

HIMB PART 2 of 2

BALAZS, G.

1978

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

May 23, 1978

Dr. Robert R. Fleet
Research Associate
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

Dear Robert:

Many thanks for your letter and photograph of May 2nd which I only received today upon return from a meeting in Toronto.

Unfortunately, Roger was unable to locate any of the original field notes from the Smithsonian or Archives. As a final effort, I have sent off a letter of inquiry to Dr. Woodward.

Through the process of elimination, it would certainly appear that the adult you captured and tagged was indeed the one recovered by my Coast Guard friend. I will contact you again if additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 23, 1978

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
Co-chairman, IUCN Turtle Group
Department of Zoology
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1
CANADA

Dear Nicholas:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hospitality which you and your staff offered while hosting the recent ad hoc IUCN meeting on marine turtles. It was both rewarding and pleasant to meet with colleagues under such circumstances. I am hopeful that the action plan we are formulating for IUCN will be successful and, ultimately, result in the enhancement of marine turtle populations.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: IUCN, Morges

May 9, 1978

Mr. Clancy Greff
Na Pali Zodiac
P. O. Box 456
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Mr. Greff:

I have read with considerable interest your application to the DLNR for continued use of State-owned lands in conjunction with small boat tours of the Na Pali coast. With financial support from the State and Federal governments, I am conducting management-oriented ecological studies of sea turtles throughout the Hawaiian chain. During the course of your activities, I wonder if you have made observations of turtles, either in the water or possibly nesting on the sand beaches? Any information that you can provide on this subject would certainly be most appreciated. In the not too distant future my plans call for a study-visit to Kauai. Perhaps it will be possible for me to meet with you at that time to discuss matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk:

May 9, 1978

Mr. Thomas Haggarty
Na Pali Coast Boat Charters
P. O. Box 385
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Mr. Haggarty:

I have read with considerable interest your application to the DLNR for use of State-owned lands in conjunction with small boat tours of the Na Pali Coast. With financial support from the State and Federal governments, I am conducting management-oriented ecological studies of sea turtles throughout the Hawaiian chain. During the course of your activities, I wonder if you have made observations of turtles, either in the water or possibly nesting on the sand beaches? Any information that you can provide on this subject would certainly be most appreciated. In the not too distant future my plans call for a study-visit to Kauai. Perhaps it will be possible for me to meet with you at that time to discuss matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 8, 1978

Miss Jean B. Graham
3309 Shelmer Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Dear Miss Graham:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your class report on sea turtles. This is very much appreciated and it will be entered into my reference collection.

I certainly encourage you to pursue your interests in sea turtles in whatever way possible.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
and
Member, IUCN Turtle Group

GHB:md

May 5, 1978

Mr. James I. Richardson
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your informative letter of 27 April. I appreciate your offer of hospitality for a visit. Unfortunately the site of the NMFS meeting I am to attend has now been changed to Mississippi. From there I will be going up to Toronto for some IUCN turtle discussions.

I will be in correspondence with you again as matters of common interest develop.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 5, 1978

Dr. Arthur L. Dahl
Regional Ecological Advisor
South Pacific Commission
P. O. Box D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Dr. Dahl:

Dick James of the Fisheries Department in the Solomon Islands recently passed through Hawaii and visited with me for discussions of sea turtles. I was particularly interested in his description of an algae or seagrass referred to as "seagrapes" which is sometimes fed to captive hawksbills. Dick indicated that you had been sent a sample of this material for identification. When you have the opportunity, I would certainly appreciate learning of the results of your analysis.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

May 5, 1978

To: William Coops
Interim Director

From: George H. Balazs
Principal Investigator, Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle
Management Study

As discussed during yesterday's meeting, I would like to utilize the talents of Gerald Akiyama to investigate the feasibility of aging sea turtles through analyses of skeletal and laminal material. Such work can be conducted as a part-time assignment with considerable flexibility in hours.

As you are aware, I depart tomorrow for 20 days to attend meetings in Mississippi and Ontario. However, if this request is approved, some background literature work on the project can nevertheless start during my absence.

mk

May 5, 1978

Mr. Eugene Kridler
Endangered Species Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Gene:

Many thanks for your letter of April 25th. Yes, I certainly would be interested in analyzing your tagging and measurement data, hopefully in the not too distant future. I do however, seem to be busy all the time lately, either out doing field work or in the office struggling with papers, reports, etc. Also next week I will be in Mississippi for a NMFS meeting, and the week following another one (IUCN) in Toronto. Let's try to get together sometime during June.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 3, 1978

Dr. George Y. Harry, Jr., Director
Marine Mammal Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
Building 32
7600 Sand Point Way, N. E.
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Dr. Harry:

Thank you for your circulated memorandum of 25 April 1978 describing the emergency Leeward Islands' trip to investigate recent monk seal deaths at Laysan Island. Such mortalities are certainly a cause for concern, however it should be noted that 3-4 deaths per year of undetermined causes have been a regular occurrence at French Frigate Shoals. If this mortality represents some insidious pathological condition, the collection of blood samples planned for French Frigate Shoals may not necessarily result in the determination of baseline physiological characteristics which you desire.

Aside from this, I also have some question as to the advisability of physically restraining ten individuals of an endangered species at a location where special interests exist in maintaining the influences of men at an absolute minimum. I am, of course, thinking in particular of the relatively large numbers of basking and copulating green turtles which are now starting to arrive at French Frigate Shoals for the 1978 breeding season. As a last thought, you may also want to give some consideration to the likely negative reaction such restraint and collection activities will produce from the Coast Guard personnel stationed at French Frigate Shoals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter. I look forward to receiving a copy of the preliminary report which you mentioned will be prepared soon after the conclusion of this emergency expedition.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Triparty cooperators

May 2, 1978

Dr. Evelyn Shaw
Department of Biological Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Shaw:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your interesting article entitled Schooling Fishes (American Scientist, March-April 1978).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

May 2, 1978

Editor
Ford Truck Times
Ford Motor Company
Ford Truck Division
420 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Sir or Madame:

Recently I was told of an article which appeared in your magazine a year ago or more dealing with the use of Ford trucks at a sea turtle farm in the Caribbean. Unfortunately I have been unable to locate any back copies of your magazine here in Hawaii. Would it be possible for you to send me either the issue or a photocopy of the article? Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. I will of course be happy to pay for any costs that may be involved.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mic

May 2, 1978

Ms. Anne Meylan
Department of Zoology
Room 223, Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Ms. Meylan:

By all means please feel free to cite my "shark eats turtle" report in your master's thesis. The full citation could read:

Balazs, G. H. (1977) Analyses of turtle parts recovered from shark stomachs sampled at Pearl and Hermes Reef and French Frigate Shoals, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Kaneohe, unpublished manuscript, 8 pp.

If possible, I certainly would appreciate receiving a copy of your completed thesis for inclusion into my reference library. I realize that duplication costs may be high, therefore I would of course be willing to reimburse you for whatever expenses may be involved.

Incidentally, your contribution to the IUCN Marine Turtle Newsletter was timely and excellent.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

May 1, 1978

Dr. R. Keith Farrell
Veterinary Medical Officer
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Science and Education Administration
Pioneering Research Laboratory
202 Wegner, WSU
Pullman, Washington 99164

Dear Dr. Rehrer:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of April 25th concerning freeze marking of sea turtles. In the next few days I will send off a letter of inquiry on this subject to Raoul Rehrer.

I look forward to meeting with you at any time that you may come to Hawaii. Our laboratory is only a short distance from Honolulu and I could easily pick you up for a visit. I was particularly fascinated by your mention of the possibilities of laser marking. I have already tried a preliminary test with tattooing but the pigment was rejected in two months time. The permanent identification of naturally occurring sea turtles of various sizes continues to be an unsolved problem. Your expertise may be able to provide valuable insight into this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

May 1, 1978

Dr. Raoul G. Rehrer
Division of Biology and Living Resources
School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
University of Miami
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Dr. Rehrer:

As indicated in Dr. Farrell's letter of April 25th, I am interested in obtaining information on work which may have been conducted on the freeze marking of sea turtles. I would be most appreciative if you would inform me of your level of success in this endeavor. Hopefully I will be meeting with Dr. Farrell in the near future to discuss the possibilities of further experimentation on Hawaiian specimens.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

April 28, 1978

TO: Lester Zukeran
Bill Coops

FROM: George Balazs

SUBJECT: HIMB Vessel "Stamas"

In order to upgrade and obtain the highest possible use of the STAMAS, I propose that the following action be taken:

1. Purchase and install anchor and running lights.
2. Purchase and install a fresh battery.
3. Purchase and install an inside cabin light of suitable intensity for nighttime use.
4. Repaint "University of Hawaii" on each side of the hull, preferably in red or orange letters large enough for ready identification.
5. Clean the bilge and cabin interior in order to eliminate bad smells.
6. Implement a policy that allows P.I.'s capable of handling boats to operate the STAMAS within the confines of Kaneohe Bay.

GB:ec

April 28, 1978

Dr. R. Grandperrin
Fisheries Advisor
South Pacific Commission
Post Bx. D.5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Rene:

Thank you for your good letter of 13 April 1978 describing the events surrounding the turtle culture article in South Pacific Bulletin. I greatly appreciate this information. After further thought, I have come to the conclusion that it would be best for all concerned to let the matter rest rather than pursue it with another article. Most people reading Dr. Raj's article who are even slightly familiar with the subject will probably recognize the inaccuracies and out-of-date statements. I am, in fact, somewhat surprised that Dr. Raj himself did not ask to have the article canceled or at least revised considerably.

I look forward to the possibilities of attending an SPC meeting on turtles during 1979. Hopefully such a meeting would not be dominated by discussions of turtle culture, as there are many other far more important aspects of management and conservation.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of a 73 page report translated from Japanese dealing with the hawksbill industry in Southeast Asia and portions of the Pacific. Please write me a short note acknowledging that you received it safely.

Best regards:

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mic

April 24, 1978

Mrs. Shizu Kinjo
Mimui-shoten
36 Arakawa
Ishigaki-shima
RYUKYU ISLANDS

Dear Mrs. Kinjo:

I am a biologist studying the sea turtles-in the Hawaiian Islands. I am also very much interested in the turtles in the Ryukyu Islands. It is my understanding that you operate the largest turtle butcher shop on Ishigaki-shima. I would like to know if you have ever found a metal or plastic identification tag on a turtle? If so, I would like to know the number and address that appeared on the tag, as well as the size of turtle and date of capture. This information could be very valuable to my research, therefore I would greatly appreciate your assistance.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 24, 1978

Dr. W. M. Hammer
Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration Center
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
P. O. Box 359
Koror, Palau 96940

Dear Bill:

I have been meaning to write to you for some time now in order to alert you to the possibilities of a Hawaiian turtle tag recovery being made in your area. Approximately 14 months ago a rumor filtered back to me through Bob Johannes that someone in Palau had caught a turtle with a tag inscribed "HAWAII." I subsequently made written inquiry to Jim McVey, and also had a personal friend, Mark Yunker, try to find specific information during a trip he made to Palau. Unfortunately, nothing could be learned.

I should note that if you do come across one of our Hawaii tags, this will not necessarily mean that the turtle was tagged in Hawaiian waters. I have not freely handed out my tags, however some have been used with discretion, notably at Enewetak and the Cook Islands.

Hopefully all of your projects are going well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 24, 1978

TO: Hawaii's Sport and Commercial Fishermen

FROM: George Balazs
Hawaiian Sea Turtle Research Program

SUBJECT: ~~The~~ Recovery of Turtles or Turtle Parts from the Stomachs
of Large Fish

Virtually nothing is known about the life of sea turtles from the time they leave their natal beaches as one ounce hatchlings until they are first seen as juveniles (approx. 10 lbs or larger) in relatively shallow waters close to shore. This lack of information is due mostly to the fact that turtles under 10 lbs are seldom ever seen, thereby making them unavailable for scientific study. It has been reasonably assumed that smaller size turtles live for a period of time in the open ocean away from land where they feed at the surface on small animals (i.e. squids, crustaceans).

One method which I believe has considerable promise for gaining biological and ecological information on this little-known size category involves the indirect sampling of the turtles from the stomachs of pelagic fish such as tuna, mahimahi, marlin and others. These fishes (as well as sharks) could be expected to periodically eat small turtles. The recovery of whole small turtles or turtle parts from the stomachs of such predators is therefore entirely possible, provided that the person conducting the examination is alerted to the immense importance of such a finding.

If you should find a turtle or turtle part in the stomach of a fish, it would be greatly appreciated if you would contact me at your earliest opportunity (telephone 247-6631, collect if on an outer island). If I am not in my office when you call, please leave your name and number with our secretary and I will contact you as soon as I receive the message. After learning of your discovery by telephone, I would like to immediately pick up the recovered turtle material and transfer it to our laboratory for detailed study.

Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide to this research program. I would be pleased to talk with you at any time on matters relating to sea turtles.

Good fishing!

GHB:md

April 24, 1978

Mrs. Patsy T. Mink
Assistant Secretary for Oceans
and International Environmental
and Scientific Affairs
2201 C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mrs. Mink:

In June of 1976 you made a request on my behalf to the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums in an effort to locate personnel stationed at French Frigate Shoals during January - August, 1942. The attached copied correspondence will reacquaint you with this matter.

In the letter dated 31 August 1976 from General E. H. Simmons, it was indicated that one of the two marines located (Chief Warrant Officer J. E. Hutchison) was on vacation, and therefore could not be contacted at the time. On 22 July 1977 I wrote to General Simmons and renewed my request for contact with Mr. Hutchison. Unfortunately, a response to this letter was not received. I would be most appreciative if you would once again contact General Simmons' agency on my behalf and request assistance in obtaining an address for Mr. Hutchison.

I want to thank you once again for your continuing assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

April 21, 1978

Ms. Nancy Bray
Department of Zoology
Biological Sciences Building
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Nancy:

Mahalo for your letter of April 11th. I look forward to receiving the material we discussed. I am particularly anxious to see your Surinam report. Perhaps you could send this separately if it will take several weeks to get the remainder assembled.

I was glad to hear that Dr. Carr finally sent you his manuscript.

Ernie Reese was sorry to have missed you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

April 21, 1978

Mr. Mats Segnestam
International Union for Conservation of
Nature and Natural Resources
28 Les Uttins
1110 Morges
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Segnestam:

This is to confirm and clarify my short telegram to you dated 9 April 1978. In order to attend the IUCN meeting on marine turtles scheduled for 15-19 May 1978 in Toronto, I will need the following minimum travel expenses:

Economy air fare (Honolulu-Toronto and return)	\$570.00
Hotel and meals in Toronto (5 days @35 day)	<u>\$175.00</u>
Total	US\$745.00

I hope that you will be able to advance this amount at the earliest possible time. I look forward to meeting with you and discussing problems of international turtle conservation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 19, 1978

Mr. James I. Richardson
Little Cumberland Island
Loggerhead Research Project
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear James:

Last December I sent off a letter to Rebecca Bell concerning some of the interesting points raised in your joint publication on loggerhead tag recoveries. A response was never received, and I am now wondering if she ever received my letter. Perhaps you could make an inquiry if you are presently in communication with her.

I am sure that John Dean told you of his visit to Hawaii and our interesting and pleasant discussions on turtles. Hopefully in the not too distant future I will be able to visit your area to exchange information and see first hand the Georgia loggerhead beaches. If all goes as planned, I will be in Washington, D. C. next month. However, scheduling of transportation to my study areas in the Leeward Hawaiian Islands will probably make this a very rushed trip.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 19, 1978

Mr. Gene Kridler
Endangered Species Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Gene:

Enclosed is a copy of data abstracts dealing with productivity of the green turtle colony at French Frigate Shoals. I am sure you will find this information interesting, particularly in view of the fact that you were principally responsible for making it possible for me to do the work. I will send you a copy of the entire manuscript when it is finalized for publication.

I believe that your stand on the Kaula issue is commendable and offer my full support.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

April 19, 1978

Mr. Arn Heggens
Commanding Officer
USCG Loran
French Frigate Shoals

Dear Mr. Heggens:

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is George Balazs and for the past five years I have periodically been conducting studies of the green sea turtles at French Frigate Shoals. Along with Causey Whittow of the University's Kewalo Marine Lab, I had hoped to meet with you in person during your short stay in Honolulu and explain some of our research. Unfortunately, the timing did not work out as expected. Nevertheless, I would like to familiarize you with some of our studies through exposure to the enclosed publications.

I have made an effort over the years to be of assistance to the men at French Frigate Shoals and Kure in whatever way possible. This has involved such things as diverse as sending up dog biscuits, making plane reservations and cutting red tape. If I can ever help, please call me on MARS at 247-6631 (office) or 946-1760 (home).

Hope to see you within the next two months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

TROPIC SEAS FOODS
Division of Tropic Seas Enterprises
677 Ahua Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel. (808) 833-2228

Customer information regarding farmed Turtle Products;

The incredible taste of turtle expertly prepared by your chef makes an excellent meal! In addition to its superb taste, Turtle is extremely high in protein, yet lower in calories than beef and fowl, plus there is virtually no cholesterol.

Turtle is one of the most highly demanded of the delicacy sea foods. Our Turtle comes from the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean Sea where it is Farm fed, Farm raised, and Farm prepared. As you may know, the Green Sea Turtle was nearing the endangered species list. Now, through the efforts of the Cayman Farm, the species is finally on an upswing. After maturity, a certain percentage of Turtles are returned to the sea. This percentage is far greater than those that could have lived in the wild. More important, the Green Sea Turtle of Hawaii has been benefiting by the Farm as well. Now that there is a continuous quality supply of Turtle products, from the Farm, and a strict licensing program by the State Department of Fish and Game, poaching has nearly been eliminated.

Any further questions regarding Turtle products sold in Hawaii, please feel free to call me.

Enjoy your meal

Mahalo,

(signed) Lee Mench

Transcribed from display sheet at
Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant
Honolulu, Hawaii

by G. H. Balazs
April 1978

April 17, 1978

Biologo Daniel Rios Olmeda
Programa Tortugas Marinas
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Prol. Carnaval y Las Hadas S/N
Matzatlan, Sinaloa, MEXICO

Dear Mr. Olmeda:

Dr. Ruben Lasker of the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, California has informed me of your interest in sea turtles and desire to locate published information. An excellent start in such a literature search can be obtained from the following:

Hirth, H. P. (1971) Synopsis of biological data on the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus) 1758. FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 85.

I have enclosed several articles dealing with Hawaiian turtles which you may find interesting. Also, by copy of this letter, I am requesting Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky to place your name on the mailing list of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter. If I can be of further assistance as your studies progress, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: N. Mrosovsky
R. Lasker

April 17, 1978

Captain R. P. Nystedt
District Civil Engineer
Headquarters
Fourteenth Naval District
Box 110
FPO San Francisco 96610

Dear Captain Nystedt:

You will probably recall our meeting on 16 June 1977 concerning my research of Hawaiian sea turtles, and your subsequent consent to provide some logistics support for surveys of the Kahoolawe coastline on a mission-congruent basis. A number of months have now passed and I thought it would be appropriate to make an inquiry as to when opportunities for such survey work may become available. Your office has undoubtedly been involved in the recent Environmental Impact Statement for Kahoolawe, and I realize that this may be consuming a considerable portion of your staff's time. However, sea turtles are a consideration in the island's beach areas and nearshore environment and the results of my studies would be useful to your overall program.

Thank you for your continuing consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 12, 1978

Dear Dr. Friend:

I have read with considerable interest your short article on diseased albatross which appeared in the Midway Naval Station newsletter (copy enclosed). As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles and a frequent visitor to our Leeward islands, I am of course concerned about the long-term ecological effects of this occurrence. I would therefore be most appreciative if you could provide some additional information on this matter.

- 1) has the disease been confirmed in your laboratory as a viral pox?
- 2) if so, has such a disease been previously reported in seabirds?
- 3) what is the likelihood of birds on other Leeward islands becoming infected?
- 4) can we expect the disease to reoccur at Midway during future nesting season?

Thank you in advance for whatever assistance you are able to provide in response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GIB:md

Encls.

April 12, 1978

Dr. Itaru Uchida
Himeji City Aquarium
Tegarayama, Himeji City
670 Japan

Dear Itaru:

I thought you would be pleased to learn that I have finally completed the English translation of the Report by the Japanese Tortoise Shell Association (August 1973). I am having bound copies made for distribution to select members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group. This should be valuable in planning conservation strategy for the hawksbill in the Pacific.

I have enclosed a recent newspaper article about a loggerhead that was found near Honolulu. It has recovered very well and is being held at Sea Life Park.

I would greatly appreciate receiving recent issues of the Japanese Tortoise Shell Association Newsletter, as well as the tortoise shell import values for 1976 and 1977.

Next month I will be visiting Nicholas Mrosovsky in Toronto, Canada.

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

April 12, 1978

Mr. J. D. N. Banks
P. O. Box 141
148 Vauxhall Street
Colombo 2,
SRI LANKA

Dear Mr. Banks:

Many thanks for your most informative and interesting letter of 29 March 1978. I certainly look forward to learning of the results of your additional inquiries into adult turtle predation on hatchling. During mid-May I will be in Toronto, Canada for a meeting of the IUCN Turtle Group. At that time I intend to point out the conservation results you have achieved in Ceylon.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 12, 1978

Ms. Linda Garmon
1513 Bouchelle
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Dear Ms. Garmon:

Your letter dated 28 March 1978 to our Institute's Director has been passed on to me for response.

You have certainly taken on a massive chore in assembling such a bibliography. If you have already done so, I suggest that you consult the following:

Hirth, H. (1971) Synopsis of biological data on the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* (Linnaeus) 1758. FAO Fisheries Synopsis No. 85.

Bacon, P. R. (1971) Review on research, exploitation and management of the stocks of sea turtles. FAO Fisheries Circular No. 334.

I have enclosed several more recent publications which you may find interesting. When your bibliography project is completed, I would certainly appreciate receiving a copy.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

April 10, 1978

Dr. F. R. Fosberg, Editor
ATOLL RESEARCH BULLETIN
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Fosberg:

Between 29-31 January 1978 I was able to participate in a special Air Force mission which involved a low-level aerial survey of the Phoenix Islands using C-130 aircraft. My object on this flight was to examine for the presence of nesting by sea turtles. Such activity was found to have recently taken place in small numbers on Sydney, and at a somewhat higher and concentrated level on the small island of Birnie. Additional investigations on this aspect certainly need to be conducted, however this will have to await the availability of adequate transportation.

My purpose in corresponding with you at this time is to inform you that during the aerial survey I was able to take an extensive series of quality photographs encompassing nearly all of the islands. Views include both full frames of entire atolls/islands, as well as close-up segments. The originals are Kodachrome (ASA 25) transparencies, however transposition to black and white negatives can be made without too much difficulty or loss of clarity. If you have use for such photographs in ATOLL RESEARCH BULLETIN, I would be pleased to make them available. Perhaps there may even be a need for a short descriptive paper which involves principally aerial plates.

I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 10, 1978

Miss Jean B. Graham
3309 Shelmire Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Dear Miss Graham:

Many thanks for your letter of 16 March 1978 which I received upon my return from field studies at Midway and Kure.

You mentioned reading about my "comprehensive studies concerning the Pacific green turtle...", but I am uncertain exactly what literature you have already seen. Nevertheless, I have enclosed several items which you may find informative and interesting.

When your paper is completed I would certainly be most appreciative if you would send me a xeroxed copy.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

April 10, 1978

Dr. Roger B. Clapp
National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Roger:

Many thanks for your informative letter of 27 March 1978 concerning my inquiry to Bob Fleet about the turtle tag recovery at Kure. I have followed your suggestion and written to Paul Woodward as a last resort measure.

On one of your trips through Hawaii I hope you will have the opportunity to stop in at our laboratory for a visit. I am sure that we have a number of common interests, including natural history aspects of the Phoenix and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

April 10, 1978

Dr. Paul W. Woodward
2433 Southgate Square
Reston, VA 22091

Dear Dr. Woodward:

Enclosed are several copied letters relating to the recovery of a tagged green turtle (B26) at Kure Atoll. Roger Clapp has suggested that I contact you as a possible source for the original tagging data. It would certainly be appreciated if you can provide some information on this subject.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

April 4, 1978

Cashier
National Archives Trust Fund (NMFJ)
National Archives (GSA)
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed is a check for \$3.80 to cover the cost of an electrostatic copy of the 19 page report of W. H. Munter concerning the cruise of the THETIS in early 1916.

A copy of a letter from Mr. James L. Harwood has been enclosed for reference purposes.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

April 4, 1978

Ms. Lynn E. Fowler
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Lynn:

As requested, I am sending you summaries of data that I have collected on the productivity of green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. If you so desire, you have my permission to quote this material in your Master's thesis. I would, however, like to receive a copy of your completed thesis for my personal reference library.

As indicated on the cover, please do not reproduce this material for further distribution without my permission.

I look forward to hearing your comments on these results. To my knowledge, this is the first comprehensive information of its kind for natural conditions.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

April 4, 1978

Mr. Lloyd Shearer
Parade
733 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Shearer:

Hopefully you will make an exception to your standard policy and be able to respond to this inquiry about an item which appeared in INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

In 1972 I conducted an experiment dealing with the incubation and hatching of green sea turtle eggs. Briefly stated, the results suggested that noise from jets adversely affected the young turtles in their underground nest. A copy of a paper which I published on this subject has been enclosed for reference purposes. I would very much like to communicate on this subject with the researchers of pregnant women that you reported on in your column. It would therefore be appreciated if you would provide me with their names and addresses.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 31, 1978

Dr. F. Wayne King
New York Zoological Society
185th St. and Southern Blvd.
Bronx, New York 10460

Dear Wayne:

Many thanks for your letter of 22 March 1978 describing the events surrounding the WWF press release on Mexican turtles. This information is much appreciated. I had already sent off a short letter to WWF (to Dr. Silverstein) requesting more details. However, it seems unlikely that they will respond. They rarely do.

The last I heard (by telegram from KM) is that there may be an IUCN funded turtle meeting in Toronto between 15-19 May. Hopefully this will come about.

Enclosed is more copied information which you may or may not have seen.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

March 31, 1978

Dr. Thomas Lovejoy
1319 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Dr. Lovejoy:

During the latter part of May I plan to be in Washington, D. C. for several days. At that time, I would like to meet with you in order to determine the status of the green turtle research proposal that I submitted to your office in December 1976 and May 1977. Two written inquiries that I have made on this matter (copies enclosed) have unfortunately never been answered.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

cc: Dr. Silverstein

March 30, 1978

Dr. R. W. Davies
Associate Professor
Department of Zoology
The University of Calgary
2920 24 Avenue N.W.
Calgary, T2N 1N4
Canada

Dear Dr. Davies:

I wonder if you ever had the opportunity to attempt identification of the leech specimens collected from a male green turtle which I sent you last September? I realize that teaching duties can be most demanding, however I thought it be worthwhile to make an inquiry at this time.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

nk

March 30, 1978

Dr. Karl Kenyon
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11990 Lakeside Place, N. E.
Seattle, Washington 98125

Dear Karl:

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 1978 and the report covering 1977 monk seal studies at French Frigate Shoals. I am sorry that you were not able to respond to my request at an earlier date so that it could have been listed in our bibliography.

Enclosed is a copy of the bibliography. It has thus far been well received, and apparently fulfills a real need.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Causey, Whittow

March 30, 1978

Mr. Ian McFarland
217 Greenmeadow Drive
West Seneca, New York 14224

Dear Mac:

Hopefully all is going well with you since your departure from Midway. I was able to spend one week at Midway and one week at Kure last month. The capture work went fairly well, with a total of 15 turtles including one recapture at each location. Neither turtle grew very much, only an average of about 1/16" per month.

Several of the KK members (including Gary Means) are encouraging me to write a short article for SKIN DIVER magazine. The focus would be KK's green turtle tagging activities and the results they have thus far produced. I think it sounds like a good idea, particularly if several color photos could be incorporated. My reason for writing to you at this time is to find out what information you may have on the history of the club. It would be nice to mention the year the club was started, and who the founding members were. Any other facts along these lines would certainly be appreciated.

I've enclosed a recent newspaper article relating to my recent trip which I thought you might find interesting. Do you recall seeing any elephant or "different" monk seals during your time at Midway?

Hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

March 29, 1978

Koral Kings Diving Club
U. S. Naval Station, Box 3000
FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Koral Kings Members:

During my recent visit to Midway I collected some barnacles from the legs and feeding appendages of lobsters which were brought back to the club. I subsequently had these specimens identified by Mr. Bill Cooke of the University's Department of Zoology. They turned out to be the following:

Small plated barnacle -
Trilasmis fissus hawaiiense Pilsbry

Large naked barnacle -
Paralepas palinuri uras Newman

Mr. Craig McDonald, a lobster researcher in the Department of Zoology, forwarded me the enclosed journal article on barnacles for inclusion in the club's scientific portfolio.

Best regards to everyone.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

March 28, 1978

Mr. John R. Fletemeyer
620 S. E. 5th Ct.
Fort Lauderdale, FLA 33301

Dear Mr. Fletemeyer:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent COPEIA article entitled "Underwater tracking evidence of neonate loggerhead sea turtles seeking shelter in drifting sargassum."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 28, 1978

Dr. S. E. Stancyk
Department of Biology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear Dr. Stancyk:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent COPELIA article entitled "An analysis of sand from green turtle nesting beaches on Ascension Island."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 28, 1978

Dr. Vernon N. Powders
Department of Biology
Georgia Southwestern College
Americus, Georgia 31709

Dear Dr. Powders:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent COPEIA article entitled "Observations on oviposition and natural incubation of eggs of the alligator snapping turtle."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 28, 1978

To: Rose Pfund
Sea Grant Program

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: Cover photo for Sea Grant proposal

As requested, I am sending you an 8"x10" black and white glossy print of a monk seal pup for use on the cover of this year's Sea Grant proposal. The following personal costs were involved in the production of this print.

1-copy negative from color transparency -	\$3.50
1-8"x10" BW glossy print -	<u>\$1.60</u>
TOTAL	\$5.10

It would seem appropriate and I would appreciate it if photo credit ("cover photo by G. H. Balazs") would be given in small print somewhere within the proposal. I would also appreciate receiving a complete copy of the published proposal for my records.

mk

cc: Dr. J. Davidson

March 23, 1978

Dr. Robert R. Fleet
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Forestry
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your recent response to my inquiry about a tagged green turtle at French Frigate Shoals. Hopefully Roger Clapp will be able to locate the original data. If and when this happens, I will certainly send you a copy of the information.

Yes, I would indeed like to examine photographs of your 29 May 1964 turtle. With your permission, I would also like to make copies for my files of any material which you send.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 23, 1978

To: Dr. Andy Dizon
National Marine Fisheries Service

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: GREEN TURTLES

Dr. Causey Whittow and I would both like to express our appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by you and your staff during the recent surgery and subsequent release of two green turtles. I am sure the episode proved to be interesting and instructive for everyone involved.

Once again, many thanks. If you receive any reports of a turtle with a bandage on its left front flipper, please let us know!

GHB:md

March 23, 1978

Dr. R. Grandperrin
Fisheries Adviser
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D.5
Noumea CEDEX
New Caledonia

Dear Rena:

Enclosed is a copy of an article which recently appeared in the South Pacific Bulletin (Third Quarter, 1977). I must confess that it is difficult for me to understand how SPC could have allowed such an article to be published. A substantial amount of the information presented is clearly inaccurate and dated. I am sure you are aware of this after having read my evaluation report. The article is particularly unfortunate because it will probably stimulate false hopes among many Pacific islanders as to the value and potential of turtle farming.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:mf

Encl.

March 23, 1978

Mrs. Godfrey
National Marine Fisheries Service
Dole Street Laboratory

Dear Mrs. Godfrey:

When you have the time, I would greatly appreciate your assistance in locating a copy of the following unpublished report.

Narrative Report, Hugh M. Smith - Cruise V, June 16 -
August 6, 1950. Pacific Ocean Fisheries Investigation,
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Honolulu.

Many thanks in advance for whatever help you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 23, 1978

To: Drs. Archie Carr and Nicholas Mrosovsky
Co-Chairmen, IUCN Marine Turtle Group

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: Cookbooks that encourage the killing and eating of sea turtles.

The enclosed copied pages from the book BOTTOMS UP COOKERY are a disgusting example of how the unnecessary killing and eating of sea turtles is perpetuated. It can be assumed that the authors: 1) are not aware of the survival problems of turtles; or 2) are aware of the situation, but simply don't care. In either case, I believe it is our job to straighten the matter out. I suggest that action be taken in the form of a direct, but tactful, letter jointly written from your desks (as co-chairmen) to the authors of this book with copies to the publisher. If a reasonable response is not received, copies should then be sent to several of the more widely distributed conservation magazines (e.g. Audubon), as well as diving publications (e.g. SKIN DIVER).

GHB:md

Encls.

March 22, 1978

Ms. Nancy E. Bray
Department of Zoology
Biological Sciences Building
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Nancy:

I enjoyed our recent sea turtle discussions, and was glad that I happened to be on Oahu during the time of your visit. Hopefully the remainder of your trip proved to be rewarding and pleasant.

Undoubtedly there will be many things on your mind when you return to Rhode Island, therefore I thought it would be appropriate to remind you of the material you promised to send me. This included:

- 1) thesis covering the marking of turtles with europium;
 - 2) thesis covering studies of placing turtles in magnetic fields;
- and
- 3) publication/report on the recovery of a nesting turtle that had been originally tagged at a distant nesting beach.

I would also greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your recent Suriname report which you were about ready to send to Joop Schultz when I talked to you. It will be good for me to see first-hand how your statistical expertise can be applied to such turtle conservation issues of immediate importance.

I look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.: Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles and Seals

March 22, 1978

DR. R. Keith Farrell, DVM
Endoparasite Vector Pioneering Research Lab
Animal Disease and Parasite Research Division
Agriculture Research Service, USDA
Pullman, WA 99163

Dear DR. Farrell:

In a 1974 COPELIA article by R. E. Lewis, reference is made to some studies which you conducted on the marking of sea turtles and alligators by freeze-branding. I would very much like to obtain further information on your efforts. I am presently conducting ecological studies of Hawaiian green turtles and this technique may have potential as a secondary identification system in conjunction with my Inconel flipper tags.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

March 21, 1978

Mr. Glen Lankard
P. O. Box 532
Cordova, Alaska

Dear Lankard:

My friend, Jim VanSant, has told me about the capture of a leather-back turtle in your area several years ago. Although Jim was aware of this event, he did not have any of the details. In an effort to learn more about this recovery, in January I made an inquiry to the Cordova Museum (copy of letter attached). Unfortunately, I have not received an answer. I therefore wonder if you would take the time to answer the following questions for me:

1. What was the date, location and method of capture?
2. Did the turtle appear to be sick or injured?
3. What was the turtle's size (weight and/or length of shell)?
4. Were photographs taken?
5. Was the skull or any other part saved?
6. Did anyone look in the stomach to see what it had been eating?
7. Have other turtles ever been seen or captured in your area?

It would certainly be appreciated if you would help me out in this matter. Many thanks in advance for whatever assistance you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

Paul Licht
Department of Zoology
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Mr. Licht:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your articles entitled "*In vitro* binding of radiiodinated sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) follicle stimulating hormone to reptilian gonadal tissues," and "Immunological studies with the gonadotropins and their subunits from the green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 14, 1978

Dr. John C. Harshbarger
Director
Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Harshbarger:

Many thanks for your comprehensive and interesting letter of 6 March 1978 concerning the fibropapillomas and granuloma from Hawaiian sea turtles which I submitted to your laboratory. It is indeed fortunate that a division such as yours exists where material can be analyzed and cataloged.

As I have mentioned before, tumors are not uncommon in Hawaiian turtles. As the principal researcher of these animals, I am frequently asked what causes such growths and if the flesh from an afflicted animal is safe to eat. The information contained in your letter, as well as the reprinted articles, provide some insight on the answers to these questions. With respect to your suspicions of a viral etiology, I wonder if you are willing and able to undertake such an examination should I once again obtain a live, heavily afflicted animal? If you are agreeable, we can arrange to be in contact by telephone at the proper time to ensure that the samples are prepared and shipped in the proper manner.

In your letter you referred to the skin lesion papillomas, however, I am wondering what information you may have on the internal and somewhat different appearing growths accessioned as RTLA 1774.1, 1774.3, 1774.4 and 1774.5? Also, concerning RTLA 1856, it appeared to me that some of the growths infiltrated the bones of the carapace. Was this found to be the case? RTLA 1856 was a very small and presumably young specimen. Have you previously seen such extensive growths in this size of a green turtle? To what extent did the tumors penetrate into the eyes (see my comments on accession form)?

Once again, thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you again when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

I. Njoman Sumertha
Faculty of Fisheries
Bogor Agricultural University
Bogor, Indonesia

Dear Mr. Sumertha:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Some biological aspects of *Chelonia mydas* L and its management on Ai Ketapang beach, Sumbawa Island."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 20, 1978

To: Mr. Robert Prahler
Associate Director, Personnel
Sinclair Annex 2-2

From: George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

I am the Principal Investigator of a research project dealing with the management and ecological aspects of Hawaiian green turtles which is funded partly by Sea Grant and the State Marine Affairs Coordinator (through RCUH). Mr. Alan K. H. Kam is working in this project as a biological assistant, and is being paid at the rate of \$3.50 per hour on the RCUH payroll. For the current year, I was budgeted \$1,400 in the Sea Grant segment of my project for this same purpose.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request your permission for Mr. Kam to continue in his same capacity for a period of approximately 10 weeks through a reimbursement to RCUH by purchase order.

GHB:md

cc: S. Chastain

March 17, 1978

Dr. Burney J. Le Boeuf (34-115)
University of California
Center for Coastal Marine Studies
Division of Natural Sciences
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Dear Dr. Le Boeuf:

Many thanks for your letter of 7 March concerning the elephant seal which I identified and observed at Midway. As you can see from the enclosed newspaper article, there has also been considerable interest here in Hawaii about the seal's visit.

In a letter to Bob DeLong written earlier this month before your letter arrived, I had indicated that in collaboration with Gary Means (a Midway school teacher) I intended to write a short article for publication on the seal's occurrence. If you are agreeable, we would certainly like to have you included as a co-author. A tentative title which I have in mind is "First Twentieth Century Record of an Elephant Seal in the Hawaiian Archipelago." Your suggestions and comments would be greatly appreciated.

Your seal stayed at Midway almost continuously from February 11th to February 20th, at which time it appears to have permanently departed. Interestingly enough, on about February 13th, two Navy men "under the influence" decided that the animal needed to take a swim. They therefore physically dragged the animal by the hind flippers down into the water. This apparently did not totally discourage the seal to live at Midway, as the next day it was found hauled out just several hundred yards down the beach. The men responsible for this incident received a reprimand.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

March 17, 1978

Dr. Vivian Silverstein
World Wildlife Fund
1319 18th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Dr. Silverstein:

Enclosed are copies of newspaper articles relative to the conservation of sea turtles which recently appeared in the Los Angeles Examiner and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. I would be most appreciative if you would send me a copy of the WWF study that is referred to in these articles. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

March 17, 1978

TO: Dr. Max Doty
Botany Department

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

You will probably recall that during February and September of 1977 I sent algal collections to you which were made at Kure, Maro Reef, and Necker in conjunction with my studies of green turtles. I can fully realize that your own research projects require large amounts of time, and it was undoubtedly presumptuous on my part to expect you to make identifications of this material. I would therefore like to ask if I may have the samples returned so that identification can be pursued through other channels. I can arrange to have the samples picked up at your office at any time convenient to you and your staff.

I want to thank you once again for the earlier identifications which you made of algae present in the stomachs of turtles from Oahu and French Frigate Shoals.

GHB:ec

March 15, 1978

Gary E. Davis
Everglades National Park
P. O. Box 279
Homestead, Fla. 33030

Dear Mr. Davis:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Loggerhead sea turtle nesting in Everglades National Park, Florida, USA. Herpetologica, 33, 18-28."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

Llewellyn M. Ehrhart
Florida Technological University
P. O. Box 25000
Orlando, Fla. 32816

Dear Mr. Ehrhart:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your articles entitled "Cold water stunning of marine turtles in Florida east coast lagoons: rescue measures, population characteristics and evidence of winter dormancy," "Studies of marine turtles at Kennedy Space Center and an annotated list of amphibians and reptiles of Merritt Island. Final Report to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration," and "Threatened and endangered species of the Kennedy Space Center. Semi-annual Report to the National Aeronautics & Space Administration, Kennedy Space Center Biomedical Office Code MD-B."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

Wayne Frair
Biology Department
The King's College
Briarcliff Manor
New York, N. Y. 10510

Dear Mr. Frair:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your articles entitled "Turtle red blood cell packed volumes, sizes, and numbers," and "Sea turtle red blood cell parameters correlated with carapace lengths."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

J. R. Hendrickson
Dept. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear Mr. Hendrickson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article
entitled "Lysine: histidine ratios in marine turtle shells."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 15, 1978

George R. Hughes
Natal Parks Board
P. O. Box 662
Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "The St. Brandon turtle fishery."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 14, 1978

Ms. Patricia Kellogg
Research Staff
National Geographic Magazine
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Ms. Kellogg:

Hopefully the Leeward Hawaiian Islands story is going along well, and you were able to correct the few inaccuracies which I pointed out over the telephone and on the draft manuscript. Many of us here in Hawaii are anxiously looking forward to the article's publication. Greater public awareness of the area's rich wildlife should increase the desire for continued preservation.

I may be approaching the wrong person, however I wonder if it would be possible for you to see that I receive five copies of the issue in which the article appears. If necessary, I am willing to pay for whatever costs that may be involved.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 13, 1978

Mr. & Mrs. John Banks
c/o Mr. Noel DeCosta, Editor
LORIS
P. O. Box 232
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Banks:

Recently I was able to read your informative and interesting articles on sea turtles which appeared in the June 1976 and June 1977 issues of LORIS. The information on conservation problems in your area was particularly valuable, and I am glad you took the time to prepare it for publication.

There is one biological point which you mentioned in the leatherback article that I would like to learn more about. On page 47 you refer to adult turtles being predators of hatchlings. Is this a regular occurrence at your study area? To my knowledge, this particular cause of hatchling mortality has not been previously documented. Any additional information that you can send me on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 13, 1978

TO: Dr. Jack R. Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

In my green turtle project budget (MR/R-2) for the current Sea Grant Year 10, you will probably recall that I was allotted \$1,400 to cover 1 3/4 months of salary for a biological field assistant (SCUBA diver). Since October I have employed such an assistant (Mr. Alan K. H. Kam) using matching funds provided by the Marine Affairs Coordinator through RCUH. The MAC money designated for this purpose is now nearly exhausted. I would therefore like to request your permission to transfer my presently unused \$1,400 of Sea Grant money to RCUH where it will be used to continue salary payment for Mr. Kam.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

GHB:ec

March 10, 1978

Mrs. Faith Schaefer
Sea Secrets Staff -
The International Oceanographic Foundation
3979 Rickenbacker Causeway
Virginia Key, Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Mrs. Schaefer:

Thank you for your letter of February 28th and the draft manuscript which will accompany the basking green turtle - monk seal photograph. Except for the few minor changes I have made, I believe you have done an excellent job of summarizing this interesting occurrence. As I have indicated, all orders for my booklet should be sent directly to World Wide Distributors. The cost is \$2.50 which includes postage.

In collaboration with Dr. G. Causey Whittow of the University's Physiology Department, a research project is presently being conducted on the behavioral and thermoregulatory aspects of basking Hawaiian green turtles. We eventually plan to write an article (with color photographs) on this subject for publication in Sea Frontiers. Your short piece in Sea Secrets will help to stimulate some preliminary interest.

I fully expect a number of requests for copies of the Sea Secrets issue. Would it be possible for me to receive 50 copies? They will be put to good educational use.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

cc: Dr. G. C. Whittow
Jean Bradfisch

March 10, 1978

To: Dr. Jack R. Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

On Monday February 6th, the first working day after my return from field studies at Midway and Kure, Karen Tanoa informed me by telephone that a progress report on my current Sea Grant project should be submitted as soon as possible. It was indicated that my accomplishments should be concisely set forth in relation to the goals listed in my project proposal. Along with this hand-delivered memo, I am sending your office the requested information covering the first six months of the project.

mk
Enclosures

Summary of accomplishments for the first six months of Year 10 Sea Grant project "Survey and Assessment of the Green Sea Turtle Resource of the Northwestern Hawaiian Archipelago" (MR/R-2)

by

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

March 10, 1978

The following accomplishments are listed according to the goals set forth in the project proposal.

1. Field studies have resulted in the location and initial assessment of turtle aggregations at Necker, Nihoa, French Frigate Shoals, Laysan, Midway and Kure. A page preliminary report has been prepared on the ecological aspects of the Necker turtle aggregation.
2. A total of 96 immature and adult turtles has been tagged throughout the Archipelago as an initial step in the determination of long distance migratory patterns.
3. Recoveries of previously tagged immature turtles at French Frigate Shoals, Midway and Kure have indicated growth rates of less than 1/16" in straight carapace length per month.
4. Preliminary data (see No. 3) have been obtained for the eventual formulation of a growth curve that will predict age at sexual maturity.
5. Behavioral observations of feeding and basking activity have been made at Necker, French Frigate Shoals and Kure. Kure has been selected as the optimum site to conduct telemetry studies of resident immature turtles using small helium-filled balloons. This work will commence during late 1978.
6. Samplings of stomach contents have identified two genera of algae (*Codium* and *Coelastrum*) that are major components in the diets of turtles at Necker, French Frigate Shoals, Midway and Kure.
7. Investigations of the productivity of the 1978 breeding assemblage will commence at French Frigate Shoals in June with the onset of the reproductive season.
8. Analyses have been conducted and a report prepared on turtle parts recovered from the stomachs of large tiger sharks sampled at French Frigate Shoals and Pearl and Hermes Reef.

Pathology of high incidence involving limb necrosis has been discovered in immature turtles at Kure.

March 10, 1978

National Archives and Records Service
Printed Archives Branch
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Government Documents section of the University of Hawaii's library system has suggested that I write to you concerning a report which I have urgent need for in my research. The report is:

Munter, W. H. Report to the captain of the Thetis of bird observations made during a cruise to the Hawaiian Bird Reservation in January and February 1916. Record Group 26, U. S. National Archives, 19 pp.

This is referenced in the publication, The natural history of Laysan Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by Ely Clapp (Atoll Research Bulletin, 171, December, 1973, Smithsonian Institution).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 9, 1978

Mr. J. B. Orr
Box 14
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

Dear John:

Many thanks for your informative and interesting letter of March 5th which arrived at a good time as I had just returned from two weeks of field work at Midway and Kure. I thought of you two between January 19-28 as I was over at Punalu'u doing some capture and tagging work.

I must admit that I am a bit perplexed by the hawksbill nesting incident which you transmitted. Unless the turtle originally came out of the pond, or passed through it, it is hard to understand how it ended up at such a location. Is it possible that there is an underwater cave leading to the sea? If the hatchlings entered the pond, what became of them? This is all very interesting, and I will most positively visit the area during my next Hawaii trip. By the way, is this pond close to the famous "painted church," or are there several ponds in the area?

The seal report is also valuable. From time to time such sightings are made, but there is always the possibility of confusion with a stray California sea lion. Several of these animals have been lost over the years by the Navy facility in Kaneohe Bay. The difference between sea lions and monk seals is, of course, that the former have external ears and walk upright using their front flippers. I believe that your friend's animal was indeed one of our rare monk seals. The scar you mentioned is not uncommon on monk seals. It results from an ulcer of unknown origin that can get quite infected.

Again, many thanks for your good reports. Maybe this coming year will see another hawksbill nest on your beach.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 9, 1978

To: Ron Walker
Division of Fish and Game

From: George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: Observations of monk seals at the Kure State Wildlife Refuge.

During my recent field work at Kure, the first two monk seal pups were born for the 1978 season. One birth occurred on the extreme west end of Sand Islet sometime between February 17-24, while the other took place on Green Island approximately 100 yards south of the radar reflector on March. Casual censuses taken over a several day period on Green Island indicated that between 15-20 seals were hauled out at any one time. Two of these individuals were small subadults that were probably born during the 1977 season.

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Ancel Johnson

March 7, 1978

Time-Life Books (Sales)
Division of Time, Inc.
Time-Life Building
Rockefeller Center
New York, New York 10020

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to obtain a copy of your book THE REPTILES (latest revised edition) which is a part of the Time-Life Nature Library. Kindly inform me of the cost of this book so that an order can be placed at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 7, 1978

Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20811

Dear Sirs:

The following band numbers were recovered at Green Island, Kure Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands during the period 24 February - 2 March 1978:

767-49359	Laysan albatross
587-91911	" "
767-52208	black-footed albatross
765-52221	" " "

The above birds were killed and eaten by an eagle (presumably golden) that took up residence on the island in early February.

737-98267	Laysan albatross
697-22311	" "
767-47668	" "
587-85765	" "
737-98261	" "
767-51313	red-footed booby
767-51028	masked booby

The cause of death of the above birds appeared to be either collision with wires or contact with aircraft.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Mr. Ronald Walker
State Division of Fish & Game

March 7, 1978

Dr. Ralph W. Schreiber
Curator, Ornithology
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Ralph:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of 31 December which I have been meaning to answer for some time.

Frigates have been reported to take hatchling sea turtles in some areas, as shown on the attached copied page from AUDUBON. Such predation has also been focused upon in Cousteau's TV film "The Green Sea Turtle" which was made in about 1972 at Europa Island. However, in this latter case, I firmly believe the incidence was blown way out of proportion. The impression is given that nearly all hatchlings emerge from their nests during daylight—exactly the opposite of what normally has taken place.

If your studies again involve the collection of regurgitated stomach contents, it would be valuable to keep a special look-out for hatchling turtle parts. There is a real gap in the literature on this important predator-prey relationship.

You mentioned seeing an adult turtle on Johnston. Was it on land basking or nesting, or in the water?

I have written to Roger Clapp twice over the past year, but have yet to receive a reply.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 7, 1978

Lt. Art French
Commanding Officer
U. S. C. G. Loransta Marcus
FPO Seattle, Washington 98782

Dear Lt. French:

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance over the MARS system during my recent study visit at Kure. As I mentioned, the periodic occurrence of green sea turtles at Marcus has attracted my attention for the past several years. I was therefore pleased to learn that your station still has a supply of my sighting report forms which were sent to the previous Commanding Officer. Your assistance in this work will be most appreciated. In order to stimulate additional interest, I have enclosed line drawing identification sheets for four of the more common species of sea turtles, as well as a color booklet on Hawaiian wildlife which I recently published.

I greatly appreciate your offer to host me for a one week visit. Hopefully my research schedule will permit this in the not too distant future in conjunction with scheduled Coast Guard C-130 flights from Honolulu.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 7, 1978

Mr. Robert DeLong
National Marine Fisheries Service
Marine Mammal Division
Naval Support Activity, Bldg. 32
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Bob:

Gary Means and I plan to write up a short article for publication based on our discovery and observations of an elephant seal at Midway. I would like to mention briefly the original tagging date, location and age of the animal. If you have this specific information, I would be most appreciative if you would pass it on to me at your earliest opportunity.

Our young, female elephant seal closely resembled Monachus, and I am wondering if others may have visited the Leewards over the years but were not identified as such.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 7, 1978

Mr. Homer O. Porter, Head
Biosciences Department
Naval Ocean Systems Center
San Diego, California 92152

Dear Mr. Porter:

I returned this morning from two weeks of fieldwork at Midway and Kure and was able to read a copy of your letter dated 6 February, as well as Mr. Ego's response of 16 February 1978. I had not been formerly aware of your research activities of chemoreception in Hawaiian green turtles, and of course was sorry to learn of the failure in your heating system. I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of reports or publications which result from your investigations.

The following material and data from the turtle mortalities would be valuable to my work.

1. The excised humeri, radii, ulnae femurs and head of as many of the turtles as possible. The material can be packed in heavy plastic bags with a minimum of formalin in order to reduce the shipping weight.
2. The carapace length, width and weight of each turtle corresponding to the above excised skeletal material. It would be beneficial to have both the curved and straightline carapace measurements if at all possible. The width in each case should be taken at the sixth marginal plate.
3. An estimation of the sex of each turtle based either on the length of the tail or the results of the pathological (presumably internal) examinations which you conducted.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in these matters. I look forward to meeting you in person at some future time so we can discuss research activities of common interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs,
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle Group

mk

cc: Mr. Kenji Ego
Div. of Fish & Game

March 6, 1978

Captain D. H. Fischer
Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Station Midway
FPO San Francisco, California 96614

Dear Captain Fisher:

Once again I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the hospitality and support extended by you and your fine staff during my recent field studies of green turtles at both Midway and Kure. The trip proved to be a solid success, with a total of 15 juvenile turtles captured. Two of these animals (one at Midway, one at Kure) were long term recoveries which provided additional evidence of a slow growth rate ($< 1/2''$ shell length per year) for turtles at your end of the Hawaiian chain. As I mentioned during our discussions, research of immature turtles involving in-the-sea capture has not been conducted in other sea turtle populations. The work at your station is therefore of considerable importance as a component of my Hawaiian research program.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Commander Pullen

March 6, 1978

Dr. Robert E. Lewke
Department of Zoology
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington 99163

Dear Dr. Lewke:

I have recently read with considerable interest your article on freeze-branding which is in COPEIA (1974, No. 4). On page 998 you cited a personal communication from Keith Farrell dealing with the marking of green turtles and alligators. I would like to obtain further information on his experimentation with turtles, and therefore would be most appreciative if you would forward me his present address.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 6, 1978

Mr. James Youree
Manager
Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant
1009 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Youree:

During recent weeks several concerned residents have telephoned to inform me that Fisherman's Wharf has resumed the sale of turtle steak. This information was brought to my attention undoubtedly because I have been involved for several years in the conservation and research of Hawaiian sea turtles.

It is my understanding that the green turtle you are presently serving is imported from Cayman Island in the Caribbean where the animals are raised under captive conditions. Since 1973 I have followed the activities of this endeavor. On two separate occasions in 1974 I personally visited Cayman Island in an effort to obtain first-hand, factual information. It continues to be my opinion that the enterprise is not acting in the best conservation interests of the green turtle. This is of course the opposite of what has been generally stated in promotional campaigns aimed at encouraging people to buy turtle products. In order to ensure that you are aware of both sides of this important international controversy, I am sending you several articles which hopefully you will find informative and interesting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by letter or telephone (247-6631).

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 15, 1978

Mr. Robert L. DeLong
Marine Mammal Division, NWAFPC
Building 32
7600 Sand Point Way N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for sending me a copy of your monk seal research plans for 1978. I appreciated seeing that I was being considered for inclusion on certain of your field expeditions to the Leeward chain. Based on information contained in your reports, as well as observations made by Skip Naftel, I am particularly interested in carrying out some work at Lisianski. The specific turtle activities that I would engage in would of course have to be tailored to be congruent with your seal work. I am sure that this can be accomplished.

You will be interested to learn that Dr. Causey Whittow and I have recently completed assembling an extensive bibliography on the Hawaiian monk seal. This will be published as a Technical Report of our laboratory within the next month or two. I will send you several copies when it becomes available.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Skip Naftel

February 14, 1978

Ms. Lynn E. Fowler
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Lynn:

Thank you for your letter of February 1st which arrived while I am in the midst of making preparations to depart for three weeks of field work at Midway and Kure Atoll.

I was very pleased to hear of your nest predation/productivity study, as what takes place under strictly natural conditions appears to be a much neglected subject. During the 1974 season at French Frigate Shoals I counted the number of eggs laid in 55 nests (as they were being deposited) and subsequently excavated each site after natural emergence was completed. The results were well-suited to some interesting multiple regression analysis which I still have not yet prepared for publication. I will try to condense these data into table form for your use shortly after I return to Honolulu. It can always be referenced in your thesis as a manuscript in preparation. I should say at this time that at French Frigate Shoals we have virtually no predation on eggs. The only exception is when a nesting turtle digs into a previously laid nest and breaks eggs which then attract ghost crabs. Such an occurrence is rare.

I appreciate your contacting me and I will help you in whatever way possible.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHF:ec

February 13, 1978

Dr. Bill Hamner
Micronesian Mariculture Demonstration
Center
P. O. Box 359
Koror, Palau, Caroline Islands 96940

Dear Dr. Hamner:

My good friend and colleague Leighton Taylor has told me of your interest in tagging and releasing about 40 captive reared juvenile hawksbills. I have a supply of intermediate size turtle tags which were specially manufactured from the corrosion resistant alloy INCONEL 625. I would be most agreeable to cooperating with you in a release project incorporating these tags.

I seem to recall that some captive reared turtles were previously marked and released from your lab by Jim McVey. It would probably be a good idea for us to first assemble and evaluate all existing data (including recoveries, if any) before proceeding with a new release.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Between February 16th and approximately March 5th I will be conducting field studies in Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Leighton Taylor

Enclosures

February 13, 1978

Mrs. Sue Hendricks
Box 8778
Tamuning, Guam

Dear Sue:

It was a pleasure talking to you following my lecture at the Waikiki Aquarium last Friday night. I certainly appreciated the information you provided on turtles in the Trust Territory.

I feel certain that you will remember, however I once again want to tell you how potentially important it is for me to find out the name of the gentleman from the Cayman turtle "fara" who recently visited your area. Any information which you may come across relating to the business purpose of his trip and the people contacted in Ponape would also be greatly appreciated.

Perhaps we will have the occasion to meet again during the course of our travels.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 13, 1978

Mr. John M. Lambert
Senior Account Executive
Xerox Corporation
Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street, Suite 1100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear John:

I really appreciated the turtle information which you provided following my talk at the Waikiki Aquarium on Friday night. As I mentioned, it is persons like yourself that have contributed substantially to my understanding of the Hawaiian green turtle.

For about the next three weeks I will be involved in fairly time consuming field studies. However, following this phase of work I consider it to be a high priority item to get together with you for further discussions. Perhaps you would like to visit our laboratory here on Coconut Island on a Saturday or Sunday, or any other day convenient to you. Another thought is that possibly I could assist you in setting and/or retrieving your lobster nets, thereby gaining first-hand experience of the location of your turtle sightings. I will telephone you at your work number sometime during the first week of March.

Enclosed are several articles which you may find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Mr. Brent Giezentanner
Refuge Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Brent:

I thought you would be interested to learn that I have recently been selected to prepare the 1979 Dillingham Corporation Tide Calendar. The theme will be Hawaiian seabirds, consisting of a different species for each month. Photographic material for this project was selected from the collection which I have assembled over the past five years. In the narrative that will accompany this calendar I intend to place considerable emphasis on the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge where most of these seabirds breed. I will also focus on the fact that 1979 will be the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Refuge.

The Dillingham calendar has become a respected and traditional part of Hawaii, which is annually distributed at no cost to over 30,000 residents. I therefore consider this to be an excellent opportunity to communicate, both in words and photographs, some of the wildlife values of our Leeward islands.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Mr. Hansen

February 7, 1978

Captain D. H. Fischer
Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Islands
FPO San Francisco, California 96614

Dear Captain Fischer:

I have made arrangements for me and my assistant, Mr. Alan Kam, to travel to Midway via MAC on February 16th. On February 21st, Alan will depart for Honolulu aboard the NOAA vessel TOWNSEND CROMWELL. I will then continue to do field studies at Midway, as well as Kure, until at least March 2nd. Mr. Vonnegut at Pearl Harbor has made the additional travel arrangements necessary for Alan to accompany me. All costs will of course be paid for out of my research grants.

Hopefully, these plans will meet with your approval.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

February 6, 1978

Mr. George Elmore
RR 1, Box 102-A
Koloa, Kauai 96756

Dear Mr. Elmore:

Many thanks for your recent letter and the map pin-pointing the area of turtle sightings. This information is valuable to my work and very much appreciated. Hopefully I will be able to talk to you in person about your observations during my next trip to Kauai.

In partial answer to your questions, it can probably be assumed that near Cape San Lucas turtles spend a lot of time floating at the surface during calm periods to take advantage of the warmer layer of water. Similar behavior occurs in Hawaii during our less frequent calm periods, however surface basking takes place about one-half mile from shore. I have seen this on several occasions during low level aerial surveys in small aircraft. I can state with a fair degree of confidence that the turtles you are seeing are actively feeding on limu (benthic algae) growing in the shallows. There are certain kinds of algae preferred by Hawaiian green turtles which grow in coastal areas where fresh water seeps into the ocean. Perhaps this is the case in your area?

I look forward to meeting you in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 6, 1978

Woody's Aquatic Service
382 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Woody:

You will probably recall that I visited your shop on the morning of January 19th to fill tanks for field research of green turtles on the Big Island. I subsequently carried out a very successful eight days of work, during which time two tag recoveries were made. The Big Island, its people and weather, were once again most good to me.

You expressed interest in turtles and my research, therefore I am sending you printed information which hopefully you will find interesting and informative. With respect to the turtle sighting report forms, it would certainly be appreciated if you would return them to me as information becomes available. In the event that urgent information becomes available, please feel free to call me collect at 247-6631.

I will visit you during my next trip to the area, which will probably be in a few months.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOE, HAWAII 96744

February 6, 1978

Mr. Noel De Costa
Editor, LORIS
P. O. Box 232
Colombo
SRI LANKA

Dear Mr. De Costa:

Your excellent journal LORIS frequently contains articles which are interesting and of value to my research of sea turtles here in Hawaii. I therefore would be most appreciative if you would inform me of how I can become a regular recipient of this publication.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 6, 1978

Dr. C. John Ralph
Editor, Elepaio
Hawaii Audubon Society
2841 Kahawai Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Ralph:

Many thanks for your letter of January 30th concerning the short hawkbill manuscript which I recently sent to you for consideration.

The sentence on the bottom of page six was intended for the several individuals and agencies which I sent the manuscript to for information purposes. It is a fairly standard inclusion for unpublished manuscripts which are freely distributed in such a manner. The intention is to protect one's research results against entering the published literature under another person's name prior to publication by the original author. The statement has nothing to do with the reliability of the data, which of course the author should feel entirely confident about before either distributing or publishing.

The photographs which accompany the manuscript are color transparencies. If you believe that they contribute significantly to the presentation, as I do, I will have them transposed to black and white.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 6, 1978

Dr. Jack R. Davidson
Director
Sea Grant College Program
University of Hawaii
Spalding Hall
2540 Maile Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Davidson:

In response to your memorandum of January 3, 1978 I am forwarding you the names and addresses of two individuals who are fully qualified to review my research project of the Hawaiian green turtle, which is jointly supported by Sea Grant and the State of Hawaii, Office of Marine Affairs Coordinator. The individuals are:

Dr. Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dr. F. Wayne King
Director of Conservation and Research
New York Zoological Society
185th Street and Southern Blvd.
Bronx, New York 10460

Considering that this proposal was originally prepared to cover at least a two year period, and that year one has already been funded with work now in progress, it would seem appropriate to me to supply the reviewers with this qualifying information.

I am also sending you my revised budget request for next year which is based on the nine month period resulting from shifting our Sea Grant fiscal year from September 1st to June 1st. I can presently foresee requesting funding from Sea

Dr. Jack R. Davidson

-2-

February 6, 1978

Grant for a third year, in view of the quantity of research yet to be accomplished and the shorter time period available for the second "year" of my project.

Please telephone me if you or your staff have any questions concerning these matters. Starting February 18th, my assistant and I will be working at Kure, Midway and other Leeward Island areas for about 25 days.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

Dr. Stanley Swerdloff
MAC Office
1136 Union Mall
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Stan:

Last October at a meeting of the Sea Grant Advisory Panel Mr. Frank Goto asked me if it would be possible to conduct some studies of monk seals concomitant with my green turtle work, considering that both species frequently use the same habitat in certain areas of our Northwestern chain. I responded that such an idea could have merit, provided that the additional seal work was kept at a level that would not interfere with my primary turtle research. During the following months, it occurred to me that not only do Hawaiian seals and turtles often share the same habitat, but they also appear together in a great deal of the published and unpublished literature. In view of the fact that I already have an extensive reference library focused on turtles, it seemed to me that it would be a comparatively easy matter to assemble a comprehensive bibliography on the Hawaiian monk seal. In collaboration with one of our local monk seal authorities, Dr. G. Causey Whittow, I proceeded to carry out this task as time permitted. The bibliography is now completed in manuscript form, and will be published as a Technical Report of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology within the next 4-6 weeks. I am sending you a prepublication copy at this time, realizing that there is now considerable interest in the seal within the State. When completed, I will send you a supply of the published copies.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 3, 1978

Mr. Rick Gaffney
Marine Specialist
Hawaii Marine
P. O. Box 1855
Kahului, Maui 96732

Dear Rick:

Many thanks for your letter of 17 January which contained information on the likely sighting of a leatherback. I am extremely interested in this case, and would greatly appreciate learning of any future sighting which may be made. I wonder if anyone aboard had a camera and was able to get a picture. Even a poor quality one would be valuable.

My field research schedule continues at an intensive pace, although as yet not much has been directed at Maui. This will come in the not too distant future. Later this month I'll be on the CROMWELL between Midway and Honolulu sampling tiger shark stomachs for turtle parts. There seems to be lots of interest in the Leewards lately, so I want to focus additional investigations in that direction at the present time.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 2, 1978

Dr. Archie Carr
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Archie:

Some information has recently been brought to my attention which you may want to further investigate. On Page 26 of your manuscript, THE ECOLOGY AND MIGRATIONS OF SEA TURTLES, VII, reference is made to poultry laying eggs within a few hours after copulation. In discussions with Drs. Ross and Herrick, Senior Poultry Scientists with the University of Hawaii, I was told that, to their knowledge, ovulation in poultry occurs independent of copulation. In domestic chickens it takes place approximately once every 25 hours, in the total absence of roosters.

I would appreciate learning of any additional information which you may come across on this subject.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

February 2, 1978

Mrs. Faith Schaefer
Sea Secrets Staff
International Oceanographic Foundation
3979 Rickenbacker Causeway
Virginia Key, Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Mrs. Schaefer:

Your letter of January 25th to the Marine Advisory Program at the University of Hawaii has been forwarded to me for response. I am the sole owner of the photograph which you expressed interest in publishing. Permission was given to the Marine Advisory Program for this to appear on a one-time basis as part of their 1977 calendar prepared in conjunction with a local photo contest.

I would be pleased to let you use this photograph, at no cost, in your fine educational publication. The photo was taken on one of the small islets (Whale-Skate) at French Frigate Shoals in the remote Northwestern Hawaiian chain. It shows a Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) and Hawaiian green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) sleeping together on the beach. As you may be aware, land basking during day-time hours by sea turtles is an extremely rare behavioral trait. Although both species share undisturbed beaches at French Frigate Shoals and other units of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, it is rare for them to be in actual physical contact with one another. Generally they will maintain a minimum distance of five feet from one another. The turtles' and seals' social relationship on the beaches appears to be completely harmonious. As near as I can determine, nowhere else has such a close, nonpredatory relationship developed between a reptile and a mammal. In order to further aid in your understanding of the photo, I have enclosed a color booklet which I recently published on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals.

Before the photo and caption are published in *Sea Secrets*, I would appreciate having the opportunity to review the material accuracy. The credit line should read "Photo by George H. Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology/Sea Grant." I would also appreciate receiving 15 copies of the issue for distributions to associates and interested individuals.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Associate Marine Biologist

GHB:md
Encls.

February 2, 1978

Mr. Juan Pablo Blanco
Apdo. 56 Cumana
Edo. Sucre
Venezuela

Dear Mr. Blanco:

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 1978 concerning my work with the Hawaiian green turtle. I have enclosed several publications on this subject which hopefully you will find interesting and informative.

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any articles you may have on sea turtles in Venezuela.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 2, 1978

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
University of Toronto
Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories
Department of Zoology
25 Harbord Street
Toronto M5S 1A1
Ontario, Canada

Dear Nicholas:

I received your letter of January 23rd and greatly appreciated your constructive comments. I was somewhat remiss in not clarifying that I did not intend to submit my short report for journal publication. It was written mostly for distribution to local agencies and individuals in order to emphasize that Hawaii does indeed have a hawksbill population, and that it deserves some attention. As I attempted to point out in the last paragraph, gill nets (as well as lobster nets) are a serious hazard to turtles. We have such a problem in Hawaii, however, few people outside of the net fishermen themselves are aware of it. I would imagine that such difficulties also exist in other areas of the world.

Is there anything we can do to improve the IUCN/WWF situation?

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 2, 1978

Mr. Ed Ewen
Headquarters SAMTEC/PMS
Vandenberg Air Force Base
California 93437

Dear Mr. Ewen:

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Air Force for allowing me to participate in the aerial survey inspection of the Phoenix Islands which was conducted 29-31 January 1978. This mission made it possible for me to gain insight on marine turtles inhabiting a remote and, for the most part, ecologically unknown area of the Central Pacific. My results show that for this particular time of the year, the small Island of Bernie is the important site for aggregate nesting. At a somewhat reduced level, nesting was also identified at Sydney and Hull. You may want to pass this information on to the British Governor of the Gilbert Islands, as it is my understanding that he has a special interest in marine turtles.

As you are aware, I have maintained a low level of involvement with turtles in the Phoenix Islands over the past five years since my initial visit to Canton in February of 1973. I would like to increase this involvement at such a time when the marine research program/facility under consideration become formally available for use by the scientific community.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

bcc: P. Helfrich

February 2, 1978

Mr. Georg O'Gorman
SANSO/DEC
Vandenberg Air Force Base
California 93437

Dear Georg:

Hopefully the remainder of your stay at Canton was both successful and enjoyable. It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance during my brief visit, and perhaps we will have the opportunity to work together at some point in the future. As promised, I am sending you an assortment of literature relating to my research of turtles which you may find interesting.

If your travels bring you to Hawaii for a period of time, be sure to contact me at 247-6631 or 946-1760.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 2, 1978

Captain Stoneberger
DOAA
6594 Test Group
Hickam Air Force Base
Hawaii 96853

Dear Captain Stoneberger:

Enclosed are photos taken during the Phoenix Islands' trip which I thought you might enjoy. I have also enclosed the \$1.00 which I forgot to give for the box lunch supplied during the flight down.

The survey proved to be beneficial to my understanding of turtles in this remote area of the Pacific, and I am most appreciative of the assistance provided by you and your fine crew.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 2, 1978

Ms. Nancy Henderson
Animals Animals Enterprises
203 West 81 Street
New York, New York 10024

Dear Ms. Henderson:

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 1978 with an enclosed form relating to the marketing and use of transparencies. It would be appreciated if you would clarify the following points for me at your earliest convenience:

1. By appointing your company as my sole and exclusive agent, will I still be able to personally market my own material?
2. Would I be able to cancel the agreement at any time, after giving 90 days written notice?
3. Under what conditions would I receive photo credit in the material you successfully market?
4. What range of prices can you normally expect to receive for my type of material?

Thank you in advance for your assistance in these matters.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

February 2, 1978

Captain Dennis J. McMahon
SAMTEC/SE
Vandenberg Air Force Base
California 93437

Dear Dennis:

Hopefully your return flight to Vandenberg was pleasant. I enjoyed making your acquaintance during our brief trip to Canton, and perhaps we will have the opportunity to meet again sometime in the future.

As promised, I am sending one of the photos taken during the trip.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

February 2, 1978

Mr. T. C. Hanni
Site Manager
Global Associates
Canton Island 96736

Dear Pete:

I really appreciated the hospitality shown by you and your associates during my recent brief visit to Canton. After an absence of five years, it was certainly good to see the area again and reacquaint myself with the sea turtle situation. Hopefully, in the not too distant future I will be able to travel to Canton for a one to two week study visit.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

February 2, 1978

Lt. Marksteiner
DOAC
6594 Test Group
Hickam Air Force Base
Honolulu, Hawaii 96853

Dear Lt. Marksteiner:

Enclosed is the emblem which I promised to send you in exchange for your "falling star" design. I enjoyed making your acquaintance during our recent trip to Canton. Perhaps we will meet again on some future flight to the area.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

February 2, 1978

Mr. Tim Cahill
Associate Editor
OUTSIDE
625 Third Street
San Francisco, California 94107

Dear Mr. Cahill:

Recently I had the opportunity to read your article entitled "The Shame of Escobilla" which relates to the slaughter of ridley turtles in Mexico. I want to commend you for preparing and publishing your observations and findings on this dismal situation. The information you have presented should be valuable to turtle conservationists and, hopefully, help to slow the decline.

I personally intend to reproduce a number of copies of the article for distribution to concerned associates around the world.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Associate Marine Biologist
and Member, IUCN
Turtle Group

mk

January 30, 1978

Mr. C. J. Limpus
Northern Regional Centre
National Parks and Wildlife Service
PALLARENDA, Australia Q4810

Dear Col:

The information contained in your letter of 22 November 1977 was most interesting and remarkable. The letter only arrived two weeks ago, perhaps having been mistakenly routed by ship instead of air mail. I appreciate your giving me a prepublication look at these data - it was certainly a strange chain of events that got me interested in Raine Island.

Just a few days before your letter arrived I had the good fortune to be watching a local TV channel which broadcasts the series "The Coral Jungle." "Islands of Tragedy" was presented with its superb film footage of turtles and habitats of your area. This was one of the best presentations on turtles that I have seen, however, I await your confirmation of the numerous facts presented by the narrator.

I have only recently learned that Bernard Nietschmann is working in Torres Strait. A brief write-up appeared in a recent issue of National Geographic (copy enclosed).

Best regards and good luck on this season's work.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

January 18, 1978

Captain D. H. Fischer
Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Islands
FPO San Francisco, CA 96614

Dear Captain Fischer:

Thank you for your good letter of January 4th concerning my research plans at Midway and Kure. Your assistance in these matters continues to be most appreciated.

As you are now probably aware, the Coast Guard C-130 flight to Kure has been canceled three times in recent weeks, thereby preventing implementation of my earlier plans. I have been reluctant to use the MAC flight as an alternative due to the equipment and excessive baggage that must be taken (totaling about 500 lbs). The trip has therefore been postponed for at least several weeks. In the meantime, I have been afforded the opportunity to conduct a low-level aerial survey for nesting turtles in the Phoenix Island. This will be done in conjunction with an Air Force mission which periodically visits the area.

I look forward to seeing you at least by mid-February.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

January 18, 1978

Ms. Audrey Ashton
Group W Productions
310 Parkview Way Drive
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania 15205

Dear Ms. Ashton:

On Sunday, January 15th, KGMB channel 9-TV in Honolulu broadcast the program "Islands of Tragedy" as part of "The Coral Jungle" series. As a researcher of sea turtles in the Hawaiian chain, I found this one hour nature documentary to be excellent, with superb photography of Australian sea turtles. I believe it is commendable that your organization is distributing such quality material for the American TV audience.

I was so impressed with this program that I would like to inquire as to the possibility of obtaining a video tape or film copy for use as a nonprofit, educational tool within the University community here in Hawaii. I would greatly appreciate any information that you could provide on this subject.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Turtle Group

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 17, 1978

Dr. P. C. Hunt
Senior Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forests
Suva, FIJI

Dear Dr. Hunt:

Many thanks for your letter of 5 January 1978. I
certainly appreciate your pointing out the erroneous portions
of the Japanese article, as this information will be valuable
in my work.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 17, 1978

Dr. Kenneth Emory
B. P. Bishop Museum
P. O. Box 6037
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Dear Dr. Emory:

Pursuant to our discussions on Thursday, January 12th, I am sending you a preliminary draft outline for our Necker Island book project. Please feel free to make modifications or additions to this material as you may see fit. When completed, I believe that our next step would be to transmit the outline to the editorial board of the Bishop Museum Press for consideration and recommendations. Hopefully they will see the interest and value for such a general audience publication.

I look forward to hearing from you at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

January 17, 1978

Ms. Leatrice H. Higa
Production Coordinator
Dillingham Corporation
P. O. Box 3468
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Dear Ms. Higa:

Although I plan to be in the field quite a bit during the next few weeks, I nevertheless hope we will be able to get together in the not too distant future to further review my Hawaiian seabird photography. If I happen to be out of town when you call, please leave a message with our secretary and I will contact you just as soon as I return.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

List of original transparencies transferred to David Cornwell by
George H. Balass, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, P. O. Box 1346,
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744 (January 1978).

1. Gray-backed tern in flight (April 76 #29).
2. Fairy tern in flight (Apr. 76 #27).
3. Fairy tern chick (Jul. 76 #11).
4. Fairy tern chick (Apr. 76 #33).
5. Noddy tern in flight (Jul. 77 #37).
6. Wedge-tailed shearwater in burrow (Apr. 76 #2).
7. Noddy tern on nest with chick (May 76 #36).
8. Roosting frigate bird (May 76 #19).
9. Head of black-footed albatross (Dec. 77 #25).
10. Heads of black-footed albatrosses (Dec. 77 #10).
11. Masked booby at sunset (Sep. 77 #38).
12. Head of green sea turtle (Jun. 76 #27).
13. Young Hawaiian monk seal (Jul. 77 #4).

January 16, 1978

Dr. Ed Shallenberger
Sea Life Park, Inc.
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

Dear Ed:

As promised, I am sending you a data summary of porpoise recovered from Hawaiian tiger sharks during 1967-69. This information results from an examination which I recently conducted of raw data from the Tester Cooperative Shark Research and Control Program. A total of 209 tiger shark stomachs was examined during this program. It should be noted that the tigers containing porpoise which I have listed were not captured with hooks baited with porpoise. The records also show that porpoise was not used for bait during the time period preceding each capture. It can therefore be reasonably assumed that ingestion of porpoise was a naturally occurring event.

If available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of Bob Bourke's Drum and Croaker paper on the 1976 captive breeding work at Sea Life Park.

Good luck in your forthcoming whale survey. I would of course be interested to learn of any turtle sighting made.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

January 16, 1978

Koral Kings Dive Club
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Island

Dear Fellow Members:

During the early part of February my friend and associate here at the Institute, Dr. Steve Smith, will be visiting Midway to study the influences of seawater temperature on coral growth. I have told Steve of the tremendous cooperation I have received in relation to my sea turtle work at Midway, and that I feel quite certain Koral King members will be able to assist him, as their time permits. I am sure that those of you who have the opportunity to meet Steve will find his research plans most interesting.

I will be at Midway for several days later this month. I look forward to seeing many of you at that time and, hopefully, undertaking a club dive in the inner harbor to capture and tag turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk

MEMORANDUM

January 16, 1978

To: MAC OFFICE

From: George H. Balazs
 Asst. Marine Biologist

The enclosed report is the result of Alan K. H. Kam's summer project conducted under the auspices of the U.H. Marine Option Program. This final draft has resulted from many hours of writing and rewriting on Alan's part and, in my opinion, represents his best effort.

A copy of the report has also been transmitted to the Marine Option Program.

mk
Enclosures

January 13, 1978

Mr. J. Brent Giesentanner
Refuge Manger
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Brent:

Enclosed is a reprint of the "Disturbance to Wildlife" section of the U.S.C.G. Air Operations Manual which I previously mentioned. This is certainly commendable, and superior to the restrictions in Title 50, 27.34, Code of Federal Regulations.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

January 13, 1978

Chief Council
Rules Docket No. 15376
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D. C. 20591

Dear Sirs:

The purpose of this correspondence is to submit testimony relevant to proposed controls by your agency on the operation of the Concorde supersonic transport (SST) in and over the United States. Public hearings on this matter were recently held in Honolulu, and I have been informed by the Pacific-Asia Region Office of the FAA that written comments will continue to be accepted until January 31, 1978. I therefore anticipate that my testimony will become part of the permanent official record.

My concern over the possible operation of the Concorde SST in Hawaii centers on the adverse impact sonic blasts would have on Hawaiian monk seals, green turtles, endemic land birds, and the numerous species of seabirds that breed and reside in the remote Northwestern (Leeward) Hawaiian Islands. As you may be aware, in this portion of our 1,600 mile-long Archipelago the island and reef areas of Nihoa, Necker, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro, Laysan, Lisianski, and Pearl and Hermes are all part of the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior. In addition, Green and Sand Islands at Kure Atoll are Hawaii State Wildlife Refuges. The survival and well-being of the abundant wildlife in these areas is dependent in part upon protection against the adverse influences by man. Adequate safeguards should therefore be taken to prevent the operation of any aircraft, either civilian or military, at supersonic speeds which results in sonic blasts to the area.

I appreciate having the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist
and Member, IUCN Turtle Group

mk

cc: FAA Asia-Pacific Region Office, Repr. C. Heftel, Governor's Marine Affairs Coord.

January 13, 1978

Mr. John Pyke
P. O. Box 1061
Pago Pago, American Samoa

Dear Mr. Pyke:

Dr. Emory, Senior Anthropologist at the Bishop Museum, has recently informed me of your discovery of turtle petroglyphs on boulders in the interior of Tutuila. I am presently conducting ecological studies of sea turtles in the Hawaiian chain, as well as examining (as time permits) past and present usage of these animals for food, tools, art and mythology by various Pacific island cultures.

I have considerable interest in your newly discovered petroglyphs, and would greatly appreciate any information that you can send me. I understand that you have taken several excellent photographs and, if possible, I would very much like to have copies for my records. I would of course pay for the duplication costs involved.

Enclosed is a complimentary copy of a color booklet which deals in part with my research. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

January 13, 1978

Mr. John Prescott
Executive Director
New England Aquarium
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Prescott:

Enclosed is a copy of a news article from Los Angeles concerning the repair work which will be undertaken at your facility. I am presently involved in ecological studies of Hawaiian sea turtles, and I was particularly interested to read about your 800 pound turtle captured off Cape Cod. This sounds like a leatherback or possibly a very large loggerhead. I would be interested to learn more about this specimen, and would be most appreciative for any information that you can provide.

Also enclosed is a copy of a color booklet on Hawaiian wildlife which you may find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

January 9, 1978

TO: Bill Coops
Interim Director, HDMB

FROM: George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

SUBJECT: Request to Issue HDMB Technical Report

In collaboration with Dr. Whittow of the Physiology Department, I have recently completed a comprehensive bibliography of the Hawaiian monk seal, *Monachus schauinslandi*. Considerable interest presently exists in this species, and such a bibliography can provide valuable information to a broad spectrum of individuals in Hawaii. It is therefore our feeling that the material should be distributed at an early date in the form of an HDMB Technical Report.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

GB:ec

January 9, 1978

Mr. Kenji Ego
Division of Fish and Game
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Kenji:

Enclosed is a report dealing with the Hawaiian hawksbill turtle for addition to Fish and Game files. Moah Pekelo, in particular, will probably be interested in reading through this account, in that I previously made a report to him by telephone a few months ago.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:rec

Enclosure

January 9, 1978

Mr. Harold Hansen
Hawaii Administrator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96350

Dear Mr. Hansen:

Enclosed is a report dealing with the Hawaiian hawksbill for addition to your agency's files. I am sure that some of your staff members, particularly Gene, Kimberly, Brent and Ric, will be interested in reading this account.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 9, 1978

Mr. Richard Shomura, Director
Honolulu Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear Richard:

Enclosed is a report dealing with the Hawaiian hawksbill
turtle for addition to your laboratory's files.

Many thanks for your assistance in helping me secure space
on the CROMWELL to conduct shark sampling. The attached, copied
memo relates to this work.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 6, 1978

Mr. Brent Giesentanner
Refuge Manager
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Brent:

Enclosed is a copy of the cruise instructions for the TOWNSEND CROMWELL during January, February and March. As I mentioned over the telephone, landing on the Refuge Units was never a part of my research plan for this particular phase of my field studies.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

January 6, 1978

Mr. David Pellegrin
Honolulu Magazine
Suite 410
735 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Pellegrin:

Before Vic Lipman left for the mainland, I asked him to send me sections of his story which contained statements that I made during the interview. He was kind enough to do this, thereby giving me the opportunity to look over the material and suggest corrections which may be appropriate. In general, I think what he has written is excellent. I have, however, made several minor additions and changes in order to correct grammar and clarify concepts. I hope that you will incorporate these into the final draft.

Concerning the transparencies which I submitted for your consideration, as soon as you have decided which ones you would like to use please contact me so I can designate the material as committed to your publication. This will allow me to disseminate the remaining transparencies to other potential users.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 6, 1978

Mr. Alex Irving
31396 West Niña Drive
Laguna Niguel, California 92677

Dear Mr. Irving:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 1, 1978 which inquired about Hawaiian sea turtles. Your observations of turtles feeding close to shore at Poipu Beach, Kauai were most interesting and of potential value to my research program. I have enclosed a xeroxed chart of the area which I hope you will be kind enough to return to me with the exact observation site indicated. This would be greatly appreciated.

I have also enclosed a complementary copy of my booklet "Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles and Seals." This contains general information which hopefully will answer your questions.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

January 6, 1978

Mr. G. S. deSilva
The Park Warden
Turtle Islands National Parks
P. O. Box 768
Sandakan, Sabah
East Malaysia

Dear Stanley:

Hopefully the remainder of your trip was enjoyable and you had a pleasant and worthwhile visit with Wayne King in New York. As he probably told you, I sent your developed photos care of his office. However, unfortunately one of his secretaries looked up your Sabah address, placed it on the package, and remailed it. Instead of going to Sabah it was returned to me here in Hawaii for additional postage. I rewrapped it the other day and sent it off air mail, so hopefully safe arrival will take place within a week or two.

While you were here you mentioned a paper prepared by an assistant of Tom Harrison's which you offered to copy and forward to me. This will certainly be most appreciated, as it would represent a valuable addition to my personal reference library.

Linda and I had a very pleasant Holidays. We wish you and family a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 6, 1978

Dr. C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr.
Staff Herpetologist
Office of Endangered Species
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Dodd:

Thank you for your letter of 27 December requesting information on terrestrial critical habitat for sea turtles in Hawaii and other Pacific areas under U. S. jurisdiction. I am presently preparing to depart for several weeks of field studies, however, shortly after my return I will compile the necessary material and forward it to your office. In the meantime, I have enclosed a recently completed manuscript dealing with the Hawaiian hawksbill which you may find interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Turtle Group

GHB:md

Encl.

January 6, 1978

Dr. Wayne Gagne
Wau Ecology Institute
P.O. Box 77
Wau, Papua-New Guinea

Dear Wayne and Betsy:

I want to thank you for having Steve Montgomery bring me the sea turtle conservation poster from New Caladonia. It is a most effective portrayal, and demonstrates that other people besides Americans are interested in the conservation of resources. Do you have the mailing address of the organization that printed the poster?

It is my understanding that a Sylvia Spring in the Department of Natural Resources in Konedobu (P-NG) is soon to become involved in sea turtle research. I wrote to her several weeks ago, but as yet have not received a reply.

I hope that your work is going well, and that the New Year is good to both of you. Your presence is missed in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 6, 1978

Dr. Robert R. Fleet
Department of Wildlife Sciences
College of Agriculture
Texas A & M University
College Station, Texas 77840

Dear Dr. Fleet:

Last year one of the Coast Guard men at Kure Atoll observed a basking turtle with tag number B26 and the inscription "University of Florida." I subsequently contacted Archie Carr who informed me that some of his tags had been given to personnel on the Pacific Project, however, all had been returned unused except for B26. He had no information for this number. I have recently been in telephone contact with Bill Wirtz who indicated that you may have used tag B26 at Kure.

Any information that you can provide in this case would certainly be most appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 5, 1978

National Archives and Records Service
Printed Archives Branch
Washington, D. C. 20408

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Government Documents section of the University of Hawaii's library system has suggested that I write to you concerning a report which I have urgent need for in my research. The report is:

Diggs, J. T. (ms) Report of the cruise of the U.S.S. Hermes
among islands of the Hawaiian group, 1918. Record Group
45, U.S. National Archives, 24 pp.

This is referenced in the publication, The natural history of Laysan Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by Ely Clapp (Atoll Research Bulletin, 171, December, 1973, Smithsonian Institution).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 4, 1978

Cordova Museum
Cordova, Alaska 99574

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am interested in learning as much as possible about the history of the mounted leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriacea) which your facility has on display. Although I have not personally visited Cordova, an associate who recently traveled to your area told me of the existence of the specimen.

My research here in Hawaii deals with ecological aspects of marine turtles. Comparatively little information exists for North Pacific leatherbacks, therefore any information that you can send me relating to your specimen would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 4, 1978

Mr. Jaap H. Kuper
Acting Regional Wildlife and National
Parks Management Officer
TIGERPAPER
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the
Far East
Maliwan Mansion, Phra Atit Road
Bangkok 2, Thailand

Dear Mr. Kuper:

I would greatly appreciate having my name added to the
distribution list for your excellent publication,
TIGERPAPER.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

