

CORRESTO

SQUID NETS

GHBALAZS

MIKE A. McCOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY  
P. O. Box D  
Ponape, E. Caroline Islands 96941

10 Aug

George,

Forgot to include this slide in recent letter

Man standing with turtle is director of

Tung Kang Marine Laboratory, Taiwan

Dr. I-Chiu Liao,

Tungkang Marine Laboratory

Tungkang, Pingtung

Taiwan 916

Republic of China

You might write him for additional info  
on turtles in Taiwan. Have no idea if this  
was trawler-caught specimen or not; but he  
said it was captured by Taiwan vessels off-  
shore near (within 10 miles) of Taiwan.

Mike





MICRONESIAN MARICULTURE DEMONSTRATION CENTER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Post Office Box 359  
Koror, Palau, Caroline Islands 96940

December 3, 1974

George Balazs,  
HIMB  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744.

Dear George:

Sorry to be late in answering your letter but I was away in Yap helping initiate a brackish water pond project. I will try to answer your questions as best I can but the T.T. is unique in not having the laws pertaining to conservation available in publication form. We have submitted several suggestions on regulations but the Congress of Micronesia puts off action on conservation measures indefinitely.

1. Present regulations,

1. No capture of female turtles on nesting beaches.
2. No hawksbill under 27" and no greens under 36."

2. Predation on hawksbill turtles.

Turtle eggs are valued as food in Yap and Palau and a conservative estimate of human predation on nests in Palau would be 80%. The hawksbill is also used as food and for shell jewelry and adults are taken whenever observed. There is practically no control on the taking of adults and the minimum size rule is not observed. The use of high powered outboards has increased the predation in recent years.

3. Increase in sale of hawksbill products.

Tourism has increased almost 300% in the past five years. More handicrafts are being sought than ever before and Turtle shell products are extremely popular. I have informed store owners that they must inform tourists that they can not take hawksbill products back to the states. However, I don't believe they have been doing so.

4. Foreign predation on Turtle population.

Three Taiwanese tuna boats have been apprehended within the territorial waters poaching turtles in the past three years.

12-3-74

George-2-

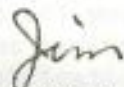
Continue 4.

In each case the boats had a minimum of 25 turtles and one had closer to 100 turtles aboard. The turtles were of all sizes. These boats were only those that we apprehended and I am sure many other vessels are poaching turtles as well as giant clams.

I have asked the District Attorney to compile all the T.T. rules and regulations on turtles which I will send to you immediately.

My best to you and let me know how your meeting in Florida turns out.

Sincerely,



James P. McVey Ph.D.  
Chief, Micro-Mar. Demn. Center

JPM/pr



**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**

P.O. BOX D: KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

April 14, 1980

George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Insitute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

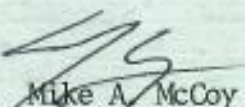
Enclosed are photos taken by our observer aboard the Japanese government research vessel SHOYO MARU in November, 1979. The vessel was longlining and obtaining specimens of ahi for analysis in an area between Truk and Papua New Guinea. The lines were probably set at the same depth as those used by commercial vessels in our area. The turtle was caught on a longline using frozen saury pike for bait; my estimate is that the line was at least 12 to 15 fathoms below the surface. We have no provision in our agreement with the Japanese fishing associations forcing them to report turtles caught by longline; however I will certainly be including it in our negotiation next year.

NO  
Meanwhile, the US billfish regulations around Guam and the Northern Marianas went into effect on April 1, and perhaps NMFS has provisions for their reporting incidental catches of turtles. I want to emphasize that this is most probably not a problem of the magnitude of that experienced by shrimp trawls, but it bears investigation nonetheless.

I will be on Satawal this summer for 2 or 3 months, and probably travelling to W. Fayu and/or Pikelot with the canoes. If it is alright with you, I would like to use a few of your tags for any turtles that I might be able to tag. Mine are all printed with Palau Mariculture Center return information, and I doubt seriously if anybody there is minding the store with respect to turtles. I will be in Hawaii 4-11 and could pick some up from you at that time.

Sincerely,

↑  
MAY

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA

April 24, 1980

Mr. Doyle Gates  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Honolulu Laboratory  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Doyle:

Mike McCoy of the Micronesian Maritime Authority recently told me about the accidental capture of an immature olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea) on a longline set in the area between Truk and PNG by the Japanese research vessel SHOYO MARU. The MMA fishing agreement currently has no provisions requiring the reporting of turtles caught on longlines. However, Mike thought that this might be included in next year's negotiations. I wonder if you can tell me if such provisions exist in the U. S. billfish regulations that recently went into effect for waters around Guam and the Northern Marianas? If so, I would very much like to obtain copies of such accidental capture reports as they become available.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:md



MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX D, KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

January 7, 1981

George Balasz  
N.M.F.S  
P.O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear George,

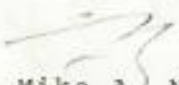
Some time ago I wrote regarding incidental catches of turtles by longline vessels. As time goes on, I am convinced that there may be a significant number of turtles being caught by tuna longlines. You will remember that in late 1979 our fisheries observer brought back photos of a ridley caught by a Japanese research vessel. On May 12, 1980 at 3 degrees 58'S, 149 degrees 29 'E, he was on board a commercial Japanese longliner when they caught the turtle shown in the enclosed photograph. I've just completed reading the PNG Research Bulletin no. 23 "An Investigation of Japanese longline Tuna Fishing Operations in the Region of Papua New Guinea" and find that their observer reported 2 turtles captured in 1979 on one commercial cruise. In other words, out of 3 observer voyages, at least one turtle has been captured on each trip. I know of no other longline observer voyage that have taken place.

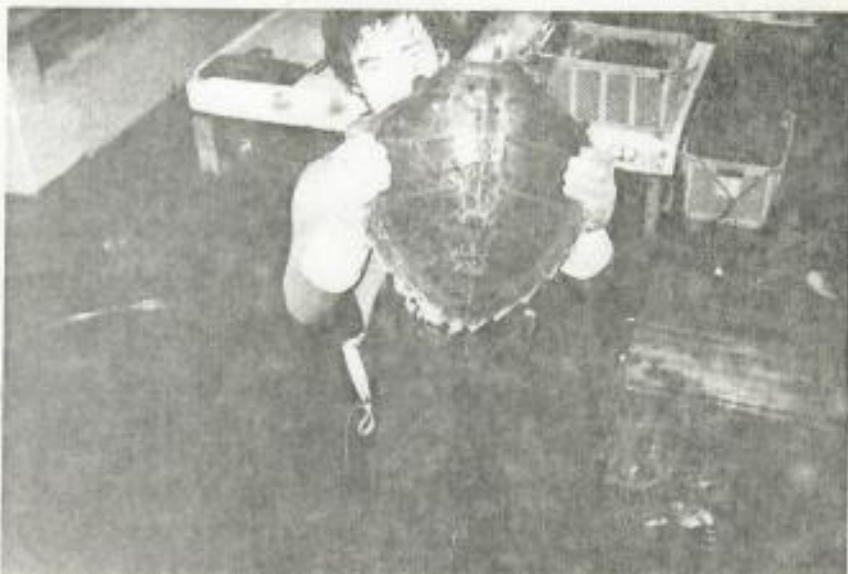
Jerry Weatherall at NMPS can probably give you the estimated longline effort in the entire W. Pacific. If one turtle is caught on an average every 40,000 hooks (as in the 3 observer voyages noted), then theoretically 483 turtles could have been captured in the 200-mile zone of the Federated States of Micronesia during 1979 alone.

I think that this situation should be looked into on a region-wide basis. Did you ever get to Doyle Gates to see what is being reported by longliners in the US FCMZ? It would be interesting to see if they have similar findings.

Let me know what you think of this. Are we just looking too small a sample? I will have only two opportunities to place observers on longliners in 1981.

Sincerely,

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director





**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**

P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

April 14, 1980

George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Insitute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

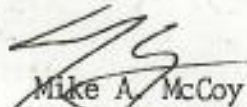
Enclosed are photos taken by our (observer) aboard the Japanese government research vessel SHOYO MARU in November, 1979. The vessel was longlining and obtaining specimens of ahi for analysis in an area between Truk and Papua New Guinea. The lines were probably set at the same depth as those used by commercial vessels in our area. The turtle was caught on a longline using frozen saury pike for bait; my estimate is that the line was at least 12 to 15 fathoms below the surface. We have no provision in our agreement with the Japanese fishing associations forcing them to report turtles caught by longline; however I will certainly be including it in our negotiation next year.

NO  
Meanwhile, the US billfish regulations around Guam and the Northern Marianas went into effect on April 1, and perhaps NMFS has provisions for their reporting incidental catches of turtles. I want to emphasize that this is most probably not a problem of the magnitude of that experienced by shrimp trawls, but it bears investigation nonetheless.

I will be on Satawal this summer for 2 or 3 months, and probably travelling to W. Fayu and/or Pikelot with the canoes. If it is alright with you, I would like to use a few of your tags for any turtles that I might be able to tag. Mine are all printed with Palau Mariculture Center return information, and I doubt seriously if anybody there is minding the store with respect to turtles. I will be in Hawaii 4-11 and could pick some up from you at that time.

Sincerely,

↑  
MAY

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA

**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS. 96941

---

December 31, 1981

Dr. Archie Carr  
c/o Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
32611

Dear Dr. Carr:

I am writing to thank you for your kind letter of December 16, 1981, and the invitation to join the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Of course I will do everything I can from this end to assist, and am flattered that you regard me as worthy of working with your organization.

At the present time I am busy with fishery negotiations (which have broken down for the time being). I am in contact with George Balazs regarding the incidental catch of marine turtles by commercial fishing vessels in the western Pacific, and have sent him information from time to time as it becomes available. While we are by no means pushing the panic button, I am quite concerned that the incidental catch, particularly by tuna longliners, is higher than suspected.

I hope to be in contact with Peace Corps volunteers working the outer islands of Yap, where I have endeavored to keep some record of subsistence catch from the islands of the Western Carolines. In my present position, I must rely on others to collect the data necessary.

I hope both you and your family have had a good holiday season, and wish that the New Year brings happiness (& a bit more sanity) to the world in general.

Sincerely,



Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA

**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
P.O. BOX D: KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

November 4, 1980

George Balazs  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
PO Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
96812

Dear George,

Thanks for the copy of the letter from Uchida at the Himeji City Aquarium, No, I did not know of any group travelling through here; but then, if their intentions were other than honorable, perhaps I would have been avoided. I must admit, however, that my job has kept me away (ironically, in Japan as well as elsewhere) for the past two months. I leave again in a few days. I will be in Maui from the 23rd to 30th of November, then a few days in Honolulu before returning to Ponape. I'll try to call you then, and if you're available perhaps we can get together at that time.

I'm enclosing a few more snapshots of turtles taken incidentally in Japanese fishing operations. The hawksbill (same animal in all three pictures) was taken by a purse seine in international waters between the Federated States of Micronesia and Indonesia. They usually set around floating logs, and turtle was travelling in proximity to the log. My observer neglected to mention the incident in his report, and I am contacting him for further information. There are 800 Japanese vessels licensed in the FSM this year; we sent observers on six, and two of those six trips turned up turtles in the incidental catch. I sure hope that isn't indicative of what's going on with the other 794.

Sincerely,



Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA



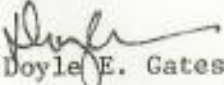


**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
Western Pacific Program Office  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

January 13, 1981

F/SWRI:DEG

TO: Svein Fougner, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional  
Fishery Management Council

FROM:  Doyle E. Gates, Administrator, Western Pacific Program Office

SUBJECT: Transmittal of correspondence regarding turtle and marine mammal

Attached please find correspondence from Mike McCoy to George Balazs regarding longline turtle interactions. Please note that George plans to obtain Mike's permission for use and George does not wish to have these letters cited until permission from Mike is obtained. Also please note that the November 4, 1980 letter is unclear with regard to what type of fishing gear actually caught the turtles, i.e. purse seines, longlines or both. I suspect that most vessels fishing in the TTPI are longline vessels, however it may be that Mike's observers were actually aboard a Japanese research vessel that used a purse seine. I suggest you contact George for clarifications.

Also enclosed is an internal memo from Bob Iversen to Gerry Howard regarding marine mammals and various fishing gear in Hawaii. You may cite this memo if you desire. If memory serves me correctly, Bob planned to publish an article on this subject and including his underwater photos. He may have made arrangements to do, so if you ever wish to use Bob's photos for any reason, please check with him first.

I hope this information is helpful.

Attachments

cc: George Balazs ✓

MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY  
P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

2 MARCH '81

6 CORBT.

LEAVE FOR NARU IN 24 HRS. BACK NEXT  
WEEK - McVEY'S POACHED TURTLES ARE  
REFERENCES TO THE TAIWANESE HABITUALLY  
CAUGHT AT HELEN REEF & ARE CAPTURED ON  
THE BEACH OR IN THE WATER BY DIVERS.  
ALL MATURE, MOSTLY FEMALES -

A.

**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

April 14, 1980

George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Insitute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

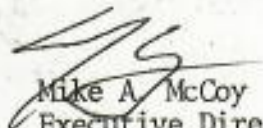
Enclosed are photos taken by our (observer) aboard the Japanese government research vessel SHOYO MARU in November, 1979. The vessel was longlining and obtaining specimens of ahi for analysis in an area between Truk and Papua New Guinea. The lines were probably set at the same depth as those used by commercial vessels in our area. The turtle was caught on a longline using frozen saury pike for bait; my estimate is that the line was at least 12 to 15 fathoms below the surface. We have no provision in our agreement with the Japanese fishing associations forcing them to report turtles caught by longline; however I will certainly be including it in our negotiation next year.

NO  
[Meanwhile, the US billfish regulations around Guam and the Northern Marianas went into effect on April 1, and perhaps NMFS has provisions for their reporting incidental catches of turtles. I want to emphasize that this is most probably not a problem of the magnitude of that experienced by shrimp trawls, but it bears investigation nonetheless.

I will be on Satawal this summer for 2 or 3 months, and probably travelling to W. Fayu and/or Pikelot with the canoes. If it is alright with you, I would like to use a few of your tags for any turtles that I might be able to tag. Mine are all printed with Palau Mariculture Center return information, and I doubt seriously if anybody there is minding the store with respect to turtles. I will be in Hawaii 4-11 and could pick some up from you at that time.

Sincerely,

↑  
MAY

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA



**WORLD CONFERENCE ON  
SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION**

November 26-30, 1979 Washington, D.C.

Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611  
(904) 392-1250

27 January 1981

Mr. Doyle Gates, Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Western Pacific Office  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear Mr. Gates:

I am writing to inquire whether, under the U.S. Billfish Regulations for Guam and the Northern Marianas, fishing vessels are required to report all incidental capture of sea turtles. From correspondence with Mike McCoy of the Federated States of Micronesia and George Balazs, I have been surprised at the number of turtles that may be taken on longlines. Mike McCoy reported that of the 800 Japanese vessels licensed in the FSM in 1980, he was able to place observers on only six vessels. On two of these six trips, turtles were taken on longlines.

The reporting requirement is of interest not only to determine the number of sea turtles taken, but also to learn more about the distribution of these species. It is very difficult to get information on where marine turtles go when they leave the nesting beaches. Reports from fishing vessels might increase our knowledge considerably.

I would appreciate it if you could tell me whether or not this reporting requirement now exists and, if it does, where the reports are filed. If there is no such requirement, can you tell me whether one is under consideration and whom I can contact to urge the adoption of a requirement for reporting incidental capture of marine turtles.

Thank you very much for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karen Bjorndal, PhD  
Post-Conference Coordinator



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
Western Pacific Program Office  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

February 10, 1981

F/SWR1:ETN

Ms. Karen Bjorndal, PhD  
Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Ms. Bjorndal:

This is in response to your letter of January 27, 1981.

The regulations which currently implement the Preliminary Fishery Management Plan for Billfish, Oceanic Sharks, Wahoo and Mahimahi in the Pacific Ocean (PMP) require only a quarterly report of incidental marine mammal catch in addition to the regular fishing reports. There is, unfortunately, no requirement to report marine turtles caught incidentally in the longline fishery.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council are aware of Mike McCoy's information regarding the incidental catch of marine turtles and will consider that information as well as your request for a reporting requirement for turtles in drafting the Fishery Management Plan and regulations for the Billfishes of the Western Pacific Region (FMP).

For your information I enclose a copy of the regulations for the PMP and will forward a copy of the draft FMP when it becomes available for public review. Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*Doyle E. Gates*  
Doyle E. Gates  
Administrator

Enclosure

cc: S. Fougner, WPRFMC,  
w/copy of incoming letter





MICRONESIAN MARICULTURE DEMONSTRATION CENTER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
Post Office Box 359  
Koror, Palau, Caroline Islands 96940

December 3, 1974

George Balazs,  
HIMB  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744.

Dear George:

Sorry to be late in answering your letter but I was away in Yap helping initiate a brackish water pond project. I will try to answer your questions as best I can but the T.T. is unique in not having the laws pertaining to conservation available in publication form. We have submitted several suggestions on regulations but the Congress of Micronesia puts off action on conservation measures indefinitely.

1. Present regulations,

1. No capture of female turtles on nesting beaches.
2. No hawksbill under 27" and no greens under 36."

2. Predation on hawksbill turtles.

Turtle eggs are valued as food in Yap and Palau and a conservative estimate of human predation on nests in Palau would be 80%. The hawksbill is also used as food and for shell jewelry and adults are taken whenever observed. There is practically no control on the taking of adults and the minimum size rule is not observed. The use of high powered outboards has increased the predation in recent years.

3. Increase in sale of hawksbill products.

Tourism has increased almost 300% in the past five years. More handicrafts are being sought than ever before and Turtle shell products are extremely popular. I have informed store owners that they must inform tourists that they can not take hawksbill products back to the states. However, I don't believe they have been doing so.

4. Foreign predation on Turtle population.

Three Taiwanese tuna boats have been apprehended within the territorial waters poaching turtles in the past three years.

12-3-74

George-2-

Continue 4.

In each case the boats had a minimum of 25 turtles and one had closer to 100 turtles aboard. The turtles were of all sizes. These boats were only those that we apprehended and I am sure many other vessels are poaching turtles as well as giant clams.

I have asked the District Attorney to compile all the T.T. rules and regulations on turtles which I will send to you immediately.

My best to you and let me know how your meeting in Florida turns out.

Sincerely,



James P. McVey Ph.D.  
Chief, Micro. Mar. Demn. Center

JPM/pr



AMERICAN EMBASSY, TOKYO  
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96503

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 5, 1981

To: George Balazs

From: Robert T. B. Iversen, Regional Fisheries Attache

Subject: Green turtles

I was at the Tsukiji Wholesale Market in Tokyo on December 2nd, and ran ~~across~~ across this box of green turtle meat from Ecuador. I thought you would like a snapshot.

The pix of the package unfortunately is out of focus, I was using one of those auto-focus cameras, and I guess I got to close.

I did not get the name of the purveyor, nor did I see any more green turtle meat displayed or other boxes.

I think the individual packages were 1 kg. each, but I am not sure.

George, please do me a favor. Obtain Paul Struhsaker's mailing address and send it to me.

Happy holidays!

ROBERT T. B. IVERSEN  
Regional Fisheries Attache  
American Embassy, Tokyo  
APO San Francisco, CA 96503

TSUKIJI WHOLESALE MARKET  
TOKYO

DEC. 2, 1981

AMERICAN EMBASSY, TOKYO  
APO SAN FRANCISCO, CA 96503

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 5, 1981

To: George Balazs

*RBI*  
From: Robert T. B. Iversen, Regional Fisheries Attache

Subject: Green turtles

I was at the Tsukiji Wholesale Market in Tokyo on December 2nd, and ran ~~across~~ across this box of green turtle meat from Ecuador. I thought you would like a snapshot.

The pix of the package unfortunately is out of focus, I was using one of those auto-focus cameras, and I guess I got to close.

I did not get the name of the purveyor, nor did I see any more green turtle meat displayed or other boxes.

I think the individual packages were 1 kg. each, but I am not sure.

George, please do me a favor. Obtain Paul Struhsaker's mailing address and send it to me.

Happy holidays!

ROBERT T. B. IVERSEN  
Regional Fisheries Attache  
American Embassy, Tokyo  
APO San Francisco, CA 96503



MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY  
P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

September 14, 1981

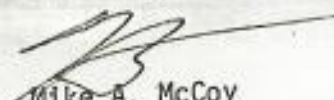
Mr. George Balasz  
c/o National Marine Fisheries Service  
P O Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

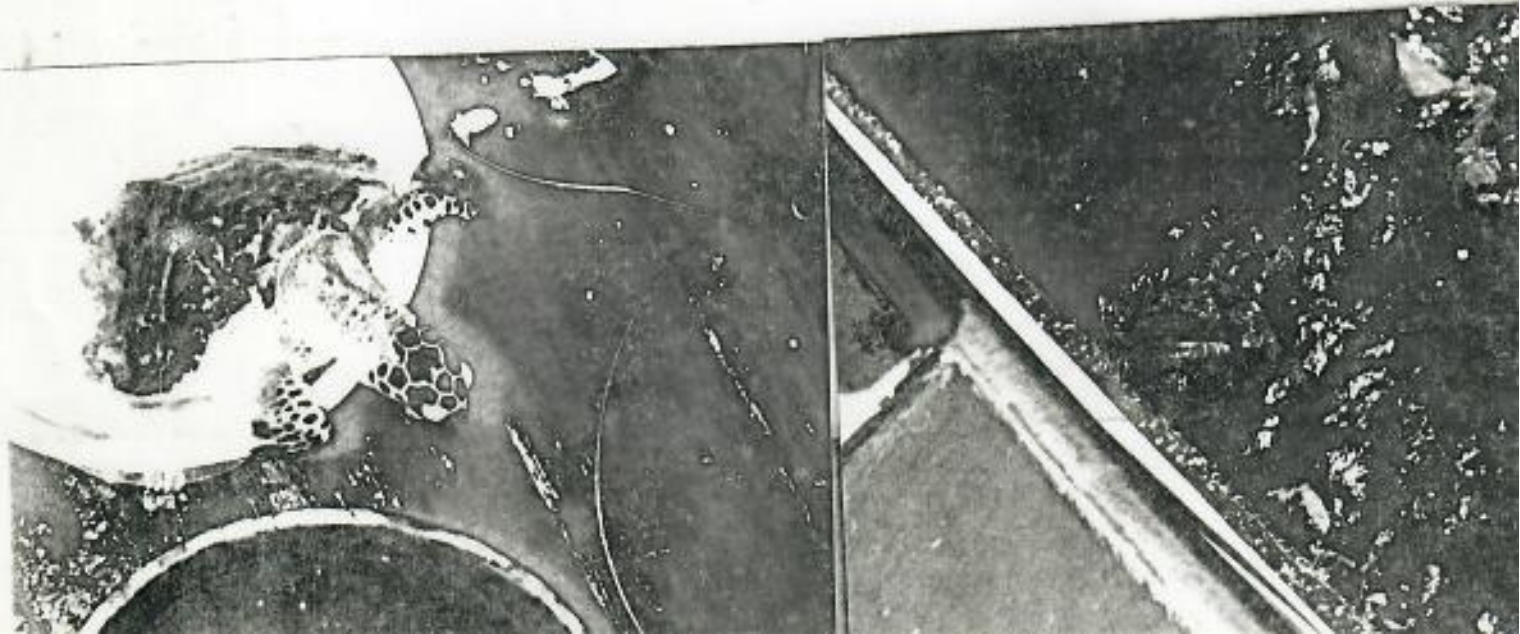
Dear George,

Photos don't lie. Here are two more turtles turning up as part of the commercial tuna fishing in the W. Pacific. The hawksbill was caught on longline during the month of May. It is shown in a tub on board the boat, along with a hook of the type used on a tuna longline. The turtle was alive when taken aboard, and after several hours was reportedly returned to the sea. The other was ~~seen~~ around a floating log by a Japanese purse seiner. The fisherman in the water had gone into the water to try and capture it as it drifted alongside the log; but it evidently sounded and was not captured.

I hope you are keeping a file on these incidents, and at some time in the future we should try and compare notes to see what other information is being collected regarding the incidental catch of turtles, particularly by the longline fleet.

Sincerely,

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA



**MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY**  
P.O. BOX D: KOLONIA, PONAPE  
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS, 96941

---

September 14, 1981

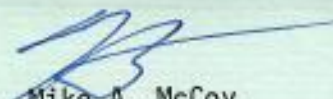
Mr. George Balasz  
c/o National Marine Fisheries Service  
P O Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear George,

Photos don't lie. Here are two more turtles turning up as part of the commercial tuna fishing in the W. Pacific. The hawksbill was caught on longline during the month of May. It is shown in a tub on board the boat, along with a hook of the type used on a tuna longline. The turtle was alive when taken aboard, and after several hours was reportedly returned to the sea. The other was ~~taken~~ around a floating log by a Japanese purse seiner. The fisherman in the water had gone into the water to try and capture it as it drifted alongside the log; but it evidently sounded and was not captured.

I hope you are keeping a file on these incidents, and at some time in the future we should try and compare notes to see what other information is being collected regarding the incidental catch of turtles, particularly by the longline fleet.

Sincerely,

  
Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA



Fukuchi m. # 63

Japanese Single Purse seine

499.60 cross-Image.

~~Fukuchi m. # 63~~

~~Fukuchi m. # 63~~

**TAIYO m. # 8**

**LONG LINE**



February 27, 1981

Anne Meylan  
Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida  
32611

Dear Anne,

Thanks for the recent note regarding the interest of certain Japanese in furthering the culture of turtles in Micronesia. Be assured that I am doing my best to keep on top of it from this end; and have alerted the Fisheries Officers concerned. To avoid confusion, we will utilize George Balazs as our contact on this and other turtle matters, as he has a direct link into NMFS in Honolulu, and friends in Japan as well.

I recently obtained a copy of a plan distributed in Truk by Dr. Kurata and his associates in late January. I have heard that he avoided government-types and dealt with politicians and businessmen. The booklet distributed in Truk was in Japanese, and we are having it translated. I'll send George a copy of the results and he can forward it on.

I have a number of Peace Corps volunteers in the outer islands of Yap keeping an eye on the turtle utilization by local people. Unfortunately, most of the volunteers opt for a vacation during the summer, and miss the most important part of the year. The only solution is an early retirement for me back to Satawal or W. Fayu...

Sincerely,



Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director, MMA

cc: George Balazs, NMFS

February 27, 1981

MEMORANDUM


TO : Dick Croft, Ponape Marine Resources  
Mike White, Truk Marine Resources  
Redley Killion, Truk Resources & Development  
Herman Semes, Ponape R & D  
Bermin Weilbacher, FSM R & D

FROM : Executive Director, MMA

SUBJECT: Application of "Cites" Treaty to Japan

As the attached note shows, Japan has signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. This now clears up alot of what the recent Japanese turtle delegation (headed by Dr. Kurata) referred to when they talked about adhering to "the convention". I had mistakenly thought they were talking about the draft "Strategy for Turtle Conservation" drafted at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation.

This Convention makes it ILLEGAL to import, export, or trade in any way the endangered species listed within the text of the Convention. The signature by Japan with "reservation" for certain species makes the signing virtually worthless except from a political point of view. If this is the attitude of Dr. Kurata and his group, they should be avoided and their proposals rejected out of hand.

  
Mike A. McCoy

cc: George Balasz, NMFS




**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
Western Pacific Program Office  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

July 2, 1981

F/SWR1:JJN

TO: The File

FROM: John J. Naughton  Fishery Biologist, WPPO

SUBJECT: Green sea turtle entanglement, Kailua Bay, Oahu

On June 19, 1981 at 1610 the NMFS, WPPO, received a call from a Ms. Jean Mooney (835-B North Kalaheo Avenue, Kailua, Oahu, phone No. 261-2447) concerning two turtles they found entangled in a section of line in Kailua Bay. I was on leave that day and since my home is not far from the above address, the office called me and I investigated the report.

I arrived on the scene at approximately 1640 and found a group of young people with two green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The larger of the two (25" carapace length) was dead and the smaller (23-1/2" carapace length) was alive but apparently very weak. It was placed in the shade and covered with wet towels and was released approximately an hour later offshore in Kailua Bay. Later inspection indicated the dead turtle probably drowned less than 4 hours before it was found. Both turtles were immature with no obvious physical defects or markings, including tags.

The people on site stated that while water skiing in the bay they sighted a turtle at the surface, a rather common occurrence. However, as they passed, the turtle did not dive and upon closer examination was seen struggling to remain at the surface with another turtle below it. One of the men entered the water and found that the two turtles were entangled in a piece of line which was fixed to the bottom.

The line was attached to a 15-pound "Japan" anchor which was in a little less than 2 fathoms of water. They removed the anchor from the bottom and hoisted the anchor, line and two turtles into their boat and immediately brought everything ashore. The living turtle had several bites of line wrapped around the left fore flipper while the dead animal had three bites tightly wound around its neck. Neither turtle was tied with the line as we first suspected, but apparently became entangled accidentally. The position of the entangled turtles was approximately 200 meters off the mouth of Kaelepulu Canal, immediately northwest of Popoia Island in Kailua Bay (21° 24.3'N, 157° 43.8'W).

The line which the two turtles were entangled in is 6 fathoms long, 1/4-inch diameter braided nylon with a cotton core, and is presently at the Western Pacific Program Office. It had not been in the water long as there was very little marine growth on it or the anchor. There was no float on the

line and it apparently was partially tangled in coral growth on the bottom or the turtles would have easily been able to swim to the surface for air as the water depth was less than 2 fathoms.

cc: F/SWR3  
F/SWC2, Richard Shomura  
F/MM  
SEAN, Washington, D. C.

MIKE A. McCOY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY  
P. O. Box D  
Ponape, E. Caroline Islands 96941

17 Feb

George,

I was not on Ponape when the "Osawa Group" came through (I was in Japan, ironically). They avoided Dick Croft of Marine Resources who had been briefed by me . See report from Mike White, Marine Res. Truk for their activities there. If you like, I suggest you write White directly & explain concepts. c/o Marine Resources Div, Truk, E. Caroline Is 96942

Mike

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mike McCoy, Executive Director, MMA Ponape

DATE: 02/04/81

FROM : Fisheries Specialist, Truk State

SUBJECT: Various

1. The radio in office is out. Do you have an address for good repair man.
2. The goods and services this year? It doesn't look like I will have as much input this year. Redley said that he had already sent a request to Ponape, has it arrived?
3. Surveillance, Bill Stinett has not been confirmed as Director of Public Safety, so who is going to be the coordinator?
4. The Osawa Turtle Farm Feasibility group is in town. I have an idea that they don't understand the difficulty involved in taking Hawksbill Turtle eggs. I have tried to get the point across, but something keeps getting lost in the translation. It looks like they are interested in a head start regime. The Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy points in the other direction. They claim to have been involved in head starting in Japan for 10 years. I have never seen anything published about their activities. How about you? They might have more information than they appear to have. It might be necessary to invoke U.S. regulations, so far it looks just like a turtle tourist trip. The whole thing would ultimately hang on their ability to collect eggs, and the present regulations and policies make that almost impossible.
5. Benedict Hallens departed 02/03/81 for Guam. He did some "recruiting" while he was here and come up with at least two likely candidates.
6. The small purse seiners increased fishing power could be the result of increased sonar capability. The Myojin #7 was equipped like a sub-chaser.

*Mike White*

Michael C. White  
Fisheries Specialist, Truk

MCW/aa



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

February 19, 1985

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Bob Dawson  
School of Modern Asian Studies  
Griffith University  
Nathan, Brisbane  
Queensland, Australia 4111

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of January 8, 1985 answering my inquiry about clamming operations and the possible removal of sea turtles from various Pacific breeding areas. It was interesting for me to learn that 33% (14 of 42) of the vessels apprehended contained live or cut up and frozen turtle. The 1975 case you mentioned, with 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons of frozen meat, would have represented at least 140 adult green turtle, Chelonia mydas, by my rough calculation. I certainly look forward to reading your forthcoming historical summary of Taiwanese clamming activity on the Great Barrier Reef. After it is published, please let me know how I can obtain a copy.

Concerning your comment about turtles at Raine Island, it is my understanding that large numbers were recorded nesting during the mid-to-late 1970's prior to the 1982 data you mentioned. However, tremendous fluctuations are known to occur at this site--1 year there will be only a few hundred turtles, the next year many thousand. The island apparently serves as a focal breeding site for green turtles migrating from a broad region of your area of the Pacific. If you need further information on this point, I suggest you contact Colin Limpus who has been heavily involved in tagging studies at Raine Island. Perhaps you have already done so, since you mentioned his name in your letter.

I hope to hear from you again after your book is published.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Wildlife Biologist

cc: Balazs  
HL

**Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 4111.**

Telephone (07) 275 7111. Telegrams Unigriff Brisbane Telex AA40362

School of Modern Asian Studies

Ref:RD:jh  
Please Contact:  
Telephone: 275

8 January 1985

Dr George Balazs  
PO Box 3830  
Honolulu  
HAWAII 96812

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 September 1984. Please accept my apologies for not having responded before now.

When I received your letter I was in hospital with an eye injury from a squash racquet; following that I was caught up in the hectic scene of semester exam preparations, marking etc. In the lead up to Christmas I was deeply involved in two conferences, then there was a period of leave. Now I'm back on deck.

In answer to your queries, I do not know of any Korean fishing boats ever having been involved in clamming operations. In Australian waters, there have been 61 Taiwanese clam boat incidents over the last twenty years. 42 of those were apprehensions, the remainder involved either shipwrecks, boardings, but no arrest, etc. Of those apprehended, 14 boats had turtle on board, either live or cut up and frozen; one boat caught in 1975 had about 6½ tonnes of frozen turtle meat.

*~145  
for 1985*

According to one of our fishing old-timers from Port Douglas in North Queensland, the Taiwanese were responsible for the great decline in the number of turtles breeding at Raine Island at the northern extremity of the Great Barrier Reef. He was the first person to sight Taiwanese on the Reef in the mid-1960's. Before the Taiwanese arrived, there was an abundance of turtles nesting on Raine Island. Following effective surveillance and enforcement measures, Taiwanese clam boat activities have come to a halt and according to the old-timer, since 1982, turtle numbers on Raine Island have increased markedly.

That is about all I can give you on turtles. The noted expert here is Col Limpus (I noticed he was one of your reference sources for your SPC Fisheries Newsletter article).

I am about to publish an historical summary of Taiwanese clam boat activity on the Great Barrier Reef and am thinking of doing something on their activities throughout the Pacific region. I would be grateful for any information you might have on the subject. I hope what I've given you may be of some use. Sorry again for the delay.

Regards,

  
BOB DAWSON



SEALS ELEPHANT - G.H. BALAZS

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~