

BALAZS, G.  
1893



DR. HEZ. FRICH -  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
AND FILES -  
George Balazs

## University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

December 3, 1981

(RE:0329)

Mr. Susumu Ono  
Department of Land  
and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Ono:

Review of  
Revised Environmental Impact Statement  
Na Pali Coast Management Plan  
Na Pali, Kauai

The Environmental Center review of the Na Pali Coast Management Plan has been prepared with the assistance of George Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology; Garret Kawamura and Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center. The surveys and studies prepared for this EIS will provide a baseline for future comparisons to the Management Plan's resource objectives. Since future resource monitoring will serve as the basis for management decisions, this monitoring becomes critical to the success of the management plan.

We have serious reservations about the monitoring schedule as proposed in the management plan. The drafters of this plan have recognized in their response to the comments submitted by Mr. John Moriyama (p. 2; 54, 55) that "Resource Management objectives can only be met if the resources are monitored." The proposed 5 year interval for monitoring botanical, fish and wildlife resources and 3 year interval for monitoring archaeological resources is much too long a period to assure that irreparable damage is not done either biologically, physically or culturally. Based on this monitoring frequency, it would take 10-15 years to detect trends in resource changes. Recreational activity and hence potential impacts could increase or decrease significantly over a 3 or 5 year period and warrant a much more rapid change in resource management. Unless resource monitoring is conducted more frequently, permanent or long-term resource damage could occur along trails and other high use areas. We would strongly suggest that consideration be given to annual or even bi-annual monitoring of critical areas for the first few years until sufficient background information has been gleaned to permit an informed reduction in the monitoring frequency.

As indicated in Appendix D of the EIS, there are several endangered species along the Na Pali Coast which deserve immediate protection. What steps are planned toward this end? Management of user activities to protect the green sea turtle and white-capped noddy should not be postponed for five years after the Management Plan's adoption.

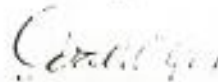
December 3, 1981

With regard to the management of the endangered sea turtles we find that the recommendations of George Balazs are especially pertinent. Of particular importance is the need to notify visitors, at the head of all the trails, of the endangered status of the green turtles. In this manner visitors can be informed of the need to avoid contact or harassment of the animals so as to encourage their use of this remote coast for feeding and possibly nesting.

What sort of timetable has been established for the implementation of the Management Plan? A timetable or at least a rough schedule of activities/responsibilities should be prepared to serve as a means for evaluating the Plan's implementation.

The Na Pali Coast Management Plan is definitely a positive step toward park management in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this EIS.

Sincerely,



Doak C. Cox  
Director

KMN

cc: Office of Environmental Quality Control  
George Balazs  
Jacquelin Miller  
Garret Kawamura

December 3, 1981

Mr. Peter Vaughan  
2875 Gale Road  
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

Dear Peter:

I just recently received a copy of your Solomon Islands' turtle report and I want you to know that it is a fine piece of work. It is well written, interesting and informative. I do not know the current status of turtle work in the Solomons, but I certainly hope it is being continued.

Archie Carr will probably also be writing to you, since he was equally impressed with your report.

Best regards for the Holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 8, 1981

TO: Jacquelin Miller  
UH Environmental Center

FROM: George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

SUBJECT: Your request to submit review comments on the November 1981  
Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Maalaea  
Boat Harbor.

No mention is made in this EIS of Hawaiian green (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) or leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) sea turtles or their status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. A discussion of these listed marine species, particularly the green turtle, needs to be included under the section "Flora and Fauna" on pages 3-8 to 3-11 and 5-3 to 5-7. Green turtles of various sizes are known to occur in Maalaea Bay, presumably to forage on benthic algae. Also, in July of 1973, an adult female green turtle was recovered in Maalaea Bay that had been tagged while nesting at French Frigate Shoals during the 1974 breeding season (see Biological Conservation, 1976, 9:125-140). The statement made on page 5-7 of the EIS about the possible long-term secondary impacts of greater boat traffic upon the humpback whale population may very well also apply to green turtles. An appraisal of this needs to be made and incorporated into the EIS.

Concerning your inquiry on the advisability of having a "special notice to mariners" for listed whales and turtles, I feel that this is an excellent idea. Any educational steps that are taken to inform boaters about humpback whales should logically also involve sea turtles. In addition to special notices to mariners, it would also be worthwhile to place permanent signs in the harbor telling of the species protected status (see attached).

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 8, 1981

Mr. Bob Seibert  
District Ranger  
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park  
Hawaii 96718

Dear Mr. Seibert:

Many thanks for your letter of November 26th answering my inquiry to Don Reaser about sea turtle sightings entered into the Halape log. I appreciated the update you provided, but was sorry to learn that no reports have been made since September of 1978.

From what I have gathered, it would appear that over the years Halape has been regularly used by a few hawksbill turtles for nesting purposes. If you are now regularly visiting this site, it would be worthwhile to make inspections for evidence of nest diggings and emergence of hatchlings. Hawaiian hawksbills are known to nest from August through November, with hatching taking place 50-70 days after the eggs are laid. At least this is the pattern that has existed at Halawa on Molokai, and at several other small beach sites along Kau and Puna. Unfortunately, I have not personally visited Halape, but I do hope to get down there on one of my forthcoming study visits to the Big Island. Any current information that you can pass on to me will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards for the Holidays.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 2, 1981

Dr. George R. Hughes  
Natal Parks Board  
Box 662, Pietermaritzburg 3200  
South Africa

Dear George:

I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed letter from the Louis Henry canned soup company. I didn't realize that the Reunion project had reached this stage of commercial production. Are you still consulting for the project? Maybe this would be a good time for you to give the members of the Turtle Group an update and overview of progress achieved by the project.

Best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Archie Carr  
Wayne King

November 27, 1981

Japan Marine Fishery Resource Center  
Godo-Karaka Building 6F  
3-4 K101-Cho  
Chiyodo-Ku  
Tokyo 102, JAPAN

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request a copy of your report entitled  
"Report of Feasibility Study on Squid Jigging Fisheries in  
the Southwestern Pacific Ocean 1977" (JAMARC report 18).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



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

November 24, 1981

Mr. Hiroshi Yokoyama  
Executive Director  
All Japan Coral Fisheries Association  
No. 2 Awaya Bldg. (6th Floor)  
3-4, Tsukiji 4-chome, Chuo-ku  
Tokyo, Japan 104

Dear Mr. Yokoyama:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 26, 1981 responding to my inquiry about sea turtles. I greatly appreciate your willingness to send me the results of seaman's observations in the central North Pacific Ocean.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine biologist

GHB:ec

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

November 19, 1981

Director  
Marine Science Laboratories  
P. O. Box 114  
Queenscliff, Victoria 3225  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate receiving copies of reports or other information that you can provide on the use of gill nets for sampling squid in Australian waters. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 16, 1981

Mrs. J. Carpine-Lancre  
Head Librarian  
Musee Oceanographique (bibliotheque)  
Avenue Saint-Martin  
MC-Monaco-Ville  
MONACO

Dear Mrs. Carpine-Lancre:

Under separate cover I am sending you an assortment of my recent publications on sea turtles which you requested in your letter of October 27, 1981. I hope that they will prove useful to your institution.

The assortment of colorful stamps on your letter prompts me to ask the following questions. Has Monaco ever issued a set of stamps which show sea turtles? What agency or individual within the Monaco government might I write to in order to suggest this theme, if it has not already been used? As you may be aware, sea turtles are experiencing serious conservation problems on a worldwide basis. Having these marine animals appear on stamps in an attractive manner represents a positive way of focusing attention on their plight.

Any assistance that you are able to give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

November 12, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Huntsman:

During a recent visit to Fakaofu Atoll, Mrs. Elizabeth Perreira mentioned to me that she had read a section of one of your papers that described the usage of sea turtles in Tokelau. I am not familiar with this publication, therefore I would greatly appreciate receiving an air mail reprint at your earliest convenience. I am trying to consolidate all of the available information on sea turtles for this area of the Pacific for use in a report to the U. S. World Wildlife Fund. I would be pleased to send you a copy of this report when it is completed.

Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 12, 1981

Mr. J. P. Larkindale  
Official Secretary  
Office for Tokelau Affairs  
Box 865, Apia  
Western Samoa

Dear John:

The great excitement of the Tokelau trip is only now starting to die down as the demands of my various other research commitments require attention. I am happy to say that most of my photographs turned out exceedingly well. I will be sending you several prints as a token of my appreciation for your assistance. Also, under separate cover I will be forwarding you the 1975 Tokelau/Swains Island bibliography that I mentioned. You should find this to be a useful reference document.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter of thanks that I wrote to the Councils on each island. I thought that this action would be appropriate.

Please extend my personal regards to the various members of your office that I had the good pleasure to meet.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

November 12, 1981

Mr. Steve Cornelius  
Universidad De Costa Rica  
Rodrigo Facio, San Jose  
Costa Rica

Dear Steve:

Nancy Hammond of the World Wildlife Fund recently asked me to provide you with some of my thoughts on the use of flipper tags. We exchanged correspondence on this topic earlier in the year, but I am now in a position to send you the enclosed manuscript updating most of my views. I hope that it proves helpful in your selection and use of tags. If you have any questions, or constructive comments, I would be pleased to hear from you.

My manuscript has been sent to the Marine Turtle Newsletter for consideration. If Nicholas feels it's too long, I'll submit it to Herp Review.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Nancy Hammond

SAME LETTER TO:

Nukunonu Atoll  
Atafu Atoll

November 12, 1981

The Council  
Fakaofu Atoll  
Tokelau Islands  
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs  
Box 865, Apia  
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuku, The Council, and people of Fakaofu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Fakaofu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

As in other areas of the Pacific, there is clear evidence that the number of sea turtles in Tokelau have declined considerably over the past 50 years. These turtles, which are born in Tokelau, and eventually return to Tokelau when they are old enough to breed, are a valuable part of your heritage and island way of life. Some actions need to be taken to help conserve these turtles so that they will continue to occur in Tokelau and benefit your people. It would indeed be unfortunate if the next generation of people in Tokelau did not have turtles to catch and eat. As a researcher of sea turtles, I would be pleased to help you in whatever way that is deemed appropriate.

I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

November 9, 1981

Mr. Susumu Ono  
Chairman of the Board  
Department of Land  
& Natural Resources  
P. O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Ono:

An oversight exists in the EIS for the Na Pali Coast Management Plan (Revised) that was recently issued by the State Parks Division, and is currently being processed by the Environmental Quality Commission. The letter of inquiry that I wrote to the Parks Division on May 19, 1981 has erroneously been incorporated into the EIS, instead of the letter of August 29, 1980 which actually contains my salient comments and suggestions for improving the Management Plan with respect to green sea turtles along the Na Pali Coast.

It may be helpful to restate the salient points on this matter. Reports by your Department that appear as appendices to the Management Plan show that comparatively rich aggregations of green turtles reside at select sites in the nearshore waters of the Na Pali Coast. This information is consistent with several other reliable reports I have received in recent years. In view of this biological fact, it would be reasonable and prudent to recommend procedures in the Management Plan to inform visitors of the protected status of these turtles. This could be easily included in informational brochures, tour narratives, preconditions of permits, and posted signs that deal with other protected species, such as seabirds and koloa. Instead, the section of the plan that addresses turtles (page 25) only recommends providing advice to visitors about avoidance of harrassment when it is found that the turtles regularly use "beach areas."

It is certainly possible that the turtles of Na Pali may at some future time regularly use the beach areas (for nesting or basking). However, the fact remains that the animals are right now regularly living, feeding and sleeping in the nearshore waters. Management recommendations are therefore needed in the Management Plan to adequately acknowledge and address this valuable biological component of the Na Pali Coast.



Mr. Susumu Ono  
November 9, 1981  
Page 2

I appreciate the attention that your Department is giving to our Na Pali Coast.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Environmental Quality Commission

November 9, 1981

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

Dear Col:

This letter responds to your request for comments on the manuscript "Sea turtles of the Capricornia section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park" that you sent to me in mid-September. I regret the delay in this response, however, since the paper was already in press with Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. my comments would only be useful in a secondary sort of way.

Overall, I feel that you have once again produced a valuable document on your research results. My only specific comments are as follows.

- 1) The statements on page 4 about immature turtles moving to other areas, or making several habitat shifts, does not appear to be consistent with the information presented on pages 16 and 18. Do you have tag recoveries showing movements of immatures? If so, I would be interested to learn of the numbers, time intervals, and distances involved.
- 2) I think it would have been nice to also reference my work, and perhaps several others, in your statements about growth and age at maturity on pages 4 and 18.
- 3) The statement on pages 7-8, "4,500 green turtles are estimated to breed," leaves the reader unclear as whether you are reporting males and females, or just nesting females.
- 4) Significant fluctuations have also occurred in the number of nesting turtles at French Frigate Shoals over the past several years (pages 8-9).
- 5) It would have been appropriate to reference my success with Inconel tags when you mentioned on pages 12-13 that an alternate to Monel was being sought.
- 6) You should have also referenced/credited the other earlier workers when you discussed influence of incubation temperatures on pages 13-14.

Mr. Colin J. Limpus  
November 9, 1981  
Page 2

7) The caption for Figure 3 states that there are no precise data for 1964-1973 (Bustard's work). We all know that this is an important and significant gap in the history of Australian sea turtle research. I therefore feel that this point should also have been made directly, though tactfully, in the text itself.

I hope that these views prove helpful for your future papers. Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 9, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Law Enforcement  
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1490  
500 N.D. Multnomah  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Sirs:

During a brief stopover in American Samoa on October 30, 1981, I noted at least four businesses that were selling jewelry made of tortoiseshell derived from the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). From the style, workmanship and information provided by sales personnel, most of this jewelry could be positively identified as originating from either Fiji or Western Samoa. In the case of Burns Philip Ltd., an Australian firm that operates in American Samoa, it was clear that the jewelry is being imported from their sister store in Apia, Western Samoa. In both February and October of 1981, I personally documented that the Apia Burns Philip store buys raw tortoiseshell from individuals living in the Aleipata District of Western Samoa. The store then commissions independent artisans to manufacture assorted jewelry.

The tortoiseshell is obtained from adult female hawksbills that are taken while nesting on three uninhabited offshore islets located in the Aleipata District (Nuulua, Nuutele and Namua). This is the last known nesting area for hawksbills in Western Samoa, and not more than 50 turtles nest there each season. For the past 10 years the Government of Western Samoa has operated a small hatchery project in Aleipata in a commendable effort to increase the number of turtles in coastal waters. The owner of the nesting islets, a Samoan Matai (Chief), has declared that entry to the islets is prohibited except for authorized workers. However, this is difficult to enforce due to the remoteness of the region and the absence of enforcement people.

The line of commerce between the nesting islets in Aleipata, and the retail outlets in American Samoa (specifically Burns Philip), is an excellent, if not depressing, example of international commercial trade hastening the destruction of a local native resource. The number of turtles that are taken from the islets while nesting, is directly correlated with the amount of jewelry sold

Fish and Wildlife Service  
November 9, 1981  
Page 2

in American Samoa, and the length of time that such sale is allowed to continue. In this respect, it is interesting to note that there are currently two passenger liners visiting American Samoa each month, with approximately 700 tourists disembarking from each ship for shopping and sightseeing. The Burns Philip store operates a free and continuous bus service between the docked ships and their retail outlet.

As shown by the attached correspondence, I first brought this matter to the attention of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Enforcement Chief C. R. Bavin) in March of this year. An additional inquiry made in late August has apparently still not resulted in the initiation of corrective action. I therefore hope that this present letter will further emphasize the importance and seriousness of the problem. I would appreciate being informed in writing of the status and outcome of this case.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: C. R. Bavin

November 5, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Sperling:

You may recall that I met with you in Suva during February of 1977 to discuss the SPC turtle farming project. At that time, I had been asked to serve as an honorary consultant to evaluate both the Fiji and Cook Islands components of the project. My comprehensive report was subsequently submitted to SPC. I hope that a copy eventually reached your office for use as a reference document.

I have just recently completed a ten-day visit to Tokelau to assess sea turtle populations and record the cultural/nutritional importance of this resource to the Polynesian inhabitants. Financial support for this short project was provided by a grant from the World Wildlife Fund. The office for Tokelau Affairs gave me passage at no cost on their supply vessel out of Apia. I regret that circumstances and timing did not allow me to meet with you during your recent trips to Hawaii and Western Samoa. Dr. Philip Helfrich, Director of our institute, told me that you had been to Tokelau several years ago. It seems likely that I once again could have benefited from your insights.

My report on Tokelau for the World Wildlife Fund will be completed by the end of January. I will be sure to send you a copy. In the meantime, I would like to know if your office would be receptive to proposals concerning the management of sea turtle resources in the Pacific islands, such as at Tokelau. The overall goal of such work would be to reinforce traditional conservation practices and achieve a balance between the use of turtles for human needs and the protection of the breeding stock. Some efforts need to be undertaken along these lines or the resources will surely be lost to future generations of Pacific islanders. Is this an area of work that could be funded by your office? As you may know, SPC is not currently interested in funding projects involving sea turtles, although they did co-host a workshop in December of 1979. Any information or advice that you can offer to me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

November 5, 1981

Mr. Mark Gentle  
Assistant Fisheries Officer  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

Sorry for the delay in responding to your letter of 7 October, however it arrived the day I departed for Tokelau. I spend two weeks out there gathering information on sea turtles under a small grant from the World Wildlife Fund-US. I'll send you a copy of my report when it's completed in late January.

Some confusion apparently exists concerning the scute grafting or "living tag" experiments conducted this past year here in Hawaii. First, the study was not of my making or inspiration. I have only been involved in a secondary sort of way. The idea was proposed by John Hendrickson of the University of Arizona. Richard Shomura awarded him a several thousand dollar contract to come to Hawaii for a few weeks to do the work. The 200 hatchlings were subsequently reared for one year under contract to Sea Life Park here on Oahu.

While it is certainly true that many of the marks are still visible (light colored spots on the dark carapace, and dark colored spots on the light plastron), an analysis of the data at one year of age has not yet been conducted. Personally, I am not optimistic about the maintenance of the marks during the next year or two. Pigment diffusion is apparent in most of the graft sites, and the size of the mark has become proportionally smaller. I have close-up photos of each turtle at one year of age. All of the turtles, except nine individuals, have now been released into the wild. As you may know, it is very costly to raise turtles.

Mr. Mark Gentle  
Page 2  
November 5, 1981

Tagging hatchlings in conjunction with a hatchery project would be a relatively easy matter, if and when a tagging system is perfected. However, tagging hatchlings on a natural nesting beach requires the hatchlings to be caught when they emerge and scamper to the sea. Since this is a fairly rapid event, it seems to me it would be a formidable task.

I will once again make an effort to assemble a map on Pacific island sea turtle migrations. I regret that something has not been sent to you sooner. The demands for my time have been substantial over this past year.

For your information, I have enclosed a draft manuscript containing suggestions on improving the use of metal flipper tags. I don't want to make a firm decision at this time, but let me know if you are interested in using it in the SPC Fisheries Newsletter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures



October 19, 1981

Mark Gentle  
Assistant Fisheries Officer  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D 5  
Noumea Cadex  
New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

Your letter of 8 October 1981 was received on the day I was leaving for Syria. I will answer it after my return on October 30th.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 16, 1981

Dr. Robert F. Scott  
Executive Officer  
Species Survival Commission  
IUCN; Avenue du Mont-Blanc  
1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I leave for Western Samoa and the Tokelau Islands tomorrow afternoon, so I want to at least get an interim response to you concerning your letter of 17 September. I will write again on this subject in a more detailed manner when I return to my office on or about 6 November. I hope that Archie Carr and Wayne King will also be expressing their views to you, in response to the cc's that is sent to them.

In providing feedback to the reviewers of proposals submitted to IUCN, I don't think you need to implement a system that necessitates lots of paperwork and compounding of the bureaucracy. For instance, when the various reviews have been compiled, and a final decision made by IUCN, each reviewer could be sent something as simple as an air mail post card indicating "not funded," or "funded" with the funding level listed. If and when an IUCN funded project requests a renewal, the reviewers should automatically be sent a copy of the final report covering the portion of the project completed. My third and last suggestion is that the Group Chairman should be sent a list, perhaps quarterly, showing all of the projects that are currently funded by IUCN involving the species covered by the Group. The list should also be made available to anyone else who requests it, but Group Chairman would normally keep their own members informed about these developments.

It was never my aim to see more log jams of paperwork, but rather give some concise and simple feedback in the review process. I'm sure that by all of us working together on the problem, some positive improvements can be made.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: A. Carr  
W. King

October 2, 1981

Soames Summerhays  
Author of "A Marine Park is Born" (May 1981)  
c/o National Geographic Magazine  
17th and M Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Soames Summerhays:

I am writing to offer my compliments on the fine article you wrote about the Great Barrier Reef for National Geographic Magazine. The material presented was interesting, informative, and will undoubtedly be beneficial to the conservation of this unique marine heritage.

I noticed in your article on page 632 that you referred to reductions of large predators in the Marine Park region due to "increased commercial and sport fishing." In the accompanying article by Ron and Valerie Taylor, there is a reference (on page 662) to dangers that "still threaten" the Marine Park. Do you feel that sport and, perhaps more so, commercial fishing will constitute a future problem in the Marine Park? Do adequate controls now exist in your opinion? Earlier this year I read an article in Australian Fisheries stating that trawling would be permitted at certain areas inside the park's boundaries. Is such trawling now allowed and, if so, have any adverse impacts been identified?

Again, I greatly enjoyed your article. I hope that you will have time to provide information on the questions I have raised.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

ISLAND FIXITY OF THE GREEN TURTLE BREEDING COLONY AT FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS

BASED ON TAG RECOVERIES MADE THROUGH JUNE 1980

By George H. Balazs

	Trig Same	Differ.	WS		Trig/WS		East		LG		G		Overall	
			S	D	S	D	S	D	S	D	S	D		
MALES*														
No. recoveries	13	6	20	2	33	8	16	2	-	-	-	-	49	10
%	68.4	31.6	90.9	9.1	80.5	19.5	88.9	11.1	-	-	-	-	83.1	16.9
FEMALES*														
No. recoveries	10	2	5	3	15	5	68	3	0	2	0	1	83	11
%	83.3	16.7	62.5	37.5	75.0	25.0	95.8	4.2	0	100	0	100	88.7	11.3

\* 36 (81.8%) of the 44 males were recovered exclusively on the same island where originally tagged.

\*\* 65 (87.8%) of the 74 females were recovered exclusively on the same island where originally tagged.

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

October 2, 1981

Dr. George R. Hughes  
Natal Parks, Game and  
Fish Preservation Board  
P. O. Box 662  
Pietermaritzburg 3200  
South Africa

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter of 14 September which included some kind words about my commitment to communicate current sea turtle information to you (and other Turtle Group members). It seems to me that this is one of the few concrete things we can do, as a group. I have tried to take the lead in this as Archie's assistant.

The only enclosure with your letter was a copied letter to John Rudge from Jim Wood dated 24 July 1981.

The reply from Jim Wood to your inquiry, plus a third inquiry you mentioned, was not enclosed. I will, of course, be interested to learn what was said about Mike Bean's summary.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

October 2, 1981

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

Dear Nancy:

This letter responds to your request for review comments on the proposal "Abundance, Distribution and Movements of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles" submitted to WWF-US by Steven Cornelius and Douglas Robinson. The March 1981 report for the initial year of this project is on file here at my office, therefore I am aware of the work activities and progress thus far accomplished.

It is my opinion that this proposal should be funded by WWF in that it represents an extremely valuable piece of research with far-reaching potential benefits for olive ridleys in Costa Rica, as well as other areas of the world. The only constructive suggestions that I have to offer are as follows:

- 1) Duplicate sets of all tagging records should be stored at some appropriate location in the United States to protect against unforeseen accidental loss or damage of the records on file at the University of Costa Rica.
- 2) The smaller size no. 681 Monel tags should be used on adult olive ridleys, in that this size of tag is far more appropriate for the size of the turtle. These smaller tags will undoubtedly be less susceptible to tag loss that results from tearing and biting.

I appreciate having the opportunity to assist you in your proposal evaluation process.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 28, 1981

Captain Donald F. Wagstaff  
Detachment 1, 15th Air Base Wing  
Bellows Air Force Station, Hawaii 96795

Dear Captain Wagstaff:

Thank you for your letter of September 17th concerning my Real Estate License which allows periodic sea turtle research at Bellows.

At this time I would like to request the renewal of my License under the same terms and conditions. Bellows continues to be an ideal study site for sea turtles, and I appreciate your continuing cooperation in this endeavor.

As you know, 23 one-year turtles averaging 5 lbs. were recently released at Bellows in conjunction with studies I have been conducting with Sea Life Park and the National Marine Fisheries Service. As always, if any of your personnel find tagged turtles, or make other unusual turtle observations, I would appreciate receiving the details (Tel. 247-6631, 946-2181, or 395-6409).

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

September 29, 1981

Director (OES)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Sir:

I am writing with respect to the attached copied letter of testimony that was submitted to your office about 10 months ago.

I would appreciate being informed about the status of this proposal to designate certain coastal areas in Puerto Rico as Critical Habitat for the hawksbill turtle. How many individuals, or organizations submitted comments in response to your Federal Register notice, and of this number, how many expressed opposition to the proposed action?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



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

September 29, 1981

Mr. Hiroshi Yokoyama  
Executive Director  
All Japan Coral Fisheries Association  
No. 2 Awaya Bldg. (6th Floor)  
4 - 3 - 4 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku  
Tokyo, JAPAN

Dear Mr. Yokoyama:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with information on the occurrence of sea turtles at 35-45°N Lat. in the Pacific Ocean. Do the Japanese vessels that fish for precious coral ever observe turtles in this area? Any details that you can send me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

September 24, 1981

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Sirs:

The following constructive comments are being offered in relation to your agency's August 1981 document entitled "Hilo Area Comprehensive Study: Draft Navigational Report" that is currently available for review. A copy of this report was sent to the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

1. The report states that sea turtles, as listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, will not be jeopardized by the various proposed projects (Table 16, SBH-EIS-5 & SBH-EIS-22), will not be affected by the various projects (pages 25, 27, 28 & Table 13), are not known or reported to occur in aggregations at the proposed project sites (SBH-EIS-31, SBH-EIS-38 & DD-EIS-20), and that no significant fish and wildlife values exist at any of the alternative sites (SBH-EIS-5).

As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I believe that these statements are unduly speculative and not justified by existing biological data. To my knowledge no studies on sea turtles, except for short-term reconnaissance, have been undertaken at the proposed project sites. Consequently, there would appear to be no basis for arriving at the conclusions that have been set forth in the document, as listed above. The fact that no aggregations of turtles are "known or reported" at the proposed project sites may simply be a reflection of the absence of adequate investigations. I recommend that appropriate research be undertaken to establish the necessary data base for the proposed project sites.

2. The document does not address the proposed projects' direct impacts on sea turtles and sea turtle habitat that potentially result from blasting, dredging, and the permanent installation of lights to illuminate such a harbor facility. The document also does not adequately identify and discuss the secondary impacts on sea turtles and sea turtle habitat that potentially result from long-term boat traffic, related human activities, adjacent community development, and other cumulative changes promoted by the project. In this respect, it is appropriate to note that page 2 of the document states that the coastal areas

Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
September 24, 1981  
Page Two

outside Hilo are largely "undeveloped and pristine" at the present time.

3. An adult green turtle that was tagged in June of 1977 while nesting at French Frigate Shoals was subsequently observed in July of 1978 in the nearshore waters of Leleiwi, Hilo Bay (see NOAA-TM-NMFS-7, "Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands").

I appreciate having the opportunity to submit comments on this draft report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:le

cc  
UH Environmental Center

September 18, 1981

TO: William Gilmartin, Leader  
Marine Mammals & Endangered Species  
Honolulu Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service

FROM: ~~George XXXXX~~ Philip Helfrich  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

SUBJECT: Award No. 80-ABH-00058  
Principal Investigators: G. Causey Whittow,  
Philip Helfrich; Additional funding to clear  
deficit.

Category	Amount	Indirect Cost 17.5%	Total
<sup>1</sup> Salaries	\$ 910.25		
Fringe Benefits 10.0%	91.03		
Air Fare - Pearl & Hermes	185.00	P.O. 242019	
Per Diem " "	39.57		
Lab Fees	20.00		
	<u>1,245.85</u>	<u>218.02</u>	1,463.87

<sup>1</sup>Alan Kam salary @ 5.50 per hour  
10 1/2 hrs. 57.75 available from original award  
165 1/2 hrs. 910.25 additional request

PH ~~WEB~~:ec

G. H. Balazs

Captive Reared 1-Year Old Green Turtles Released into the  
Wild as of September 18, 1981

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>No. of Turtles</u>
Kauai		
Kilauea Point	9-5-81	20
Maui		
Paia	9-11-81	10
Hawaii		
Hilo Bay	9-11-81	25
Oahu		
Bellows - Waimanalo	9-10-81	15
"          "	9-15-81	8
Hanauma Bay	9-9-81	10
Chun's Reef	9-15-81	9
French Frigate Shoals		
Tern Island	9-15-81	9
	TOTAL	121

(All from Sea Life Park -  
no NMFS turtles remaining  
at this facility).

COPY TO  
DR. HELFAICH

PA



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
September 16, 1981

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

Dear Jim:

I have recently noted that the Corps' Environmental Statement for navigational improvements at Kaulana on the Big Island contains a number of important errors and omissions relating to sea turtles. The enclosed two reports may therefore prove to be helpful in your future evaluations. I thought that I had sent copies to you sometime last year, however possibly they were misplaced or lost in the mail. There is obviously a lot more to be learned about Hawaiian sea turtles and their habitat requirements. Nevertheless, these papers represent (in my opinion) a first big step in the right direction.

I'm always available to help out on assessment matters involving sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
IPA - NMFS 1981-82

enclosures

1. Synopsis of Biological Data ...
2. Terrestrial Critical Habitat .....

September 15, 1981

Mr. Charles Rose  
Office of Economic Opportunity  
Hawaii County  
34 Rainbow Drive  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Rose:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the fine assistance provided to me by Mr. Joe Whitney during a short visit I made to Hilo on September 12th. As the result of an earlier telephone inquiry that I made to the Richardson Ocean Center, Marine Advisory Program, Joe volunteered to meet me at the airport with his pick-up truck to transport and release 25 one-year old green sea turtles that had been reared in captivity. Joe's help in this matter was essential, in that the Coast Guard aircraft that I arrived on only stayed for a short time before returning to Oahu. The turtles were successfully released within the allotted time, and I am hopeful that future tag recoveries will provide insight on their growth and survival.

Again, I want to thank your agency for making Joe Whitney's help available.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Joe Whitney  
Howard Takata

September 9, 1981

Mr. Lucian Kramer  
Environmental Services  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Lucian:

I am writing to call your attention to a problem that apparently exists with respect to the impression held by the Honolulu Army Engineer District (and possibly other agencies) as to which "fish and wildlife resources" are currently the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The attached copied letters will help to provide you with background information on this subject.

Briefly stated, during exchanges of correspondence relating to an aggregation of green turtles in the nearshore waters of Mohili at Barking Sands Kauai, a copy of your 17 June 1981 testimony was sent to me as part of the evaluation dossier for the proposed boat launching ramp. In this letter, you concluded that "The project will have no significant long-range adverse impact on fish and wildlife resources for which the Service has responsibility." Because this letter was sent to me by the Army Engineer District in response to my concern about turtles in nearshore waters, I can only assume that they somehow believe that your responsibility encompasses such entities. Unless new administrative arrangements have recently been reached, it is my understanding that the Fish and Wildlife Service's responsibility for sea turtles only covers terrestrial entities. Is this still the case?

I should also point out that a similar confusion seems to exist in the Army Corps of Engineers' "Draft Detailed Project Report and Environmental Statement" dated June 1981 which was prepared for navigational improvements at Kaulana Bay on the Big Island.

Perhaps this inquiry will help to initiate actions aimed at clarifying jurisdictional responsibilities for sea turtles in Hawaii and other U.S. Pacific areas.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec  
Encls.

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist



September 9, 1981

Colonel Alfred J. Thiede  
U. S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Thiede:

In a letter dated 23 July 1981, Mr. Everette Flanders of your Construction-Operations Division responded to my inquiry of 15 July asking about the outcome of the boat launching ramp proposal for Nohili, Barking Sands, on Kauai. In my letter of 2 June 1981 I had submitted comments and information on this proposal with respect to the green sea turtle, a protected species under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. A copy of the Final Environmental Assessment prepared for this proposal by the Army Engineer District was sent to me along with Mr. Flanders' letter.

One of the constructive suggestions that I set forth in my letter of June 2nd was that it would be prudent to acquire some detailed information on the scope and magnitude of the Nohili turtle aggregation before proceeding with the primary impacts of dredging and blasting, and the resultant longterm secondary impacts of military and civilian boat launching and related activities. It was my thought that the acquisition of such baseline information would be fundamental to making an evaluation of the potential impacts of the project. Furthermore, such knowledge on the current status of the turtle aggregation would provide a basis for making valid comparisons with conditions that exist during the post-construction era, should the decision be made to implement the project. If we don't know what is now present with some precision, there will be no way to determine what changes or impacts (both good and bad) are brought about by construction and usage of the ramp. For instance, are we now dealing with a small aggregation of turtles that merely presents a high visibility to human observers, or is there indeed a relatively large aggregation using the area? Does the aggregation contain mature adults, particularly females, thereby making it a more valuable component of the overall Hawaiian population than say a group consisting solely of juveniles? What are the turtles eating at this site, and is it likely that blasting, dredging and boat launching and traffic will adversely modify these food sources? Where do the turtles rest when they are not feeding? Are hawksbill turtles members of the aggregation, or does it consist exclusively of green turtles?

Colonel Alfred J. Thiede  
September 9, 1981  
Page 2

There are currently no trustworthy answers to the above, as well as a number of other, basic questions. It was for this reason that I was sorry to see that your Final Environmental Assessment (finding no significant impact) did not address the question of insufficient turtle information, or reflect the fact that I had pointed out this problem in my letter of June 2nd.

I realize that the question of insufficient information on the Nohili turtle aggregation was not raised in the letter submitted by the Western Pacific Program Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Federal agency responsible for the protection of sea turtles while they are in the ocean. However, in my view this also constituted an unfortunate deficiency. I am uncertain if the testimony of the Western Pacific Program Office actually represented a "biological opinion" under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. In the case of the testimony sent to you by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while not specifically stated, it should be noted that sea turtles in the ocean are not among the "fish and wildlife resources" that come under the jurisdiction of this agency. The evaluation offered therefore did not apply to the turtle aggregation in question.

I appreciate having the opportunity to provide you with these additional comments for use in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
(1981-82 IPA contract with Honolulu  
Laboratory, NMFS)

GHB:md

cc: WPPO  
FWS  
NMFS, Honolulu Lab

September 2, 1981

Georgia Charuhas de H.  
Calle 62, No. 484  
Merida  
Yucatan, Mexico

Dear Georgia Charuhas:

Dr. Wayne King, Director of the Florida State Museum, has told me of your concern for sea turtles and suggested that I send you literature on my conservation and research activities here in Hawaii. Dr. King also sent me the name and address of your friend (Cesar Clairin Luna) in Quintana Roo. By copy of this letter, I am also sending him this assortment of sea turtle literature.

If you feel that there is any way that I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards and Aloha,

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

GHB:md

Encls.

cc: Cesar Clairin Luna

bcc: Wayne King

August 31, 1981

Office of Marine Mammals  
& Endangered Species  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
U. S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the Marine Mammal Annual Report (4/80 - 3/81) which I understand is now available.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHE:ec

August 31, 1981

Ms. Jean Bradfisch  
Executive Editor  
Sea Frontiers  
3979 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Virginia Key, Miami, FL 33149

Dear Mrs. Bradfisch:

I am writing to ask if you would be interested in considering a general interest article on Rose Atoll for publication in Sea Frontiers. Rose Atoll is a part of our National Wildlife Refuge System located about 150 miles to the east of Pago Pago, American Samoa. It is a small, remote and unique site that is uninhabited and very seldom visited. During November of last year, I was fortunate to be part of a small scientific party that visited Rose by chartered fishing boat. We spent four days at the atoll surveying seabirds, sea turtles, terrestrial flora, and marine resources in the shallow lagoon.

To aid in your evaluation of this suggested article, I have enclosed 11 color slides taken during my visit, as well as a descriptive brochure issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If you find interest in this topic, I can provide you with a draft article of approximately 1500 words sometime before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration. Please return the enclosed slides, but feel free to make copies at this time if you wish.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

August 31, 1981

Mr. C. R. Bavin  
Chief, Division of Law Enforcement  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bavin:

I am writing to inquire about the law enforcement matter that I brought to your attention last March, as acknowledged by your letter of April 8 (FWS/LE INV-8-0, copy attached). I would appreciate learning what actions may have been taken to rectify the illegal trade described.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

August 31, 1981

Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard  
Florida Audubon Society  
P. O. Drawer 7  
Maitland, Florida 32751

Dear Peter:

There is something patently ludicrous in what you wrote to me about why the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy will not be included in the SE Sea Turtle Recovery Plan, and why it probably couldn't be reprinted in the forthcoming Research and Conservation Manual (that is, Wayne King's name on the Strategy rendered it "suspect" by certain team members).

As you know, the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy was a committee effort that was subsequently modified and adopted by the Conference as a whole. The Conference itself was, of course, sponsored in part by NMFS. If some of your Recovery Team members are indeed preventing the reprinting of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy because Wayne was among those involved in framing the document, then I think you should take steps to have those individuals removed from the team, or at the very least have their nonsense publicly exposed for scrutiny. I certainly don't see how you can continue on in good faith as a co-leader without taking some remedial action.

Presumably, I have the prerogative of providing you with this unsolicited advice in my capacity as official Consultant to the SE Recovery Team.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Fred Berry  
Archie Carr, Chairman-Marine Turtle Group

August 24, 1981

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

Dear Margie:

I appreciated receiving your interesting and informative letter of July 26th. You have initiated a worthwhile project of gathering sighting data, and I certainly encourage you to prepare a report or publication at the earliest opportunity so that others may learn of your findings.

When your thesis is completed, I would very much like to obtain a copy for my reference files. I will, of course, reimburse you for the duplicating and postage costs involved.

I wonder if you have contacted any of the fishermen that use drift gill nets off the California coast? This gear could be expected to periodically entangle and drown sea turtles. Some low-keyed inquiries may be productive.

I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



August 24, 1981

Mr. Adrian Akau  
Pahala High School  
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Mr. Akau:

It was a pleasure to speak with you about sea turtles during my study visit to Kau during late July. Our fieldwork proved to be very successful, with a number of green turtles being tagged and recovered with old tags.

I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed literature on sea turtles, some of which may prove useful as a teaching aid at your school. If you come across any interesting observations of turtles on the Big Island, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 24, 1981

Dr. Samuel Gruber  
Rosenstiel School of Marine &  
Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Miami  
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Dr. Gruber:

I thought that you would like to have a copy of the enclosed article from the August 19, 1981 Honolulu Star-Bulletin relating to shark attacks in Florida. I have also enclosed a reprint of a paper on Hawaiian shark attacks that I recently authored with Alan Kam.

Are you aware of any publications that provide historical information on shark attacks in Florida, such as has been compiled for Hawaii? I am not familiar with the "National Underwater Accident Data Center" mentioned in the newspaper article, and therefore would appreciate any specifics that you can send me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 24, 1981

Dr. Fred Kamemoto  
Chairman  
Department of Zoology  
University of Hawaii

Dear Dr. Kamemoto:

As the result of inquiries to Drs. Helfrich and Gething, I am writing to you to respectfully request that I be considered for membership on the graduate faculty.

The highest degree that I have been awarded is an M.S. from the Department of Animal Sciences of the University of Hawaii. I have been professionally affiliated with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology since 1971, when I was hired as a Jr. Marine Biologist (R-2) to work on aquaculture problems relating to nutrition. In 1976 I achieved a promotion to Assistant Marine Biologist (R-3). Over the past eight years I have been awarded various grants and contracts originating from Sea Grant, the State Marine Affairs Coordinator, the New York Zoological Society, the National Geographic Society (in collaboration with Dr. G. C. Whitton), and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Since June of 1980 I have been associated with the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service under an Interagency Personnel Act (IPA) agreement with the University of Hawaii.

I have conducted original research and prepared papers and reports on the applied nutrition of *Macrobrachium*, the biology of marine turtles, and other subjects relevant to the Hawaiian and Pacific environment. Several of these publications have been enclosed for your review.

Your consideration of this request for status on the graduate faculty will be appreciated. If there are any questions that I can answer by telephone, please call me at HIMB (247-6631) or the NMFS Honolulu lab (946-2181).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. P. Helfrich

Enclosures

August 18, 1981

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky  
Department of Zoology  
(ASRG) S. Parks Road  
University of Oxford  
England OX1 3PS

Dear Nicholas:

I fully realize that there are problems within IUCN on the timely feedback of various matters, however, I sharply disagree with your written suggested solution to Bob Scott that IUCN/WWF 'go extinct'. As indicated by the attached copied correspondence, Bob shares our concerns and is making efforts to rectify the situation. In the case of your own grant application, it seems reasonable to assume that if you haven't received a check by now, the project was not assigned high priority for funding. You will recall that I experienced the same difficulty about four years ago with my application to study growth rates. Nothing ever came of it, but I proceeded to find funds elsewhere and proceed with the work. Haven't you done the same?

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GEB:md

cc: Archie Carr  
Bob Scott

Encl.

August 18, 1981

Mr. W. E. Stringer  
4133 Montego Drive  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

Dear Mr. Stringer:

Thank you very much indeed for your informative and interesting letter of July 26th reporting the sighting of our tagged sea turtle. This turtle, a young Kemp's ridley, was tagged and released along with others during early June 1981 about three miles off of North Padre Island. The project is being conducted by Dr. James McVey of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Galveston Laboratory. Some of my special alloy tags were applied to these turtles to test their resistance to corrosion.

I have passed your letter on to Dr. McVey and he will undoubtedly be writing to thank you in the near future. If you see any other tagged turtles, please let us know.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 18, 1981

Mr. L. A. Yerkovich  
Senior Technical Coordinator  
Huntington Alloys, Inc.  
Huntington, West Virginia 25720

Dear Mr. Yerkovich:

I was indeed pleased to receive your letter of August 5th concerning the performance of INCONEL alloy 625 tags on Hawaiian sea turtles. Your service in evaluating this matter is greatly appreciated.

If it wouldn't be of any additional difficulty, I wonder if you can provide me with comparative data on the corrosion rates experienced by each of the several recovered tags that I sent to you? The variables for these tags include length of time in wild, as well as island-area where the turtle resided. By examining this information together, I may be able to formulate some ideas as to the factors responsible for increased corrosion (possibly diet of turtles, age of the turtles, seawater temperature, coastal pollution, etc.). In any event, it would be very helpful to have these corrosion data for possible use in one of my future publications (with proper credit to you and Huntington Alloys).

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHBrmd

August 5, 1981

Mr. Rob Milne, Chief  
International Affairs Division  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Milne:

I am writing to request information on the procedure that should be followed to nominate a U. S. location as a World Heritage Site. Jeffrey McNeely, Executive Officer of IUCN/CNPPA, recently suggested that I contact you in this regard concerning my interest in nominating French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I believe that a strong persuasive case can be made for this unique site.

Thank you for any assistance that you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosure

August 5, 1981

Mr. Craig Van Note  
Executive Vice President  
Monitor  
1506 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Van Note:

For several years now, I have been regularly receiving the Monitor information packets sent out by your fine organization. This was initiated following a request that I serve as a consultant member of Monitor's committee on sea turtle conservation.

I want to express my appreciation and enthusiasm for Monitor's information packets. They are consistently one of the most valuable pieces of mail that I receive. In addition to the timely articles on sea turtles, I almost always find items covering a wide variety of conservation topics that I reproduce and re-mail to colleagues, both in the U. S. and in foreign countries.

I would like to continue receiving the information packets. Hopefully your financial supporters will also recognize the great value of this information network and see fit to designate funds for this purpose.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



August 5, 1981

Dr. George Pisani, Editor  
Herpetological Review  
Division of Biological Sciences  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Dear Dr. Pisani:

Thank you for your note of May 26 concerning the seal/green turtle photo. I regret my delay in responding, but I have been away from my office for extended periods.

You are absolutely justified in being puzzled by my note of May 18. As you pointed out, a very similar photo and caption was used in the HRL0 (4) 1979 issue. This was an oversight on my part and I apologize. The problem was partially due to the fact that someone "walked off" with my 10(4) issue some time ago, and I had completely forgotten that the photo was indeed printed.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balaxs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

July 15, 1981

Mr. Stanley T. Arakaki  
Chief, Operations Branch  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Mr. Arakaki:

The attached copied postcard dated June 12, 1981 was sent to me in response to my testimony of June 2nd pertaining to the proposed construction of a boat-launching ramp at Nohili, Barking Sands, Kauai. No further correspondence has as yet been received on this subject. I would be interested to learn of the current status of this proposal, and what time-frames are involved in your decision making process. When may I anticipate receiving a response to the questions that I have raised?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

FROM: See return address on reverse.		DATE 12 June 1981
WRITER'S NAME/ TELEPHONE NO. M. Masuda/438-9258		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YOUR <input type="checkbox"/> OUR COMMUNICATION (Kind, reference symbol, date, subject, or other identification) Letter dated 2 June 1981 concerning the permit application for the proposed boat launching ramp at Nohili Ditch, Kauai, File No. PODCO-0 1609-S		
ACTION TAKEN OR REQUESTED		
<input type="checkbox"/> REPLY WILL BE FURNISHED ON OR ABOUT _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGED	
<input type="checkbox"/> REQUEST DATE WHEN REPLY MAY BE EXPECTED	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR DIRECT REPLY	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WE HAVE SENT YOUR COMMUNICATION TO (See below)	<input type="checkbox"/> TO OBTAIN INFORMATION	
The applicant for response to your concerns and questions about the proposed project.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> SUPPLIED OR <input type="checkbox"/> REQUESTED An Environmental Assessment has not been prepared yet since the permit application is still being processed.		
TYPED NAME, GRADE, AND TITLE STANLEY T. ARAKAKI Chief, Operations Branch		SIGNATURE <i>Stanley T. Arakaki</i>

DA FORM 209, 1 Jan 70 REPLACES EDITION OF 1 NOV 66, WHICH WILL BE USED.

DELAY, REFERRAL, OR FOLLOW-UP NOTICE (AR 340-15) GPO: 1975 O-487-197

July 14, 1981

Mr. Andrew N. Hepburn  
Executive Assistant Manager  
Kahala Hilton  
5000 Kahala Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Mr. Hepburn:

The purpose of this letter is to provide formal documentation for the Kahala Hilton's records as to the species, individual identification and authorization for four subadult green turtles from the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology to be permanently exchanged for four adult green turtles currently at the Kahala Hilton.

The green turtles at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology were legally obtained in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to the listing of this species (*Chelonia mydas*) in 1978 under provisions of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Consequently, they are not subject to the permit requirements of the Act. It is my understanding that the green turtles at the Kahala Hilton were also obtained prior to the species listing under the Act.

The four green turtles at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology to be exchanged are individually identified by small alloy tags with the following inscribed numbers:

2051  
2053  
2054  
2056

For future legal documentation, it may be valuable to the Kahala Hilton for these tags to remain on the turtles.

Approximately once each year, at a date and time entirely convenient to the Kahala Hilton, permission will be granted to measure the shell length of each turtle for use in compiling growth data on green turtles of the Hawaiian

Mr. Andrew N. Hepburn  
July 14, 1981  
Page 2

population. This procedure will take approximately 30 minutes and will not require removing the turtles from their holding facilities.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

Countersigned by

Philip Helfrich  
Director, HIMS

Acknowledgement of copy  
received for U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service  
records

Ernest Kosaka



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

July 8, 1981

Mr. James J. Yamashiro  
Division of State Parks  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

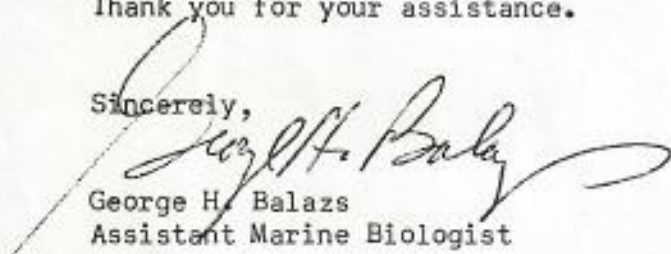
Dear Mr. Yamashiro:

I have just heard about your retirement and I want to take this opportunity to wish you well in your future endeavors.

Before making your final departure from the Division of State Parks, I would like to request that attention be given to the letter of inquiry that I sent to you on May 19, 1981 (copy attached). In my view as a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, this is an important matter relating to the sound management of the Na Pali Coast that needs to be clarified and resolved.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 19, 1981


Mr. James J. Yamashiro  
State Parks Administrator  
Division of State Parks  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Yamashiro:

Recently I had the opportunity to read the Draft EIS for the Na Pali Coast Management Plan dated March 1981. I was surprised to learn that the constructive suggestions relating to green sea turtles that I had made in my letter of August 29, 1980 were not incorporated into the document. Furthermore, there was no indication that I had even submitted these comments to your office for consideration.

I do not know what factors were involved in this matter, but I would appreciate being informed of the specifics. Copies of our earlier correspondence have been enclosed for reference purposes.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

cc  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
UH Environmental Center

GHB:lb

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

July 8, 1981

Mr. G. S. deSilva  
East Coast National Parks  
Regional Office  
Box 768  
Sandakan, Sabah  
EAST MALAYSIA

Dear Stanley:

I am sorry to have taken so long to answer your letter of May 23rd. It arrived here in Honolulu while I was at French Frigate Shoals tagging green turtles, as I have done each June for the past eight years.

After I wrote to Lucas Chin, Wayne King sent him a follow-up letter endorsing my suggestion for the moratorium on egg collections and offering other words of encouragement. As yet, I have not received further correspondence on this subject. Both Wayne and Archie visited our home for part of an evening on May 24th on their way to Papua New Guinea. Although numerous topics were touched upon in the short time available, the Sarswak problem never came up. I therefore assume that the matter is indeed in abeyance.

I was gratified to learn that you would want me to serve in a consultancy to survey nesting beaches with you in Sabah, should funds become available. However, the 5-month period you mentioned would probably preclude my involvement. I could not leave my family for that long, and it would probably be very difficult for the three of us to move to Sabah for 5 months. Nevertheless, if and when the funds are designated for the project, I would at least like to have the opportunity to consider this in greater detail.

Under separate cover, I am sending you several articles on sea turtles that I thought you would find interesting. We send you and your family best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



July 8, 1981

Mr. Larry LaRochelle  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Wildlife Permit Office  
P. O. Box 3654  
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. LaRochelle:

I would appreciate receiving copies of the documents and other information submitted in conjunction with the PRT-2-7837 application by the Commander, Naval Forces of the Caribbean. This notice appeared in the Federal Register (Volume 46, No. 99) on May 22, 1981. I would also like to know if the permit has now been granted and, if so, under what conditions.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
on behalf of the  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

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

July 8, 1981

The British Trust  
for Ornithology  
Tring, Hertfordshire  
ENGLAND

Dear Sirs:

If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the short article entitled "Seabird Slaughter" authored by W. Bourne and C. Mead that appeared in a 1969 issue of your publication. I have not been able to locate this paper here in Hawaii.

Thank you for any assistance you are able to provide to this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

June 29, 1981

Mr. Jeff McNeeley  
Executive Officer  
CNPPA  
IUCN  
Gland CH-1196  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. McNeeley:

Mrs. Fitter recently suggested that I write to you to obtain information on the World Heritage List. Specifically, I would like to know what course of action would be necessary to have French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands placed on this list. Without going into great detail at this time, I believe that a strong case could be made to have this unique site so designated.

Thank you for any help that you can provide.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

24 June 81

Miss Lisa Phillips  
c/o A. J. Noon  
24 Macaulay Street  
Coorparoo  
Brisbane, Queensland  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Miss Phillips:

You will be pleased to learn that on May 27th at 3:00 p.m. the bottle containing your message of September 27, 1976 washed ashore near my campsite on East Island, French Frigate Shoals, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The bottle beached itself near a large green sea turtle that was basking in the sun. The time and distance involved since you set the bottle afloat suggests that it may have traveled in circles around the North Pacific. Your message was in excellent condition and perfectly legible. I have enclosed a photocopy, but if you wish, I can send the original when I find out if this is still your correct mailing address.

East Island is a 12 acre uninhabited islet situated in the middle of a 16-mile long reef area named French Frigate Shoals. There are nine other small sand islets in the area, as well as a basalt rock pinnacle of 125 feet in height. French Frigate Shoals is about 500 miles northwest of Honolulu and a part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The May 1976 issue of National Geographic Magazine has an excellent article and color photograph series on the area.

I have been visiting East Island during late May and June of each year since 1973 to tag and study green sea turtles. The major portion of nesting in the Hawaiian Islands takes place at this site. The turtles have been found to migrate for up to 700 miles to get to East Island.

It was fun to find your message and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
Encl.

June 25, 1981

Mr. Mark Wexler  
Senior Editor  
National/International Wildlife  
225 E. Michigan  
Milwaukee, WIS 53202

Dear Mark:

I greatly appreciated the copy of National Wildlife that you recently sent to me containing your super article on Kim Clifton's work with Mexican green turtles. I was fortunate to spend a few days with Kim at Maruata Bay in September of 1979. On my first night out on the beach, I realized that I was indeed with a "get involved" researcher when we included a 45 automatic with the tagging gear! We all hope that Kim's positive influence can continue; he undoubtedly represents one of the few chances for survival for this very special stock of "black" green turtles.

I too would like to see you do an article relating to some aspect of Hawaiian Wildlife (preferably incorporating sea turtles in part). Overall coverage of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge), with special focus on French Frigate Shoals, would seem to be the most interesting possibility. Have you seen the piece that appeared in the May 1978 National Geographic? This may help to give you an idea of the potential. Whatever you eventually decided you can feel confident that I will help you out in whatever way possible.

Did I ever send you a copy of my 1981 calendar containing color photos of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

June 23, 1981

Dr. Richard H. Sams  
Alamo Savings Tower East  
Suite 707  
909 NE Loop 410  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Dr. Sams:

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet you during your short visit to French Frigate Shoals on June 8th.

When your paper relating to Whale-Skate Island is published, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

June 23, 1981

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

Dear John:

Many thanks for your note of June 9th along with the records of three sea turtle observations made between Panama and Sydney. This information is greatly appreciated, and hopefully more will be forthcoming as opportunities and circumstances permit.

I have enclosed several sea turtle buttons as a small "reward" to the three gentlemen that made the sightings (R. J. Cresswell, R. Laycock and J. Brennan).

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

June 2, 1981

District Engineer  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Building 230  
Fort Shafter, Honolulu 96858

Dear Sirs:

The following information and questions are being submitted in response to your request for input on the proposal to construct a boat-launching ramp within the Nohili drainage ditch at Barking Sands on Kauai.

1. Green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas), a threatened species under the U. S. Endangered Species Act, occur along the nearshore waters of Barking Sands. Sightings of these turtles have been periodically reported to me by personnel of the Pacific Missile Range Facility. There is an indication that the turtles aggregate or occur in greater numbers in the immediate vicinity of the Nohili drainage ditch. Such presence would be consistent with other coastal sites in the main Hawaiian Islands where foraging by green turtles has often been found to focus near areas of freshwater drainage or seepage. Nutrients present in the freshwater runoff, as well as the favorable growth conditions afforded to certain species of algae by a brackish-water environment, are undoubtedly the principal factors responsible for attracting green turtles to these sites.
2. It would be prudent to acquire some detailed information on the scope and magnitude of the Nohili turtle aggregation before proceeding with the primary impacts of dredging, blasting and ramp construction, and the resultant long-term secondary impacts of boat launching and related activities by military and civilian components. Your office may already have more detailed information on green turtles at this site that has been taken into consideration, therefore I would appreciate receiving a copy of the Environmental Assessment (or Environment Impact Assessment) prepared for this proposal.
3. It seems reasonable to assume that placement of a launching ramp available to the public at this site will result in increased visitations to the Na Pali Coast. Smaller boats of a reduced seaworthy nature, as well as larger boats with high fuel consumption, that are now less likely to visit Na Pali from the Port Allen ramp would probably be more apt to do so if a new and closer ramp at Barking Sands is constructed. Has this potential secondary impact been taken into consideration and coordinated with the State of Hawaii's Na Pali Coast Management Plan? Would the proposed ramp be available for commercial uses, such as small boat excursions for tourists and commercial fishing?



District Engineer  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

June 2, 1981  
Page 2

4. When periodic access is allowed to military-owned coastal lands, such as Barking Sands, there is a legitimate need to inform the public about the protected status of federally-listed Endangered and Threatened species. Permanent signs of an appropriate nature relating to sea turtles and humpback whales should be included with any boat ramp that may eventually be constructed in the area.

I appreciate having the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: U.H. Environmental Center  
State Parks Division  
John Naughton, NMFS

May 20, 1981

Dr. William K. Kikuchi  
Kauai Community College  
RR 1, Box 216  
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Dr. Kikuchi:

I enjoyed reading your interesting note on the discovery of a petroglyph at Kenomene Point, Princeville.

On the north shore of Kauai, a short distance to the west of Princeville, there is a coastal site by the name of HONU POINT. I visited the area last month, but could not find any evidence of sea turtles (honu) using the "beach" or inhabiting the immediate adjacent waters. Do you have any information as to the significance of this place-name? Is it likely to be of a very old origin? Any hints that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 20, 1981

Dear

As you will undoubtedly recall, last year you wrote a letter to the U.S. Postmaster General expressing support for the issuance of commemorative stamps portraying four species of sea turtles. I am pleased to report that your correspondence proved to be a valuable contribution to a file of over 200 letters endorsing this wildlife conservation theme.

I am writing to you at this time to let you know that the sea turtle proposal is still very much alive for use in a future stamp issue. I have been informed that each year the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (appointed by the Postmaster General) receives several thousand suggestions for stamp themes. Obviously the vast majority of these topics have to be rejected and discarded due to the very limited number of commemorative stamps actually issued each year. The fact that the sea turtle proposal has been retained for further serious consideration is therefore a most encouraging sign. During the coming months, I will continue to make periodic contact with the Stamps Division of the U. S. Postal Service, as well as one of the members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee that lives here in Hawaii. The Committee meets once every two months, and further action on the proposal is certainly possible in the near future. If and when a firm date is established for issuing the stamps, I will write to you again providing all of the details.

Thank you again for helping to support this worthy stamp proposal.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs

GHB:md



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 19, 1981


Mr. James J. Yamashiro  
State Parks Administrator  
Division of State Parks  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Yamashiro:

Recently I had the opportunity to read the Draft EIS for the Na Pali Coast Management Plan dated March 1981. I was suprised to learn that the constructive suggestions relating to green sea turtles that I had made in my letter of August 29, 1980 were not incorporated into the document. Furthermore, there was no indication that I had even submitted these comments to your office for consideration.

I do not know what factors were involved in this matter, but I would appreciate being informed of the specifics. Copies of our earlier correspondence have been enclosed for reference purposes.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

cc  
Office of Environmental Quality Control  
UH Environmental Center

GHB:lb

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

May 18, 1981

Dr. G. Shelton  
University of East Anglia  
Norwich NR4 7TJ  
ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Shelton:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled

"Cardiovascular dynamics of the Chelonia during apnoea and lung ventilation."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

May 18, 1981

Dr. R. Kaufmann  
Inst. Colombo-Aleman  
Invest. Cientificas  
Santa Marta, COLOMBIA

Dear Dr. Kaufmann:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Observaciones sobre el crecimiento de tortugas marinas en cautividad."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

May 18, 1981

Dr. S. Townson  
c/o Brit. Herp. Soc.  
Zool. Soc. London  
Regents Park  
London NW1, ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Townson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Observations and notes on the captive breeding of the green turtle on Grand Cayman" (appeared in TESTUDO).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 18, 1981

Dr. H. D. Prange  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dr. Prange:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article (abstract) entitled "Responses of sea turtles to graded hypoxia."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



May 15, 1981

Dr. D. R. Clark  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
Laurel, MD 20811

Dear Dr. Clark:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Organochlorine residues in eggs of loggerhead and green sea turtles nesting at Merritt Island."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 15, 1981

Mr. J. Feldman  
9557 Terrace Pl.  
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Dear Mr. Feldman:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled  
"A technique for preparing a turtle shell for display."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 15, 1981

Dr. J. H. Fischthal  
State University of New York  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Dear Dr. Fischthal:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Some digenetic trematodes from Atlantic hawksbill turtle from Puerto Rico."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 14, 1981

Mr. Clancy Greff  
Na Pali Zodiac  
P. O. Box 456  
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Clancy:

With the impending arrival of our summer ocean conditions around the Hawaiian Islands, I would like to ask for your help in recording significant observations of sea turtles made along the Na Pali Coast. I am especially interested in learning of the numbers and locations of any aggregations that may be seen in coastal waters. Your kind assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope, as well as a xerox map of Na Pali that can be marked and returned to me.

Mahalo for any help that you can provide. I hope that your tour service is going well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 14, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Pouncefort:

I was very sorry to recently learn that Ascension Island may not be issuing the set of postal stamps displaying sea turtles, as previously planned. I do not know what factors are involved in the selection of such stamps, but it is certainly my impression that earlier Ascension issues showing turtles have been attractive, well-received and prized by collectors. Ascension is one of the world's truly classical sites for a breeding colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The seasonal presence of these animals on Ascension's shores, following an amazing navigational feat from South America, has helped to make your small island famous among the scientific community. These turtles represent a unique wild-life heritage of unsurpassed excellence. The pride and stewardship of your residents for the turtles is fully justified, and the issuance of illustrative stamps is a fine way to internationally advertise these attributes.

If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you in this matter, as a representative of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr

May 13, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Harter:

I want to sincerely thank you for your interesting and informative letter of April 30 concerning sightings of sea turtles around Kauai, and specifically along the Na Pali coast. I realize that in strictly "scientific" terms your observations might be called subjective by some. However, I can assure you that I place great importance on your information, which is backed-up by years of sightings as a skilled helicopter pilot. It would be very difficult indeed for anyone to refute the overall validity of your statements.

Your offer to make daily counts of turtles for a one-month period in the Na Pali area is welcomed and accepted with great enthusiasm. Along with the actual censuses, it would be important to note the approximate wind speed and direction, sea-surface conditions, the relative sizes of the turtles (small, medium, large), and some mention of how close to shore they occur. Times of day that the counts are made could vary within the limits of your flight schedule, in that a principal objective of the month-long study would be to determine the maximum number of turtles that can be seen during any one count.

I believe that it would be best not to send you a formal data sheet to record your information. I want you to have full flexibility in writing down as little, or as much, as you care to during each flight. I fully realize that your main reasons for being up there are to fly the helicopter and escort tourists, not to do research on sea turtles! I have therefore enclosed a bound booklet that you can use for writing the information as you see fit. Among other things, I am also sending along a supply of Xeroxed maps of the Na Pali area. You can use these to mark locations of turtles as may be needed to supplement the counts.

I was intrigued by your mention of seven turtles having recently been seen on the beach at Nualolo. What time of the day did this take place, and approximately how far up the beach were they? Do you think that they may have been nesting, or possibly land basking (sleeping ashore just above the water's edge) such as regularly occurs in the Leeward Islands? Any details that you can offer will be appreciated.

Mr. Jack Harter  
Page 2  
May 13, 1981

If all goes as planned, I will be leaving by chartered aircraft for French Frigate Shoals on May 25, returning mid to late June. This will be my ninth consecutive year monitoring and tagging green turtles at their principal breeding site in the Hawaiian chain. Numbers of adult females present each year have ranged from 95 to 250. No trends are apparent.

If any exciting observations of turtles are made on Kauai between now and the 25th, or after June, please feel free to telephone me collect at my offices (247-6631 and 946-2181) or at home (395-6409). I am always anxious to learn more about Hawaiian turtles.

Again, many thanks for offering to record sightings of turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 6, 1981

Mr. Michael Weber  
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund Coordinator  
Center for Environmental Education  
1925 K Street, NW - Suite 206  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Weber:

As requested in your letter of February 20th, I am sending you my review comments on the draft manuscript "Worldwide Map of Sea Turtle Hunts." Overall, I think this is an excellent undertaking that will receive widespread support and acceptance.

Please send me two copies of the final completed report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



May 6, 1981

Mr. Derek Green  
Texas Memorial Museum  
The University of Texas  
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

As requested, I have devoted time to reviewing your interesting manuscript detailing long-distance tagrecoveries of Galapagos green turtles. My comments and suggestions have been written directly on the manuscript which I am returning to you. I think you are well on the way to producing a fine publication on an important aspect of your results. Before you submit the manuscript to a journal, I would, however, recommend that you consider the following.

1. On pages 13-14, you express some apparently serious reservations as to whether or not your tag recoveries represent "true migrations." I wonder if you might feel more comfortable replacing the word "migrations" in your title with "long-distance movements" or "post-breeding movements"? Also, it seems to me that the word "international" in your title imposes restrictions in your discussion. The key factor here, in my opinion, is that the "movements" or "migrations" cover great distances. The fact that they are "international" will automatically be covered in the text, and can be emphasized in the appropriate sections.
2. The manuscript needs to be tightened-up in organizational format, and restructured to conform more with the traditional scientific exposition of: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions. Many of the section headings that you now have can fall as sub-headings under these principal headings.
3. I estimate that the manuscript can be shortened by about 15% without any loss of data or information. I am sure that this will be recommended by the journal editor when first submitted, so you might want to get a head start on the problem.

I appreciate having the opportunity to help you out on this publication project. Although you said in your letter that you would be sending the

Mr. Derek Green  
May 6, 1981  
Page 2

manuscript to John Hendrickson and me before journal submission, I think it would be a very good idea to also have it reviewed by Peter Pritchard and Anne Meylan.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

May 4, 1981

Dr. Jacques Fretey  
Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens  
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle  
25, Rue Cuvier  
75005 Paris, France

Cher Collegue:

I am writing to thank you very much for your letter of 8 April 1981, and the sample of Axaflex tags used in your research project. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your informative letter to:

Dr. Steven Cornelius  
RR3, Box 216  
Mountain View, MD 65548  
USA

Dr. Cornelius has used similar plastic tags to tag alive ridleys on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica.

Can you tell me if any corrosion has occurred in the metal (Monel) tags you have used?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 29, 1981

Dear

Probably one of the most important activities that we can regularly undertake as members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group is to exchange current information on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. The foundation of this "information network" would, in my view, be the timely distribution of journal reprints, reports and other publications authored by Group Members. I would therefore like to suggest that each of us adopt a policy of automatically sending out such material to all Group members as soon as it is available for distribution. A few individuals have already undertaken this courtesy, but most of us (including myself) have not been doing it on a regular basis.

If for some reason you feel that this is not a good idea, by all means please write to me expressing your views.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs

April 29, 1981

Dr. Thomas Laughlin F/CM3  
Office of Resource Conservation and Management  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dr. Laughlin:

I am writing to ask if you would allow me to use your slide of a tiger shark (mouth open, attacking a sea bird) in a color booklet I am currently preparing on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Bill Gilmartin, my colleague at the NMFS Honolulu Lab, recently showed me a print of this unique and excellent photograph taken at Lisianski Island.

If permission is granted, I will see to it that you receive full photo credit, as well as two free copies of the book (retail price will be approximately \$5). The book will contain about 100 color photos in all, with a total of approximately 85 pages. It will be distributed in Hawaii through the Oriental Publishing Company.

Rather than borrowing your slide for the extended publication period (5-10 months), I would prefer to have a high-quality duplicate made professionally here in Honolulu. The duplicate could be retained for publication purposes, and your original slide could be returned to you in a few days.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 29, 1981

Ms. Marianne Reidman  
Center for Coastal Marine Studies  
Division of Natural Sciences  
Applied Sciences Building  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dear Marianne:

Thanks very much for sending me the prepublication copy of your article dealing with white sharks. I had forgotten that I had requested it, but it was a most welcome arrival. As you will see from the enclosed, I have also recently finalized a paper relating to sharks. This is somewhat ironic in view of a similar paper covering California and Oregon that just appeared in the California Fish and Game Bulletin. You have probably already seen the paper in that it discusses some aspects of white shark predation on marine mammals.

At the present time, I will prefer not to send you all of the information on elephant seals in Hawaiian waters that I have assembled. My reason is that I would like to get it published in some form before it is used by others in print. I trust that you will understand this position, and bear with me until a manuscript can be finalized. I should mention, however, that only one tag recovery has been made, and most of the specifics on this were previously communicated by me to Dr. LeBoef. At that time, I told him that I would include the tag recovery with two other sightings and prepare a short paper entitled "Elephant Seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands" by G. H. Balazs, J. B. Giezantanner, G. Means, and B. LeBoef. I still haven't worked up the manuscript, but I promise it will be forthcoming. These atypical subjects do eventually receive my attention, as evidenced by the enclosed shark article.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures

April 22, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Harter:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with some current information on your frequency of sighting sea turtles along the Na Pali Coast, or elsewhere on the island of Kauai. Have the numbers of turtles that you have observed over the past few years increased, decreased, or remained about the same?

I realize that your helicopter tour service keeps you very busy, but I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this matter. For your convenience I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply. Thank you for any help that you are able to provide.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 22, 1981

Mr. Red Johnson  
Papillon Helicopters  
Box 608  
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in providing me with information on the sightings of sea turtles along the Na Pali and other coastal areas of Kauai. At which locations are sea turtles most frequently seen during helicopter flights, and in approximately what numbers do they occur?

Any and all help that you can give to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a stamped and self-addressed envelope, as well as xerox maps that can be marked and returned to me.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



April 16, 1981

Dr. Steve Cornelius  
RR3, Box 216  
Mountain View, MO 65548

Dear Steve:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of March 31. I greatly appreciate the details that you took the time to provide on tags and tagging problems.

A few years ago, Delta Plastics of New Zealand (manufacturers of Allflex) sent me an assortment of tags following a visit to our laboratory by one of the company officials. I applied a number of the tags to adult green turtles in captivity at Sea Life Park here on Oahu. Unfortunately, the retention rate was poor and all of the tags eventually came off. However, this was at least in part due to biting by other turtles, which is always a problem in a captive situation. I have also documented biting of tags in the wild, as evidenced by "squashed" metal tags. I believe that George Hughes and Col Limpus have had problems with plastic tags due to biting.

I applaud your strategy to use two or more tags on each turtle. Everyone should be doing this, in my opinion. After all, the cost of the tags is only a fraction of the cost of the research. The tags are the very basis of the research.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 15, 1981

Mr. Derek Green  
The University of Texas  
Texas Memorial Museum  
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

I would be pleased to comprehensively and constructively review the manuscript that you recently sent to me. I should be able to accomplish this within the next two weeks.

I am afraid that our obtaining a good picture of migratory patterns for Eastern Pacific Chelonia will have to wait until long-distance tag recoveries have been accumulated for the Maruata/Colola colony. Hopefully Kim Clifton's tag recoveries will increase during the next few years.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 16, 1981

Mr. C. C. Hufflett  
Managing Director  
Fish Export Development Company, Ltd.  
Vickerman Street  
P. O. Box 555, Nelson  
NEW ZEALAND

Dear Mr. Hufflett:

As requested, I am sending you the enclosed short report covering recent squid fishery research here in Hawaii.

Have the studies of gill netting of squid in New Zealand now been completed?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

April 16, 1981

Mr. Warren Zeiller  
Vice President and General Manager  
Miami Seaquarium  
4400 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Mr. Zeiller:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of April 8th concerning living tag experiments on sea turtles conducted by Dr. Hendrickson. You will be interested to learn that similar studies are underway here in Hawaii at Sea Life Park involving green turtles. Dr. Hendrickson also carried out the initial grafts back in September of 1980. Some of these marks are still clearly recognizable, however, the captive-rearing evaluation will not be finalized until August. I believe that Dr. Hendrickson will be passing through Hawaii before that time.

I was uncertain from your letter exactly which agency is sponsoring the graft experiment at your facility. Is this being supported through Mr. Berry of the National Marine Fisheries Service?

The attached short article from the January 1981 issue of YANKEE refers to a male ridley being sent from the New England Aquarium to Florida for breeding purposes. Was your facility the recipient of this turtle? Have you experienced successes in captive nesting of sea turtles?

Under separate cover, I have sent you a copy of a report covering some of my sea turtle work in the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

## FREEZE-MARKING EXPERIMENTATION WITH JUVENILE GREEN TURTLES

On 14 April 1981, William Gilmartin and George Balazs carried out a freeze-marking study with four juvenile green turtles being reared under contract at Sea Life Park. These turtles were originally obtained as hatchlings at French Frigate Shoals in September 1980.

The freeze-marking instrument utilized was a copper rod with a contact point measuring approximately 5 mm in diameter. The coolant was liquid nitrogen. After immersion in the coolant for several minutes, the point of the rod was firmly placed against a lateral scute of the carapace. Each of the lateral scutes on all four turtles received a trial mark ranging from 4 to 32 seconds of contact. A total of 32 trial marks was applied (8 lateral scutes per turtle x 4 turtles). The location of the trial mark on each scute, duration of contact, carapace lengths, and tag numbers are presented in the following diagrams. The turtles will be examined at one week intervals to determine extent and duration of depigmentation.

4/16/81

April 16, 1981

Dr. Anthony R. De Gange  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4454 Business Park Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Dr. De Gange:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining information on incidental capture of sea turtle in salmon gill nets. I understand that you have considerable experience and knowledge relating to the mortality of sea birds in such nets. Do you know of any cases involving sea turtles? If so, I would greatly appreciate being informed of the numbers, locations, species and sizes of the turtles involved.

I should also mention that, as the 1981 President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, I share your concern for the apparently extensive problems of salmon gill nets and sea birds. If there is any action that our Society can take on behalf of conservation, please let me know.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Same letter to:

Mr. F. W. Knoch  
Box 327  
Koloa, Kauai 96756

Mr. H. Kato  
Box 332  
Koloa, Kauai 96756

Mr. Valpoon  
4262 Anahola Rd.  
Anahola, Kauai 96703

Owner/Manager  
Kauai Divers  
RR1, Box 56  
Koloa, Kauai 96756

April 14, 1981

Mr. John Barretto  
5405-A Kawaihau Rd.  
Kapaa, Kauai 96746

Dear Mr. Barretto:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Kauai. Which near-shore waters of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized? Are you aware of any turtles being captured during past years that were tagged?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Kauai for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 13, 1981

Ms. Pamela Williams  
Seal Rescue Fund Coordinator  
Center for Environmental Education  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Pamela:

Many thanks for your letter of March 30th concerning your recent visit to Hawaii. I was also sorry to have missed speaking with you about sea turtle, monk seal, and other Hawaiian conservation problems.

As I discussed in my letter of January 6th to Jim Sternberg, I would be delighted to make my green turtle/monk seal photo available for use by your fine organization. That particular photo has been used to good advantage on a number of occasions, and I am indeed fortunate to have had the opportunity to take it. In accordance with your request, I am having a glossy black and white print (5 x 7") made from the negative. I will send it to you under separate cover within the next week.

In your letter you made mention of a section of your forthcoming annual report that will be devoted to proposed research projects to "assess behaviors of both green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals" in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I am unaware of your proposed projects relating to green turtles, and therefore would appreciate being brought up to date on the subject. Any efforts along these lines should ideally be well coordinated with my own and Dr. Causey Whittow's research program of Hawaiian Chelonia. In addition, I think it would be beneficial for any of the Center's proposed efforts on behalf of sea turtles to be constructively reviewed by several members of our IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group. Your starting point should be Dr. Archie Carr at the University of Florida in Gainesville. I know that Jim (Sternberg) has regularly done this with the sea turtle projects he has handled. For monk seal projects, an additional excellent individual with a strong conservation philosophy would be Dr. Karl Kenyon, 11990 Lakeside Place, N.E., Seattle, Washington 98125. Karl is now retired from the Fish and Wildlife Service, but he continues to vigorously speak out against forces that have little regard for species survival. I recommend that you establish close contact with him, and seriously consider funding, at least in part, any projects that he may recommend.



Ms. Pamela Williams  
April 13, 1981  
Page 2

I hope that these comments will be helpful. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc's: Archie Carr  
Karl Kenyon  
Causey Whittow



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 13, 1980

Mr. Lucas Chin  
Curator  
Muzium Sarawak  
Jalan Tun HJ openg  
Kuching  
Sarawak, East Malaysia

Dear Mr. Chin:

Thank you for your letter of 14 March concerning the serious problems confronting the Turtle Islands rookery. I am honored by your invitation to conduct studies at this historical breeding site. However, my time is fully committed to the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands research program for at least the next 18 months. I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to Dr. Carr (IUCN Turtle Group Chairman) for possible action or advice. You should be hearing from him directly within the near future.

It would appear to me that we have now reached a very critical stage in the survival of the Sarawak turtle rookery. The number of eggs available for harvest has declined significantly over the past 30 - 40 years. This would indicate a long-term population decline that will almost certainly result in the extinction of the colony if the trends are not stabilized and reversed. Both trawling and overharvesting of eggs must be the responsible factors, but we have no way of knowing which impact has been the most devastating. What we do know is that some steps must be taken soon on behalf of conservation. At this stage, it will not be sufficient just to prohibit (and enforce) trawling activities close to the islands. What strategy could be developed to achieve a moratorium on the harvesting of eggs for a 5 or even 10-year trial period? I realize that this may be viewed by some as a drastic measure. Nevertheless, it could very well be the only action capable of restoring the colony. It is my understanding that profits from the egg harvest benefit local charities. This is indeed a worthy use for a sea turtle resource that should ideally be continued in perpetuity. A moratorium on egg harvests, in conjunction with restricted trawling, offers hope for the continued use of these eggs by future generations.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter. As the authority for the area, we must look to you for advice on matters relating to local sea turtle conservation. From an international setting, I feel certain that all of the IUCN Turtle Group will be anxious to render assistance in whatever way possible and appropriate.

Mr. Lucas Chin  
April 13, 1980  
Page 2

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

cc: A. Carr  
W. King

bcc: Stanley de Silva

April 13, 1981

Mr. James J. Yamashiro  
State Parks Administrator  
Division of State Parks  
P. O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Yamashiro:

As described in my recent correspondence with Mr. Milton Hakoda (copies enclosed), I am interested in determining the scope and status of any plan to develop the Kiholo Bay area on the Big Island. Any assistance that you can provide in this important matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Milton Hakoda

April 1, 1981

Dr. Henry Hildebrand  
Texas A&I Biological Station  
P. O. Box 1025  
Riviera, Texas 78379

Dear Dr. Hildebrand:

It is my understanding that you have authored a report entitled "Status of sea turtles in Texas waters" that provides information on accidental captures of turtles by longline fishing. I am interested in this problem as it relates to the Pacific, and therefore would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your document. Any additional facts or records on longline/sea turtle information that you can relate would also be most welcome.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 1, 1981

Dr. D. Kühlmann  
Museum für Naturkunde der  
Humboldt-Uni.  
Invalidenstr. 43  
104 Berlin, DDR  
East Germany

Dear Dr. Kühlmann:

My good friend and colleague, Dr. Ernst Reese, has informed me of your need to obtain photographs of underwater biota for use in the color book you are preparing on coral reefs. I would be pleased to assist you in this project by loaning you 35mm slides that I have taken of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). As you are undoubtedly aware both of these tropical marine reptiles are closely associated with coral reefs. For your further background information, I have also enclosed an excellent "fact sheet" on sea turtles. I hope that this will be helpful in preparing your text.

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate learning if you can use these photographs in your book.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 1, 1981

Steven E. Brown  
Jeffrey L. Bada  
Amino Acid Dating Laboratory  
Ocean Research Division  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
P. O. Box 1529  
La Jolla, California 92093

Gentlemen:

I hope that by now you have safely received the package sent on March 30th containing frozen eyeballs from four specimens of *Chelonia mydas* (Hawaiian green sea turtles). The size and source data for these animals are as follows:

			carapace length
Turtle #1	May 1980	immature	
" #2	January 1978	immature	
" #3	June 1980	adult male	88 cm
" #4	June 1978	adult male	

All four turtles were derived from the wild, and essentially nothing is known about their ages (see appropriate sections of enclosed Synopsis). The turtles were obtained through law enforcement confiscations and other secondary source; they were not collected for research purposes. However, based on available information I feel very confident that each specimen was frozen within a few hours following death.

I look forward to learning if racemization is detected in these tissues and, if so, to what extent it might be used for age estimations.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 1, 1981

Mr. Francis T. Hosaka  
Kekaha, Kauai 96752

Dear Mr. Hosaka:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Kauai. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Kauai for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

Letter also sent to:

Mr. Sam Lee  
2660 Kaheka  
Koloa, Kauai 96756

Mr. Masao Ninomoto  
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Mr. O. D. Moses  
5782 Lauhoa Place  
Kapaa, Kauai 96746



March 30, 1981

Mr. John Duarte  
P. O. Box 442  
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Duarte:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Kauai. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Kauai for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 30, 1981

Mr. Albert Christian  
Anahola,  
Kauai 96703

Dear Mr. Christian:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Kauai. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Kauai for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ac

Enclosure

March 30, 1981

Captain Bobby G. Burns  
Marine Safety Division  
14th Coast Guard District  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Captain Burns:

As a researcher of green sea turtles, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the paper that you recently presented in Atlanta on the grounding of the Anangel Liberty at French Frigate Shoals.

I was very pleased to read in Harry Whitten's March 25th newspaper article that IMCO has accepted the Coast Guard's 50-mile transit limit in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Over the past two years, I have written several letters urging that this protective measure be instituted. Will this restriction now apply to all large vessels, or only those transporting cargo designated as "hazardous"?

With the expansion of fishing in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, an increased threat exists for vessel grounding and fuel spills. The difficulty of clean-up efforts by the Coast Guard in these remote areas should be clearly set forth in all Section 7 consultations undertaken for green turtles and monk seals by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 30, 1981

Dr. H. D. Hillestad  
Southeastern Wildlife Service Inc.  
1060 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605

Dear Dr. Hillestad:

In view of the fact that the Proceedings of our Washington sea turtle conference won't be available until late this year, I would like to ask you to send me a copy of your paper on accidental catch. I am greatly interested in this problem as it applies to the Pacific, therefore I hope you will be able to honor this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 24, 1981

Mr. J. P. Larkindale  
Official Secretary  
Office for Tokelau Affairs  
P. O. Box 865  
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Mr. Larkindale:

Thank you for your encouraging letter of March 10th concerning my suggestion to undertake a sea turtle oriented visit to Tokelau. There should be no problem in working with a flexible vessel schedule, as air service between Hawaii and Samoa has generally been excellent. I can adjust my plans, as required, during the next several months.

I look forward to hearing the results of your inquiries to the village councils.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

March 24, 1981

Mr. Milton Hakada  
Director  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Hakada:

I am writing to inquire about any present or future plans that you may be aware of to develop a park or other public facility in the area of Kiholo Bay, North Kona. Since 1972 I have been periodically studying a unique aggregation of immature green sea turtles that resides at this location. The adjacent Wainanalii Pond has been found to constitute critical resting habitat for the assemblage. Any plans for development near this unique ecosystem would therefore be of interest to me with respect to evaluating potential impacts on the turtles.

Thank you in advance for any information that you can provide on this important subject.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



## University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
20 March 1981

Mr. Susumo Ono, Chairman  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Ono:

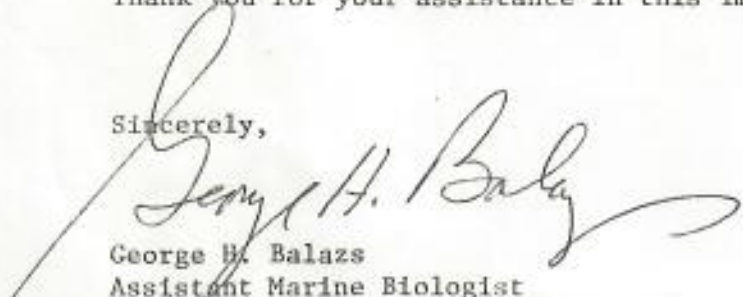
As the principal researcher of marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands for the past nine years, I am writing to inquire about the proposal of the Board of Land and Natural Resources advertised in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin & Advertiser on February 15, 1981 that seeks to repeal certain existing fisheries regulations. Regulation 36, relating to the protection of marine turtles, is one of the rules proposed for repeal on the basis of being "obsolete and inactive".

It is my understanding that the State's protection of marine turtles (specifically the green turtle, Chelonia mydas) is under proposal for deletion from fisheries-related rules because it is being incorporated in a manner more consistent with federal law into the State's wildlife rules that are now in final draft form. Is this in fact the case? If so, will the repeal of Regulation 36 be scheduled to occur concomitant with the legal adoption of the wildlife rules so that no lapse in the State's protection of marine turtles will result?

For your records, I should point out that it is not really correct to state that Regulation 36 is "obsolete" or "inactive". Only Section 2 of Regulation 36 has been outdated, in that federal rules promulgated for the green turtle under the Endangered Species Act supersede this section. The remainder of the Regulation is a relevant and viable legal precept of the Board of Land and Natural Resources in which enforcement responsibility has continued through the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
George B. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:lb

March 19, 1981

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond  
Program Administrator  
World Wildlife Fund - U.S.  
8801 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

I want you to know that I appreciate your letter of March 9th which responded in full to my inquiry about sea turtle projects currently supported by WWF - USS. Many thanks for taking the time to send me this important information along with the project reports. Be assured that the Clifton report will be held in confidence.

In 1979 I spent several days with Kim at Maruata Bay. I was equally impressed with his conservation motivation, understanding of Mexican culture and politics, and knowledge of sea turtles. He is one of a kind, and we are very fortunate to have him fighting on our team. I believe that it is indeed for the best that you directly administer the project with or for Kim. The interjection of additional layers of administration in a project of this sort, particularly when they are so distant, can only serve as a retardant. I suspect that Kim may be very pleased with this new arrangement. I am confident that he will meet the challenge.

I agree with you that it is bad news to learn that Smithsonian Press will not have the Proceedings out until early 1982. But I suppose that nothing can be done at this stage. I know for a fact that Karen Bjorndal expended a tremendous amount of effort editing those papers in preparation for publication. The Conference (and WWF - U.S.) got their money's worth in hiring her.

As in the past, I am always willing to assist you in sea turtle matters as may be necessary.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



March 19, 1981

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

Dear Sir:

In compliance with Condition 12 of sea turtle permit PRT 2-3593, I have enclosed three reports which provide detailed results of our Hawaiian research program through 1980. Request for the renewal of this permit for 1981-82 is hereby made at this time.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

March 19, 1981

Mr. C. C. Hufflett  
Managing Director  
Fish Export Development Co., Ltd.  
P. O. Box 555  
Nelson, New Zealand

Dear Mr. Hufflett:

Enclosed is a copy of the brief report on gill netting for Hawaiian squid that you requested in your letter of March 13th. I will send you any additional reports that are issued on this topic. As you can see, the catch rates were also a disaster.

I presume that the regular achieved in netting squid in the North Pacific is due to differences in the thermocline. Do you have any information on this point?

You mentioned being in correspondence with the Australians. Are similar experiments on gill netting for squid now being conducted in Australian waters?

The absence of turtles in the gill nets does not really represent "bad" or "good" news to me. I am being very objective by simply trying to learn the honest outcome of such experiments, wherever they may occur. Your help in this respect has certainly been most valuable.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 16, 1981

To: Mark DeCrosta  
Zoology Department

From: George Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: BODY COMPOSITION OF HAWAIIAN GREEN TURTLES, CHELONIA MYDAS

Hawaiian green turtles ranging from 35 cm juveniles to 95 cm adults are known to be preyed upon by tiger sharks. I am therefore providing you with the approximate body composition for the mean of this size range. Hopefully these data will be useful in your thesis research. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional clarification is necessary.

Muscle	22.5%
Fat	3.5%
Gastrointestinal tract	1.5%
Food contents (algae)	17.0%
Other viscera	4.0%
Bone, scutes, skin, cartilage, blood	51.5%

mk

March 17, 1981

Mr. Fred Duerr  
General Manager  
Kona Village Resort  
Kaupulehu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Duerr:

On March 5th, following my lecture series in Hilo and Kona, I had the pleasure of speaking in person with your fine staff members Byron Ayoso and Jackie Robinson about their sightings of sea turtles off the Kona Village Resort. As a researcher of Hawaiian turtles, I had previously corresponded with Byron and requested that he send me information on turtle observations made during the course of his ocean-related activities. I was pleased to learn that turtles are regularly seen along your coastline, both foraging in shallow waters and sleeping in offshore coral formations.

A major part of my current research program involves the capturing and tagging of turtles around our main Hawaiian Islands. The objective of this work is to document growth rates, movements, population numbers and food sources. While considerable progress has been made at several sampling areas, it is essential that additional sites be carefully investigated. Based on the information currently in hand, it is my feeling that the coastal area of the Kona Village Resort offers excellent opportunities for the careful conduction of tagging research. I of course realize that such work would have to be consistent and harmonious with the quality character of your facility. I am certain that this is entirely possible and, indeed, such research activities could be expected to attract the interest and enthusiasm of many of your guests.

Having stated the above, I would like to propose, or at least explore with you, a pilot study visit to your area involving myself and my field technician, Mr. Alan K. H. Kam. Our specific activities would consist of daytime and nighttime dives (both skin and scuba) to locate, capture, tag and release as many turtles as possible over a 3-4 day period. During the course of this visit, I would be delighted to explain various aspects of sea turtle biology, conservation and research to interested guests. With your approval, it might even be desirable to present natural history lectures with illustrative color slides brought with me from Honolulu. In addition, guests

Mr. Fred Duerr  
March 17, 1981  
Page 2

that would like to become directly involved in the capture and tagging would be most welcome to do so under my guidance and Federal Endangered Species Research Permit.

During most of my field expeditions, accommodations for sleeping consist of two small one-man tents. The required field equipment is usually stored in a rental compact station wagon. Considering the expensive terrain surrounding your complex, I would imagine that a secluded, appropriate sleeping site could be found. This would help to ensure that no adverse visual impacts result to guests from "camping" too close to the Resort.

I am hopeful that you will be receptive to this proposal. In addition to being of immediate interest to your guests, this short-term research would result in a number of tagged resident turtles that can be viewed by future guests for many months or years to come. In short, I believe that the project would be of definite mutual benefit to our respective interests. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits. If you wish, please feel free to telephone me person-to-person collect at 247-6631 or 946-2181 weekdays during business hours.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 17, 1981

Mr. James Sternberg  
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund  
Center for Environmental Education  
1925 K Street, Suite 206  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Jim:

I wonder if you ever received the attached letter that I sent to you a few months ago? Your publications editor never did contact me about photographs, but perhaps other suitable material was obtained to suit the Center's needs.

The sea turtle nesting document turned out superb - it is indeed a handsome, interesting and informative presentation. I was especially pleased to see the incorporation of major and minor designations, as I had suggested. My only unfavorable comment would be that the reviewers should also have been allowed to make comments on Peter's Introduction. At least in the draft I received for review, the Introduction was not included. I am happy to see that the draft Introduction (by Jack Frazier) has been included in my review copy of "Worldwide Map of Sea Turtle Hunts." I will send you my constructive comments for this document in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

March 16, 1981

Mr. Michael G. Shoffner  
Johnston Atoll  
APO San Francisco 96305

Dear Michael:

It was a pleasure to speak with you following my talk at the Waikiki Aquarium. As I mentioned, I have not yet had the opportunity to personally visit Johnston for the purpose of surveying the sea turtle population. I have, however, periodically received details of turtle observations from station personnel. I hope that you can add to these records using the forms I have enclosed.

While you have been at Johnston, have you ever heard of any reports of seals in the area?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

February 27, 1981

Mr. Simi Te'o Penaia  
Satitua  
Aleipata Post Office  
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Simi Te'o Penaia:

I want to thank you once again for talking with me on February 11, and providing me with the interesting information on green sea turtles caught in your fishtrap. I hope to be able to visit Aleipata again to study these turtles when you have built a new fish trap.

I thought that you would like to have a copy of the enclosed color book that shows pictures of our turtles, seabirds, and turtles here in Hawaii.

Please write to me if you have any additional information to report about sea turtles. I have enclosed an addressed and stamped envelop for this purpose.

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures



February 27, 1981

Mr. John Larkindale  
The Official Secretary  
Office of Tokelau Affairs  
Box 865  
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Mr. Larkindale:

The purpose of this letter is to formally request your consideration of a travel proposal to the Tokelau Islands that would be of mutual benefit to our respective interests and agencies. As a researcher of sea turtles in the Pacific, I would like to obtain first-hand information on the biology and survival status of these animals in the Tokelau Islands. As a traditional native resource of high protein food value, it is imperative that the sea turtles of these small islands be carefully managed so as to prevent their extinction and ensure that they will be perpetuated for the benefit of future generations. This balance between limited use for legitimate human needs, and protection for perpetuation of the species, is indeed a difficult challenge. In many areas of the world the problem has not been adequately addressed in a timely manner. The results have been the permanent loss of whole populations of sea turtles, and a concomitant decline in the nutrition and life style of the native people. The population dynamics and biology of sea turtles are not thoroughly known at the present time, however, current studies indicate that they exhibit a slow growth rate, periodically migrate over long distances, and may not be as long-lived as originally believed. These factors alone present a difficult set of circumstances for the development of rational management programs.

It is my belief that a combination scientific fact-finding and sea turtle education visit to the Tokelau Islands by sea turtle specialists would serve to establish a firm basis for assessing the resource and identifying existing, or potential, management problems. In response to my written inquiries, last year I received preliminary information on sea turtle from school teachers at each of the three islands. During my recent trip to Western Samoa to study the government turtle project at Aleipata, I was able to speak in person with Mr. Hosea Kirifi about

Mr. John Larkindale  
Page 2  
February 27, 1981

sea turtles in the Tokelau Islands. I suggested my idea for a visit to specifically examine the sea turtle resource and disseminate current information. Mr. Kirifi indicated that this seemed like a very worthwhile endeavor and urged me to bring this matter directly to your attention by written correspondence.

The contribution of your office to this project would consist of round trip passage for two on one of the vessel trips from Apia that are scheduled during September or October of this year. From the information I have thus far obtained, October would be the preferable month, in that turtle nesting is more likely to be taking place. The individual that would accompany me on the proposed trip would be Mr. William Pedro of the Office of Marine Resources in American Samoa. Mr. Pedro is knowledgeable about sea turtles, has worked with me effectively on several previous occasions, and is of Tokelau ancestry having lived at Swains Island for two years.

I would greatly appreciate hearing your thoughts on this proposal. I am hopeful that they will be favorable.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle  
Specialist Group

mk  
cc: Mr. Hosea Kirifi  
Mr. William Pedro

February 26, 1981

Mrs. A. T. Gouw  
49 OEI Tiong Ham Park  
Singapore 1026

Dear Mrs. Gouw:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the articles on tourists and Malaysian sea turtles that you have been sending to me. This literature has been extremely helpful to my work.

It was a pleasure to meet you in person during your recent visit to Hawaii.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosure

February 25, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hind  
P. O. Box 1149  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hind:

I am writing to tell you that on Tuesday, March 3, and Wednesday, March 4, I will be presenting slide lectures in Hilo and Kona on the topic of "The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands." Following these talks, from March 5-8, I would like to carry out some field work on green turtles at Kiholo. I hope that this will meet with your approval. On March 4 I will telephone your house to talk to you about obtaining the gate key.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 25, 1981

Dr. Lew Ehrhart  
University of Central Florida  
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

At your earliest convenience, I would like to receive a 50-word write up for use as a caption on your loggerhead post card. Obviously this won't allow you to say much, but you should include some of the basic conservation and biological aspects.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

Note: I am still holding two of your slides.  
One of these will be returned in the  
near future.

GHB:md

February 25, 1981

Mr. C. C. Hufflett  
Managing Director  
Fish Export Development Company Ltd.  
P. O. Box 555  
Port Nelson, NEW ZEALAND

Dear Mr. Hufflett:

Thank you for your letter of 18 February responding to my inquiry about the possible accidental capture of marine turtles in squid gill nets. I appreciate your willingness to try to assess this potential problem. The results of your squid fishing trials are certainly of great interest to several of us here in Hawaii. You will be interested to learn that a low-intensity drift gill net experiment involving a Japanese research vessel was just conducted in Hawaiian waters. Unfortunately, the catch rate of squid was extremely low. No marine turtles or mammals were captured. I can send you a copy of the report on this work when it is issued, if you so desire.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your fishing trials progress.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Val Hinds

February 24, 1981

Dr. Marvin Loper  
College of Business Administration  
University of Hawaii  
2404 Maile Way  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Loper:

The purpose of this letter is to offer my full recommendation for the admission of Mr. Randall Y. S. Chau as a graduate student in the College of Business Administration.

Between June of 1972 and October of 1974, Mr. Chau worked for me on a part-time basis (20-30 hours per week) while pursuing his undergraduate degree. During this period, he was frequently given independent work assignments involving the compilation and analysis of various biological data. His performance in all tasks undertaken was frequently found to be outstanding, and certainly always of the highest order. Furthermore, Mr. Chau was a good-natured employee who could be depended upon at all times.

I hope that you will view Mr. Chau's application favorably, thereby giving him the opportunity he deserves to pursue his interests in the field of marketing and business administration. Please telephone me at 247-6631 or 946-2181 if you would like me to provide you with further information on Mr. Chau's work record while in my employment.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 24, 1981

Dr. Rene E. Honegger  
Curator of Herpetology  
Zoo Zurich  
Zurichbergstrasse 221  
CH-8044 Zurich  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Rene:

Your letter of 26 January was waiting for me when I returned from my recent hawksbill study visit to Western Samoa.

I am very sorry to say that I can't be of much help in providing you with sea turtle information for the European portion of the Mediterranean. You will recall that you provided me with a copy of Silvio Bruno's paper, but I have had no way to evaluate the quality and accuracy of this work. I wish that I did.

I hope that by now you have been successful in obtaining the information that you need for your paper.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



February 24, 1981

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

Dear Nancy:

Your letter of February 12th was waiting for me when I returned on the 19th from Western Samoa.

My comments on the two summaries of proposed sea turtle research by Dr. Shoop will be fairly short, since these are only preliminary proposals considerably lacking in detail.

Overall, I must tell you that I fail to understand why the "CETAP effort. . . involving many people and millions of dollars" hasn't been able to accomplish the work that is now being proposed for funding by WWF-U.S. It is stated that information derived from CETAP is being "used in the writing of environmental impact statements by BLM." I can't possibly see how they could write a meaningful environmental impact statement if they haven't gathered some of the basic facts that are now being proposed for study - particularly with respect to Project 1.

Even if both proposed projects were fully funded by WWF-U.S., I seriously doubt that much could be accomplished in one year. For instance, I have personally been netting and tagging juvenile and sub-adult green turtles for years, and only recently have enough data been gathered to draw any worthwhile conclusions. Also, with respect to radio tracking, this is a highly involved matter with a very slow return of information and frequent failures of equipment.

In response to your specific questions:

- 1.) Project 2 rates very low in terms of priorities for the entire Western Hemisphere, in my opinion. Project 1 is of definite importance, but I just don't think he can accomplish the objectives, based on the information contained in his write-up (procedures, etc.).

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond  
February 24, 1981  
Page 2

- 2.) I also question the accuracy and value of "standardized interviews."
- 3.) Other potential funding sources, in my opinion, include BLM under CETAP. It should have already been carried out under this program.
- 4.) Project 1, if accomplished, could benefit Kemps ridley by telling us something about an almost unknown segment of the turtle's life cycle. (It wouldn't surprise me if we eventually find out that these Kemps ridleys in the northeast are "dead-end" aggregations - animals that are permanently lost to the breeding colony).

I hope that these comments will be helpful. When your time permits, would you please send me a list of the project titles and amounts currently being funded by WWF-U.S. for sea turtle projects.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHE:md

February 4, 1981

Rene E. Honegger  
Curator of Herpetology  
Senior Editor IUCN  
Zoo Zurich  
Schweiz Suisse Switzerland  
Zurichbergstrasse 221  
CH 8044 Zurich

Dear Dr. Honegger:

I am sorry to report that George Balazs was in Samoa when your letter (dated, 26 January) arrived. He will be gone from the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology lab for several weeks and therefore unable to reply immediately to your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Alan K. H. Kam  
Biological Assistant

mk

February 2, 1981

Mr. Keith Zeilinger  
598 Uluhaku Street  
Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Keith:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative telephone call of January 28th concerning sea turtles. As mentioned, I would greatly appreciate your assistance in providing sighting details on the enclosed forms. Also, since you do a lot of diving, I would like to hear your thoughts as to the incidence of turtle hunting that is now taking place. Have you ever seen anyone kill a turtle (since September of 1978), or heard stories of turtles being taken?

I look forward to talking to your organization later this year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1981

Commander Charles Hufflett  
Fish Export Development Company Ltd. (FEDCO)  
P. O. Box 555  
Port Nelson, NEW ZEALAND

Dear Commander Hufflett:

I am very much interested in obtaining information on the sightings or entanglement of marine turtles by the four vessels currently engaged in experimental gill netting for squid. Mr. Val Hinds, Assistant Director for Fisheries Management, indicated that he recently discussed this subject with you. As an aid to species identification, I have enclosed line drawings showing four marine turtles that can occur in New Zealand waters. Any assistance that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1981

Mr. Tundi Agardy  
Endangered Species Coordinator  
Department of Conservation and  
Cultural Affairs  
P. O. Box 1879  
Frederiksted, St. Croix  
Virgin Islands 00840

Dear Mr. Agardy:

Thank you for your letter of January 9th that arrived here a few days ago. As requested, I am pleased to send you an assortment of articles covering my work with sea turtles in the Pacific. If you have any questions about the information presented, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

In response to your question, no, I am not aware of any new developments that now allow the tagging of hatchlings. Even if such a tag, or system, is eventually developed, its use would probably have to be restricted to sites where hatcheries are currently in operation. The problems related to capturing hatchlings for marking purposes when they emerge from underground nests on a natural nesting beach seem to me to be substantial. Personally, in the long run, I feel it will be more rewarding to catch and tag platter-sized turtles when they appear in nearshore foraging habitat. This is the focus of my own research program. Concerning your second question, yes, cattle ear tags remain the very best style of tag for sea turtles. However, as I have discussed in the enclosed publications, the type of alloy used for the gag can be very important for some turtle populations. Here in Hawaii, the standard Monel alloy was found to corrode at a fairly rapid rate. I now use tags made of an alloy called Inconel, and no corrosion has been found. In some other areas, Monel has not been a problem. Unfortunately, Inconel is very expensive, and currently it is apparently impossible to find a manufacturer that will make such tags. I am fortunate to still have a modest supply.

I hope that I have been helpful. I look forward to hearing of your results as your program progresses.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 27, 1981

Dr. Carrol Platz  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas

Dear Dr. Platz:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your March 1980 report entitled "Summary of Research Activities Regarding Artificial Reproduction Studies in the Green Sea Turtle." This was recently referenced and briefly discussed in a summer independent study report prepared by Ms. Beth Doering of Texas Lutheran College.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 27, 1981

Mr. Henry Sakuda  
Chief, Division of Fishery  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Henry:

As suggested by Mr. Mollena, I am writing to you to possibly obtain information as requested in my letter of January 12th (copies attached). Any up-to-date assistance that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

cc: Mr. LeRoy Mollena



January 28, 1981

Dr. Peter Pritchard  
Florida Audubon Society  
P. O. Drawer 7  
Maitland, Florida 32751

Dear Peter:

I am writing to ask if the leatherback photo that appears on page 420 of your Encyclopedia could be made available for the postcard project. As you know, I have a commitment of some funds from Robert Truland to produce a set of color postcards covering each of the sea turtle species. The purpose of the project is to establish a source of low-cost, attractive, inspiring color views for conservation education, as well as to serve as an aid in identification. This initial set will consist only of adults in order to allow valid comparisons between species.

I now have first-class photos for each of the species that have been contributed by various individuals. However, the leatherback could stand improvement, and the photo in your Encyclopedia is superb.

I should tell you that photographers are not receiving payment, and I am personally not making any money on the project. The postcards will be distributed by Chelonia Institute, as they see fit, for conservation purposes. Each photographer will receive photo credit on the post card, and be given the opportunity to compose the descriptive caption for the reverse side (about 50 words).

If you have access to the leatherback photo on page 420, and you are willing to let it be used, please send it to me at your earliest opportunity. The original should be sent, but if you object, a very high quality custom made duplicate slide will be acceptable. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 30, 1981

Mr. Roger Pai  
Division of Conservation  
and Resources Enforcement  
P. O. Box 1006  
Wailuku, Maui 96793

Dear Mr. Pai:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Maui. Which shore-line areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Maui for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 30, 1981

Mr. Robert Lindsey  
Division of Conservation  
and Resources Enforcement  
P. O. Box 310  
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Mr. Lindsey:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Big Island. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Hawaii for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 30, 1981

Mr. Charles Supe  
Division of Conservation  
and Resources Enforcement  
P. O. Box 936  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Supe:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Big Island. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Hawaii for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 28, 1981

Ann M. Mills  
Philatelic Programs Analyst  
Stamps Division  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20260

Dear Ms. Mills:

I would greatly appreciate receiving up-to-date information on the status of the proposal to issue a block four stamps displaying marine turtles of the United States. It is my understanding that this subject was reviewed by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee at their most recent meeting on January 23.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance in this matter. I hope that you can respond in the near future, in that a large number of people are anxiously awaiting some word of the outcome.

Sincerely,

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

mk

January 28, 1981

Ms. Anne B. Appleby  
2406 Delphi Road, SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Anne:

I regret taking so long to respond to your letter. Thank you very much for marking the locations of your turtle sightings on the map that I sent you. This assistance is greatly appreciated.

I share your concern for the integrity of the Maui reef area, and numerous other stressed locations in the Hawaiian chain. With respect to continuing your work on Maui, the only recommendation that I can offer at this time is for you to write to:

Mr. Sherwood Maynard  
Director, Marine Option Program  
George Hall  
University of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Students in the Marine Option Program have at times been active in marine surveys off Molokai and Kahoolawe. When you write to Mr. Maynard, it would be beneficial for you to send any reports that resulted from your work. I am not sure what he will be able to advise, but again this is the only recommendation I can think of.

Ms. Anne B. Appleby  
Page 2  
January 28, 1981

We plan to return to Kifolo again, following my study visit to Western Samoa between February 4-19. The site is becoming popular for gill net fishermen, and I am afraid this is taking a toll on the turtles.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 27, 1981

Mr. Lucas Chin  
Curator, Sarawak Muzium  
24232 Pejabat Muzium  
24231 Penyalenggara  
MU/523/D/(39)  
Sarawak, Malaysia

Dear Mr. Chin:

I recently received copies of your correspondence with Dr. Wayne King concerning the drastic decline of sea turtle populations in Sarawak waters, and the likely adverse impacts of trawling. This was indeed disturbing news, in that I have always viewed Sarawak's turtle islands as being the origin of our modern-day research and conservation efforts. Certainly this is an historic site of worldwide acclaim that deserves all of the help that we can now provide. Please count on me to contribute in whatever way you may deem to be appropriate and effective.

For background information, I would like to learn more about the trawling activities you mentioned. What kind of trawling is taking place (shrimp?), and approximately how many vessels are involved? Presumably all of these are of Malaysian registry. Do the trawlers only operate during certain times of the year, and how close to the nesting beaches do they come? Are dead turtles actually found washed up on beaches and caught in trawl nets, such as regularly takes place in our southeastern United States?

I look forward to hearing from you further on this important matter. Under separate cover, I am also taking this opportunity to send you a recent publication covering my green turtle research here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

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

mk

bcc: A. Carr  
W. King



January 27, 1981

Ms. Beth Doerring  
Box 3149  
Texas Lutheran College  
Seguin, Texas 78155

Dear Ms. Doerring:

I want to thank you very much for sending me a copy of your sea turtle report for Summer Independent Study. I have responded to numerous students who have asked for help, but you are one of the few to honor my request for a copy of their completed report.

I was particularly interested in the quotation that appears at the bottom of page 30 of your report that is attributed to "Anonymous." I have never heard this saying before, but I certainly found it impressive. Can you please send me the exact literature reference for the saying? This would be greatly appreciated.

I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

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

GBB:ec

January 26, 1981

Mr. Tony Nakamura  
Chief Enforcement Agent (Kauai)  
Division of Conservation  
& Resources Enforcement  
P. O. Box 1671  
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Nakamura:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Kauai. Which shore-line areas of your island are turtles know to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Kauai for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 12, 1981

Dr. T. H. Chua  
Department of Zoology  
University of Malaya  
Kuala Lumpur  
MALAYSIA

Dear Dr. Chua:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Conservation of the hawksbill turtle in Malacca. Can it be a reality?" (*Malayan Nat.*, September 15-17, 1979). During February, I will be undertaking a study visit to the hawksbill hatchery in Western Samoa. The contents of your paper are therefore of great interest to me.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this request.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 12, 1981

Mr. Leroy Mollena  
Division of Conservation & Resources  
Enforcement  
Kaunakakai, Molokai 96748

Dear Mr. Mollena:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with any information on the occurrence of sea turtles nesting on the sand beaches of Molokai. As you will undoubtedly recall, in 1969 hatchling hawksbill turtles were found at Halawa Beach and subsequently given to your office (see attached page from "Turtles of the United States"). Do you know of additional nestings that have taken place on Molokai, either at Halawa or any other beach?

It is my understanding that green sea turtles occurred in large numbers at certain sites along Molokai's south shore, at least during former times. Are there still areas where turtles are abundant?

Any assistance that you give to this request for information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Attachment

January 12, 1981

Dr. James R. and Fern E. Wood  
Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd.  
P. O. Box 645  
Grand Cayman, B.W.I.

Dear Fern and Jim:

I would appreciate receiving a reprint of  
your recent paper entitled "Reproductive  
Biology of Captive Green Sea Turtles *Chelonia  
mydas*" (*Amer. Zool.*, 20, 1980).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 12, 1981

Mr. Ross Witham  
Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Research Laboratory  
100 Eighth Avenue SE  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Ross:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent paper entitled "The Lost Year Question in Young Sea Turtles" (*Amer. Zool.*, 20, 1980).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 12, 1981

Dr. David Owens  
Department of Biology  
Texas A&M University  
College Station, TEXAS 77843

Dear Dave:

I would appreciate receiving a reprint  
of your recent article entitled "The Compara-  
tive Reproductive Physiology of Sea Turtles"  
(*Amer. Zool.*, 20).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 12, 1981

M & H Helicopters Inc.  
P. O. Box 1002  
Kihei, Hawaii 96753

Dear M & H Helicopters:

The occurrence of sea turtles along the coastal waters of our Hawaiian Islands is of great interest to me, both from the standpoint of biological research as well as conservation.

During the course of your helicopter tours, I would imagine that you regularly have the opportunity to sight sea turtles basking at the surface and swimming through the water. Such casual observations can be very useful to me in identifying segments of coastline that warrant more detailed investigations using a boat and scuba. I would therefore like to ask for your assistance in reporting the sightings of turtles through the use of the enclosed short questionnaire forms. For your convenience, I have also enclosed several self-addressed and stamped envelopes. Any and all observations that you are able to send me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your help, and best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



January 12, 1981

Dr. H. F. Hirth  
Department of Biology  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Dr. Hirth:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your articles entitled "A nesting colony of the hawksbill turtle on Seil Ada Kebir Island, Suakin Archipelago, Sudan" (*Biological Conservation*, 17, 1980), and "Some aspects of the nesting behavior and reproductive biology of sea turtles" (*American Zoologist*, 20, 1980).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 12, 1981

Dr. Paul Licht  
Department of Zoology  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Dr. Licht:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Evolutionary and Functional Aspects of Pituitary Gonadotropins in the Green Turtle, *Chelonia mydas*" (*Amer. Zool.*, 20, 1980).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 6, 1981

Mr. James Sternberg  
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund  
Center for Environmental Education Inc.  
1925 K Street, Suite 206  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear James:

Many thanks for your letter of December 29, 1980 inquiring about the use of my green turtle and monk seal photograph. This photo can be made available to your non-profit organization in either a 5" by 7" glossy black and white print, or a 35mm color transparency. My standard conditions for free use are as follows:

- 1.) Credit line must read - "photo by George H. Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology."
- 2.) The specific use for the photo must be stated to me in advance (i.e. "Environmental Education Report"); use is then only allowed for this purpose on a one-time basis.
- 3.) The black and white print or color slide must be returned to me within a reasonable period of time following publication.

Have the publications editor of your organization write to me with his/her specific needs and I will help out in whatever way possible.

I suspect that some confusion may exist in certain quarters with respect to my current affiliation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. At the present time, I do not receive research funds externally from NMFS, but rather function as a visiting staff member of the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). As a staff member, funds that are budgeted by the lab for sea turtles and other endangered species are directly available to me through the Program Leader, William Gilmartin. As you may be aware, IPA contracts are usually restricted to two years. In the case of the University of Hawaii, my prime employing agency, IPA contracts have almost never been permitted for more than 18 months. I have always been aware of this, and, in fact,

Mr. James Sternberg  
January 6, 1981  
Page 2

have welcomed the restriction. Incidentally, my IPA contract was initiated in June of last year.

I do not know what specific funding you were referring to in your letter, or exactly what information has been given to you concerning support for my various research and conservation activities. I would, however, appreciate it if you would provide me with the details and sources of the "rumors." You can be certain that I will hold your name in strict confidence relating to this matter.

I will be in Western Samoa for most of February, so your publications editor should contact me soon if there is an early need for the photo.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 5, 1981

Vice-Almirante Francisco Amiana C.  
Jefe de Estado Mayor, Marina de Guerra Dominicana  
Base Naval 27 de Febrero  
Sans Souci, Ave. Espana  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dear Senor Vice-Almirante:

As the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I have had the opportunity to read the letter that our Chairman, Professor Archie Carr, wrote to you on December 9, 1980. I would like to tell you that here in the Hawaiian Islands we have experienced similar declines in our marine turtle populations, and problems have been encountered in efforts to protect and replenish this valuable resource. Nevertheless, with the cooperative assistance of several government, military and private agencies, we have been able to make notable progress. The future outlook for Hawaiian marine turtles is now certainly more encouraging and, with continued cooperative efforts, we hope to achieve our management goals in the foreseeable future. Concurrent with these conservation activities, a vigorous research program has also been undertaken in order to obtain sufficient biological data for use in important management decisions.

I realize that the Hawaiian Islands are a considerable distance from the Dominican Republic, but I would still like to join with Professor Carr in personally offering whatever assistance you may desire in formulating your own programs for the research, conservation and management of marine turtles. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel there is any way I can contribute to the development of your programs.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr  
Dr. Ottenwalder