

4.

1979-1980 HIMB OUTGOING
G. H. BALAZS LETTERS

June 1, 1979

Dr. C. Kenneth Dodd
Staff Herpetologist
Office of Endangered Species
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ken:

The question of terrestrial critical habitat for green turtles in Hawaii has once again come up in conjunction with the closing of the Coast Guard station at Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals. I wonder if you can tell me if the draft proposal that you prepared included the southern and northern beach areas of Tern Island? It has been verbally suggested to me that it did not, therefore I would like to get an accurate clarification from you on this important matter. Three to seven turtles per year do indeed nest at these locations, and occasionally land basking takes place. I believe that this would increase considerably if it were not for the excessive human activity.

It would probably be helpful if you would send me a complete copy of your proposal. Something has to be done to get all of these identified lands properly designated under the Endangered Species Act.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 20, 1979

Mrs. Gloria Denert
Senior Library Assistant
Xerox Education Publications
245 Long Hill Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Dear Mrs. Denert:

As requested in your letter of 13 February 1979, I am sending you a print of my Hawaiian green sea turtle-monk seal photograph for one time use in your educational publication. The credit line should read "Photograph by G. H. Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology/ University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program." I would appreciate receiving 20 copies of the issue in which the photograph appears. I would also like to have the print returned following publication.

I have also enclosed a copy of my color booklet dealing with other aspects of Hawaiian wildlife and wilderness areas which you may find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

December 31, 1979

Ms. Patty Shaver
1244 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Patty:

Many thanks for your letter of 17 December 1979 concerning the letter from Gerbert Rebell which appeared in WWF-US FOCUS. I am, however, at a slight disadvantage in that the printed response by FOCUS was inadvertently cut off at line two when you Xeroxed it. Nevertheless, 10 years to maturity under captive conditions, where high protein diets are fed, may indeed be closer to an average than a minimum time period. My research applies strictly to wild conditions where our knowledge of growth rates has been seriously lacking up until recently.

Some years ago I met Gerbert at a mariculture conference in South Carolina. He's a nice fellow who, at various times, has worked closely with the turtle farm on disease problems. If I remember correctly, he was also a paid consultant. Possibly he still serves in such a capacity. Nevertheless, the question of Cayman Turtle Farm's direct or indirect endangerment of wild stocks has been honestly addressed and answered as best possible at the present time. This was accomplished in NMFS Terry Leitzell's comprehensive Decision Memorandum, and the Memorandum Opinion of 29 May 1979 by the U.S. District Court (Civil Action No. 78-1661).

The result of such inquiries was the denial of Farm products into the U.S. I fail to see why U.S. citizens and taxpayers should be burdened further with this foreign commercial experiment. If U.K. and German interests feel so strongly about the farm, let them market all of its products in their own countries.

Ms. Patty Shaver
Page 2
December 31, 1979

It was most interesting to see Irving Naylor at the Conference, and to read his follow-up letter to Cecil Andrus.

Patty, if possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving the name and current mailing address of the translator that assisted Mr. Huang during the Conference. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

December 31, 1979

Mr. Christer Friberg
Principal Fisheries Officer
Northern Group
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

You may be interested to learn that the joint SPC/NMFS workshop on marine turtles held from 11-14 December in Noumea proved to be highly successful. A number of significant reports and resolutions resulted from this meeting which I feel confident will result in the wiser conservation and utilization of sea turtles in the Pacific region. It was unfortunate that it was not possible for a representative of the Cook Islands to be present. We have very little information on the current status of nesting in your island group. Hopefully within the near future it will be possible for you to conduct some baseline assessment and tagging studies, particularly at Palmerston and Puarhyn.

If there is any way that I can be of assistance to your programs in the Cook Islands, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

bcc: Rene Grandperrin, SPC

December 31, 1979

Dr. Bryant Bannister, Director
Tree Ring Research Laboratory
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Dear Dr. Bannister:

I would greatly appreciate receiving
an assortment of publications relating to
the research conducted by your laboratory.
Thank you in advance for your assistance
in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 31, 1979

Mr. Huang Chu-Chien
Institute of Zoology
Academia Sinica
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Huang:

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed copied articles from our Honolulu newspaper which relate to the establishment of professional ties between Hawaii and China. I certainly welcome these actions. Hopefully in the near future you will be able to visit our Institute here in Hawaii.

Along with a separate letter mailed last week, I have sent you a copy of my report for the South Pacific Commission entitled "Synopsis of biological data on the green turtle in Hawaiian Islands."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Encl.

December 31, 1979

CHR J. M. Stevens
Special Assistant for Ecology
Department of the Navy
Pacific Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear CDR Stevens:

As indicated in your letter of 15 August 1979 (copy attached), I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement on Kahoolawe Island. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

December 31, 1979

Mr. C. Paulin
Dominion Museum
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Mr. Paulin:

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in obtaining a reprint of the article "The marine turtles and snakes occurring in New Zealand" by Charles McCann (Records of the Dominion Museum, 5, 21, December 1966).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

December 31, 1979

Dr. Val Hinds
Assistant Director (Tech)
Fisheries Management Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Box 2298
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Val:

It was a pleasure to meet you in person in Noumea, but I am sorry that you were not able to stay on for the sea turtle workshop. This meeting proved to be quite successful, with a number of important reports being presented for discussion.

As I mentioned to you, I would like to obtain some up to date information on the foraging aggregations of green turtles occurring in the Kermadec Islands. Any assistance that you are able to provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island - P. O. Box 1346 - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

December 3, 1979

Mr. Tom V. Haas, Manager
National Band and Tag Company
721 York Street
Newport, Kentucky 41072

Dear Mr. Haas:

I have just returned from the conference in Washington, D.C. where discussions were carried out on the durability of tags used on sea turtles. The following individuals expressed considerable interest in placing an order with your company for Inconel 625 tags:

Dr. Richard Philibasian, Environmental Specialist
Government of the Virgin Islands
Department of Conservation & Cultural Affairs
Bureau of Fish & Wildlife
P. O. Box 1878
Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S.V.I. 00840

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
National Parks & Wildlife Service
Pallarenda, Townsville 4810, Australia

Dr. George Hughes
Natal Parks, Game & Fish Preservation Board
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Dr. Edward Klima
National Marine Fisheries Service
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77550

Dr. Stephen E. Cornelius
Department of Biology
Texas A&I University
Kingsville, Texas 78363

Mr. Tom V. Haas
Page 2
December 3, 1979

Dr. James Richardson
University of Georgia
Institute of Ecology
Athens, Georgia 30602

Mr. Fred Berry
Southeast Fisheries Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

Dr. Jack Woody
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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

Mr. Ross Witham
Florida Dept. of Natural Resources
Marine Research Laboratory
100 Eighth Avenue, SE
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez, Director
Marine Sciences Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City 3004 Philippines

Dr. Harold F. Hirth
Department of Biology
University of Utah
Salt Lake City 84112

The most frequent question asked was what the total per unit cost would be for size 49 and size 681 tags in lots of 10,000. When you write to these people it would be good if you could provide some sort of maximum estimate, assuming they each ordered 10,000 tags. Please feel free to mention my name in your correspondence along with the excellent results I have achieved with Inconel based on a 38 month period.

Mr. Tom V. Haas
Page 3
December 3, 1979

I will contact you again when I return from the sea turtle workshop in New Caledonia.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96777

November 21, 1979

Mr. Tom V. Haas, Manager
National Band and Tag Company
721 York Street
Newport, Kentucky 41072

Dear Mr. Haas:

Many thanks for your informative and encouraging letter dated 16 November concerning the production of more Inconel tags. In three days time I will be departing for Washington, D. C. to participate in the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. Nearly every project involved in tagging sea turtles will be represented at this gathering. Furthermore, on Tuesday, 27 November, I will be chairing a discussion period on tagging and tag problems. Your up-to-date information has therefore arrived at a most opportune time. I will be passing this along to all interested parties and, at the same time, compile a list of potential buyers. I will telephone you from Washington if any points are in need of clarification at that time.

Following my return from Washington, I will be traveling almost immediately to a sea turtle workshop in Noumea, New Caledonia, sponsored jointly by the South Pacific Commission and the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service. There will also be some interest in ordering tags for that area of the world. I will correspond with you again during the latter part of December and provide you with the outcome of all of these various meetings and discussions.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

December 24, 1979

Mr. Michel Petit
Oceanographe Biologiste
Centre ORSTOM de Noumea
B.P. A5
Noumea, New Caledonia

Dear Michel:

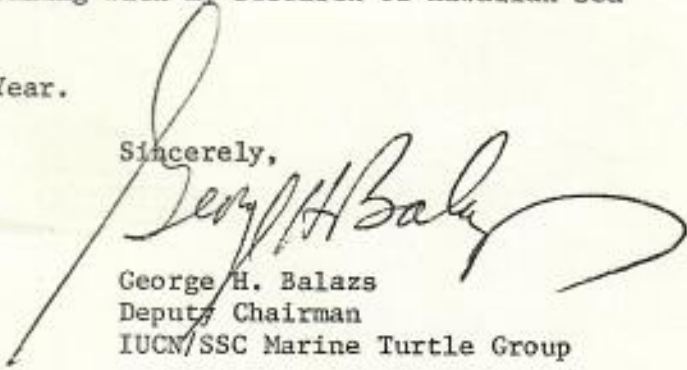
It was a great pleasure to make your acquaintance and discuss matters of common interest relating to the sea turtles of New Caledonia. I am hopeful that we may eventually be able to collaborate on a research project focused on the green turtles at d'Entrecasteaux Reef.

As requested during my visit to your laboratory, I would very much appreciate receiving copies of data pertaining to environmental observations taken at d'Entrecasteaux Reef and Chesterfield Reef. This information will be properly referenced and used in a report which I will prepare covering the results of our aerial survey of sea turtles.

I have enclosed several 35mm color slides taken at d'Entrecasteaux Reef on 15 December 1979 which you may wish to include in your own collection. I have also enclosed several publications dealing with my research of Hawaiian sea turtles.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk
enclosures

C
O
P
Y

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

December 24, 1979

Mr. Harry T. Kami
Chief of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources
Department of Agriculture
Government of Guam
Agana, Guam 96910

Dear Harry:

I want to take this opportunity to offer my compliments and personal thanks for your fine performance as Chairman of the SPC/NMFS Workshop on Marine Turtles. I realize that at times this was a difficult and complex task, nevertheless you met the challenge in a most commendable fashion. I feel confident that our meeting was both constructive and instructive, and will ultimately result in the wiser conservation and utilization of Pacific sea turtles.

Hopefully the New Year will be one of health, happiness and prosperity.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: R. Shomura, NMFS ✓
R. Grandperrin, SPC

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96721

December 28, 1979

Mr. Fernando Encijo Saracho
Libertad #49 Pte. M
Mazatlan, Sinaloa
MEXICO

Dear Mr. Saracho:

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance at the sea turtle conference in Washington, D. C. As requested, I am sending you several of the publications that have resulted from my research of Hawaiian sea turtles. If there is any way that I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to meet again in the not too distant future.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

December 28, 1979

Mr. Wilfrid Konku
Baie de Ksnumera
Kuto, Ile des Pins
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Konku:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the valuable information on sea turtles that you provided to us during our visit to the Isle des Pins on 16 December 1979. As promised, I have enclosed a copy of the photograph taken of you at that time. I am also sending a photograph of Dorothee which I would like you to give to her.

I wish you best regards for the New Year. Hopefully at some future date we will have the opportunity to meet again.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 28, 1979

Ms. Sylvia Spring
Wildlife Division
Department of Lands & Environment
P. O. Box 2585
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

Dear Sylvia:

I hope that your visit to Australia and return trip to PNG was pleasant, and that your holidays were enjoyable.

As requested, I have sent your corrected manuscript by air mail to Washington, D. C. I will check to see that it arrives safely via telephone calls that I will be making to Wayne King and Archie.

By this time you should have received your lost traveler's checks and the note from the duty free store which I asked Rene to mail directly to you from Noumea. I found the checks being held for you at the store, however they required a 900 CFP "ransom" due to an inaccurate exchange rate that the salesperson gave you. Hopefully this was all explained properly in the note.

As promised, I am sending you copies of the d'Entrecasteaux Reef article, the letter on Inconel tags, and some of the photos taken during our survey. I hope you will give serious consideration to pursuing an order for Inconel tags. Monel tags are now notorious around the world for their corrosion problems.

When I speak to Archie I will once again bring up the subject of your situation with sea turtle and research in PNG. Perhaps there is some way we can provide additional encouragement and/or support for you through the Turtle Group.

I look forward to working with you again in the not too distant future. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 28, 1979

Mr. Andy Guthrie
18100 Scottsdale Blvd.
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

Dear Andy:

As promised, I am sending several publications on Pacific sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting. It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance at the Washington Conference, and hopefully we will meet again in the not too distant future. You are obviously a talented man in your field and, in my opinion, your enthusiasm for sea turtles should be fully utilized in our conservation efforts. The Conference Scientific Committee will be discussing such topics in detail at our meeting in Gainesville on 10 January.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 28, 1979

Mr. Huang Chu-Chien
Institute of Zoology
Academia Sinica
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Huang:

It was a great pleasure and honor to meet you in person in Washington at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. The paper that you presented made a significant contribution to our knowledge of sea turtles in your region of the world. I would like to commend you for your excellent presentation, and express my appreciation to your Institute of Zoology for consenting to your participation in this conference.

Hopefully we will have the opportunity to meet again in the near future.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

December 27, 1979

Publications Unit
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your recent report dealing with the topic of American attitudes about wildlife.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:md

December 28, 1979

Ms. Sally Hopkins
S. Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Sally:

As requested in your recent correspondence, I have placed your experimental carapace tag in the seawater environment near our laboratory where extensive corrosion has been recorded on Monel (but not Inconel) alloy tags. A minimum test period would be six months, however, at the end of three months I will provide you with some preliminary results. Can you tell me the trade name or composition of this metal?

I have just returned from the SPC/MMFS workshop on sea turtles which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia. This turned out to be a valuable gathering that should ultimately result in the wiser utilization of stocks in the Pacific.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

January 2, 1980

Mr. Louis E. Garibaldi
Curator & Director of Operations
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Mr. Garibaldi:

A copy of your letter dated 28 November 1979 to Dr. Nicole Duplaix has been forwarded to me for comment due to my involvement in growth studies of green turtles. I was, of course, sorry to learn of your misunderstanding with respect to information resulting from the Washington conference. Slow growth rates for immature green turtles *under natural conditions* have indeed been substantiated by my work here in the Hawaiian Islands, as well as by concurrent research on the Great Barrier Reef (C. J. Limpus), in the Galapagos Islands (D. Green) and at Mosquito Lagoon, Florida (L. Ehrhart). As you pointed out, comparatively faster growth can take place under captive conditions where an abundant supply of high protein food exists.

For your information, I have enclosed the abstract of the paper on growth rates that I presented at the Washington conference. The complete paper will appear in the conference proceedings due to be published in June of 1980.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Encl.

cc: N. Duplaix
Silverstein/Shaver

March 27, 1980

Dr. Peter F. Major
Assistant Scientific Program Director
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Pete:

Many thanks for your note of March 17th concerning my request for reports on the Hawaiian monk seal. It was indeed a pleasant surprise to hear from you, and to learn of your position with the MMC. The Commission met in Honolulu a few years ago, and perhaps you will have the opportunity to return to Hawaii for a visit in the not too distant future.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 27, 1980

Mr. David Munro, Director General
IUCN
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Munro:

I hope that you have been able to take some action on Dr. Archie Carr's written request of 11 March 1980 concerning IUCN's role in the establishment of a Sabah-Philippine Green Turtle Sanctuary. This undertaking has tremendous potential for sea turtle conservation in the Sulu Sea, and certainly it would be unfortunate if we lose the existing opportunity. Stanley de Silva of Sabah has visited with me here in Honolulu on three occasions during the past six years and I can attest to the effort and dedication that he has devoted to laying the groundwork for this international project.

I wish you success in your timely action on behalf of this important project.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: G. Stanley de Silva
Archie Carr
Wayne King
Robert Scott

March 17, 1980

Ms. Marcia L. Kartub
P. O. Box 5147
Lighthouse Point, Florida 33044

Dear Ms. Kartub:

I am writing this letter to ask for your assistance in providing some additional information on the gagged loggerhead which you recorded on Jupiter Beach in June of 1979. As you are probably aware, confusion exists with respect to the original tagging date, location and size of the turtle. I should emphasize, however, that this confusion is not the result of your own field observations, which appear to me to have been conducted in a conscientious and accurate manner.

If at all possible, I would like to determine the following two points:

1. Inscribed address on tag - What institution or organization's name and address appeared on the tag?
2. Size of tag - There are basically only two sizes of metal flipper tags that are in use by sea turtle researchers. When attached to the turtle, the larger size measures approximately 1 5/8" by 3/8" while the smaller size measures 1" by 5/16". For reference purposes, I have attached a photo-reproduction of these two tags. Can you tell me which size was present on the loggerhead you observed?

My intentions in this matter are simply to make the best appraisal possible given the available information that has resulted from your tag recovery. These findings will be of considerable interest to members of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, as well as other researchers and conservationists of sea turtles. I therefore hope that you will respond to this request for assistance at your earliest possible opportunity.

I have enclosed several publications relating to my work with Hawaiian sea turtles which I hope you will find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md
Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Mark Gentle
S.P.C.
Beche-de-Mer Consultant
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mark:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop, and hopefully we will have the opportunity to work together again in the not too distant future. Since returning to Honolulu from Noumea I was able to make one short trip to Florida to meet with Dr. Carr and other sea turtle researchers. Currently I am "gearing-up" for this summer's breeding season at French Frigate Shoals in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. With financial support from Richard Shomura's agency, we are planning to conduct radio tracking studies of both males and females within the interesting habitat. This should prove to be an informative and enjoyable exercise —providing that our small transmitters stay attached, and our study animals are not eliminated by tiger sharks.

Although we were not able to talk in great detail about your project, I am indeed interested in beche-de-mer and the economic potential of expansion that may exist for some Pacific Islands. As your reports and various results become available, I would certainly appreciate receiving copies. If there is any way that I can help you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Don Brandon
Box 72
Rarotonga
Cook Islands

Dear Don:

It has been nearly two years now since we last corresponded, and recently I have been wondering if you are still in the Cook Islands and perhaps in some way still involved with the Fisheries Department. As you may have heard, SPC and the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service held a workshop on sea turtles in Noumea during mid-December. In my opinion this turned out to be very successful (see attached news article). Unfortunately, a representative from the Cook Islands was not able to attend. We did, however, have two gentlemen from French Polynesia who provided valuable information for their area of the Pacific.

When your time permits, I would enjoy hearing from you. If you are not in the Cook Islands at this time, I am hoping that this letter will be forwarded to your new address.

I have been in contact with a Christer Friberg of the Fisheries Department located at Penhryn. He is involved in a UNDP skipjack and baitfish resource survey for the area. Nevertheless, he has expressed some interest in gathering information on turtles.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1980

Mr. Christer S. Friberg
Principal Fisheries Officer
Northern Group
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
P. O. Box 96, Penrhyn
Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

I appreciated your letter of 16 February 1980 which described some of your research activities at Penrhyn and provided information on sea turtles of the stoll. The delay in your correspondence is of course understandable considering the lengthy interval in mail service which you mentioned.

As requested, I am sending you a copy of one of the papers (Tuvalu) presented at the SPC/NMFS Noumea workshop. I will make sure that you receive the final report covering the meeting. This document will probably be directly sent to you by Dr. Rene Grandperrin, Fisheries Adviser with the South Pacific Commission.

For your use, I am also sending several line drawing identification cards of sea turtles, as well as sections from the book "Ethnology of Tongareva" (by P. H. Buck, 1932) which cover ceremonial use of turtles and fishing techniques. The islets of Hangarei and Motunga are mentioned in this narrative, but I have not been able to locate them on existing maps. Perhaps you could provide some current information on this important subject.

I would be glad to help you in whatever way possible if you decide to enter into studies at the University of Hawaii. The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is not a degree awarding facility as such, but rather a research division of the University of Hawaii. Your formal area of study in marine biology would therefore have to be pursued either through the Department of Zoology or the Department of Oceanography.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your work and mail service permit.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md
Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Paul Vodden
Assistant Wildlife Officer
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
The Causeway
Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG
England

Dear Mr. Vodden:

Thank you very much for your letter of 26 February 1980 and the excellent booklet entitled "The Tortoise Trade." In response to your request for suggestions, I would recommend that you distribute this publication to as many governmental and conservation agencies as possible and appropriate. Widespread dissemination of the results contained in your investigative report is an essential step in obtaining the protective laws which certainly seem to be needed. I hope that you are successful in your efforts.

I wonder if your Society has produced any reports or conducted investigations on the suffering or mistreatment of sea turtles during the course of commercial activities? Has this point ever been examined with respect to the sea turtle farm located on Grand Cayman Island? Any information that you can provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
and
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

March 17, 1980

Mr. Jeff Immel
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Islands
FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Mr. Immel:

It was a pleasure to meet you during my short but highly successful visit to Midway on March 11-13~~th~~. Hopefully I can return in the not too distant future and conduct additional tag and recapture studies of the immature green turtles residing at your atoll.

As requested, I am sending you line drawings of the three species of sea turtles that occur in the Hawaiian Archipelago. I would imagine that these would be suitable for use in the wildlife display board planned for the Station's administration building.

While at Midway it was mentioned that in recent months Station personnel had observed spherical eggs (presumably sea turtle eggs) washing in the surf at a shoreline location. I wonder if you are aware of this occurrence and can provide me with further information, such as date, location, number of eggs, etc. Any assistance that you can provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 17, 1980

Dr. J. S. Killingley
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Dr. Killingley:

Your interesting and informative article in SCIENCE which suggests that Oxygen-18 variations in turtle barnacles may be useful as a tracking technique has prompted me to write to you to explore the possibilities of collaborative research. For several years I have been conducting tagging studies of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Hawaiian chain aimed at determining migratory patterns, growth rates and reproductive characteristics. Two papers have been enclosed to provide you with some background information on this work. The turtle barnacles *Chelonibia testudinaria* and *Platylepas hamatylus* have been encountered at fairly regular intervals, and I currently have a small assortment on file here at our laboratory. Additional specimens could be easily collected on a regular basis. Would you be interested in analyzing some of this material? If so, please contact me at your earliest convenience and I will mail off an assortment.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
and
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Eric L. Schlemmer
1692 Lewalani Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Mr. Schlemmer:

I enjoyed reading the recent article about you which appeared in the March 13th issue of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. As a researcher of sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, I am greatly interested in learning about your experiences and memories of turtles while living on Laysan Island. Was egg laying a common occurrence? How many turtles would you see at one time hauled out on the beaches sunning themselves during the daytime? Did you ever see large sharks feeding on sea turtles in the shallow waters around Laysan? Any historical information that you can provide about the turtles at Laysan would certainly be appreciated.

I have enclosed a copy of my color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals that I thought you would enjoy. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1980

Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Jeff:

Many thanks for your letter of 3 March 1980. I was, of course, pleased to learn of your interest in conducting some initial tests on the lens of green turtles. At the present time I have three whole green turtles that were frozen shortly after death. Two of these are wild turtles approximately cm in carapace length, and the third is a captive reared specimen measuring only cm. As you may be aware, sexually mature adult Hawaiian *Chelonia* range from 80 to 106 cm in carapace length. It will therefore be necessary for me to salvage the lens from larger turtles so you will have the necessary array of size classes to work with. This should not prove to be too difficult as fresh mortalities due to various causes are reported to me on a regular basis. Nevertheless, it would seem to be worthwhile for me to mail you the lens that I currently have available. Starting tomorrow I will be out of town until approximately March 26th, however, shortly after my return I will send you the specimens in dry ice by air mail special delivery.

I hope we will be able to obtain some interesting results from this preliminary analysis.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

March 7, 1980

Colonel John S. W. Lee
Commander
Hawaii Air National Guard
Headquarters 154th Composite Group
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Lee:

Thank you very much for your quick reply to my letter of inquiry concerning C-7 airlift support to French Frigate Shoals. Unfortunately, I was not previously aware of some of the constraints which you outlined. I should, however, have provided you with more information on the current status of the Tern Island facility at French Frigate Shoals. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs two caretakers that reside at this site and have daily radio contact with employees on Kauai. The runway is regularly maintained for monthly use by a civilian Beechcraft 18 (cargo capacity only 1300 lbs). While the seabirds do indeed continue to nest on portions of Tern Island, this is confined mostly to the eastern (downwind) periphery of the runway. In addition, seabirds are only present in these areas in large numbers from approximately April through July. The need for the C-7 to refuel at Tern Island appears to present the greatest problem. I do not know what quantities would be involved, but possibly one of the NOAA vessels, TOWNSEND CROMWELL, or the yearly USCG buoy tender to the area, might be able to transport fuel drums.

I certainly appreciate your consideration of this matter. If the situation appears more promising in view of the additional information I have provided, please contact me at 247-6631.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 29, 1980

Colonel John S. W. Lee
Commanding Officer
154th Composite Group (HANG)
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Lee:

The purpose of this letter is to make a preliminary inquiry as to the possibilities of obtaining transportation between Honolulu and French Frigate Shoals aboard your agency's C-7 Caribou. You will probably recall that this excellent aircraft conducted a training mission to Tern Island at French Frigate Shoals during July of 1976, and returned to Honolulu with research personnel of the National Geographic Society and the University of Hawaii. I was a member of that group who had been conducting tagging studies of migratory green sea turtles.

My research program of Hawaiian sea turtles is due to expand in the near future, with radio tracking and other field experimentation planned for French Frigate Shoals. Transportation to this location continues to be a problem, due principally to the serious cargo limitations of existing available aircraft. I would therefore like to respectfully ask you if it would be feasible to occasionally incorporate your training missions with flights to French Frigate Shoals. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate discussing this matter with you in greater detail to determine if such a mutually beneficial plan could be developed. Perhaps you could telephone me at 247-6631 or, if you prefer, I would be pleased to meet with you in your office at your convenience.

I have enclosed several recent articles on sea turtle research and conservation that I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

CHB:ec

Encls.

cc: Major G. Pilligrin (State DOD/PAO)

March 14, 1980

Bird Banding Laboratory
Laurel, Maryland 20811

Dear Sirs:

The band number 667-35105 was recovered on 12 March 1980 from a recently dead Laysan albatross on Sand Island, Midway. The metal band shows extensive wear, and the return address was not visible. I am interested in learning of the original tagging date for this seabird.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 4, 1980

Mr. Earl W. Lippoldt
S.P.I. Ridley Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc.
P. O. Box 2067
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Dear Mr. Lippoldt:

Thank you very much for sending me the copy of your report to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This certainly contains interesting and informative material, and I commend you for your conservation^{5/2} efforts on behalf of sea turtles. I am sorry that you were not able to attend our World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held during late November in Washington, D. C. You would undoubtedly have enjoyed this gathering of researchers and conservations from 40 different countries.

I was especially interested in page 2 of your report which lists turtles found dead along the coastline. Both the three inch loggerhead and six inch green (carapace lengths) are of a size range that is very rarely found by man in the wild. I am sure that you are aware of this fact. If you find any more dead turtles of this small size, I hope that you will be able to preserve them in formalin so that they can be carefully examined at a later date. This would be particularly valuable for the analysis of stomach contents. Concerning the other turtles that you bury on the beach, I wonder if you can mark these sites so that the bones can be recovered at a later date? Such specimens would be valuable to museums and certain research institutions. I know that currently there are only one or two loggerhead and ridley skulls in all of the State of Hawaii.

Is it possible for you to determine if the amputated flippers and heads are the result of axes, or possibly shearing of bone by large sharks? If sharks are responsible, you may be able to find piece of teeth embedded in the bone.

At several places in your report you referred to a Jim Woods. Is this the same Jim Woods that works at the Cayman Turtle Farm on Grand Cayman Island?

I am sorry that I do not have any specific suggestions as to funding agencies that you could contact. Perhaps the joint FWS/NMFS/Mexican Kemp's ridley project might be interested in partially supporting your work. Certainly it would be worth making an inquiry.

Mr. Earl W. Lippoldt

-2-

March 4, 1980

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Kaneohe Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 11, 1980

M. Bruno Ugolini
Service de la Pêche
BP. 20 Papeete
Tahiti, French Polynesia

Dear Bruno:

Many thanks for your interesting letter dated 21 February 1980 which provided details on the female tagged at Scilly and recovered seven years later in Fiji. This is indeed another important documentation of the amazing migrations which green turtles are undertaking in the South Pacific. Scilly and the neighboring atolls of Mopelia and Bellinghausen must certainly be considered among the most important green turtle breeding sites of the islands covered by the South Pacific Commission. I wish you continued success in your efforts to maintain these areas as sanctuaries.

The Conservation Strategy which resulted from the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation (26-30 Nov 1979, Washington, D. C.) has now been finalized. In the near future, you should be receiving a copy of this important document from Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Post-Conference Coordinator with the University of Florida. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that one of the projects incorporated into the Conservation Strategy deals with the full endorsement of maintaining Scilly as a breeding sanctuary for turtles.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
and
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

bcc: Karen Bjorndal
Richard Shomura

March 10, 1980

M. V. L. Georgita Ruiz
Calle Colina 145
Lomas Bezares
Mexico 10, D. F.

Dear Georgita:

I was indeed sorry that limited time and all the activities at the Washington conference prevented us from talking at greater length about sea turtles and other matters of common interest. I regret that you were not hired for the job in Galveston as anticipated - certainly you should have been given the position and I do not understand why this did not take place. Hopefully there have been some other opportunities become available to you. Please remember that you should call upon me if you feel there is any way that I can be of assistance (letter of recommendation, etc.).

Georgita, do you know if Mexico has ever issued a postage stamp which portrays a sea turtle? Several different countries have done so in recent years, and here in the United States we have submitted a proposal to our Postmaster General for such a stamp issue. Stamps are seen by a lot of people around the world, and I believe that this would be a good medium for conservation awareness and education. Possibly Antonio can use his influence to have a sea turtle postage stamp issue in Mexico (and Spain). It might be worth a try.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
and Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Dear

As you will read in the attached correspondence, a proposal has recently been submitted to U. S. Postmaster General for the issuance of a block of four commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. I am convinced that this is an extremely worthwhile endeavor with potential for stimulating further conservation and research of sea turtles, both here in the United States and in the numerous foreign countries that receive U. S. mail.

The chances of this stamp proposal being approved can be strengthened considerably if individuals and organizations express their strong support through letters written to the Postmaster General. I am therefore asking if you will take the time from your busy schedule to write such a letter of endorsement. Your letter should be addressed to:

Mr. William Bolger
Postmaster General
Washington, D. C. 20260

In order to take full advantage of the publicity and momentum generated by the recent Washington sea turtle conference, I hope you will be able to send off your words of support at the earliest possible date. Also, I would greatly appreciate receiving a blind carbon copy of your letter so that some assessment can be made of the magnitude of our campaign.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
and Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

March 10, 1980

Stone Manufacturing and Supply Company
1212 Kansas
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving full information on your line of tattooing instruments for zoo animals, particularly your stock numbers N-25 and R-1-ST-2.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:rec

March 10, 1980

Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.
231 Broad Street
Summit, New Jersey 07901

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving information on your internal wire tagging devices that might prove suitable for use on one ounce hatchling sea turtles.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 7, 1980

Colonel John S. W. Lee
Commander
Hawaii Air National Guard
Headquarters 154th Composite Group
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Lee:

Thank you very much for your quick reply to my letter of inquiry concerning C-7 airlift support to French Frigate Shoals. Unfortunately, I was not previously aware of some of the constraints which you outlined. I should, however, have provided you with more information on the current status of the Tern Island facility at French Frigate Shoals. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs two caretakers that reside at this site and have daily radio contact with employees on Kauai. The runway is regularly maintained for monthly use by a civilian Beechcraft 18 (cargo capacity only 1300 lbs). While the seabirds do indeed continue to nest on portions of Tern Island, this is confined mostly to the eastern (downwind) periphery of the runway. In addition, seabirds are only present in these areas in large numbers from approximately April through July. The need for the C-7 to refuel at Tern Island appears to present the greatest problem. I do not know what quantities would be involved, but possibly one of the NOAA vessels, TOWNSEND CROMWELL, or the yearly USCG buoy tender to the area, might be able to transport fuel drums.

I certainly appreciate your consideration of this matter. If the situation appears more promising in view of the additional information I have provided, please contact me at 247-6631.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:md

March 7, 1980

Marine Mammal Commission
1625 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any recent reports prepared on the Hawaiian monk seal by Mr. and Mrs. Brian Johnson. The only report that I currently have in my files is "The Hawaiian monk seal on Laysan Island: 1977" (MMC-77/05; Contract MM7AC009).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 7, 1980

M. Angela McGehee
111 Early Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Dear Angie:

Many thanks for your recent letter and the superb duplicate slide taken at Escobilla. This is very much appreciated. I didn't realize that the arribada actually took place the day after we left. Perhaps you told me of this when we saw each other at the Washington conference, but with all the excitement of talking to different people I simply forgot.

I am sorry to say that at the present I am not aware of any employment opportunities along the lines you mentioned. Are you dissatisfied with the work at Rancho Nuevo and Oaxaca, or are those job opportunities now limited? It was my understanding that Jack Woody would be funding some work on temperature-sex determination at Oaxaca through David Ehrenfeld. I don't know why Bob Shoop didn't hire you for his aerial surveys - he should have.

Angie, can you provide me with some additional information on the radio tracking study conducted during the interesting interval at Ranch Nuevo in 1979? Were you directly involved in this work? Who was the project leader? How were the transmitters attached, and was the experiment generally successful? Any details that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

We are in the process of slowly expanding our sea turtle programs here in the Pacific region with the introduction of NMFS funds. I will certainly notify you if and when any job opportunity becomes available.

Did Peter ever publish his Oaxaca article in GEO magazine?

You will be interested to learn that during January I was able to spend a day at Mosquito Lagoon with Lew and Mary.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist &
Deputy Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine
Turtle Group

GHB:md

March 4, 1980

Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, Director
Mississippi Laboratories
National Space Technology Laboratories
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

Concerning your letter of 14 February, it was indeed good news to learn that your satellite transmitter is still attached to the loggerhead. I hope this success continues, but even if it doesn't you have already accomplished a praiseworthy "first" in the history of sea turtle tracking.

In an earlier letter you mentioned that the transmitter package is tethered on a short line to the animal's carapace. Was this the method of attachment for the Kemp's ridley that was radio tracked during the interesting interval last year at Rancho Nuevo? We are worried about using such a procedure for our work at French Frigate Shoals due to the numerous coral head where fouling can take place. Our current plans are for a direct attachment to the central scutes of the carapace using adhesives and perhaps safety straps. This would be similar to method shown in a photograph which appeared in Harold Hirth 1971 FAO report on the green turtles. Any information you have on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

13 February 1980

Manoa

October 10, 1978

French Frigate Shoals National
Monument

The R/V Easy Rider to
study green turtles at Lisianski
Island. Four days were spent in
the field with most of the
studies being completed in
September. I had the
SCUBA at the northwest
corner of the island. No
turtles were sighted,
but I hope to provide further insight
into their location.

of Brian and Patricia
the perimeter of the island
this season. Three
species occurred within the previous
year, a significantly lower pro-
portion than at French Frigate
Shoals. The population of ghost crabs

October 4. Six of the
turtles at this location were re-
sighted to be similar to those
observed in the prepublication
report sent to you during our last
visit. A local change that had
occurred were feeding pastures.
The turtles were abundant species, as well
as observed during this recent

visit C. racemosa was greatly reduced, either due to seasonal changes or heavy
grazing. Retrieval of stomach contents and observations of feeding behavior
indicated that the alga Turbinaria ornata was instead being consumed in large
quantities as this plant material drifted in from the outer reef. A total of
eight adult basking turtles was observed during the visit; one of these was
found to be present ashore during the nighttime hours.

Dear Dale -
Attached is a copy of
my memo concerning the
discovery of piles of glass
balls at Southeast Is., Pearl
and Hermes Reef.
If there are any other matters
in need of clarification, please
do not hesitate to contact
me.

Sincerely,
George Balazs

March 4, 1980

Ms. Susan Spencer-Richards
Asst. to the Vice-President, Business Affairs
The Cousteau Society, Inc.
777 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Spencer-Richards:

Professor Carr has sent me a copy of your letter dated 20 February concerning the future possibility of your Society producing a film dealing in part with the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata). I would just like to say that I share Professor Carr's deep concern for the survival of this species. The Japanese market continues to consume vast quantities of tortoiseshell derived from hawksbills. This international trade cannot be supported by the remaining populations. The result will be the total collapse of the species, probably far sooner than any of us realize. I hope that your Society can play some role in alerting the world of this dismal situation. Widespread action is now needed on behalf of the hawksbill in a manner similar to what is taking place for the great whales.

Please feel free to call upon me if I can ever be of assistance to your fine organization.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

bcc: Archie Carr

March 4, 1980

Messrs. J. R. Bain, S. R. Humphrey and F. W. King
The Florida State Museum
Department of Natural Science
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Gentlemen:

I am sorry to tell you that unfortunately I do not have any specific, up-to-date information on sea turtles in the Thailand area. However, if you haven't done so already, you should review the following reports:

Polunin, N. V. C. 1975. Sea Turtles: Reports on Thailand, W. Malaysia and Indonesia with a synopsis of data on the conservation status of sea turtles in the Indo-West Pacific region. Report to World Wildlife Fund, March, 113 pp.

and

Polunin et al., 1979. Report on Thailand and Indonesia - presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, 26-30 Nov., Washington, D. C.

As an additional suggestion, you should probably delete the emblem and words "Central Intelligence Agency" from the bottom of your map of Thailand. This could, conceivably, create some public relations problems for your project.

I wish you success in this worthwhile endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me whenever you feel I might be of assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 3, 1980

Commanding Officer
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Islands
FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to visit Midway during the periods 11-13th and 25-28th of March 1980 in conjunction with U. S. Coast Guard C-130 flights enroute to the Kure Loran Station. The personnel covered in this request include myself (SSN 564-54-0156) and Mr. Alan Kam (SSN 575-50-8518), my research assistant. The purpose of our trip would be to conduct ongoing investigations of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since 1974 I have visited the Midway Naval Station on a number of occasions for this research. I currently hold the Federal Fish and Wildlife Threatened Species Research Permit FRT 2-3593. The required DD 398 clearance forms are on file with the Commander, Third Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Tel. (808) 247-6631

GHB:md

March 3, 1980

Captain L. T. Profilet
Kahoolawe Project Office
Commander Third Fleet
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear Captain Profilet:

I regret that I must inform you that the sections on marine turtles in your Environmental Impact Statement for Kahoolawe Island are replete with inaccuracies, omissions and misrepresentations. Much of the information presented in these sections has been paraphrased from my paper "Sea Turtles of Kahoolawe Island - A Preliminary Report" (Nov. 1978), but unfortunately this was carried out in a manner that materially altered the meaning of my original writing. Furthermore, the listing of "George H. Balazs. 1979. Personal Communication" as a reference on page R-2 was done without my prior knowledge or permission. I am unable to determine what information this reference supports.

Under my present workload, I do not have the time or energy to correct these sections sentence by sentence, as should have been done by Navy biologists and private consultants prior to final publication. You will note from the attached correspondence that at an earlier date I was unable to obtain a draft copy of your document for review purposes. Nevertheless, for the historical record, I have deposited complete copies of my original sea turtle report with the University of Hawaii library system and several federal agencies.

I have always tried to cooperate with the Navy in whatever way possible, therefore I am sure you will understand my disappointment in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 3, 1980

Jensen Salsbery Laboratories
520 West 21st Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Sirs:

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving information on your line of Tattoo Forceps: (No. 6321) used for identifying animals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

March 3, 1980

Holborn Surgical Instrument Company, Ltd.
Dolphin Works, Margate Road
Broadstairs, Kent
United Kingdom

Dear Sirs:

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving information on your line of equipment designed to tattoo animals for identification purposes.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 3, 1980

Mr. Huang Chu-chien
Peking Institute of Zoology
Academia Sinica
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Huang:

Thank you very much for sending me the article from your Peking newspaper. I am in the process of having the article translated into English, and I look forward to reading the contents.

I would like to ask you to please tell me if you make any tag recoveries of sea turtles in the area of the South China Sea. I am sure that members of our IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group would be very interested in hearing about these tag recoveries, particularly the tag number, name on tag, location of turtle, and date of recovery. As you know, this is all very important information. I therefore look forward to learning about tag recoveries for this area of the world.

I have enclosed a small book of photographs on the Hawaiian Islands which I hope you will enjoy.

I wish you best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 3, 1980

Ms. Suzanne Montgomery Contos
Editor, Marine Mammal News
1056 National Press Building
Washington, D. C. 20045

Dear Ms. Contos:

I am writing this letter to ask if you are aware of any action that Senators Weicker and Magnuson may have taken as a result of the inquiry on the Hawaiian monk seal made by Drs. Karl Kenyon and Victor Scheffer (see MMN December 1979). If any further developments have taken place in this matter, I would greatly appreciate receiving some of the details.

I have enclosed several articles relating to marine mammals which I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 27, 1980

Mr. & Mrs. Hook
2381 Haumana Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hook:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the commendable role you recently played in rescuing a green sea turtle. With the fine assistance of Dr. Leighton Taylor, Director of the Waikiki Aquarium, I was able to measure and tag this turtle prior to its return to the wild during the evening of February 26th. The future recovery of this animal, either around our main Hawaiian Islands or at the breeding grounds of French Frigate Shoals, can provide us with valuable information on growth rates, migrations and longevity.

I have enclosed two sea turtle badges in recognition of your contribution to both conservation and science. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Dr. L. Taylor
K. Wright USFWS

February 27, 1980

Dr. Thomas Murray
Program Manager
National Sea Grant Program
6010 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Dr. Murray:

It was a pleasure to meet you during your visit to our laboratory on February 13th, and I enjoyed having the opportunity to give you an overview of my research project on the Hawaiian green turtle. Sea Grant funds have been instrumental in bringing this work to the point where it will soon be transformed into a permanent program within the National Marine Fisheries Service. I appreciate the support that Sea Grant has provided, and at the same time feel that your agency should be proud of the results that have been achieved.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed paper on growth rates which was one of the two invitational papers which I presented at the Washington sea turtle conference.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 31, 1980

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to acknowledge that I have been acquainted with Rodney Dahleen for the past three years during his employment as a crew member on the vessel Easy Rider. During this time, I have found Mr. Dahleen to be an honest, conscientious, competent and dependable individual who has provided me with considerable assistance in my professional field research activities.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Telephone (808) 247-6631

GHB:ec

February 26, 1980

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

As promised, I am sending you one of the polished bone sections from the small green turtle which you salvaged from Mosquito Lagoon on 3 March 1977. This particular section was taken from the left hyoplastron. Within the area I have marked on the dorsal surface, you will see that approximately five dense bands or annuli appear to be present. In a section of the humerus polished in a similar manner, I was able to count up to nine such bands. Of course there is presently no proof to show that these bands are laid down on an annual basis. This is one of the other areas I am currently investigating through the use of captive specimens of known age, and also possibly small injections of tetracycline hydrochloride for marking of the growing surfaces. I will keep you informed as this work progresses. In the meantime, you should try to salvage all of the bone material possible from Florida green turtles of a known size. This could be a valuable component to the collection I am assembling from many geographical areas.

I am also sending you a copy of my Washington Conference paper dealing with the Central Pacific. I believe that I promised to provide you with this, but forgot to enclose it in my earlier correspondence.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Cable Address: UNIHAW

26 FEB 1980

Dear Karl-

Enclosed are two copies
of the article you requested.

I have some burrows
that fell off a work seal at
French Frigate Shoals. They
have been identified by an
invertebrate specialist. I
believe this is worthy of
publication of a short note
in 'Elegans'. Your assistance

would be appreciated. Are
you aware of any publications
that identify baracades from
any seals?

Your conservation efforts on
behalf of the wildlife in
the Northwestern Hawaiian
Islands are greatly
appreciated.

Sincerely
George Balay



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 25, 1980

Mr. Robert Redford
c/o Columbia Pictures
1 Columbia Plaza
Burbank, CA 91505

Dear Mr. Redford:

On behalf of the SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), I would like to request your assistance in helping to prevent the extinction of the hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*. As you may know, the hawksbill is seriously endangered due to international commercial trade in both tortoiseshell and whole stuffed specimens sold as curios. Although many countries now provide full legal protection for this species, an enormous trade continues to flourish for the purpose of satisfying the demands of the Japanese market. Japan is by far the world's largest consumer nation of hawksbill products. Logically, high quality plastic imitations should have replaced real tortoiseshell. However, the exotic appeal of the genuine material coupled with the turtle's symbol of longevity in the Japanese culture have served to maintain a high market demand for hawksbill products. This is a deplorable situation in which the industry is literally mining the species to extinction. Clearly some decisive action needs to be taken by the world conservation community if the hawksbill is to survive.

Because of your considerable popularity and respected image among the Japanese people, you have the potential for helping to reduce the exploitative pressures confronting the species. This could be accomplished through expressions of concern voiced by you to the Japanese public using TV, newspapers or other media opportunities that may become available during the course of your activities. It is my hope that you will be receptive to this suggestion and be interested in developing an appropriate strategy with members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

For your information, I have enclosed several articles dealing with our World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation which was held from November 26-30th, 1979 in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr, Group Chairman, Univ. Florida
Enclosure

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

February 25, 1980

Dr. James A. Peters
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Peters:

I wonder if you would be kind enough to provide me with a copy of your 1956-57 publication entitled "The eggs and I" (*Biologist*, 39, 21-24). For some time now I have been trying to locate this paper without success. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 25, 1980

Ms. Patty Shaver
Defenders of Wildlife
1244 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Patty:

This is just a brief note to let you know that I continue to be interested in the status of your employment, and your involvements with sea turtle conservation. I am sorry to say that no opportunities were presented at the January Gainesville meeting for me to work effectively on your behalf. In fact, as you are probably aware, the publication of the Proceedings as well as several other important matters relating to the Conference are now somewhat at a standstill. Hopefully this will all be successfully resolved in the not too distant future.

I look forward to periodically corresponding with you on matters of common interest during the coming months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 25, 1980

Dr. D. C. Jackson
Division of Biology & Medicine
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

Dear Dr. Jackson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Ventilatory response to inspired CO_2 in the sea turtle: effects of body size and temperature."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 25, 1980

Dr. Rene Grandperrin
Fisheries Adviser
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D 5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Rene:

The main purpose of this letter is to offer some brief comments on J. K. McElroy's letter of 28 January 1980 which solicited financial support from SPC for modeling studies of Pacific sea turtles. In order to properly evaluate Mr. McElroy's population modeling abilities, I asked a respected and knowledgeable colleague to read through his belated Solomon Islands report. The outcome of this informal review was not at all encouraging. In fact, the opinion was expressed that the modeling procedures utilized were basically irresponsible, and that the author had very little knowledge of the available sea turtle literature. As you are aware, modeling is a highly complex undertaking, and apparently Mr. McElroy has reduced many important factors to simplistic and virtually meaningless terms. I thought that you should be aware of this appraisal before any decision is made on his request for assistance.

I want to thank you very much for telling me of your sea turtle observations at Ilot Konduyo. This is important information that should certainly be incorporated into our New Caledonian turtle report. I look forward to receiving the photograph you mentioned so that a positive species identification can be made. Incidentally, I have not yet received the 8mm movie film taken at Beaufort-Beaupre by Mr. Gigaroff. I hope that it will eventually be available for our examination.

Concerning your earlier inquiry about the Conservation Strategy, I will send this to you for publication as you see fit just as soon as the final draft has been completed.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Shomura

February 25, 1980

Dr. Norman Goldstein
Alexander Young Building, Suite 326
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 8th and the journal copy of "Special Issue on Tattoos." I greatly appreciate having this publication as it represents a valuable addition to my file on the marking of animals for identification purposes.

My efforts to mark young sea turtles by tattooing were terminated primarily due to the absence of access to an electric tattooing needle. Mike Malone of China Seas Tattoo Company (on Smith Street) was not all that anxious to conduct further experimentation with his equipment. This was, of course, entirely understandable. As you read in my short article, the black pigment came out of the turtle's skin after only a short time period. I was advised, however, that permanent marking might be obtained by implanting the pigment at different depths. Also, it was suggested that zinc oxide could be successfully used to tattoo light colored marks on areas of dark skin. This procedure is apparently used on race horses.

As requested, I am having two duplicate slides made which illustrate my sea turtle tattooing experiment. I will send these to you in the near future. In the meantime, I have enclosed my color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 25, 1980

Mrs. Karen B. Armsby
Wildlife Section
Kouf National Park
P. O. Box 1302
Beida, LIBYA

Dear Mrs. Armsby:

I apologize for taking so long to respond to your interesting and informative correspondence of 12 November 1979. Field research and various conferences have kept me out of my office for long periods during the past few months.

I was pleased to learn of your interest in and concern for sea turtles in Libya. To my knowledge, there is very little available information for this area of the world. Any studies that you can carry out would therefore be exceedingly valuable. Concerning your inquiry about Inconel tags, about all that I can tell you at this time is that National Band and Tag Company is very close to producing tags of this alloy as a standard order item. If you are still interested in placing an order, you should contact them again in the near future.

I have enclosed an assortment of reprints dealing with my research of both Hawaiian green turtles and monk seals. Hopefully these will be of some use to your park library. I look forward to hearing from you again as your project progresses.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 25, 1980

Mr. Walt Simmons
Ka Imi Kai Diving Club
44136-2 Hako Street
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Many thanks for taking the time to send me the interesting and informative turtle sighting report for the Kahala Hilton area. I was not previously aware that such small turtles were routinely sighted along this particular coastline.

The tumors which you described have been reported from sea turtles on a worldwide basis, however it certainly appears that they are more common on Hawaiian green turtles. Over the years I have submitted numerous preserved tumor specimens to Dr. Harshbarger of the Smithsonian's Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals. While considerable detailed analyses have taken place, it is still not certain if viral agents or external organic material (leeches, barnacles, algae) are responsible for this abnormal growth.

Again, thank you for the valuable report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 25, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Licht:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Serum gonadotropins and steroids associated with breeding activities in the green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*. I. Captive animals."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GEB:md

February 25, 1980

Mr. Scott Gilliam
Koral Kings Dive Club
Box 300, Midway Islands
San Francisco, EPO 96614

Dear Scott:

Many thanks for your most welcome letter of February 19th. The xeroxed turtle tagging information was certainly appreciated.

I would indeed like to reestablish the KK-Midway turtle tagging program. However, first I must check on the provisions of my Threatened Species Research Permit to see if such action would be acceptable at this time. As you are probably aware, the green turtle was recently given full protection under the US Endangered Species Act. Certain steps must therefore be taken with the Wildlife Permit Office in Washington, D.C. before I can encourage and supply tags for further research at Midway. I will keep you posted as this matter progresses. Incidentally, how much longer will you be stationed at Midway?

Of the various sets of tags I have left with KK over the years, I am presently only unable to account for numbers 2901 through 2915. If you come across records for these numbers, or the actual tags, please let me know. Some tags used to be stored in the file cabinet in the dive store; others were kept on the shelf to the left immediately inside the main large door of the KK clubhouse.

I noted in the xeroxed log sheets that "Willett" recaptured turtle 173-174, but unfortunately no date was listed. I wonder if Mr. Willett is still at Midway?

I currently have about 25 sea turtle buttons (one enclosed) and I would be happy to send one each to any KK member that sights a turtle and reports this information to me on the enclosed forms.

Best regards and good diving.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md
Encl.

February 25, 1980

Dr. W. Threlfall
Department of Biology
Memorial University
St. John's, Newfoundland
Canada A1B 3X9

Dear Dr. Threlfall:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Three species of Digenea from the Atlantic leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

January 15, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

Last week I had the opportunity to see Peter Pritchard, both in Gainesville and at his home in Oviedo. During the course of our discussions, he mentioned that you would now probably be willing to send Archie and me a copy of the Newsletter mailing list. This belief was apparently based on conversations with you that took place in Tampa. I am, of course, optimistic that you will send this list in the near future.

It is my understanding that SSC is currently preparing a letter which sets forth the various terms and conditions for continued publication of the Newsletter. These are all basically the same points that we discussed at great length in Washington.

Enclosed are several copied articles which you may not have seen.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Archie Carr



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 22, 1980

Mr. Ross Witham
Florida Department of Natural Resources
MRL Field Station
P. O. Box 941
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

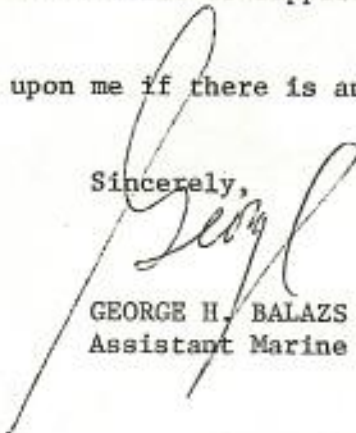
Dear Ross:

Thank you for your interesting and detailed letter of February 7th concerning the unresolved Jupiter Island tag recovery. As you will note from the attached letter which appeared in the Jan. - Feb. 1980 issue of OCEANS MAGAZINE, this recovery is continuing to be represented as authentic in spite of the questions that have now surfaced.

Ross, I realize that you haven't asked for my advice in this matter, but nevertheless I urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to clarify this situation to the general public. If the validity of the recovery remains questionable, it would obviously not be appropriate for this case to be used as evidence to support the effectiveness of headstarting programs.

Please feel free to call upon me if there is any way that I can help you in this situation.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 19, 1980

Dr. Robert Scott
International Union for the
Conservation of Nature
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I am writing to tell you that I fully support the request made by Anne Meylan (Turtle Group Agenda Officer) and others concerning acquisition of a copy of the Newsletter mailing list from Nicholas Mrosovsky. In addition to the increased conservation effectiveness that can be obtained through use of this list, there is, of course, the fundamental question of who actually owns this list - the Newsletter editor or IUCN/WWF and the Turtle Group. Quite honestly, I hope this entire Newsletter matter will be resolved in the very near future. I am sure you will agree that the amount of energy we are expending on this issue would be far better utilized in conservation efforts for sea turtles.

The attached copied correspondence is being sent to you on a confidential basis. As of this date, no response has been received.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Anne Meylan

February 20, 1980

Mr. Kim Clifton
The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Route 9, Box 900
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Dear Kim:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of February 10th. This was really appreciated, as I did indeed develop considerable interest in your Maruata/Colola turtles during my brief visit. I was, however, sorry to hear about your serious poaching problems. As radical as it may seem to you, I still wonder if the best way (perhaps the only way) to save the Maruata rookery would be to build a hotel/tourist facility focused on the nesting turtles. Sort of a Heron Island counterpart that depends, to a great extent, on the very existence of the nesting turtles for tourist appeal. Perhaps the local poachers could even be employed at the hotel as an alternate means of income. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome, remember that I am here to help you in whatever way possible with your conservation and research problems.

I have been keeping Jack Woody fairly well informed on my efforts to have National Band and Tag Company produce additional orders of Inconel tags at the earliest possible date. They are now holding \$800 of my money on deposit, which I sent to them to demonstrate my sincere interest in such an order. I have enclosed some of their recent correspondence for your background information. Please note that Larry Ogren of the Panama City Lab, National Marine Fisheries Service, is also involved in these negotiations. Larry has access to the extra funds that may well be necessary for the Company to gear up for production. I will keep you posted on the outcome.

As requested, I am sending you a copy of my "Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands." This was contract work for the National Marine Fisheries Service, and has now been formally accepted by that agency. Please see the cover note memo if you have the occasion to reference this report in your writing. I have also enclosed a copy of my Washington paper on growth rates of green turtles. Your comments on any of this work would of course be most welcome.

Mr. Cliffton
Page 2
February 20, 1980

If possible, I would appreciate receiving copies of the reports resulting from the Maruata/Colola study. I believe that I already have the WWF Xerox reports through 1978.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

February 20, 1980

Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada
Dr. Patricia M. Masters
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Dear Drs. Bada and Masters:

I have read with considerable interest the SCIENCE article authored by Thomas Maugh concerning your aging technique through amino acid racemization. I wonder if you would be interested in analyzing the eye lenses of green turtles (Chelonia mydas) for such age determinations? The age at sexual maturity and longevity of sea turtles under natural conditions are almost totally unknown, thereby seriously limiting our abilities to properly manage and conserve the various species. Some of these problems were recently discussed in a paper I presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D. C. (copy enclosed).

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience if you are interested in the possibilities of analyzing such material.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk

February 20, 1980

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

Dear Kenji:

Recently I was asked a question relating to Hawaiian sea turtles that I could not even partly answer. That is, do officers of the Division of Fish and Game at this time enforce either the provisions of State Regulation 36 (no capture of *Chelonia* under 36") or the Federal sea turtle provisions of *Chelonia* as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act? When time permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving some up-to-date information on this matter.

I have enclosed several recent articles on sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

February 15, 1980

Mr. Arnold L. Howard
P. O. Box 4
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Arnold:

Thank you for your letter of February 10th which included information on a nesting at Kamehame.

I respect your advice concerning publicity of tag recoveries in the Ka'u Report. I have not seen this newspaper in a long time, therefore would you please send me a recent copy. A self-addressed and stamped envelope has been enclosed for this purpose.

I am interested in returning to the Big Island for further tagging, but no definite plans have been made.

Good fishing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 15, 1980

Mr. Robert W. Truland, Director
Chelonia Institute
P. O. Box 9174 -
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your letter of February 12th which I received this morning. I was pleased to learn that you are able to honor my request for more turtle pins. Please be assured that they will be put to good use.

I am sorry to say that none of the photos taken during my South Pacific trip actually show Melanesians wearing the pins which I distributed. This was certainly a mistake on my part, in that they would have made good photo subjects. Nevertheless, I will make a point of taking such pictures of native peoples during my next expedition.

Again, thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to call upon me or the IUCN Turtle Group for help if the need arises.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

February 15, 1980

Captain Jon P. van Tamelen
1405 Winslow Avenue
Coquitlan, B. C., Canada V3J 2G5

Dear Captain van Tamelen:

Please accept my sincere apologies for this belated response to your interesting, informative and valuable letter of 21 August 1979. I greatly appreciated learning of your observations of pelagic marine life, particularly the sighting of a male green turtle. This is one of the few reports of a green turtle being observed in oceanic waters of the Pacific. I suspect that the turtles you recorded north of the Galapagos were alive ridleys (Lepidochelys olivacea).

Concerning the blue-grey crabs which you found in some abundance, I have enclosed some drawings provided by my good friend and crab expert, Dr. William Cooke. Do any of these creatures resemble the ones which you encountered? According to Dr. Cooke, there is virtually no information on the toxicity, or lack of toxicity, of oceanic crabs. You were probably wise to have rejected them as a food source - possibly to be used only as a last resort.

I am also sending you a recent news article from our Honolulu paper that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk
enclosures

February 15, 1980

Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request a modification of our Threatened Species Permit (PRT 2-35 93) which will authorize the attachment of small radio transmitters to 10 adult green sea turtles for tracking studies. These transmitters will weight only approximately 250 grams and measure 3 by 4 by 6 centimeters. The transmitters will either be recovered at the conclusion of the study (1-2 months) or be designed in such a manner to detach from the turtle after a similar time period.

A copy of our existing permit and the previous cover letter of authorization has been enclosed for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

cc: Director, HMB
R. Shomura
G. C. Whittow
A. Dizon

February 14, 1980

Mr. Tony Duquette
824 North Robertson
Los Angeles, California 90069

Dear Mr. Duquette:

Mr. Lowell Barnhart of the Hilton Hawaiian Village has given me your name and address due to my interest in finding out the origin of the decorative turtle shells located at the coral ballroom. I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with the name and address of your supplier. Based on the shape of these shells, I suspect that they were obtained in Mexico, but I would indeed like to confirm this point.

Thank you for whatever assistance you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 14, 1980

Earl W. and Olive Lippoldt
P. O. Box 2067
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Dear Earl and Olive Lippoldt:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any articles or reports relating to your work with sea turtles. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk

February 13, 1980

Mr. Bill Suzuki
Camp Erdman
401 Atkinson Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Suzuki:

As I described during our telephone conversation, I am sending a supply of sea turtle sighting report forms, as well as some related material for use in the Camp Erdman Environment Program. Your assistance in gathering information on the occurrence of sea turtles along this coastal area of Oahu will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 13, 1980

Dr. Karen Bjorndal
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Karen:

Your letter of February 4th concerning Leo Brongersma was very much appreciated. Although I do not personally agree with all of the reasons you set forth, I certainly respect your sincerity in the matter. I should state that my absence of support for Leo basically stems from a belief that 1) he freely accepts travel money from the Mittags and/or the Cayman Turtle Farm for the purpose of lobbying for their cause; 2) he "used" Archie's early statements to support farming, knowing full well that Archie is now opposed to farming; and 3) if Archie truly wanted Leo back on the Group, he would have added his name months ago when we were first compiling the list. I said "back on the Group" because during the previous IUCN/SSC three year appointment period Leo was not a member of the Group (see attached list compiled by Archie and Nicholas). I wonder if Leo was ever aware of this fact. Nevertheless, after all is said and done, I can live fairly easy with the recent positive decision on Leo - mainly because at least three vigorous new members are also now on the Group.

When and how do you folks want to oppose Suarez? Please help me find out if the ship or plane that carries his ridley hides stops at a U. S. port during shipment.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 13, 1980

Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, Director
Mississippi Laboratories
National Marine Fisheries Service
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

Many thanks for your informative and interesting letter of February 4th concerning your involvement in the satellite tracking of sea turtles. This is indeed an exciting pilot project, and I certainly hope it has a successful outcome.

Our own modest efforts here in Hawaii will commence during June with the radio tracking of several green turtles during internesting intervals at French Frigate Shoals. For this work, I will be collaborating with Dr. Andy Dizon of our local laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. I will keep you posted as our results are obtained.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 13, 1980

Captain E. B. Holtzman
14th Coast Guard District (e)
Federal Building
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Captain Holtzman:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in obtaining transportation for me and my assistant (Mr. Alan Kam) to Kure during the middle of March. The reason for this visit would be to conduct a short tag and recapture study of green sea turtles, similar to the work I have been periodically carrying out at this location since January of 1977. It is my understanding that a Coast Guard C9130 aircraft will travel to Kure during mid-March for a two to three day visit. While I have previously travelled extensively through the courtesy of the Coast Guard, I have not done so during recent months. Your assistance in guiding me through the proper channels would therefore be greatly appreciated.

I should perhaps point out that lodging at the Kure Loran Station is not absolutely essential. If necessary, my assistant and I can use a tent set up near our study area at the southern end of the island.

Thank you in advance for whatever help you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346 - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

January 17, 1980

Mr. Ross Witham
Department of Natural Resources
Marine Research Laboratory
P. O. Box 941
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

Dear Ross:

It was good to see you again at the Washington conference, but I am sorry that we did not have the opportunity to discuss in detail certain aspects of our respective research projects. I am especially interested in learning more about your nesting beach recovery of a headstarted turtle. This was briefly mentioned in a recent issue of Florida Conservation which our librarian brought to my attention. Perhaps the specifics of this recovery were presented in your paper at Tampa. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting due to my recent return from a workshop on sea turtles in New Caledonia. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

address label please

*Commanding Officer
Johnston Atoll*

APO San Francisco 96305

February 7, 1980

Commanding Officer, Wake Island
Detachment 4, 15th Air Base Wing
APO San Francisco 96501

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can provide in the distribution and use of the enclosed sea turtle sighting report forms. These forms were used at Wake during previous years and some interesting and valuable data have been obtained. Additional reports would continue to be of benefit to my research program of Pacific sea turtles.

Johnston Atoll

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosure 5

February 11, 1980

Commanding Officer
Johnston Atoll
APO San Francisco 96305

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can provide in the distribution and use of the enclosed sea turtle sighting report forms. These forms were used at Johnston Atoll during previous years and some interesting and valuable data have been obtained. Additional reports would continue to be of benefit to my research program of Pacific sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

February 11, 1980

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

Dear Jon:

I wonder if you made any observations of sea turtle nesting activity along your coastline during this past "season"? If so, I would greatly appreciate hearing of the details.

Enclosed is an article on our recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation which I thought you would find interesting. I wish both you and Annette my best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 11, 1980

Mr. Andy Guthrie
18100 Scottsdale Blvd.
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

Dear Andy:

Many thanks for your letter of January which arrived while I was visiting with Dr. Carr. Our meeting in Gainesville at Dr. King's office proved to be successful, and we now anticipate distribution of the final Conference Conservation Strategy and Action Projects in the very near future.

During the conference you mentioned to me that you could use to good advantage my green turtle-monk seal photograph taken in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. If you are still interested in such an undertaking, please let me know of your plans and I will have a supply of prints run off. I am not particularly interested in payment, however, photo credit would be appreciated.

Hopefully your Ohio weather is warming up. It was 90° yesterday in Honolulu!

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 11, 1980

Dr. Dan Popper
FAO/UNDP
Private Mail Bag
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Dan:

It was good to see you in Noumea, but I am sorry that you were not able to stay for the duration of the sea turtle workshop. Some interesting and informative data were presented, and I feel certain that everyone felt it was a worthwhile gathering. I was especially interested in the report authored by Bill Travis (covering the hawksbill hatchery and "headstart" project in Western Samoa. Presumably this document has now been circulated among fisheries and other government officials in Apia. I wonder if you are aware of any of the comments, or if, in general, the paper has been well received. As you may be aware, several of the island representatives at the workshop had questions about this project that could not be answered.

I do not know how much longer you will be based in Western Samoa, however, there is a good chance that I will be there for a visit before the year is over. This could very well be in conjunction with a study visit to Rose Atoll planned for August or September. I'll write to you again as these plans materialize.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 11, 1980

Ms. Anne Meylan
Agenda Officer
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Anne:

Enclosed is a draft letter to the airline organizations of IATA and ATC for Archie's consideration. You will recall that we discussed this preliminary approach during off-hours at the Washington Conference. I am sorry to have taken so long to obtain these addresses and sketch out such a short letter. At this point, you folks should modify the letter as you see fit and either send it out under Archie's name (Chairman), or if for some reason you prefer, return it to me and I'll send it out. It makes no difference to me, so long as we keep the ball rolling.

Within the next two weeks, our local office of Continental Airlines will be sending me OAG books which list the addresses for the main administrative offices of every airline in the world. We can therefore send out a more detailed letter requesting assistance from each individual airline if you think this might be a productive undertaking. Perhaps we should first wait for a response from IATA and ATC.

Have you heard any further word from Cousteau headquarters concerning the movie production?

Anne, when your busy schedule permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the following publication:

Carr, A. F. 1972. The case for long-range chemoreceptive piloting in Chalonia. NASA SP-262: 469-483.

Mahalo and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

D R A F T

February 11, 1980

Executive Secretary
Air Traffic Conference of America (ATC)
1709 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary inquiry to ask for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in their derived products. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that ATC might be willing to provide some assistance in this endeavor, possibly through the placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, either on a non-cost or very low cost basis.

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

Sincerely,

Enclosure (December 1979 Newsweek article)

D R A F T

February 11, 1980

Executive Secretary
International Air Transport Association (IATA)
1155 Mansfield Street
Montreal 113, P.Q.
Canada

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary inquiry to ask for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in their derived products. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that IATA might be willing to provide some assistance in this endeavor, possibly through the placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, either on a non-cost or very low cost basis.

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

Sincerely,

Enclosure (December 1979 Newsweek article)

February 11, 1980

General Manager
Kona Village Resort
P. O. Box 1299
Kaupulehu, Hawaii 96740

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to ask your assistance in my efforts to obtain biological data on the occurrence of sea turtles along your coastline. The enclosed turtle sighting report forms can provide me with such information. I would therefore be most appreciative if you would make this material available to your staff and guests.

If you have any questions about this request or my research program of Hawaiian sea turtles, please feel free to call me collect at (808) 247-6631.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 11, 1980

Dr. Sylvia Braddon
Research Chemist
National Marine Fisheries Service
Charleston Laboratory
P. O. Box 12607
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Sylvia:

I am sorry that circumstances did not allow us to meet in person at the Washington conference as I would like to have learned more about the results of your research. I am, of course, particularly interested in the outcome of your analysis of the sample of Hawaiian green turtle flesh that I previously sent to your laboratory. If you have any preliminary reports or publications on your work available at this time, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy.

If there is any way that I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk

February 11, 1980

Mr. Nick Stone
Ministry of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Nick:

I wonder if either you or Dick James would be willing to provide me with an evaluation of the Solomon Islands sea turtle report prepared and distributed by McElroy and Alexander? In order to properly judge this work, I feel that it is necessary to hear the views of someone actually in the Solomon Islands at the present time. Your assistance in this matter would therefore be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your letter of January 23rd.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle
Group

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

January 15, 1980

Mr. Tom V. and J. R. Haas
National Band and Tag Company
721 York Street
Newport, Kentucky 41072

Dear Mr. Haas:

Thank you for your respective letters dated January 2nd and 8th which I had the opportunity to review following my return from a short business trip to Florida. I must confess that I am somewhat confused due to the extremely encouraging statements for an Inconel tag order made by one of you (TVH) in a letter dated 11/16/79, thereby contrasting with your more recent letters. I am hopeful that the information contained in the earlier letter was correct, and that we may proceed in the very near future with a firm order for either 5,000 or 10,000 size 681 tags made of Inconel 625 alloy. Because of my successes, I would like to retain the same specifications as previously used in my Inconel order. I would personally not recommend a thicker Monel tag to other researchers because this is not really solving the widespread Monel corrosion problem. I would also advise against placing a second hole in the tag to accommodate the point of the curl. In my opinion, this is unnecessary, and indeed could result in a weakened tag structure and greater susceptibility to corrosion. In a recent telephone conversation, I find that Mr. Ogren is in complete agreement with me on this subject. A 11/32" wide 681 style tag would probably be acceptable, but I prefer the standard width used in my earlier order.

I look forward to hearing from you on these important matters at your earliest convenience. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec
Enclosure

February 6, 1980

Ms. Sylvia Spring
Wildlife Division
Department of Lands Sur.
& Environment
P. O. Box 2585
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

Dear Sylvia:

Many thanks for your recent letter bringing me up to date on research activities in your area. This was very much appreciated. I will also be looking forward to receiving the bank draft reimbursement that you mentioned.

You will be interested to learn that several weeks ago I visited with Archie and his graduate students (Anne Meylan, Karen BJORNDAL, Jeanne Mortimer) in Gainesville for three days. The primary purpose of the trip was to attend to the final follow-up meeting of the Conference Scientific Committee held in Wayne King's office at the Florida State Museum. During this time, some telephone conversations took place with IUCN in Morges, and strong recommendations were once again given in support of funding for your project. Hopefully you will hear from them in the not too distant future. Please keep me advised.

I believe that Archie will be in PNG starting in April, but I am not certain. I suggest that you write to him for this information at your earliest convenience. If the opportunity permits, it would certainly be nice if you would show him some aspects of your sea turtle program.

The report on the New Caledonia aerial survey is currently in preparation, however I am waiting for Rene to send me some additional data on Beautemps-Beaupre near Uvea Atoll. A friend of his has an 8mm movie film of turtles nesting on the island. I will keep you informed as the manuscript progresses.

Ms. Sylvia Spring
Page 2
February 6, 1980

There is a Peacesat relay station in Port Moresby at the National Broadcasting Commission office. The person in charge is a Marie English (Box 1359, Boroko). When you have the opportunity, you should contact her to see what arrangements can be made. I look forward to talking to you over this system and, hopefully, researchers in other Pacific territories.

You have been nominated for membership in the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group. If this is approved, as I expect it will be, you should be receiving formal notification within the next few months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk
enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island · P. O. Box 1346 · Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

October 10, 1979

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Riggsby
P. O. Box T
Morro Bay, California 93442

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Riggsby:

My good friend Skip Naftel of the EASY RIDER has informed me that you accidentally captured a sea turtle while fishing near the Milwaukee Seamount, and that photographs were taken prior to release. As a researcher of sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, I would be most interested to learn more about this unusual observation and, hopefully, obtain copies of your pictures so that a positive identification of the species can be made. I would, of course, reimburse you for whatever printing costs that may be involved. It would be valuable for me to know the exact location and date of the observation, as well as your impression of the general condition of the turtle. Did it appear to be healthy and vigorous, or perhaps in a weakened condition indicative of a straggler to the area? Were other turtles seen in the vicinity?

Your assistance in this matter, when your time permits, would be greatly appreciated. After studying your pictures, I will inform you of the results of my species identification.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 5, 1980

Mr. Lyle Tuttle
Tuttle Tattooing
30 7th Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

I am interested in purchasing a high quality electric tattooing apparatus for use in marking sea turtles and other marine animals. I would greatly appreciate any recommendations or assistance that you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk

February 5, 1980

Mr. John L. Elford, Manager
Hilton Hawaiian Village
2005 Kalia Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Dear Mr. Elford:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in obtaining information on the decorative sea turtle shells used in the banquet halls of your facility. As a biological researcher of sea turtles, I am especially interested in learning of the source of these shells (Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, or?) and the approximate year they were obtained. I would appreciate any assistance that you can provide in this matter.

You may be interested to learn that, based on my preliminary observations, 104 of the turtle shells are derived from the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), and one from the loggerhead (Caretta caretta). With your approval, at some point in the future it would be valuable for me to measure the length of each shell from a stepladder. This would, of course, have to be carried out when the banquet halls are not in use.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 5, 1980

Dr. Robert L. DeLong
Marine Mammal Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Bob:

Later this year I plan to carry out some radio tracking studies of adult green turtles in the Leeward Islands. Prior to purchasing the necessary transmitters, I thought it would be a good idea to contact other possible users of such radio gear to determine if certain frequencies have already been selected. I would, of course, not want to duplicate these frequencies in my program. I recall that at one time you were interested in doing telemetry work with a monk seal. Has this progressed to a point where transmitters have been purchased? If so, I would appreciate being informed of the specific frequencies involved.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed resolution on the Leeward Islands that was passed at the IUCN Commission meetings held in Costa Rica last year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encl.
cc: Ancel Johnson

February 5, 1980

Mr. Craig Harrison
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Craig:

As a follow-up to your suggestion made during our meeting of 21 January, I would appreciate receiving a listing of the frequencies in use for your seabird telemetry work. I have recently made a similar inquiry to Bob DeLong and Amcel Johnson with respect to the possible radio tracking of monk seals.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 5, 1980

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji
Principal Investigator
Turtle Conservation Project
1 Bath Island Road
Karachi 4
PAKISTAN

Dear Ms. Kabraji:

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 1980 concerning references to biological information on sea turtles. I was pleased to learn of your developing turtle conservation project for Pakistan, and I am anxious to help you in whatever way possible. Several of my publications have been enclosed which hopefully you will find interesting and informative. In addition, by copy of this letter I am asking Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman of our IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, to send you an assortment of his recent publications.

If you haven't already done so, you will probably want to contact

Mr. A. A. Quraishy, Director
Zoological Gardens, K.M.C.
Karachi-3, Pakistan

who is also interested in the conservation and biology of sea turtles in Pakistan.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your work progresses.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Archie Carr, Group Chairman

February 4, 1980

Dr. F. Wayne King, Director
Florida State Museum
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Wayne:

Enclosed are two recent Honolulu newspaper articles dealing with the U.S. Navy's bombing of Kaula, a small island heavily used by seabirds for nesting purposes. I wonder if there is any way that you or your colleagues can lend support to the conservation of this important habitat. I realize that the Navy is a formidable agency to challenge, particularly during these times of international strife. Nevertheless, it would appear from the article of February 2 that it does not intend to abide by U.S. law. Such action certainly makes it difficult for U.S. conservationists to be critical of "double standards" in foreign countries.

Hopefully our problems relating to the publication of the conference proceedings are being resolved in a satisfactory manner. As you are probably aware, I continue to be in periodic contact with Archie, Anne, Jeanne and Karen.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

P.S. I wrote to Dr. Maples on January 15 requesting reprints on bone aging of humans, but thus far have not received a reply.

February 4, 1980

Norman Goldstein, M.D.
326 Alexander Young Bldg
Bishop and Hotel Streets
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Recently I had the opportunity to visit your informative exhibit on tattooing at the Hawaii Medical Library. You may be interested to learn that I have experimented with tattooing as a secondary identification system for sea turtles (see enclosed article from the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter).

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving your issue of The Journal of Dermatologic Surgery and Oncology dedicated to tatboing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosure

February 4, 1980

Mr. Michael Guinea
School of Natural Resources
The University of the South Pacific
P. O. Box 1168
Suva, Fiji

Dear Michael:

Many thanks for your letter of January 29 which was mailed about the same time as the letter that I posted to you.

I appreciated receiving the photographs of the heavily pigmented male green turtle found dead at Heron Island. From the fat folds present in the pelvic region, I would say that the animal was in a good nutritional state of health. Although a portion of the tail has been freshly amputated (presumably by a shark), it is highly unlikely that this was the cause of death. Such amputations are a fairly common occurrence at the Hawaiian rookery of French Frigate Shoals. It is indeed curious that there were no tracks left in the sand by this turtle. Was it your impression that someone had carried the turtle up the beach? The dorsal pigmentation of this turtle is certainly indicative of Agassizi (or Carrinegra, as per Caldwell). However, the marginal indentations over the hind flippers are only slight. I wonder if dark pigmentation in the plastron was present as is always the case for adult agassizi? Also, all of the adult black turtles that I observed at Maruata Bay in Mexico during October of last year were very small, rarely exceeding 80 cm in straight carapace length. What was the size of your Heron Island turtle? Again, based on my knowledge, this is a very interesting occurrence for Australia and I appreciate being made aware of the case.

Mr. Michael Guinea
Page 2
February 4, 1980

When you are in the Nadi area, you should visit the boathouse at the Regent Hotel. I was told that divers regularly bring in small greens and hawksbills to sell to tourists. If this is the case, some valuable information might be obtained (stomach contents, etc.).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 1, 1980

Lt. Rex Buddenberg
Commanding Officer
U. S. Coast Guard Loran A/C
Iwo Jima
FPO Seattle 98781

Dear Lt. Buddenberg:

I thought that you and your men would be interested in the enclosed article that recently appeared in our Honolulu newspaper.

As a researcher of sea turtles, I would like to learn about the occurrence of these marine reptiles at Iwo Jima. Do sea turtles inhabit the adjacent waters or nest on sand beaches? Any information that you are able to provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed several sighting report forms which hopefully you and your men will fill out and return to me when observations are made.

Best regards for this New Year. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 1, 1980

Mr. Derek Green
Estacion Biologica Charles Darwin
Galapagos, Isla Santa Cruz
ECUADOR

Dear Derek:

As requested, I am sending you a prepublication copy of my short article on live techniques for sampling food items of green turtles. This is scheduled to appear in the March 1980 issue of Herpetological Review.

It was a pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington conference. Hopefully your project is going well and the necessary financial support has now been obtained.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 1, 1980

Editor
T. E. A. M.
3245 Military Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90034

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would greatly appreciate receiving information relating to your turtle newsletter. If a subscription charge is involved, please indicate the amount.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

SAME LETTER TO:

The Tortuga Gazette
California Turtle and Tortoise Club
P. O. Box 11124
Santa Ana, California 92711

The Plastron Papers
N.Y. Turtle and Tortoise Society
215 West 92nd Street
New York, New York 10025

The Voice of the Turtle
San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society
6957 Tanglewood Road
San Diego, California 92111

Turtle Power
Bay Area Turtle and Tortoise Society
P. O. Box 17
Berkeley, California 94701

January 31, 1980

Ms. Coppelia Hays
Research Zoologist
1501 Javier Prado, Apt. 701
San Isidro
Lima, Peru

Dear Coppelia:

I am sorry that we weren't able to get together for discussions during the Washington conference. Hopefully we will meet again in the not too distant future and have the opportunity to discuss research and conservation matters of common interest.

I have enclosed several articles dealing with the conference that I thought you might find interesting.

Best regards to you and your husband for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 31, 1980

Mr. Huang Chu-Chien
Peking Institute of Zoology
Academia Sinica
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Huang:

I thought you would be interested to learn that you have recently been nominated for membership in the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). If the nomination is approved, as I feel certain it will be, you will receive a formal letter of appointment within the next two months. I look forward to having you as a fellow member in our organization.

Hopefully you received the items that I sent you in my earlier correspondence.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 31, 1980

Mr. Keith Machell
Fish Processing Officer
Fisheries Division
Funafuti, Tuvalu
(via Suva, Fiji)

Dear Keith:

Many thanks for your letter of January 25th containing the \$1 coins and postage stamps. Your assistance in this regard has certainly been appreciated. If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I was interested in your comment relating to the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau's practice of accuracy for subject material. I hope that you can trace the leatherback-Niulakita relationship. As you are probably aware, leatherbacks are fairly rare throughout the Pacific islands.

Enclosed is a newspaper article on the Noumea workshop that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

P.S. I have enclosed an additional US \$1.00 to help cover the cost of postage that was necessary for you to mail me the coins. GHB

January 31, 1980

Mr. Don Reeser
National Park Service
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Hawaii 96718

Dear Mr. Reeser:

I wonder if you are aware of any additional observations of sea turtle nesting activity at Halape since our last correspondence during September of 1978? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

Enclosed is an article covering some of the results of the Washington conference on sea turtle conservation held this past November.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 30, 1980

Mr. Bud Doty
Pahala
Hawaii 96777

Dear Bud:

I wonder if you have made any additional observations of nesting activity at Kamehame Beach or elsewhere along the Kau coastline following your report of June 4, 1979. If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

Hopefully all is going well for you and your family. I wish you best regards for this New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. Roland Almarza
157 Lukia Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Almarza:

I wonder if you have made any additional observations of turtles in the area of Hilo Bay where you captured the tagged individual during May of 1976? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed article covering some of the results of our world conference on sea turtle conservation held in Washington, D. C. this past November.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. J. CH. Gaudriller, President
Association Pour La Sauvegarde
De La Nature Neo-Caledienne
50, rue Anatole France
Noumea, New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Gaudriller:

Many thanks for your good letter of 14 January 1980. I am indeed very pleased to have established contact with your fine organization.

I appreciated your compliments concerning my color booklet on Hawaiian wildlife. Please accept the two additional enclosed copies which I have dedicated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. Herve Gigaroff
ORSTOM
Boite Postale A5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Gigaroff:

Many thanks for your good letter of 11 January 1980. I am looking forward to seeing your movie film when it arrives, and I appreciate your assistance and cooperation in this matter. Please be assured that I will handle it with the best of care and return it to you at an early date.

I will write to you again after the film has arrived.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

January 30, 1980

Mr. O. Rhett Talbert, Jr.
Research Associate
Belle W. Baruch
Marine Field Laboratory
P. O. Box 1630
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

Dear Rhett:

Many thanks for your letter of 25 January 1980. As requested, I am sending you a prepublication copy of my short article on live sampling of food items. This is scheduled to appear in the March issue of HERPETOLOGICAL REVIEW. In transferring the stomach pumping procedure to loggerheads, my advice to you would be to exercise considerable caution so that no internal damage is inflicted.

I certainly look forward to receiving your paper on aerial surveys in South Carolina. It was good to meet you in Washington, and I look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 30, 1980

Leslie
c/o Front Desk
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Leslie:

I want to express my appreciation for the information that you provided on the sea turtle that occurred near your hotel on January 24th. I am currently attempting to document all such events involving Hawaiian turtles, therefore any future assistance that you are able to provide would be most welcome.

I look forward to meeting you in person during my next visit to the Big Island.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. Robert W. Truland
Chelonia Institute
P. O. Box 9174
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Mr. Truland:

At a recent meeting in Gainesville, Florida, Vivian Silverstein informed me that the remaining sea turtle pins from the Washington conference had been returned to your organization. Vivian was able to provide me with 75 of these pins which I have found to be extremely valuable for distribution to Pacific islanders that provide me with information on sea turtles. You may be interested to learn that there are Melanesians in both New Caledonia and Fiji that are currently wearing turtle pins. If possible, I would like to obtain an additional supply of approximately 200 pins for future use. I would, of course, be willing to reimburse you for whatever costs that may be involved.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 28, 1980

Mr. Michael Guinea
University of the South Pacific
Box 68
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mike:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Noumea workshop, and hopefully we will continue to be in contact on matters relating to sea turtle biology and conservation. I am certainly willing to assist you in whatever possible in the development of your own research programs in Fiji.

You will undoubtedly be interested in the following information. During my visit to Suva in February of 1977, Rob Stone was informed by a Gordon Elliott (aboard a fishing vessel) that approximately 60 green turtles were seen at a sand cay two miles northeast of Yagasa Levu in the Lau Group. All sizes of turtles were present and they reportedly displayed very little fear of man. Nesting was not recorded. Seven turtles were taken, presumably for food. Based on the information which I received, it was unclear if these turtles were in the water or on land - possibly basking.

Another report that I can pass on to you was related to me by a fellow passenger during my most recent flight from Nadi to Honolulu. This involved a low level of nesting (species unknown) at the small island of Gamaya (sp. ?) located about 20 miles off Taveuni. Turtles have been captured at this site during the past year and towed back to Taveuni by small boat.

I have Xeroxed a copy of the publication THE FIJI ISLAND by R. A. Derrick, but unfortunately I have recently discovered that pages 259-263 are missing. If you have easy access to this book I would be most appreciative if you would send me copies of these pages when your time permits.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

January 28, 1980

Kona Seafari and Activity Center
P. O. Box 416
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you are able to provide on the recording of sea turtle observations. The enclosed forms and self-addressed envelopes are being supplied for this purpose.

Aloha, and Mahalo,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

January 22, 1980

Mr. Kenneth W. Goddard
Chief, Branch of Forensic Science
Division of Law Enforcement
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Goddard:

I am sorry to say that I- do not have a technique for identifying sea turtles from samples of meat. If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you contact:

Dr. Sylvia Braddon
Research Chemist
Charleston Laboratory
P. O. Box 12607
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

January 22, 1980

Captain E. B. Holtzman
14th Coast Guard District
Federal Building
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Captain Holtzman:

I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed Coast Guard Report of June 1934 which I recently obtained from National Archives in Washington. The information on page 5 is of particular interest to me in that Coast Guard personnel were apparently the first individuals to actually tag sea turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 22, 1980

Ms. Janet Barber
Head of Information & Conservation
World Wildlife Fund - U.K.
29 Greville Street
London EC2N 8 AX
U. K.

Dear Janet:

Many thanks for your letter of 4 January containing my color transparency. Your payment for use was certainly generous and I appreciate your consideration in this matter. I have not yet received the magazines, but I feel confident that you did indeed put the photograph to good use.

Concerning your information on the sale of tortoiseshell in the West Indies, the import prohibition for U. S. citizens results primarily from the U. S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. This law prohibits both the private-personal and commercial movement of hawksbill and other sea turtle products across U. S. borders. Our law protecting hawksbills actually dates back to 1970 under the U. S. Endangered Species Act of 1969. However, enforcement has at times been less than ideal.

Yes, you are correct, the farm situation continues to be a messy, complicated matter. This was discussed during one afternoon at the Washington conference, but fortunately it was not allowed to turn the gathering into shambles. I believe that our Conference Conservation Strategy deals with farming and other sea turtle problems in a reasonable fashion - keeping the turtles' best interests first and foremost. When the Strategy is finalized and distributed in a few weeks I hope that you will be able to give it maximum publicity.

Please feel free to call upon me if and when you have need for additional photographs of sea turtles or other Hawaiian wildlife.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 22, 1980

Mr. Patrick Galenon
Mr. Bruno Ugolini
Service de la Pêche
B.P. 20, Papeete, Tahiti
French Polynesia

Dear Patrick and Bruno:

It was a great pleasure to meet the two of you at the recent SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop in New Caledonia. The paper that you contributed on Scilly made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of Pacific sea turtles. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your efforts, and also to encourage you to continue in this research. Scilly is an extremely important breeding site that should be designated as a fully protected sanctuary at the earliest opportunity. In this respect, you will be interested to learn that the Scientific Committee of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation has recommended that Scilly be formally designated a sanctuary.

Please feel free to call upon me if I can be of assistance to your research programs of sea turtles. Also, if at any time you are able to travel to Hawaii, please notify me so I can make arrangements for a visit to our laboratory.

I apologize for not being able to write this letter in French.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 21, 1980

Dr. Andrew Kennerer
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kennerer:

During the World Conference on Sea Turtle in Washington, D. C., Peter Pritchard mentioned that your laboratory is currently involved in the satellite tracking of a loggerhead turtle. In addition, it was indicated that similar procedures would be employed with a Kemp's ridley during the forthcoming breeding season at Rancho Nuevo. In view of my continuing interest in such work, I would certainly appreciate receiving copies of any resulting reports or publications. Perhaps there are even some preliminary documents describing the research procedures and objectives of this work that you can pass on to me at this time.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 21, 1980

Dr. Val Hinds
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries
P. O. Box 2298
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Val:

Many thanks for your letter of January 9. I hope that your one week ocean excursion was pleasant and productive. I was fortunate to travel to Gainesville, Florida last week for a short follow-up meeting relating to our Washington sea turtle conference (see attached).

As an initial effort to collect current information on sea turtles in the Kermadecs, I am sending you some basic sighting report forms and identification sheets to pass on to resident personnel. Several turtle badges have also been enclosed, and certainly more can be provided if the response exhausts this supply. I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter, and I am hopeful that valuable information will be forthcoming.

You may be interested to learn that an aerial survey which we conducted of New Caledonia following the workshop resulted in the rediscovery of large numbers of nesting green turtles at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. In collaboration with ORSTOM, I would like to go out there for some tagging work at the end of this year.

Looking forward to hearing from you again when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk
enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 18, 1980

Mr. G. S. de Silva
Turtle Islands National Park
Box 768, Sandakan
Sabah, Malaysia

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter dated 7 January 1980. It was indeed good to visit with you, both here in Honolulu and during the Washington meeting. My only regret is that circumstances did not permit us to spend more time together. I was especially keen to learn more about your visit to Suriname. I certainly promise you far more attention during your next visit to Honolulu.

The progress that you have thus far made toward the establishment of an international turtle breeding sanctuary is indeed encouraging. I am hopeful that this momentum will continue, with success being achieved at an early date. Ed Gomez was also in attendance at our joint South Pacific Commission and U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service sea turtle workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia. I am favorably impressed with Ed and his interest in the conservation and rational utilization of Philippine turtles. I am sure he will do whatever he can to establish the international park.

As you read in the SSC Cambridge minutes, the Turtle Group has been reconstituted for the next triennium. I believe that we discussed this during dinner in Honolulu, along with my difficulties with certain individuals following my appointment as Deputy Chairman. Please be assured that you have again been reappointed, and that a letter to this effect will soon be sent out by Archie. With respect to future SSC meetings, to my knowledge there are no funding sources available for travel. As you are probably aware, SSC meetings are usually held twice a year and do not actually involve individual Group meetings, unless enough members happen to be present. I personally would like to attend the February 1981 SSC meeting, in India, but at this time I don't have the least idea where to obtain financial support. The last meeting of the Turtle Group (or at least a select segment of the Group) was held in May 1978 at the University of Toronto. Nicholas organized the entire affair and selected Siow to represent your part of the world. WWF provided travel funds for the meeting, but I seriously doubt if this will ever happen again. Unfortunately, not much was accomplished at the meeting. The SSC minutes were in error about a Turtle Group meeting being held in Washington. Such a meeting did not take place, principally due to the fact that we were already being kept busy with turtle matters 15 hours a day.

Mr. G. S. de Silva
Turtle Islands National Park

January 18, 1980
Page 2

Please keep me informed on your negotiations with the Philippines - I wish you success.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 17, 1980

Mr. Peter Vaughan
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Natural Resources
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your letter of January 8th which I received upon my return from a short trip to Florida. I have also just received a letter from Mr. J. K. McElroy along with a 57 page report on the sea turtle resources of the Solomon Islands. This paper contains some interesting information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. I would imagine that a copy of the report has also been sent to your office. I would appreciate your comments when time permits.

I certainly agree with your plan to initiate a long-term monitoring program of nesting hawksbills throughout the Solomon Islands, although 20 sites may prove to be an overwhelming task. Perhaps fewer sites should be selected and longer study periods spent at each location. In any event, for whatever research strategy is developed, some precautions will have to be taken to prevent the program from being prematurely used as justification for *greater* levels of exploitation. Due to the fluctuations which are known to annually occur in the number of nesting turtles, your program will have to continue for at least several years before some meaningful results can be obtained.

I was sorry to learn that you will not be able to purchase Inconel alloy tags for your project. The company now appears to be close to production, and I was going to send them your name as an interested party. As you heard at the workshop, many researchers have experienced corrosion and tag loss with Monel alloy tags. One of the reasons for our imperfect knowledge of sea turtles is the tag loss problem. I would therefore advise you to carefully analyze the tags you have thus far recovered in order to determine if corrosion is indeed taking place.

I look forward to corresponding with you further as your program progresses.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
cc: Dr. Archie Carr

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

C
O
P
Y

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

January 16, 1980

Mr. J. K. McElroy
Marine Resources Research Unit
Portsmouth Polytechnic
3, Guildhall Walk
Portsmouth, U.K.

Dear Mr. McElroy:

Many thanks for your letter of 17 December 1979 and the report on the Solomon Islands' turtle resources which I only received yesterday. This paper contains some valuable information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. A composite publication will eventually be prepared which summarizes the workshop papers. However, I am uncertain if your paper would qualify for inclusion since it was not actually tabled at the meeting. I suggest that you write to Dr. Rene Grandperrin, Fisheries Advisor with the South Pacific Commission, for clarification on this matter.

It should be noted that conclusion No. 12 on page 44 of your report that references my 1976 publication in Biological Conservation is unclear as written. In contrast with your statement, reproductive migrations by green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands regularly involves one-way distances of 500 to 1000 km. Immature turtles in their foraging pastures seem to be stationary for extended periods (see enclosure).

If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you send copies of your report to the following individuals:

Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, 223 Bartram Hall,
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

Ms. Sylvia Spring, Wildlife Division, P. O. Box 2585, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Peter Vaughan, Fisheries Division, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
bcc: R. Grandperrin, A. Carr

January 17, 1980

Mr. Peter Vaughan
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Natural Resources
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your letter of January 8th which I received upon my return from a short trip to Florida. I have also just received a letter from Mr. J. K. McElroy along with a 57 page report on the sea turtle resources of the Solomon Islands. This paper contains some interesting information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. I would imagine that a copy of the report has also been sent to your office. I would appreciate your comments when time permits.

I certainly agree with your plan to initiate a long-term monitoring program of nesting hawksbills throughout the Solomon Islands, although 20 sites may prove to be an overwhelming task. Perhaps fewer sites should be selected and longer study periods spent at each location. In any event, for whatever research strategy is developed, some precautions will have to be taken to prevent the program from being prematurely used as justification for *greater* levels of exploitation. Due to the fluctuations which are known to annually occur in the number of nesting turtles, your program will have to continue for at least several years before some meaningful results can be obtained.

I was sorry to learn that you will not be able to purchase Inconel alloy tags for your project. The company now appears to be close to production, and I was going to send them your name as an interested party. As you heard at the workshop, many researchers have experienced corrosion and tag loss with Monel alloy tags. One of the reasons for our imperfect knowledge of sea turtles is the tag loss problem. I would therefore advise you to carefully analyze the tags you have thus far recovered in order to determine if corrosion is indeed taking place.

I look forward to corresponding with you further as your program progresses.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
cc: Dr. Archie Carr

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

January 16, 1980

Mr. J. K. McElroy
Marine Resources Research Unit
Portsmouth Polytechnic
3, Guildhall Walk
Portsmouth, U.K.

Dear Mr. McElroy:

Many thanks for your letter of 17 December 1979 and the report on the Solomon Islands' turtle resources which I only received yesterday. This paper contains some valuable information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. A composite publication will eventually be prepared which summarizes the workshop papers. However, I am uncertain if your paper would qualify for inclusion since it was not actually tabled at the meeting. I suggest that you write to Dr. Rene Grandperrin, Fisheries Advisor with the South Pacific Commission, for clarification on this matter.

It should be noted that conclusion No. 12 on page 44 of your report that references my 1976 publication in Biological Conservation is unclear as written. In contrast with your statement, reproductive migrations by green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands regularly involves one-way distances of 500 to 1000 km. Immature turtles in their foraging pastures seem to be stationary for extended periods (see enclosure).

If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you send copies of your report to the following individuals:

Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, 223 Bartram Hall,
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

Ms. Sylvia Spring, Wildlife Division, P. O. Box 2585, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Peter Vaughan, Fisheries Division, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

bcc R. Grandperrin, A. Carr

January 15, 1980

Mr. Scott Gilliam
Koral Kings Diving Club
U. S. Naval Station
Midway Islands
FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Mr. Gilliam:

I apologize for not having contacted you at an earlier date concerning my continuing interests in studying the green sea turtles at Midway. Over the years numerous members of Koral Kings have provided me with valuable assistance in the collection of information, both during my visits to Midway and by recording data for my future analysis. Some of the results of this research was recently presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D. C. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of this paper which will eventually be published in the Conference Proceedings.

I would like to renew my field research activities at Midway in the near future, hopefully before May of this year. However, my schedule is currently uncertain due to a number of unfinished commitments. In the interim, I would be most appreciative if you would let me know how many turtle tags are currently in stock at Koral Kings, and what inscribed numbers are represented. Also, if it wouldn't be too much trouble, I would like to receive a copy of the tagging and tag recovery information in the Turtle Log that has been entered since July of 1978. Thank you in advance for your help in these matters.

I look forward to meeting you and the other club members that are interested in sea turtle biology and conservation. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 15, 1980

Dr. Llewellyn Ehrhart
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

I want to express my great appreciation for the hospitality which you displayed during my recent visit to Oviedo. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to see your study areas in such detail within the short time available. In my opinion, your work on the nesting beaches and in Mosquito Lagoon is making significant contributions to the knowledge and conservation of Florida's sea turtles. I hope that you will be able to obtain the financial support that you certainly deserve for the continuation of this important research.

As promised, in the near future I will be sending you the reports and items that I mentioned.

I wish you and your family best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

Forestry Suppliers
205 West Rankin Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your latest
supply catalog.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

Ms. Christine Casati
1615 45th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

Dear Christine:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your excellent and conscientious translations with Mr. Huang at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. It was a great pleasure to make your acquaintance, and I am hopeful that we will have the opportunity to work together again at some future date.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

Dr. F. Wayne King, Director
Florida State Museum
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Wayne:

First, I would like to thank you for making it financially possible for me to attend the January 10th Gainesville meeting. It was rewarding to have been able to play a role in the follow-up decisions for our Washington Conference. I hesitate to think what the outcome may have been with respect to various action projects if other certain individuals had been in control of the Scientific Committee.

My meeting with Archie, Karen, Anne and Jeanne were, in my opinion, also of significance. Certainly among the five of us there is now more a feeling of "group" effort in helping to conserve sea turtles. We have identified our broad functions, as well as a number of short-term activities to be undertaken.

Wayne, if it's not too late, I would like to see two more important action projects added to our final list. These are:

- 1) Informative pamphlets should be prepared to promote the application of the Conservation Strategy for sea turtles (see attached relating to our earlier Principles and Recommendations).
- 2) Scilly Atoll in French Polynesia should be declared an inviolate breeding sanctuary for sea turtles.

Number two of the above is particularly important in view of the fact that the current lease at Scilly to a small Tahitian family is soon due to expire, and Japanese interests are interested in buying the atoll. These facts were passed on to me by the delegate from Tahiti that attended our recent SPC/NMFS workshop in New Caledonia. An Emergency or at least Critical rating should therefore be indicated.

Dr. F. Wayne King, Director
Florida State Museum

January 15, 1980
Page 2

I have enclosed several articles and items on sea turtles that you will find interesting. I am especially concerned about the reckless statement made in the Philippine article by Fontanilla.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 15, 1980

Mr. Satish Bhaskar
Madras Snake Park Trust
Guindy Deer Park
Madras - 600 022
INDIA

Dear Satish:

It was a great pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington Conference, but I am sorry that we did not have the opportunity to personally discuss in detail matters relating to our respective research projects. I am hopeful of attending the Survival Service Commission meeting and CITES convention scheduled for India in early 1981. Perhaps you are also planning to be in attendance at these important events, thereby giving us a renewed chance to exchange biological and conservation information.

Your September 1979 article in HAMADRYAD was both interesting and informative. I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of additional publications you may have recently authored.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 2, 1980

Mr. Mike McCoy
Executive Director
Micronesian Maritime Authority
P. O. Box D, Kolonia, Ponape
Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

Dear Mike:

I thought you would be interested to learn that our sea turtle workshop in Noumea turned out quite well, with a number of interesting and informative reports presented for discussion. Of course I feel certain that it would have been even more productive had you been in attendance. While a supply still exists in SPC files, I suggest that you write to Rene requesting copies of all reports contributed to the meeting. This will be a good addition to your sea turtle reference library.

On January 10th I will be attending the final meeting of the Conference Scientific Committee in Gainesville, Florida. A number of important decisions will be made at that time, and I will make sure the best interests of Pacific sea turtles are represented.

Following the Noumea workshop we were fortunate to be able to charter a small plane (with Richard Shomura's funding support) and survey nearly all of New Caledonia for sea turtles. This resulted in the exciting rediscovery of a major green turtle rookery at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. I would roughly estimate that several thousand turtles nest on the six small and uninhabited islands present in the area. Hopefully we can arrange for some tagging work to be conducted there next September and October.

It is my understanding that the SPC chartered skipjack vessel will be working in the vicinity of Helen's Reef during early 1980.

Best regards to you and your family for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 14, 1980

Dr. John C. Harshbarger
Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals
National Museum of Natural History
Room W216-A
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Harshbarger:

Enclosed is the duplicate slide for RTLA 2097 as requested by Phyllis in her letter of 10 August 1979.

I was in Washington during late November for the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, but unfortunately did not have the opportunity to contact you.

I wish you and your staff best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

January 3, 1980

Mr. Keith Machel
Fish Processing Officer
Fisheries Division
Funafuti Atoll
Tuvalu (via Fiji)

Dear Keith:

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance in Noumea, and I am sorry that you were unable to attend our SPC/NMFS workshop on sea turtles. The meeting proved to be very successful, with a number of important recommendations for future action being agreed upon. The paper from Tuvalu contributed by Mr. E. Pita, Fisheries Officer, was certainly appreciated in view of the fact that virtually no published information on turtles existed for this island group. Hopefully some additional detailed surveys will be conducted in the near future.

As I mentioned to you, I would like to obtain two of the \$7 Tuvalu coins that display the green turtle. I have also been trying to locate, without success, a few of the 1\$ Tuvalu stamps (new, without cancellation) that display the leatherback turtle. Any assistance that you are able to provide in these matters would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed \$3 to cover costs. Please let me know if this is not sufficient.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

mk
enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
2 January 1980


Dear Eleanor-

If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving photo credit in your book.

As we discussed over the telephone, you will make a duplicate of the enclosed slide which will be returned to me in the near future. The original will be returned after the book is published- either in February or March. Return will be by registered mail, and care will be taken during the printing/publishing process to prevent damage.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs

January 2, 1980

Dr. Harold Hirth
Department of Biology
The University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Harold:

Our marine turtle workshop in New Caledonia proved to be highly successful, and it is unfortunate that your schedule did not permit you to attend. One of the papers that was distributed at the meeting dealt with tagging results at Scilly Atoll. I am certain that you will be interested in this report, therefore a copy has been enclosed for your information and files.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

January 2, 1980

Dr. Arthur Dahl
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Arthur:

It was good to meet you in person in Noumea, and I am glad that you were able to participate in the marine turtle workshop. During the course of the meeting you made some important contributions which helped to provide balance to the discussions.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. Edward Klima
National Marine Fisheries Service
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77550

Dear Dr. Klima:

It was a pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington Conference and discuss matters of common interest relating to sea turtles. As promised, I am sending you some copied correspondence on the production of Inconel 625 alloy tags. Nearly all researchers have recorded corrosion in the standard Monel tags, whereas under Hawaiian conditions my experimental Inconel tags have thus far shown absolutely no deterioration over a 38 month period. You may want to consider using these tags in your Kemp's ridley headstarting project.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. Jeremy Cherfas
Department of Psychology
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1

Dear Jeremy:

Patty Shaver, staff member with the Washington sea turtle conference, recently sent me a xerox copy of your NEW SCIENTIST article entitled "The song of the turtle." This is certainly an interesting and informative presentation, and I would like to offer you my compliments on your conservation efforts. If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving five copies of the 13 December 1979 NEW SCIENTIST issue. If you are unable to honor this request, perhaps you could provide me with the name and address of the appropriate person to contact.

You will undoubtedly recall that we met in Toronto in May of 1978 at a reception sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. I did not realize that you attended the Washington Conference, and I am sorry to have not had the opportunity to speak with you again in person.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GEB:md

January 2, 1980

Mr. Wayne Witzell
Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Wayne:

I thought you would be interested in receiving a copy of the paper on the Western Samoa hawksbill project that was authored by Bill Travis for the recent SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop held in Noumea. Unfortunately, Bill was not able to be present at the meeting to answer questions and provide additional details. I would appreciate hearing any comments you may have on this important paper.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHS:md

Encl.

January 2, 1980

Dr. James D. Lazell
Center for Action on Endangered Species
175 West Main
Ayer, Mass. 01432

Dear Skip:

It was a pleasure to speak to you by telephone during your stopover in Hawaii, and I am sorry that circumstances did not permit me to visit with you in person. As you may have heard by now, both the Washington conference and the workshop in New Caledonia turned out to be highly successful gatherings.

Your forthcoming project in India certainly sounds interesting. I would greatly appreciate receiving reports or publications that result from this work.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. E. G. Silas, Director
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
Vincent Road, P. B. No. 1912
Cochin - 682018 INDIA

Dear Dr. Silas:

It was a pleasure to meet you during your visit to our laboratory on 7 November 1979, and to see you again at the Washington conference. Hopefully the conference provided you with worthwhile information that will be useful to the sea turtle program at your own research institute.

Please feel free to contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance to your work with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md