

April 15, 1995

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To: George Balazs

From: Michelle Sattler

Re: Turtle diet

Dear George,

I am in the process of formulating a new diet for our sea turtles. The reason for this is in part due to the fact that you have stated on several occasions that our turtles are overweight. Also, as you well know, *Chelonia mydas* are herbivorous as adults. Due to the response from the guests at feeding time, I have been looking at the possibility of "turtle feedings" for our guests. I would like to keep this as tidy of an affair as possible. This is why I thought of a pelleted supplement. I have been working with a wonderful man from Oceanic Institute, Tony Ostrowski. Enclosed is the recipe he has prepared, and the research involved in arriving at this diet. We have offered the turtles the prototype batch made by Tony, and they accept it readily. Due to the size of the pellets, it even increases the forage activity of the turtles. I am aware that a drastic change in diet for any animal can have adverse effects. I would not want to do anything to jeopardize a successful breeding population of a threatened species, so as stated in Tony's paper I would be using this new diet as a supplement only, for a substantial period of time. I would appreciate any input or comments you might have concerning the diet, or of the public feeding idea. As I have said before, I value your opinions!

Thank you for your time.



Michelle Sattler

Curator of Fishes and Reptiles

CTF literature

GHB notes 1995

Differences
between
growers and
adults

2pp1
15-9A
makes vs female

Wray's
bullet

- 70 proteins
- J. Wood papers
- Russell Bolars paper
Algae not seaweeds

Algae being fed?

Routine
vet oversight

[Faint signature]

JUNE 21, 1995

June 21, 1995

To: George Balazs

From: Michelle Sattler

Re: Turtle Release

Dear George,

Thank you for your prompt response to my requests and inquiries. And I also thank you for pointing out the misconceptions we have the potential to create concerning Head start and Release programs. I myself have been guilty of using words like "replenish and replace" in reference to what Sea Life Park is doing with the turtles. Once again, you have enlightened me! I will provide a copy of your letter to my staff so we can all be more aware of how we educate the public. Here are the tag numbers of our first clutch, and a recap of the release. About 150-200 people showed up to watch.

On June 12, 1995 there were 70 turtle hatchlings found at turtle lagoon. 67 were alive. 3 were drowned in the scum drain. (We have designed a new scum drain cover). All turtles climbed out of the nest themselves, we did not have to dig the nest up.

Turtles were tagged with tag numbers: ZA81- ZA99, and YB01- YB51. ZA98 has a deformed jaw. On June 13, one last hatchling emerged from the above nest site. He has a slightly deformed jaw also. Tag # YB53

June 14, ZA98 died.

On June 14, 1995 we did a public turtle release. We had 4 hatchlings in the back of two pick up trucks for people to view and touch. We also roped off the beach area so that the people would not interfere with the turtles' plight to the water. Before the release I did a small talk. The release went well. The tide was going out and the moon was 2 days after full. Turtles went right to the water and none of them got washed back. The four turtles in the truck we did not release. Tag #'s ZA82, YB19, YB49, and YB53.

Thank you,





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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29 AUGUST 95

Dear Michelle:

Please call me when you want to work out a suitable date to do the "wotool" ID's on your turtles. Taking measurements on the same morning would be ideal.

Due to many other obligations, and my limited staff, I'd like to ask you to search and inquiry to the fullest extent possible to locate the records Sea Life Park should have on the turtles. I have faithfully given SLP copies of every data set I've ever taken the past 18 years. Have you asked Bob Moore? As a last resort, I encourage you to telephone or fax Steve to ask of the whereabouts.

1995- THE YEAR OF THE SEA TURTLE IN THE PACIFIC
A SPREP Regional Marine Turtle Conservation Programme initiative



(over)

I can't imagine such important records would have been destroyed. Keep in mind that the historical turtle file, wherever it is, contains far more than just my data/measurement contributions. It must also have a wealth of other information - hatching dates and data, growth records, vet care, etc. etc. Isn't a comprehensive documentary, like this, one of the AAZPA requirements for certification?

I've just returned from the Big Island, so will be contacting Mike Bailey soon since he called me about Farai.

Warm Aloha,
Jays



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2 Sept. 95

Dear Michelle:

This time I'm getting around to writing you a note for two reasons. First, to clarify the seeming discrepancy about PIT tags in Tagged Maui Laysan Turtle K962, 11477. Recall that Leilani noted this in her e'ed letter to us of 5 July 95. She is correct. A

PIT tag (IF264846F) was placed in that turtle (on 6/20/94). And a second one (IF742A360D) inserted on 7/3/95. There are two possible explanations - 1.) The first PIT tag was lost, or 2.) I didn't scan it thoroughly enough to detect it on 7/3/95. The latter is the most plausible.

So - until the turtle is recaptured, we need to retain both PIT numbers in the database. It is possible to "read" 2 PIT tags in a flipper - one after the other - so that won't be a problem. If they are both present. (OVER)

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The second issue I want to bring up --
one that is long overdue for action -- deals
with consistent routine veterinary care and
health-screening of SLP turtles! I've brought
this up several times in the past (long before
you arrived). We need to discuss in depth
in person or by phone. Briefly, it is my
recommendation that a turtle veterinarian needs

to routinely (2-3 x a year) examine, diagnosis, and
generally consult with SLP on the health-status of
its turtles. The way it is now (and always unfortunately
has been, against my advice) a vet is only called
in a crisis, piece-meal, to "treat" specific turtles.
There is no consistent care and oversight by an
experienced turtle veterinarian; and there should be.
This includes SLP turtles at Mauna Lani (where
some problems and mortalities have occurred in the past) and
other "loaner" places you may have in mind for your
turtles. Doesn't this sound reasonable? I think you'll
AGREE. *Sam Boles*