

R. JOHANNES

September 29, 1981

Dear Bob-

Our letters seem to be crossing in the mail, but that's alright so long as the information gets exchanged. Sorry that I wasn't able to initially direct you to George Hughes' paper. It's sitting on my shelf. Very glad that you did find it though.

I've enclosed sections from J. Mortimer's recent Phd thesis on Ascension green turtles. No mention of ground water, and she seems to have reviewed the literature fairly well- or at least she should have since she had access to Archie Carr's reference library.

Yes, I certainly can try to get data on salinity of sand moisture, in Tokelau and elsewhere. I could also write to other workers and request this information. Better still, you write up a form letter for mailing and I'll send you a dozen or so address labels for people I know will respond.

How do you measure sand moisture salinity? Can it be done right in the field with a refractometer? Or must I bring sand samples back to the lab?

Bob, one point to keep in mind is that the distribution of nesting beaches has surely been influenced by human habitation. It has to be more than chance that, in the Pacific Islands, areas where turtles nest are usually places where people don't live. In former times, there were probably many more rookeries, but with human colonization the animals gradually got eaten.

When you get to Exmouth again later this year, I would really appreciate having a few 35mm color slides of beached (basking?) green turtles.

Aloha-Tofa-

George Balazs