

December 11, 1978

Mr. Bill Puleloa
Fisheries Officer
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Marine Resources Division
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mr. Puleloa:

Dr. Alison Kay has sent me a copy of your letter to her dated 14 September 1978 concerning your trip to the Northern Marshalls. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I was especially interested in your mention of watching nesting turtles at Bikar and Taongi. You are indeed fortunate to have seen these two remote atolls. I wonder if you would be able to provide me with any additional information on the turtles that were observed, either nesting or present in the inshore waters? It would be important to know approximately how many turtles per night were ashore, and the extent to which nesting excavations covered the available beaches. Were tags noted on any of the turtles? Presumably all of the turtles seen nesting were the green turtles, Chelonia mydas. I would also be interested to learn if you saw evidence of illegal taking of turtles, particularly by foreign fishing vessels.

I have enclosed two of my publications dealing with sea turtles which hopefully you will find interesting. Please feel free to contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

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Enclosures