

HIBISCUS FOUNDATION

For the protection of marine turtles
P.O. Box 184 - 98734 Tahaa
French Polynesia
fondationhibiscustahaa@yahoo.fr

Tahaa - March 03, 2011

To: George H. BALAZS
gbalazs@honlab.nmfs.hawaii.edu

Hello George,

I am sending you this mail, translated by a friend then sent to you directly; however you may answer me directly at the Foundation e-mail address.

During the Moorea Symposium, we did not have much chance to meet with each other but through my report in English you know what is going on in French Polynesia regarding turtles that get caught in fish traps.

During your next to last visit in French Polynesia, it was obviously my wish to meet you but not with in Miri Tatarata' presence, on account of the serious disagreements we had and her somewhat dishonest attitude toward the Foundation and most of all her refusal to consider the fate of thousands of turtles getting caught in fish traps as an IMPORTANT issue.

You noticed the NEW STAND she assumed during the symposium by recommending that turtle catching be resumed, without any knowledge of the resources and without even knowing how many turtles are caught in traps and end up being eaten after they were sold.

In order to hide her complete incompetence, she has always fallen back on legal texts which prohibit any commerce.

Now the only solution to save turtles caught in traps has consisted in buying them, and this is what we have done since 1993.

On December 31, 2010, the total number of turtles bought then released amounted to 1,462. We are a small association and none of us get paid, it is volunteer work exclusively. We are able to go on only due to donations and sponsoring.

Then, George, I would like you to send me the postal and e-mail address of the U.S. Commission that deals with control and compliance with the Washington Agreement.

With my sincere thanks in anticipation,

Best regards,

Léo MOROU

**HIBISCUS FOUNDATION
Léo MOROU**

Tahaa - January 15, 2011

Noni S. H. SALAZAR
HAWAII
FAX 808 983 2902

Hello George,

Thank you for your kind New Year's wishes, please accept mine in return for 2011.

Indeed I still tag the turtles and forward the statements as a copy to APIA. Would you like me to send them to you or do you receive them from PROE?

Fortunately, further to Miri's statements, things are somehow back to order and what she said was a bit much. According to the info I have, it is just now that people are realizing all the damage done by her in regard to the protection of turtles and starting to become aware of the fact she has failed to act for many years.

In Moorea, I was disappointed because no one tackled the problem of turtles getting caught periodically in fish traps then eaten next.

In an official letter, I would like you to ask me if any improvement is in sight in French Polynesia with respect to those turtles caught in fish traps, not to mention the extent of poaching that is particularly substantial.

Thank you for the photos.

The PROE tags are quite big and I would appreciate it if you would send me smaller ones along with the tagging pliers.

Would you happen to have some material or posters I could put up in schools?

With my thanks in anticipation,

Best regards,
Leo MOROU

