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REPORTS WANTED OF SEA TURTLES BASKING ASHORE

Green turtles, Chelonia mydas, regularly bask ashore during the daytime on remote beaches located hundreds of miles to the northwest of Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, Hawaiian green turtles held in captivity also display this unusual basking behavior when provided with a sloping ramp that offers them the opportunity to haul out. At Sea Life Park on Oahu they can commonly be seen basking on a concrete ramp and its adjacent artificial sand beach. Studies have been published about basking in Hawaii, but very little is known about sea turtles basking elsewhere, especially when they are in captivity. We would appreciate receiving information on this interesting subject. How many aquarium facilities have ramps that would permit sea turtles to bask, should they have the desire to do so? If a ramp or other sloping area is present, do the turtles bask or attempt to bask? All who respond to this request for information will be sent additional details on the basking behavior seen in Hawaii.

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