to enhance the close bond the Marshallese formed with nature and one another.

Not the least among the items collected from these sanctuaries were sea turtles known as "won" (green sea turtle) and "jabake" (hawksbill). (leatherback) are also known within the waters of the Marshall Islands but were never exploited as a food item. To maximize their food gathering opportunities, the Marshallese often planned their long and arduous expeditions to coincide closely to a time called "lorron" : the period when hundreds of sea turtles come ashore to nest. After allowing the animals sufficient time to lay their eggs, choice female turtles were selected to be carried back to the villages. Also collected were the turtle eggs which were considered a special delicacy. If by chance turtle hatchlings were encountered, they too were captured and taken back to home atolls to be raised as pets.

Chief among these remote turtle sanctuaries is the third northernmost atoll known to the Marshallese as Bikar. Bikar is a full day's sail from its closest inhabited neighbor Utirik and approximately 400 miles from the capital in Majuro. It is a relatively small uninhabited atoll situated at 12° N latitude and 170° E longitude consisting of two small islets. It has a single

narrow and shallow pass which prohibits the passing of large ships into its lagoon. Access into its interior can only be accomplished by using small boats with shallow drafts and then only with extreme care at slack tide. Of the two islets on this extremely remote atoll the northernmost islet called Bikar, from which the atoll derives its name, is famous throughout the Marshalls as the finest turtle nesting site in entire archipelago. Hendericks in 1969 speculated that Bikar may be the most prolific turtle nesting site in the entire area known formerly as the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands of which the Marshalls at that time were a part. Included within this region are other well known natural turtle hatcheries such as Helen Island in Palau and Satawal in the Eastern Carolines. The turtles captured from Bikar are considered by Marshallese to be the best tasting of all turtles because of their ample fat content and are therefore highly prized. Prior to the advent of mechanized vessels, Bikar was not often visited. Only in times when important ceremonial customs dictated the necessity of turtle products were elaborate expeditions mounted to Bikar. More recently however, this remote atoll (and others like it) have been called upon more often as travel between islands becomes less inconvenient. Today it is not uncommon to hear of three or four trips per year to Bikar in order to procure turtle meat and eggs. Furthermore, it is well documented that foreign fishing vessels in adjacent waters have illegally entered the atoll to supplement their provisions. Evidence of outside intrusions to gather tridacna clams, lobster, and turtles can commonly be observed on Bikar at any time of the year.

To better manage and understand more of this very important resource in the Marshall Islands, we propose to initiate a turtle tagging project on Bikar Atoll. Our intention is to organize an expedition to visit this remote atoll to coincide with the peak nesting season. We envision a team of researchers camping on Bikar for a period of a week or so, measuring and tagging females as they come ashore during the night to lay their eggs. In addition, the daylight hours will be used to eradicate the exploding rat population recently reported on the islet, and which has been seen invading turtle nests looking for eggs to eat. A large vessel will have to be chartered in the capital of Majuro in order to carry the necessary equipment, workers, and supplies to implement this project. This vessel should be large enough to haul a small Boston Whaler type boat with an outboard engine, enough supplemental drinking water, food, and fuel to sustain a team of 4 to 6 researchers for one week or more while on Bikar, and sophisticated enough to navigate to and from this remote northern atoll. In addition, during the sail northward we propose to stop at two additional well known turtle nesting sites in the Marshalls known respectively as Erikup Atoll and Jemo Island. Both places are on the way to Bikar and also serve as sanctuaries for turtles and other unique atoll resources.

Sampling at these sites for nesting turtles will be restricted to one or two nights and will give the team a chance to establish a criteria of sorts to better compare the abundance or lack of abundance of turtles encountered at Bikar.

To help ensure the success of this project, the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands has sought the aid of the Division of Aquatic Resources, Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii. Employees in this agency have been actively engaged in a similar turtle tagging project in Hawaii for the past decade and have developed and refined a viable measuring and tagging procedure which we hope to duplicate in our study. Their long term involvement in the monitoring of Hawaii's turtle population and the knowledge gained thereof will help us immensely in the course of our project. Moreover, one of the researchers from Hawaii already committed to assist us has previously worked in the Marshalls and is familiar with our local customs, language, and government protocol. Furthermore, he too is keenly interested in the well being of our natural marine resources.

We envision a project that will be ongoing into the near future at the very least, and one that endeavors to accomplish the following immediate goals:

- (1) to enumerate, measure, and tag as many of the sea turtles encountered at the three known major nesting grounds in the Marshall archipelago:
- (2) to eradicate and reduce the population of predatory rodents on Bikar which have been known to prey on turtle eggs and hatchlings:
- (3) to provide in situ tagging experience for the Marshall Island government Marine Resources staff:
- (4) to identify other possible major turtle nesting sites in the Marshalls archipelago through interviews and discussions with outer island inhabitants during the course of the project:
- (5) to establish a physical presence in adjacent sanctuary waters to discourage the illegal entry of foreign fishing vessels into our prime sea turtle nesting habitat:
- (6) and if by chance encounter, rescue as many hatchlings from predatory sea birds, land crabs, sharks, and fish: these hatchlings will be transported back to the capital of Majuro and placed in grow out fiberglass tanks to be raised to a size better suited for their initial survival in the natural arena: upon attaining the appropriate size, they will be returned to their place of birth and released after tagging.

We further envision that the successful accomplishment of this inaugural turtle tagging project for the Marshall Islands will help promote the following long term objectives:

- ◆ to initiate a long term nationwide turtle tagging and monitoring program for the Marshall Islands:

- ◆ to determine the relationship, if any, between the nesting turtles of our major sanctuaries with those found elsewhere in our archipelago: should we be able to confirm that turtles caught elsewhere originate from the known sanctuaries of Bikar, Jemo, and Erikup we as managers stand a better chance of convincing others that controlling the now unregulated taking of nesting turtles at these sites is necessary to perpetuate this resource both as a food item and for its related cultural significance:

- ◆ to develop a national awareness of the importance of the proper management of this fragile and highly vulnerable resource via a concerted educational program, utilizing the hatchling headstart nursery in the capital.

The amount of funding sought to implement this project is 30,000 US\$ and will be used in the following manner:

- ◆ vessel charter
14 days X \$1,000/day = \$14,000
- ◆ 12' diameter grow out fiberglass tanks to house turtle hatchlings
4 tanks @ \$3,000 each = \$12,000
- ◆ airfare and per diem for 21 days for Hawaii DLNR/DAR consultant
\$4,000

July 17, 1991

George,

I finally got something in the mail to the Marshalls!

Enclosed you will find two sets of papers:

1. Marshall Islands turtle project proposal with cover sheet to Peter Thomas;
2. letter explaining the project and its need to Danny Wase, now chief of the Division of Marine Resources, Marshall Islands.

To help you keep the characters straight.....

- ◆ Donald = Donald Capelle: Director of the Dept. of Resources & Development and therefore Danny's immediate supervisor: (Paty's counterpart);
- ◆ Danny = Danny Wase: Chief of the Div. of Marine Resources; formerly the Majuro Fishermen's Co-op manager whom I hired: (Sakuda's counterpart);
- ◆ Takao = Charles Takao Domnick: formerly Minister of Public Works, Health, Education, etc. and a member of the local legislature called "Nitijela": at one time youngest member of the Congress of Micronesia; left government and now is running his own construction business; bought old Cape Cowan...the vessel we want to use in our work; classmate of mine at Chaminade College and my best man at our wedding; Mickey's godfather.

The fate of the papers are in the hands of others for now. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that they'll follow through. Knowing Charlie the way I do...he'll keep on top of it for us. After reading the project proposal over, it sounds like a heck of an adventure. You better make sure you come, George! I guarantee you a trip you'll never forget...24K gold mine.

I trust you'll do your utmost to get project approved at Noumea. Have a nice trip and send me a postcard with some fish stamps on it if you can.

Call me if any questions.

Bruce

P.S. I've finally entered complete Molokai turtle data into DBase. Only one question re last summer July 9-11, 1990 when we tagged 82 turtles. I got data from your memo (copy also

enclosed) and it says all turtles were from site F. Didn't we move the net at all last summer? Usually the last set is closer to town at what you would call site G. That one turtle we were reading about in you field book...was that the one of the 82? Just as soon as I get this straight, I'll print out the turtles for each site we've tagged at on Molokai along with a map so that we can coordinate our data. Just mark up the enclosed July 9-11th summary with the sites for each turtle and send it back to me. Thanks.

problem of printer... 3 ^{commas} not printed properly

July 12, 1991

Yokwe Danny!

Takao was in Honolulu recently for Mickey's high school graduation (can you imagine Mickey graduating already!) and told me that you are now in charge of Marine Resources, and that Steve had moved over to the Maritime Authority! I'm sure you'll find the job challenging and rewarding and that you'll do a good job...just as you did with the Fishing Co-op. Remember those days? Compared to the current fishing activities going on in the Marshalls today, it may seem that what we did then was rather insignificant but that's the farthest thing from the truth. The work we did then was important because we were the first to demonstrate to the rest of the region that fishing was a viable industry in the Marshalls. It was the first step of the evolution in fisheries in the Marshall Islands and led to the current development going on today...and which no doubt will continue into the future. Moreover, it was a much needed service to the people and to the fishermen at that time. Think of all those fishermen from Laura who came in daily with their catch to sell and thus generate an income to buy other necessities such as soap and clothes for their family. Think of all the non-fishermen working in Majuro who came daily to buy some fresh fish to feed their family. It was a period of my life that I think of often and one that has never faded from my memory in spite of the many years that have gone by. When I recall those many sacrifices we had to make, the many mistakes we made and had to correct, the many extra hours we put in, and all the time we spent working together as well as with others like Houston, Resta, Hersa, Ruman, Kilon, etc. I realize now that those were among the fondest years of my career in fisheries...and one that will never be forgotten. Those were really good days and don't think or let anyone tell you otherwise. But for better or worse, it is now time to take another step forward and I'm sure with your able leadership it will be one in the right direction. Good luck! You know you can always depend on me if you ever need any help. I'm just a phone call or postcard away.

This leads me into another reason for writing. Takao and I were talking in general and when he learned that one of my current projects involved tagging turtles, he thought it might be something appropriate for the Marshalls. For your information, we have been capturing, measuring, and tagging turtles on Molokai now for about 9-10 years and have tagged a total of 992 animals. The kinds of turtles we have here are the same kinds found in the Marshalls, i.e. green turtle (won) and the hawksbill (jabake). From our tagging activities we can now determine important biological data such as growth rates (average about 1" to 1½" a year), population density, food preferences, and movement patterns. Believe it or not, some of the turtles we have tagged here in Hawaii have been recaptured as far away as the Philippines and Taiwan! Another important thing that we found out is that almost all the turtles in Hawaii are born in the

Northwest Hawaiian Islands such as Kure and Midway then swim to the high islands such as Maui, Molokai, Kauai, etc. to feed and grow, and then return back to the north to lay their eggs (a trip up to 1,600 miles!)...which starts the cycle over again. This discovery has great implications for the Marshalls. As you know, Bikar to the north is famous in the Marshalls as a turtle island. Indeed, when Reynold deBrum and I went there in 1978 we saw many turtles and nesting sites. In fact, Reynold told me there was a Marshallese word for the time when many hundreds of turtles come to shore together at the same time to lay their eggs (I forgot what it was) which strongly suggests that this phenomena was observed by Marshallese in the past and Bikar might have been one of the places that it occurred. Furthermore, it also suggests that certain islands in the Marshalls, like in Hawaii, may be the primary breeding grounds for most, if not all, of the turtles found throughout the Marshall Island archipelago. This is very important to know because if it is true, then over harvesting of turtles at certain nesting sites will decimate the turtle population throughout the Marshalls. The only way we can determine this is to tag some turtles at places such as Bikar, Erikup, Jemo, etc. You may not realize it but there is tremendous interest concerning the turtle population of the Marshalls in the scientific community throughout the world. It is well recognized and documented that Bikar may be the biggest turtle nesting site in Micronesia and people are very anxious to learn more about it.

A tagging project similar to the one we am doing here on Molokai could be relatively easy to implement in the Marshalls should you wish. One of the scientists I work with is George Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Services (US Federal Government) and is probably the foremost turtle expert in the Pacific region. I've known George for many years...in fact we used to correspond together when I was working there in Majuro. He's probably the most dedicated researcher I know and has devoted most of his career towards the betterment of sea turtles in our region. In any case, I'm trying to get him involved to come with us to Bikar because we could certainly use his expertise and company. He also confided that some funding could be obtained from the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) to get you started. Furthermore, I have approached my boss (the administrator of Hawaii's fisheries program, Henry Sakuda) and have discussed the situation with him. He has already given me verbal permission to get involved with whatever turtle project the Marshalls can generate. The State of Hawaii will keep me on the payroll but funding must be sought elsewhere for my transportation and a daily stipend (which could come from SPREP). I would then serve like a technical advisor to Marine Resources in the Marshalls, similar to the role Tom Cole played in agriculture. The state of Hawaii has a vested interest in the turtle situation in the Marshalls:

- ◆ there is a strong possibility that there could be some turtle movement between Hawaii and the Marshalls: one of the Hawaiian monk seals tagged in the northern islands have

recently shown up in Bikini...which suggest that turtle movement is also possible:

- ♦ turtles have been observed in Johnson Island which is sometimes considered as part of the Hawaiian archipelago: however, none are known to nest there and these turtles may very well come from the Marshalls:

- ♦ the turtles in Hawaii (as well as elsewhere like the Caribbean and Florida) are currently undergoing a serious tumor epidemic which has already caused the death of untold hundreds of animals: scientists are anxious to learn if this also holds true with the turtles in the Marshalls. Hawaii's closest neighbor to the west.

If you feel like you want to implement a turtle tagging project in the Marshalls, here's what I suggest should be done. First of all, discuss the idea with Donald (I have already broached the subject with him last summer when I was there). Also talk it over with Takao because he thinks that he can get some money from Nitijela and we'll probably wind up using one of his boats anyway. If you feel comfortable with the results of your discussions, fax the enclosed project proposal (which I have taken the liberty to write for you) immediately to SPREP. Don't send it via the mail or it won't get there in time for the August meeting. George Balazs is the technical advisor to SPREP's Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program (RMTCP) and a friend of Peter Thomas (RMTCP's director) and will personally endorse this project when he attends the upcoming August meeting in Noumea if it comes up for discussion. Just yesterday George was here on Molokai and we deliberated the project in length so he is well informed of the situation. Contingent upon funding (either from SPREP or Nitijela) a letter should be sent preferably from Donald as the Director of the Marshalls' Dept. of Resources and Development to the Chairman of Hawaii's Board of Land & Natural Resources (Bill Paty...who has also been appraised of the situation) requesting my involvement. I can easily draft a letter on behalf of R & D if so desired...just let me know.

In regards to the annual SPREP regional technical fisheries meeting Noumea from August 4th to 9th, the Marshalls should seriously consider sending a representative. The expenses incurred by sending someone are completely borne by SPREP and therefore no out of pocket money need come from the Marshalls. Immediately following this fisheries meeting, island representatives will convene for the 2nd Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Program (RMTCP) from Aug. 12th to 15th to review ongoing projects and to discuss the possible funding of new proposals. It is from this program that money can be solicited for turtle research in the Marshalls. By the way, SPREP's regional fisheries program can also be tapped for grant money to implement any other kinds of fisheries related projects you may want for the Marshalls. Last year no one from the Marshalls attended either the SPREP or RMTCP meeting and thus no grants were awarded to the Marshalls. A formal invitation from SPREP to attend this year's meetings should be floating around somewhere

in Majuro...maybe in Oscar's office. Check on it...you got nothing to lose and everything to gain for Marine Resources and the Dept. of Resources & Development.

At this point, let's try to summarize why it is important and advantageous to have a turtle tagging project in the Marshalls:

- (1) the sea turtle population is on a decline throughout the world and it is very important to learn whatever we can now in places like the Marshalls where turtles are still relatively abundant;
- (2) virtually no scientific work has been documented in the Marshall Islands concerning sea turtles (RepMar's R&D/MR will be the first to do it!);
- (3) the data we obtain will no doubt better help manage this very important resource for the Marshalls, both as a food and cultural item;
- (4) funding for this project can be obtained from outside the general fund of the Marshall Islands;
- (5) you'll have enough gratis technical advice and help to ensure the success of this project which will in turn enhance RepMar's chances of obtaining still more grant money for future fisheries projects;
- (6) we may be able to create a couple of positions for some unemployed Marshallese;
- (7) many other island countries and nations are involved in the tagging and monitoring of their turtle resources because they realize how fragile this treasure is; some are as far away as Madagascar and Sri Lanka and as close by as Yap and Ponape;
- (8) you'll get another opportunity to drink beer with me and to watch me beat you at pool again.

Danny, if you and Donald feel good about this project, fax the enclosed proposal I've drafted for you immediately (within a couple of days) to Peter Thomas after retyping it under RepMar/R&D Marine Resources' letterhead. His fax number is as follows:

(687) 26.38.18

Don't rely on the mail because it won't get there in time for this year's review! In addition, try not to delay this project for another year because Peter Thomas will be leaving his position very soon to assume another job in Hawaii. We don't know who will be replacing him in Noumea and therefore we don't know how receptive this project will be next year. If we can get

in the front door this year, there is an excellent chance that additional funding for continual work can be obtained depending on our performance. Even if no one from the Marshalls can attend the SPREP/RMTCP meeting next month, George Balazs will be there to testify on behalf of the project if it comes up for discussion. All we needs now is for the Marshalls to submit a proposal and to request funding. Even if the grant is provided, you always have the option not to accept it. The trick is to get the project endorsed now while everything is going your way.

To help expedite matters, I've taken the liberty to mail copies of this letter to both Donald and Charlie. All you have to do now is to get together with them and discuss the situation. Write or call me at the address below if you have any questions.

Division of Aquatic Resources
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
P.O. Box 248
Kualapuu, Molokai, Hawaii 96757
phone: (808) 553-3778 (home)
(808) 567-6696 (office)
fax #: (808) 567-9014

I hope to hear from you soon. Please pass our fondest regards to Nikka and the kids.

Yokwe.

/s/



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

31 March 1992

Mr. Paul Holthus
SPREP

Dear Paul:

I'm not exactly sure where to write to you, so thought I would take my chances that you are still in Noumea. Please let me know if everything should now be sent to Apia. Also, is a fax there now operational?

Limpus and I spent March 14-16 in Nagoya attending another meeting on the biology of the hawksbill and continuing interests by the bekko business in Japan to hunt this species. This was the third such meeting we've gone to in the past 4½ years. They pay all expenses, of course, and we continue to tell them there is no future in the hawksbill business and that they should diversify into something other than endangered species. They would rather not listen to that advice, however. Their latest focus is on "sustained use" of hawksbills in Cuba, using a population dynamics model developed by Takeyuki Doi and Rene Marquez. In Nagoya we (20 sea turtle persons) spent 3 days challenging the various flimsy biological assumptions used in the Doi/Marquez harvesting model. I'm not all that certain just how much of an impression we made. For example, several times during the meeting it was stated that "research of hawksbills" by Doi, Marquez, and other bekko interests would soon start in the SOLOMON ISLANDS. We had no success ascertaining the what where and when of this research. However, both Col and I stressed the point that the SPREP program was THE regional marine turtle program of the area, and that any 'research' sponsored by bekko industry, or Japanese government (MITI) really ought to (read= must) coordinate with SPREP headquarters. Again, it's unclear how much of a real impression we made on them. Consequently, Col and I strongly advise that a letter be sent by Vili stating briefly the scope, nature and prominence of the SPREP turtle program to the region (which includes Solomons), and that we invite Japanese researchers and their affiliates to please inform SPREP what they would like to do so that full coordination and appropriate cooperation can be undertaken. The letter should be sent to three individuals. 1) Mr. Naoyuki Mizoguchi, Managing Director Japan Bekko Association, Sumitomoseimei Bldg, 7F, 7-1 Manzai-machi Nagasaki-City, 850 Japan; 2) Mr. Satoshi Oguri, Vice Chairman of bekko Division, Japan general Merchandise Importers Assoc., Room no. 0407 World Trade Center Bldg, 4-1 2-chome, Hamamatsucho, minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan; and 3) the same person and address with MITI that we sent the SPREP resolution regarding the reduction of bekko imported from the SPREP region. I believe it would be very important to cc the same letter to one another among those three individual. It's important for each one to know that the others have also been written to by the head of SPREP.

-OVER-



The cancellation of the Rainbow Warrior for the southern Palau trip was a real disappointment. I only learned about that 3 weeks ago. I'm not at all certain I want to make that trip on a 55' dive boat with 15 people aboard. I'm in a "hold" mode right now, waiting to hear more details from Jim. If I decide not to go, I would recommend that Suzie take ~~my~~ place. Although from a safety standpoint I don't know if I'm doing her any favor at all!

Let me hear from you when your time permits. Ray Clark has given me a few shreds of information, but nothing fully reliable.

Best regards,


George Balazs

cc P. Limpus

Suzie Geermans
SPREP, C/- QDEH
PO Box 155
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002
AUSTRALIA

26 August 1993

Eric Bunn
C/- Palm Island Ranger Station
Palm Island QLD 4816

Dear Eric

I refer to the turtle tags R6603 and R6604 which you collected from a turtle at Cattle Creek on 6 August 1993.

These tags were applied to a green female turtle while she nested at Huon Island in the d'Entrecasteaux Reef system, to the north of New Caledonia. She was tagged on 16 December 1992. A map is provided a map to indicate where the turtle was tagged and recaptured.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) are involved with the conservation and management of sea turtles within the South Pacific region. Therefore any information you can give us regarding tagged turtles is very important to our understanding of these animals.

Enclosed is a page with some questions regarding the turtle you found. If you could answer the questions and return it to the address provided, it would be appreciated.

Some posters and identification sheets are enclosed as a reward for reporting the tags.

Yours sincerely,

Suzie Geermans

Suzie Geermans
Turtle Conservation Consultant
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

cc. Pascal Hamel, ORSTOM, New Caledonia
Jean-Loius d'Auzon, ASNNC, New Caledonia
Adrienne Farago, SPREP, Western Samoa
George Balazs, NMFS, Hawaii

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

PO BOX D5
98848 NOUMEA CEDEX
NEW CALEDONIA

CABLE ADDRESS:
"SOUTHPACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: (687) 26.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26.38.18



COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE D5
98848 NOUMEA CEDEX
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

ADRESSE TELEGRAPHIQUE:
"SOUTHPACOM" NOUMEA
TELEPHONE: (687) 26.20.00
TELEX: 3139 NM SOPACOM
FAX: (687) 26.38.18

In reply, please quote file **PRO 93/3/30**
PRO 93/3/12

8 July 1994

Dr George H. Balazs
Zoologist and Leader,
Marine Turtle Research
NMFS, SWFC,
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu
HAWAII 96822-2396

Dear George,

Thanks for the information on the turtle tag, which makes a very interesting story. Re the length data, your ℓ_1 of 101 cm curved carapace length may be consistent with Mme Doupéré's ℓ_2 of 97cm, which seems to be a flat length. She also cites a carapace width of 92cm and a "circumference/margin length" of 260cm. You may therefore be able to check this.

Method of capture is not specified, but probably by spear (spear flipper, then retrieve with spear line). You can assume that the turtle was eaten, as they are not killed for sport.

I will advise Mme Doupéré that a reward/gift will be forthcoming. As mentioned previously, posters may also be useful. She also requests further information on turtles, particularly with respect to established breeding grounds, so if you have an information hand-out or booklet, this would be helpful.

With best wishes,

Dr Antony D. Lewis
Oceanic Fisheries Coordinator



File: AP 2/2/3
Date: 23 August 1994

Circular: 259

TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme Contacts
Non-Governmental Organisations

SUBJECT: Children's Artwork Competition

As you know, 1995 has been declared by governments and administrations of the South Pacific as the 'Year of the Sea Turtle! SPREP, in collaboration with all its member countries, plans to launch a public awareness campaign next year to draw attention to the plight of the sea turtles in the South Pacific and to promote national and regional action for their conservation.

Attached is an announcement of a design competition to select an appropriate artwork for use in the 1995 campaign. I would appreciate your assistance in making this competition widely known within your country, organisation or school. We look forward to a successful 'Year of the Sea Turtle' campaign next year. We hope you will be able to join us make 1995 a successful year for the sea turtles.

Yours sincerely,

Don Stewart
Acting Director

DS/IR/fp



Western Samoa
Tel.: (685) 21 929
Fax: (685) 20 231

Téléphone: (685) 21 929
Téléfax: (685) 20 231

★ CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION ★



CALLING ALL CHILDREN IN THE PACIFIC REGION.....

DESIGN SPREP A SEA TURTLE PICTURE FOR THE



1995 YEAR OF THE SEA TURTLE

SEA TURTLES NEED YOUR HELP....SEA TURTLE NUMBERS ARE DECREASING....MORE TURTLES ARE BEING KILLED THAN THEY CAN REPLACE....SAVE TURTLES FOR OUR CHILDREN....

....KILL FEWER OR NONE AT ALL

Design your turtle picture using the campaign theme:

LET OUR TURTLE FAMILY LIVE

*Competition closes 4pm Friday 18th November
Send Entries to:*

1995 YEAR OF THE SEA TURTLE
SPREP
PO BOX 240
APIA, WESTERN SAMOA

<i>PRIZES</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>\$250 USD</i>
	<i>2nd</i>	<i>\$100 USD</i>
	<i>3rd</i>	<i>\$ 50 USD</i>



See Competition Rules on the reverse side of this page.....



COMPETITION RULES

This competition is organised by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme to support the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle. The winning picture will be used as the 1995 Year of the Sea Turtle campaign artwork.

Entries may be in colour or black and white format and will only be accepted on A4 (standard letter) size page.

The competition is open to children up to 18 years of age.

Children in the following Pacific Islands are eligible to enter:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Niue, Nauru, Kiribati, Fiji, Western Samoa, American Samoa, Guam, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Wallis and Futuna, Pitcairn and the Solomon Islands.

All artwork received will become the property of SPREP who will have the rights to use the artwork to support marine turtle conservation activities.

Winners will be paid by cheque and notified by mail sent before November 30. Announcement of winners will be through the press with a notice in some of the major Pacific Island newspapers.

The decisions of the Judges will be final.

Entries should be sent to:

1995 Year of the Sea Turtle
SPREP
PO Box 240
Apia
WESTERN SAMOA

Entries must be received by 4 pm Friday 18th November



HAMEL P., 1992. Mission "Tortues marines" aux îles Surprise, Fabre, Le Leizour et Huon (Récifs d'Entrecasteaux). Nouméa : ORSTOM. *Rapp. Missions : Sci. Mer : Biol. mar.*, 14 : 26 p.

[Sea turtle expedition to Fabre, Le Leizour and Huon.]

RESUME

Pour mieux connaître les migrations des tortues marines, une opération de marquage de tortues vertes (*Chelonia mydas*) a eu lieu aux récifs d'Entrecasteaux, dans le nord de la Nouvelle-Calédonie en décembre 1991. Une équipe composée de représentants de l'Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne, d'un représentant de l'ORSTOM et du docteur Pritchard de la "Florida Audubon Society", fut présente sur ces lieux pendant 10 jours. 2812 traces de tortues ont été comptées, 265 tortues ont été marquées. Les tortues ont pu être observées et photographiées et les pontes décrites. 113 palmiers *Coco nucifera* Linné ont été plantés.

Mots-clefs : Nouvelle-Calédonie, *Chelonia mydas*, Marquages, Comptages.

ABSTRACT

In December 1991, members from "Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne", "ORSTOM", and Dr Pritchard from the "Florida Audubon Society" visited Entrecasteaux Reef, located north of New Caledonia to count and tag green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). They spent 10 days on those islands. 2812 turtles track were counted. 265 green turtles were tagged. Turtles were observed ; hatching was described. 113 palm trees (*Coco nucifera*) were planted.

Key-words : New Caledonia, *Chelonia mydas*, Census, Tagging.



Nouméa, le 5 février 1997

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RIDEET n° 184291-001

Objet : Rapport de la mission 96 d'observation
et de baguage des tortues marines menée
par l'ASNNC aux récifs d'Entrecasteaux

Madame, Monsieur,

Compte tenu de l'intérêt que vous portez à l'ASNNC, et plus spécialement aux missions d'observation et de baguage des tortues marines qu'elle mène, nous vous prions de trouver ci-joint le rapport de la mission qui a eu lieu du 16 novembre au 1^{er} décembre 1996 aux récifs d'Entrecasteaux.

Vous souhaitant une bonne lecture de ce rapport, nous restons à votre disposition pour toutes informations complémentaires.

La Responsable de la mission 96


Anne-Claire ROUDAUT

Le Président


Jean Louis d'AUZON