

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

MID-PACIFIC MARINE LABORATORY
ENEWETAK ATOLL, MARSHALL ISLANDS

Date September 27, 1976

Name of Principal Investigator George H. Balazs

Social Security No. 564-54-0156 Date and place of birth 2-26-43 Detroit, Michigan

Academic or research title and affiliation (if graduate student, provide the name of your professor) Jr. Marine Biologist, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Address P. O. Box 1346, Kaneohe, HI

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Co-investigators and assistants (Indicate graduate and/or undergraduate status if students)

Dates you desire to carry out your investigations at MPML (facilities are open year-round). Indicate seasonal, lunar, or other chronological considerations necessary.

October 12 - 20, 1976

Have you ever been to MPML (EMBL)? No If so, when? _____

Is the research proposed a continuation of previous work done there? No

Short title of proposed research Preliminary investigation of the status and survival outlook of marine turtles at Enewetak Atoll.

PLEASE RETURN ONE ORIGINAL AND THREE XEROX COPIES OF PROPOSAL.

Principal scientific objective(s) of proposed research (in outline form). Be specific as to what hypotheses you are testing and/or expected accomplishments.

1. To determine the distribution and abundance by size categories of marine turtle species occurring at Enewetak Atoll.
2. To ascertain the locations, extent, and seasonality of marine turtle reproduction at Enewetak Atoll.
3. To obtain information on the movements of marine turtles from Enewetak Atoll to other Pacific locations.
4. To further the long-term conservation and wise utilization of marine turtles at Enewetak Atoll by developing a better understanding of the Trust Territory Code, the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and the guidelines of the International Union for Conservation

In what way is MPML particularly suited for your research? of Nature (IUCN).

MPML offers ready accessibility to populations of marine turtles that have thus far not been comprehensively examined with respect to status and survival outlook.

Scientific description and justification of proposed research (including relevant references). Continue on extra pages if necessary.

Very little basic biological information exists on the marine turtles of Enewetak Atoll. Such data are essential in view of the endangered status of the majority of the world's marine turtle populations.

In October of 1974 I set out to collect information on Enewetak's marine turtles through the use of turtle sighting report forms made available to residents and visitors. In addition, permanent identification tags were supplied to the MPML manager for application to turtles captured incidental to other research activities. A point has now been reached in this preliminary work where it is necessary for me to personally conduct a reconnaissance survey of the atoll if further progress is to be made.

Research activities will principally involve in-water examinations and taggings at select locations based on compiled sighting reports. Additionally, land surveys will be made on as many islands as conditions and time permit. Meetings will be held with interested resident personnel in order to discuss marine turtle conservation problems and stimulate interest in an ongoing intensive tagging program.

