

> FEB 79 OUTGOING

3.

HIMB G.H. BALAZS

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

January 15, 1980

Dr. Bill Maples  
Florida State Museum  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Dr. Maples:

Dr. Wayne King has briefly told me of your work with bone sectioning as a technique for aging humans. I am currently trying to develop a similar procedure for determining the age of sea turtles. When your time permits, I would certainly be most appreciative if you would send me copies of reports or publications which describe your research.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

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

March 17, 1980

Ms. Marcia L. Kartub  
P. O. Box 5147  
Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064

Dear Ms. Kartub:

I am writing this letter to ask for your assistance in providing some additional information on the tagged 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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



December 27, 1979

Mr. C. J. Limpus  
P. O. Box 189  
Aitkenvale  
Townsville 4814  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Colin:

I thought you might be interested to learn that our SPC/NMFS workshop in Noumea turned out quite well. Dr. Thomson of the University of Queensland was in attendance and made some very worthwhile contributions. It is unfortunate that circumstances did not allow you to be there with us. Sylvia Spring, Ed Gomez, Archie, Guinea, and Peter Pritchard were also in attendance.

Following the workshop, the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory provided financial support to charter a small plane for a sea turtle survey of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. This resulted in the rediscovery of a major green turtle rookery at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. The actual numbers present are difficult to estimate at this stage, however at least several thousand females were undoubtedly present this season. I will be jointly preparing a report on our findings within the next few months, so please do not quote this information in print until a proper reference can be provided. Plans are now underway to collaborate with ORSTOM and other French organizations on a tagging project in 1980.

During our interview with one of the head chiefs on Lifou Island it was stated that approximately two years ago a large green turtle was captured that had the number "8" tattooed or inscribed in ink on the ventral surfaces of the front flippers and on each side of the plastron. Unspecified officials in Noumea were notified, and it was subsequently reported that the turtle originated in "Australia." Do you have any knowledge of this case? Also, could you provide me with any of the specifics of the tagging and tag recoveries from Australia to New Caledonia? I believe that Bustard published some of this information.

Colin, if the IUCN Turtle Group is going to be a positive force in sea turtle conservation, we are going to have to start functioning and interacting as a unit - taking on defined problems and winning some battles through



Mr. C. J. Limpus  
December 27, 1979  
Page 2

concerted action. Archie and I can only do so much between the two of us. In my opinion, each member is going to have to take a more active role. If this doesn't happen in the near future, I am fearful that the Group will fade away and be replaced by another sea turtle organization, with totally different members, outside the structure of IUCN.

When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the slide of the flatback on the beach that you supplied to the Bishop Museum. This would fit very nicely into my lectures given to local audiences.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 27, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

In anticipation of making a firm order for Inconel tags, I would like to place \$800.00 on account with your company at this time. The enclosed check (59-102/1213, No. 250) should be deposited at your earliest opportunity and credited to my future order. Research grant requirements make it necessary for me to expend this money at the present time.

Our workshop on sea turtles in New Caladonia proved to be highly successful. In addition to the names supplied in my earlier letter, the following individuals have now expressed interest in possibly ordering Inconel tags:

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

Ms. Sylvia Spring  
Wildlife Division  
Department of Lands and Environment  
P. O. Box #585  
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

Mr. N. P. Stone  
Senior Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Mr. C. J. Limpus  
P. O. Box 189  
Aitkenvale, Townsville 4814  
Australia

Mr. Tom V. Haas  
December 27, 1979  
Page 2

Ms. Copelia Hays-Brown  
1501 Javier Prado, Apt. 701  
San Isidro  
Lima, Peru

Dr. J. M. Thomson  
Department of Zoology  
University of Queensland  
St. Lucia, Queensland 4067  
Australia

I look forward to hearing from you when you have final information on the tag cost.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 26, 1979

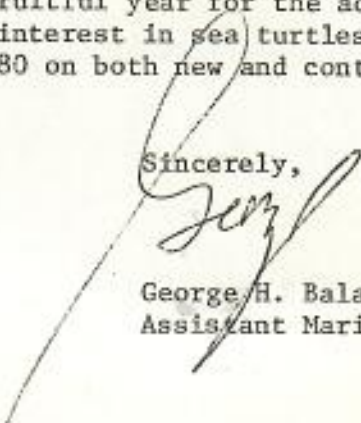
Mr. Richard Shomura, Director  
Honolulu Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear Richard:

I want to take this opportunity to offer you my compliments and appreciation for the key role you have played in the planning, funding and successful conduction of our marine turtle workshop in New Caledonia. I feel certain that the exchange of information that took place, and the resulting recommendations, will have far reaching and positive effects on the management of Pacific sea turtles.

This has indeed been a fruitful year for the advancement of knowledge and stimulation of interest in sea turtles. I look forward to working with you during 1980 on both new and continuing projects in the Pacific region.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

CHB:md

December 26, 1979

Mr. J. C. Gaudriller  
Association pour la Sauvegarde  
de la Nature Neo-Caledonienne  
B. P. 1772  
Noumea, New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Gaudriller:

I want to take this opportunity to thank your fine organization for giving me the opportunity to speak about Hawaiian sea turtles on the evening of 12 December. This was a most enjoyable experience and I am hopeful that those in attendance found the information presented to be interesting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any way that I can be of future assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 26, 1979

Dr. P. Rancurel  
ORSTOM-Océanographie  
24 rue Bayard  
75008 Paris  
FRANCE

Dear Dr. Rancurel:

As requested in your recent correspondence, I am sending you a copy of my scientific note on the recovery of a loggerhead from a tiger shark at Kure Atoll. I have also included several other publications on sea turtles which you may find interesting.

Recently I had the honor of serving as a consultant to the South Pacific Commission for a workshop on sea turtles in the Pacific region. One of the important topics discussed at this meeting was the occurrence of nesting turtles in New Caledonia. Several of us were subsequently able to charter a small aircraft and survey the islands at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. This appears to be a major Pacific breeding area for the green turtle, Chelonia mydas. Personnel at the ORSTOM-Noumea office informed me that you have prepared some reports on the terrestrial and marine biology of both d'Entrecasteaux Reef and Chesterfield Reef. I would be most appreciative if you would send me copies of these papers.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures



December 26, 1979

Dr. P. Fourmanoir  
Oceanographe Biologiste  
Centre ORSTOM de Noumea  
B. P. A5  
Noumea, New Caledonia

Dear Dr. Fourmanoir:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the most enjoyable and interesting evening at dinner which you hosted for Ed Gomez, Peter Pritchard and me in Noumea. It was a great pleasure to meet you in person and informally discuss matters of common interest.

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 26, 1979

Miss Jain Nisha  
P. O. Box 85  
Sigatoka  
Fiji

Dear Miss Nisha:

Enclosed is the photograph of 19 December 1979 that I promised to send you.

I want to thank you for taking the time to talk to me about the selling of sea turtle products at the Sigatoka marketplace. This is valuable information that will be of assistance in my research.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 21, 1979

Mr. M. Young Vivian  
Secretary-General  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Vivian:

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the South Pacific Commission for jointly sponsoring the recent Workshop on Marine Turtles in the Tropical Pacific Islands. This meeting, which was the first of its kind, generated a number of exceedingly important reports on marine turtle populations. In addition, lines of communication were established which I am sure will ultimately result in the wiser management, conservation and utilization of these declining resources.

The success of this meeting can be principally attributed to the careful planning and active participation of your staff members, Messrs. Rene Grandperrin and James Crossland. This being my first visit to SPC headquarters, I must state that I was also impressed with the conscientiousness and kind assistance provided by members of your translation staff, travel department and secretarial services.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the interesting and enjoyable cocktail party which you and your wife hosted on the evening of December 10th. It was a pleasure to meet you in person and informally discuss matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

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

mk





# 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

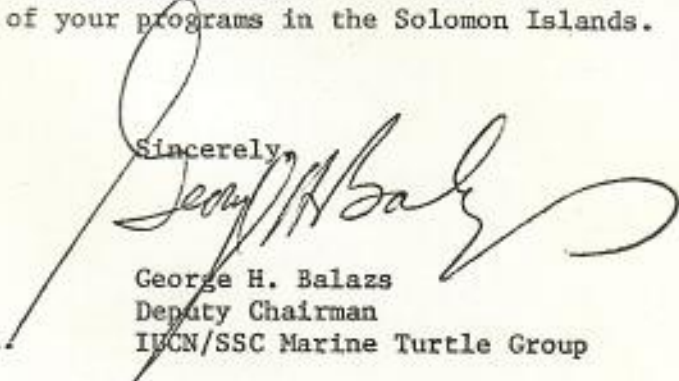
Mr. N. P. Stone  
Senior Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Honiara, Solomon Island

Dear Nick:

While there were undoubtedly some areas of disagreement, I feel confident that our recent workshop was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you and discuss such matters of common interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to the development of your programs in the Solomon Islands.

Best regard for the New Year.

Sincerely,



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

mk



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 24, 1979

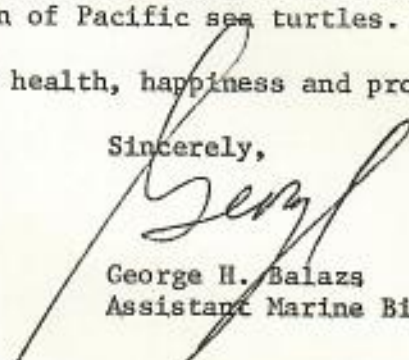
Mr. Harry T. Kami  
Chief of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources  
Department of Agriculture  
Government of Guam  
Agana, Guam 96910

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

December 26, 1979

Mr. Louis Devambex  
Conseiller aux Pêches  
Ministere des Ressources naturelles  
Port-Villa  
New Hebrides

Dear Mr. Devambex:

I feel confident that our recent workshop in Noumea was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance, and hopefully we will meet again during the coming years. I am sorry that circumstances did not allow me to visit the New Hebrides for a few days as originally planned.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

Ms. Mary Margaret Goodwin  
Special Assistant for the Environment  
Office of the DUSN, Room 4C748  
Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

It was a pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington Conference, but I am sorry that we were not able to get together for a longer period to discuss Hawaiian sea turtles and other topics of mutual concern. Perhaps in the not too distant future you will have the opportunity to travel to Hawaii during the course of your duties with the Navy. If and when this possibility exists, please notify me in advance and I will make arrangements for you to tour our facility here in Kaneohe Bay.

When available for distribution, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the EIS for Kahoolawe Island. The section on sea turtles which quotes my report will of course be of great interest to me.

Best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

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

GEB:md



December 26, 1979

Mr. William Pedro  
Office of Marine Resources  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear William:

I feel confident that our recent workshop in Noumea was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. It was a pleasure to see you again at this meeting, and I look forward to cooperating with you on matters of common interest during the coming years. Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to determine the status of nesting and incidence of hatchling predation at Rose Atoll.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

Mr. Barerei Onorio  
Senior Fisheries Officer  
P. O. Box 508  
Betio, Tarawa  
KIRIBATI

Dear Barerei:

I feel confident that our recent workshop in Noumea was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance, and I look forward to cooperating with you on matters of common interest during the coming years. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to the development of your programs in the Kiribati.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GRB:md

December 26, 1979

Professor J. M. Thomson  
Department of Zoology  
University of Queensland  
J. D. Sotry Building  
St. Lucia, Queensland 4067  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Dr. Thomson:

I feel confident that our recent workshop in Noumea was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance, and I look forward to working with you again during the coming years.

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

Mr. Herve Cigaroff  
ORSTOM  
Post Box A5  
Noumea, New Calédonia

Dear Mr. Cigaroff:

As indicated during our brief conversation in Noumea on 18 December, I would greatly appreciate being able to look at your 8mm movie and color slides of sea turtles taken near Ouvea Island. If you are still agreeable to loaning me this photographic material on a short-term basis, perhaps you could give it to Rene Grandperrin for viewing and mailing. At an early date I will return the items directly to you along with the results of my analysis as to species.

I wish you best regards for the New Year. Hopefully we will meet again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md



December 24, 1979

Mr. Harry T. Kam  
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: E. Shomura, NMFS  
R. Grandperrin, SPC

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

December 24, 1979

Dr. Rene Grandperrin  
Fisheries Advisor  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Dear Rene:

My trip home to Honolulu was pleasant, and it is now nice to relax during the holidays after nearly a month of continuous travel. The accomplishments of the Washington Conference, the SPC/NMFS Workshop, and the aerial survey of New Caledonia are certainly a rewarding way to end the year of 1979. I hope that 1980 will be equally satisfying professionally for all of us.

On 20 December I air mailed your small package as requested. Please let me know when it arrives safely. Several conference buttons were also enclosed for distribution to SPC personnel. Under separate cover I have also returned by air mail the publications that I borrowed from your sea turtle file.

I would like to correspond with the two representatives from French Polynesia, Patrick and Bruno, but unfortunately I have no record of their family names, titles and mailing addresses. When convenient, would you please send me this information. Also, do you recall the first name of Mr. Guinea who represented the USP?

My color slides taken at d'Entrecasteaux Reef, Isle of Pines and Lifou turned out well. I am now having some duplicate slides and prints made for distribution to you, Mr. Petite and the people we interviewed. These should be mailed out within the next week or so.

Two important points that I should list as reminders are:

1. Slides and movies taken off Ouvéa by Mr. Harve Gigaroff that he offered to loan to me for review (I have written directly to him at ORSTOM);
2. Observations of turtles made during the pleasure boat trip to d'Entrecasteaux Reef by the ORSTOM pilot and his friends.

Once again, it was a great pleasure to work with you and Jim during the workshop and aerial survey. I look forward to see you both again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

mk

George H. Balass, Asst. Mar. Biologist



December 24, 1979

Mr. N. P. Stone  
Senior Fisheries Officer  
Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Honiara, Solomon Island

Dear Nick:

While there were undoubtedly some areas of disagreement, I feel confident that our recent workshop was a most constructive and instructive gathering that will ultimately result in the wiser utilization of Pacific sea turtles. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with you and discuss such matters of common interest. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to the development of your programs in the Solomon Islands.

Best regard for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

mk



December 5, 1979

Ms. Argelis Ruiz  
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
P. O. Box 2072  
Balboa, Panama

Dear Argelis:

It was a great pleasure to meet with you in person at the Washington conference. As promised, I am sending you an assortment of reprints dealing with my research of Hawaiian sea turtles. Please feel free to call upon me for assistance as your own research progresses.

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Sally:

Following your departure from the conference, I had the opportunity to speak with Jim Richardson concerning your request that I prepare sections on tags and tagging for the Southeast Region Recovery Plan. It was indicated that these two topics were probably already being covered by other authors, and that duplication might therefore result. Nevertheless, Jim said that he would speak with you further on this subject for clarification. Given this uncertainty, I did not feel justified in discussing the matter with Anne Meylan.

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

Mr. & Mrs. C. Haney  
711 E. Leicester Avenue, Apt. B-12  
Norfolk, VA 23503

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Haney:

I apologize for taking so long to respond to your letter of 16 September 1979 which requested a photo of the Midway turtle capture and additional information on our turtle tagging. I can easily provide you with all of this material, however I hesitate to do so until I have your current address in California. Hopefully this letter will be forwarded to your new residence and you can write to me in the near future.

All is well with us here in Hawaii, and our son is growing rapidly (1 year on 28 December). Very best regards to you, Joshua and Candy.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

December 5, 1979

Ms. Jennifer West  
WORLD Magazine  
17th and M Streets, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Jennifer:

In response to your request at the Washington conference, I am sending you a map and data table which outlines long-distance migrations by green turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago. I have also enclosed a copy of my 1976 color booklet dealing with Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals.

I would be pleased to assist you at any time in education endeavors relating to the conservation of sea turtles.

Sincerely,

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

mk



December 5, 1979

Mr. Michael Bean  
Environmental Defense Fund  
1525 18th Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mike:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the factual information which you provided to us relating to the Cayman Turtle Farm. Your research in this matter, as well as your direct questioning of Drs. Wood and Johnston, made substantial contributions to the Washington Conference. Hopefully this information will appear in the published Proceedings.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
cc: W. King, Florida State Museum  
A. Carr, Univ. of Florida

C  
O  
P  
Y

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

December 3, 1979

Mr. Robert W. Truland  
Ms. Mary C. Woodward  
Chelonia Institute  
P. O. Box 9174  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Mr. Truland and Ms. Woodward:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the most enjoyable and interesting reception which you sponsored during the evening of November 28. It was a great pleasure to meet you in person, and I certainly look forward to working with you on sea turtle conservation as future circumstances may warrant.

Warm Aloha and Mahalo,

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

mk  
bcc: Dr. F. W. King  
Dr. Archie Carr

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

November 9, 1979

Dr. Rene Grandperrin  
Fisheries Adviser  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex  
New Caledonia

Dear Rene:

Before we meet in Noumea for the workshop, I want to take this opportunity to provide you with some of my current thoughts on sea turtle research and management activities in the Central Pacific, specifically for the islands of Polynesia.

Recently I took the time to reread the Turtle Project report which I prepared for SPC back in April of 1977. It was especially useful for me to once again go over the various recommendations that I offered in the concluding section. In nearly every case I find that I am still in agreement with my own recommendations and, if asked, would give essentially the same advice today in 1979. For Polynesia, which is really my foremost geographical area of interest in sea turtles, I am firmly convinced that there is an urgent need to determine the current status of the principal nesting sites of Palmerston, Penrym, Rose Atoll, Rangiroa, and Scilly (including Mopelia and Maupiti). The basic questions are, of course, 1) how many turtles are nesting annually at each location, 2) what exploitative pressures are occurring during this vulnerable period, and 3) what distant foraging areas are the turtles inhabiting when they leave the breeding grounds. The answers to these questions can only be obtained through the on-site, systematic monitoring and tagging of nesting turtles on consecutive nights throughout the peak of the breeding season. To be sure, this is hard, dirty and frequently not very glamorous work that requires some previous experience with, and knowledge of, nesting turtles. Nevertheless, the work must be done if we are to have any sort of data base from which to manage and conserve. Aerial over-flights are, of course, fine for scouting out new areas. However, for those areas where we know that nesting is now taking place, there is absolutely no substitute for stationing a small team directly on the beach. I am therefore hopeful that our workshop will recognize

Dr. Rene Grandperrin  
November 9, 1979  
Page 2

the great importance of such baseline research and thereby provide funds, encouragement, scientific advice, or whatever else is needed to get the job accomplished.

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Shomura



COPY



## University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 13, 1979

Sr. Antonio Suarez G.  
Etzatlan 28 - Col. Maza  
Mexico, D. F.

Dear Antonio:

You will recall that one of the serious concerns that many of us expressed during our meeting in Oaxaca was your inability to provide us with any of your company's records, including the actual number of turtles taken annually under the industrialized management plan. I believe that you told us that such records were not readily available, and also that some clearance would first have to be obtained from the Mexican Fisheries Department. These records are, of course, absolutely essential if we are to make any sort of accurate evaluation of the biological soundness of the management plan. It is for this reason that I hope you will be able to attend the Washington meeting later this month and, at that time, provide us with all of the necessary records that were unavailable in Oaxaca. Such action on your part will certainly be interpreted as a continuation of the open, positive and healthy relationship upon which we have all recently embarked.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Oaxaca participants  
IUCN/SSC

November 8, 1969

Colonel Sharman R. Stevenson  
Fifteenth Air Base Wing/CC  
Hickam Air Force Base  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Sharman:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Fifteenth Air Base Wing for the valuable assistance that has been provided during the course of my research activities on sea turtles at Bellows Station and Wake Island. The results of some of this work will be presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation which will convene later this month in Washington, D. C. For your information and files, I am sending you a manuscript copy of my presentation.

Again, many thanks for your fine support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Commanding Officer, Wake Island  
Capt. Chang, Bellows Station

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

October 10, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

I thought you would be interested to learn that, after three years of use, the INCONEL size 681 tags that you made for me have shown absolutely no corrosion on Hawaiian green turtles. In contrast, I continue to periodically make recoveries of MONEL tags that are considerably deteriorated.

At the present time I have about 1000 INCONEL tags remaining, which should easily last through 1980. Nevertheless, I want to make a preliminary inquiry at this time as to the possibility of your company producing more of these tags. I would be interested in an order of at least 5000. I accept the fact that the cost of production may now be somewhat higher. Nevertheless, the tag is the basis of our research on sea turtles, and the longevity of the tag is of paramount importance regardless of cost.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Cocoanut Island - P. O. Box 1346 - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96713

November 1, 1979

Dr. Nicholas Mrosevsky  
Department of Zoology  
Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories  
25 Harbord Street  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear Nicholas:

I was very disappointed to see that your November issue of the IUCN/SSC Newsletter did not give coverage to the forthcoming SPC/NMFS Marine Turtle Workshop in Noumea, New Caledonia. It was my understanding that you were going to make some mention of this event, which was brought to your attention several months ago by Dr. Rene Grandperrin.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



November 5, 1979

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

Dear Harry:

I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed paper on growth rates of Hawaiian green turtles that I will be presenting at the Washington conference. In the very near future, you should be receiving a copy of my background report from Richard Shomura's office.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

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

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

I can understand and appreciate some of your disappointments in not being reappointed as Co-Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Turtle Group. At the same time, I hope you will understand that I have some responsibilities as Assistant Chairman with respect to the continuation of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter. It is my feeling that this publication should be issued on a regularly scheduled basis, as well as when important conservation matters need special attention. In the best interests of sea turtles, I therefore think you should notify both Archie and me if you intend to continue on as Editor, or if we should proceed to make this assignment to another Group member. I hope that you will give me your final answer to this question within a few days after receiving this letter.

As Deputy Chairman, I believe that I can do some additional good for the conservation of sea turtles by periodically sending out separate notices to individuals and organizations around the world. An example would be this SPC/NMFS turtle workshop scheduled for December in New Caledonia. I would therefore like to have you send me a copy of the names and addresses on your master list for the Newsletter. Although I don't know if he wants or needs it, perhaps it would also be appropriate for you to send a copy of this mailing list to Archie.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
cc: A. Carr

November 1, 1979

Mr. Henry Sesepasara  
Mr. Richard C. Wass  
Office of Marine Resources  
Government of American Samoa  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Henry and Dick:

Enclosed is a copy of my paper on growth rates in green turtles which has been prepared for the Washington conference. I thought that you might be interested in some of these results. In the near future, you should be receiving a copy of my background document on the Hawaiian green turtle from Richard Shomura's office.

Beginning in January, I would greatly appreciate being advised on the scheduling of visits to Rose Atoll. Hopefully I will be able to accompany you on one of these trips.

I look forward to seeing one or both of you at the SPC meeting in Noumea.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosure

October 31, 1979

Dr. S. E. Solomon  
Department of Veterinary Anatomy  
Glasgow University  
Glasgow, Scotland -

Dear Dr. Solomon:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a  
reprint of your article entitled "Aspects of  
the biology of Chelonia mydas".

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md



October 31, 1979

Dr. J. A. Musick  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Dear Dr. Musick:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your report entitled "The marine turtles of Virginia."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 31, 1979

Dr. F. A. van Rhyn  
Laboratory of Comparative Physiology  
University of Utrecht  
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Dear Dr. van Rhyn:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Optic orientation in hatchlings of the sea turtle. I. Brightness: Not the only optic cue in sea-finding orientation".

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 31, 1979

Dr. T. H. Chua  
Department of Zoology  
University of Malaysia  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Dear Dr. Chua:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Conservation of the leathery turtle in Peninsula Malaysia."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

Dr. T. S. H. Gibson  
School of Life Sciences  
Leicester Polytechnic  
P. O. Box 143  
Leicester, LE1 9BH  
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Gibson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of  
your article entitled "Green turtle nesting  
activity at Aldabra Atoll."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



October 31, 1979

Dr. K. A. Bjorndal  
Department of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Karen:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of  
your article entitled "Urine concentrations of  
ammonia, urea and uric acid in the green turtle."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

Dr. J. R. Fletemeyer  
620 S. E. Fifth Court  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Dr. Fletemeyer:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint  
of your report entitled "Sea Turtle Monitoring  
Project."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 29, 1979

Dr. Jack Woody  
Assistant Regional Director  
Southwest Region  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is the T-shirt that I promised to send you, as per your request in Mexico. The design is now "out of print," so you have a real collector's item.

I believe that I spoke to you about my interest in attending and contributing to the forthcoming Kemp's ridley meeting in Galveston. Although I have access to funds for attendance, I simply cannot take the time in view of my present commitments for the Washington, D. C. meeting in late November and Noumea, N. C. workshop in early December. Since you will be attending the Galveston meeting, perhaps I can give you some of my thoughts on the project, which may very well coincide with your own. The Four main areas of concern are as follows:

1. Predation - We somehow need to get an estimate of the predation rates on the headstarted turtles following their release. Predation on this size category may be very high in the natural state, in spite of the fact that it is assumed we are circumventing high predation by raising them to a juvenile size (see attached correspondence with A. Kemmerer).
2. Tags - I have serious concerns about the present, almost universal, use of Monel tags on sea turtles. In many populations they corrode and fall off, in addition to introducing toxic heavy metals into the turtles. If any corrosion is occurring with the headstarted ridleys, the use of Monel tags should be discontinued. Obviously the tag is the most important element of this project (see my enclosed paper).

Dr. Jack Woody  
October 29, 1979  
Page 2

3. Disease - What risks are being taken by introducing headstarted turtles into the wild that have been exposed to numerous exotic and stress created diseases while raised in captivity (see Klima & McVey MS)? Could we be transmitting such diseases to the naturally occurring population?
4. Recovery circumstances and condition of turtles - Archie mentioned to me that some of the headstarted turtles thus far recovered have been in bad shape and found under unusual circumstances. It would be useful to have a turtle by turtle descriptive breakdown of each recovery. The statements on this subject in the Klima & McVey MS (p. 11) are a bit too general.

Presumably you will be at the Washington Conference, and I am looking forward to seeing you again at that time.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 29, 1979

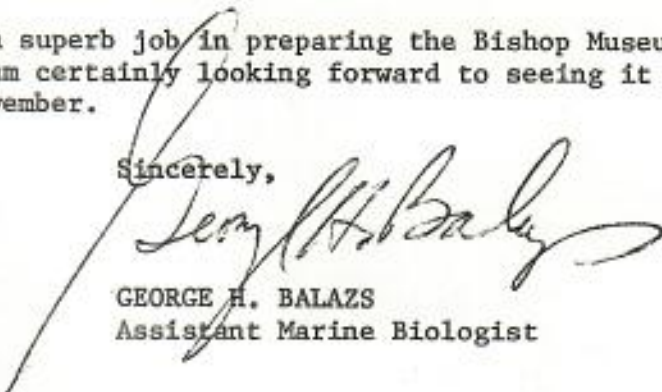
Dr. John Hendrickson  
Department of Ecology  
& Environmental Biology  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear Dr. Hendrickson:

During a recent visit to Escobilla as the guest of Sr. Antonio Suarez, it was mentioned to our group that you had prepared a report for the Mexican Fisheries Department evaluating the PIOSA ridley management plan. This is undoubtedly a valuable document from which conservationists can gain insight into the full scope of problems and possible solutions. I therefore would be most appreciative if you would forward me a copy of your report at your earliest convenience.

Carla appears to be doing a superb job in preparing the Bishop Museum sea turtle exhibit, and I am certainly looking forward to seeing it upon completion in late November.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

October 29, 1979

Sr. Antonio Suarez G.  
Etzatlan 28 - Col. Maza  
Mexico 2, D. F.

Dear Antonio:

I thought you would be interested in receiving the enclosed section from one of the Washington conference papers which discusses the olive ridley turtle industry in Ecuador. You will note from the text that one of the justifications given for taking large numbers of turtles in Ecuador is that they would be taken in Mexico anyway. Certainly this emphasizes the urgent need for a conference to be held on the subject in the very near future.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

October 29, 1979

Mr. Tom Whiu  
Education Officer, Pitcairn Is.  
c/o Mr. H. Smedley  
British High Commission  
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Mr. Whiu:

As a researcher of sea turtles in the Pacific region, I would like to obtain information on the occurrence of these animals in the waters surrounding Pitcairn, Oeno, Ducie and Henderson. I would be most appreciative if you would assist me in this matter. Specifically, I would like to know 1) if sea turtles occur around these islands, 2) if nesting takes place on any of the islands, 3) how many different kinds of sea turtles are present, and 4) what are the approximate sizes of the turtles. The answers to these questions will provide valuable information for our scientific records, as there are essentially no data on sea turtles for these islands at the present time.

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Dr. A. Carr

October 29, 1979

Dr. Mary Margaret Goodwin  
Special Assistant for the Environment  
Office of the DUSN  
Room 4C748  
Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Goodwin:

As requested during our telephone conversation this morning, I am sending you a copy of my November 1978 report on the Kahoolawe sea turtle survey along with some related correspondence.

I look forward to meeting you in person at the Washington conference during late November.

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

October 29, 1979

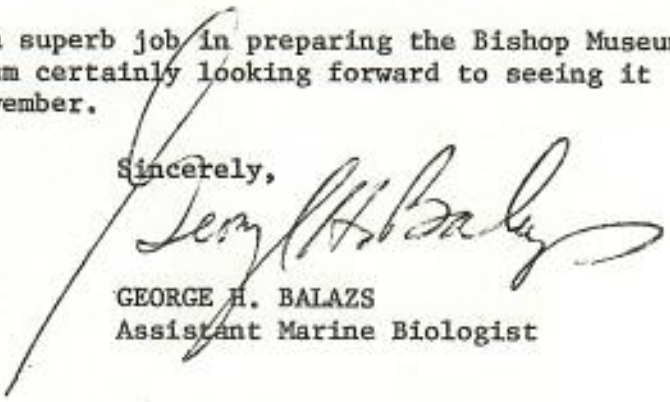
Dr. John Hendrickson  
Department of Ecology  
& Environmental Biology  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear Dr. Hendrickson:

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Carla appears to be doing a superb job in preparing the Bishop Museum sea turtle exhibit, and I am certainly looking forward to seeing it upon completion in late November.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

October 29, 1979

Dr. Jack Woody  
Assistant Regional Director  
Southwest Region  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is the T-shirt that I promised to send you, as per your request in Mexico. The design is now "out of print," so you have a real collector's item.

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Dr. Jack Woody  
October 29, 1979  
Page 2

3. Disease - What risks are being taken by introducing headstarted turtles into the wild that have been exposed to numerous exotic and stress created diseases while raised in captivity (see Klima & McVey MS)? Could we be transmitting such diseases to the naturally occurring population?
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Presumably you will be at the Washington Conference, and I am looking forward to seeing you again at that time.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 21, 1979

Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, Director  
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
National Space Technology Laboratories  
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

I appreciated your letter of April 30th along with the recent NFEL report on radio tracking of headstarted sea turtles. As you might expect, I was disappointed to learn that plans are not materializing for the satellite tracking of Hawaiian *Chelonia* for long-distance migrations within our island chain. During late July Mr. Richard Shomura, Director of the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory, will be hosting a small workshop aimed at developing research and conservation strategies for sea turtles under U. S. jurisdiction in the Pacific. The topic of satellite tracking will be discussed at that time and I am confident that a strong and persuasive case can be made to Washington for conducting the initial work in Hawaii.

I found the NFEL report to be both interesting and informative. There are, however, a few questions and constructive comments that I would like to offer.

- 1) The reference "Anonymous (1975)" mentioned on page 2 is not listed in the Bibliography. The information contained in this reference would be of interest to me.
- 2) I suspect that the 100 km range stated for the Cessna 172 aircraft is an error or typo. I periodically use this type of an aircraft for survey work and have found its range to be 350 miles or more. Perhaps heavy instrumentation or very small fuel tanks had to be incorporated in your model.
- 3) Concerning the results presented in Table 3, I would like to offer an additional possible explanation that is not set forth in the text. It could logically be suspected that at least 10 of the 12 turtles tracked were terminated due to mortality by sharks, large bony fish, or other predators. The categories "transmitter apparently detached" and "specimen assumed outside target area" (presented in Table 3) could very well support such an interpretation. In any event, it would have been worthwhile to discuss such a possibility in the text. I am sure that your follow-up studies will provide some insight into this important subject.

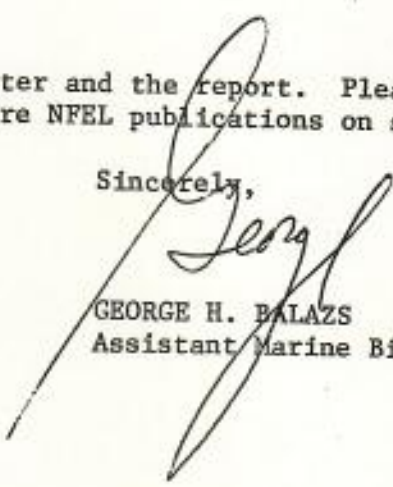


Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, Director  
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory

May 21, 1979  
Page 2

Again, many thanks for your letter and the report. Please add my name to your distribution list for future NFEL publications on sea turtle telemetry.

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

October 17, 1979

Sr. Antonio Suarez Gutierrez  
Etzatlan 28 - Col. Maza  
Mexico 2, D. F.

Dear Antonio:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the hospitality and open discussions which you provided during our recent meeting in Mexico. In all honesty, I must tell you that, as a research biologist, I am convinced that the olive ridley populations of Mexico will not support the type and level of exploitation that your company is presently pursuing. I do not think that the species will become extinct in Mexican waters, but surely the populations will collapse to such a low level that they will no longer be a viable resource that can benefit man. Nevertheless, I am encouraged that we have all taken a very positive step toward resolving this problem by meeting in person and establishing lines of communication.

I hope that you and your wife will accept the enclosed book on the Hawaiian Islands as a small token of my appreciation for the enjoyable dinner party held at your house.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

October 5, 1979

Mr. Maurice Matsuzaki  
Division of Conservation & Resource Enforcement  
Division of Fish and Game  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Matsuzaki:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the research assistance I have been receiving from your office. On Lanai, Mr. Peter Connally and Mr. Albert Morita salvaged a dead green turtle found washed ashore and forwarded it to me, at my request and expense, for analysis of stomach contents. This has resulted in the gathering of valuable information on the animal's food habits in Hawaiian waters. Mr. Noah Pekalo and Mr. Al Stevens have also provided similar assistance with respect to illegally captured turtles that were confiscated by your office here on Oahu.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



Ms. Carla H. Kishinami  
Curatorial Assistant,  
Vertebrate Zoology,  
B.P. Bishop Museum

Dear Carla:

Enclosed are the <sup>two</sup> original  
transparencies that you requested,  
as well as the dossier  
on Cayman Turtle Farm's  
suit against the U.S. government.  
As you are aware, the Farm  
lost this case and their  
products are now prohibited <sup>from being imported</sup>  
into the United States. I  
therefore feel that both you and



Mr. Kemble should carefully examine the portion of your exhibit which deals with the Cayman Turtle Farm. In my opinion, as the caption is presently written, it could be interpreted as a <sup>mild</sup> endorsement of the Farm's activities.

Sincerely,

GHB  
AMB



## University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
October 4, 1979

Dear Janet:

I just returned to my office today and read your letter dated 18 September. Hopefully this slide will arrive in time to meet your publication deadline. Please have it handled with great care, as I have sent you one of the originals and not a duplicate. Many thanks.

For the past 10 days I have been in Mexico attending a meeting with Antonio Suarez, Archie Carr, Kim Clifton, Peter Pritchard and others. We visited the infamous Puerto Angel slaughter house, "research" station, and Escobilla Beach. All very interesting, but very depressing. On our last day, we had a high society dinner party at Suarez's new house in Mexico City. This is all a highly complex situation, but one thing is certain in my mind is that Suarez can not be trusted. He has several different personalities.

Hopefully all of my photos from this trip will turn out well- I have just taken them in for processing.

Very best regards,

  
George Balazs

Please return the slide by air mail at your earliest opportunity.

*Could you please send five copies (or more) of the issue in which the photo appears?*



September 7, 1979

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

Dear Mike:

I was delighted to hear that you will be presenting the paper in Washington. I am sure that some good things will result from your involvement.

The paper work has really backed up on me, creating the equivalent of a seven day a week, 15 hour a day work load. On top of that, I have been asked to attend a meeting with Suarez in Mexico later this month (along with Peter, Archie and David Ehrenfeld). This is too good to pass up, so I am going.

Many thanks for the slide showing the Taiwan shell. Very interesting color pattern.

Both Linda and I enjoyed meeting Angelina and having the two of you over for dinner. Be sure to call us when you are back in Honolulu again (395-6409).

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 22, 1979

Sir Peter Scott,  
Chairman  
IUCN Survival Service Commission  
The New Grounds  
Slimbridge  
Gloucester GL2 7BT

Dear Sir Peter:

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy 70th birthday on September 14, 1979. I regret that I cannot be with you and the other members of our Commission to celebrate this occasion.

With best regards and Aloha,

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md



August 21, 1979

Ms. Cynthia Thielsen  
Suite 1100  
130 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Thielsen:

As requested during our telephone conversation this morning, I am sending you a copy of the November 1978 report resulting from my preliminary survey of sea turtles at Kahoolawe. This Institute is a part of University of Hawaii, State of Hawaii, therefore all such reports and publications prepared under its auspices are available to the public upon request.

If there are any additional questions, please feel free to contact me again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 13, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Gomez:

Thank you very much for your letter of 7 August 1979 concerning the NMFS/SPC marine turtle workshop in Noumea, the world conference in Washington, D.C., and the efforts now underway in the Philippines to formulate a marine turtle conservation program.

Actually I will not be directing the Noumea workshop, but rather will be serving as an outside consultant along with Dr. Archie Carr, the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group Chairman.

As a member of the Scientific Committee to the world conference, I would like to urge you or one of your colleagues to attend this important event during November. By copies of this letter, I am asking Dr. F. Wayne King, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Ms. Vivian Silverstein, conference coordinator, to provide you with all of the latest details at their earliest opportunity.

I would be most pleased to assist you and your government in whatever way possible with the development of a marine turtle program. The Philippines are of great interest to me, particularly with respect to the hawksbill turtle.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
Enclosures

cc: Dr. A. Carr, Dr. F. Wayne King,  
Ms. V. Silverstein

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

August 6, 1979

Ms. Jeanne A. Mortimer  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FLA 32611

Dear Jeanne:

Let me start off by saying that I am tremendously encouraged with the results you have thus far achieved in your Ascension Island conservation campaign. This really illustrates how one person acting with imagination, determination, and a love for sea turtles can mobilize positive assistance from literally hundreds of people around the world. Along these same lines, your letter to SKIN DIVER was equally moving.

I certainly hope that your paper gets published in *ECOLOGY* as it represents a significant contribution to the sea turtle literature. I hope that one day I will be able to condense all of my Hawaiian data into a similar food and feeding article. The following thoughts come to mind as I read through your manuscript.

- 1) Although not abundant, the seagrass *Halophila hawaiiensis* occurs at various locations in the Hawaiian Islands. Thus far I have only found it in about 2% of the stomach samples obtained. One of these was from Midway at the northwestern end of the Archipelago.
- 2) Did you find your turtle "stomachs" to be comprised of two storage compartments connected by a small diameter segment of tract?
- 3) If the percent dry matter of *Thalassia* is somewhat greater than the percent dry matter of algae, then reporting your results in "percent dry weight contributed by individual food items" would tend to bias your values in favor of *Thalassia*. That is, in comparison to a "measurement by volume" of food items, the algae would show up as smaller components. I agree that the dry matter basis is the best index of nutrients available to the turtle, however, the bulk "fill" of the stomach would also probably be of interest to your reader. Perhaps this could all be easily achieved simply by presenting the percent dry matter values for each of your major food items (*Thalassia*, *Syringodium*, *Caulerpa*, *Hypnea*, etc.).
- 4) Were all of your stomachs from adults? Perhaps some mention should be made of the size of the turtles.



August 6, 1979

- 5) In the Conclusion section you mention "protein level of the diet." This may very well cause the reader to ask what the percent protein content is for each of the plant and animal food items presented. If you are not prepared to present such data, you may want to somehow get around using the words "protein level."
- 6) For the Hawaiian Islands, I have some evidence that suggests shifts in food habits on a short term basis (i.e. *Codium* this week, *Amansia* the following week). Could your turtles possibly be alternating between feeding sites to achieve a well balanced diet in terms of required nutrients (i.e. *Thalassia* this week, algae next week)? Did you cut open the entire GI tract of some animals to check for such a dietary change?

Enclosed are the published and unpublished reports that you requested. With respect to information and interpretations contained in the two unpublished manuscripts (Analyses of turtle parts . . . , Necker green turtles), please use the following citation.

Balazs, G. H. 1979. Synopsis of biological data on marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands. Draft report, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, contract no. 79-ABA-02422, 76 p.

The unpublished manuscripts are being incorporated into this document. I'll see to it that you receive a copy when it is finalized and available for distribution.

Jeanne, I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person at the Washington conference.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



August 10, 1979

Dr. G. Casas-Andreu  
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico  
Instituto de Biologia  
Departamento de Zoologia  
Apartado postal 70-153  
Mexico 20, D.F.

Dear Dr. Casas-Andreu:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article  
"Análisis de la anidación de las tortugas marinas del genero *Lepidochelys*  
en Mexico".

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

August 10, 1979

Dr. J. M. Ruiz  
Curator, Reptiles and Amphibians  
Parque Zoológico de Barcelona  
Barcelona, Spain

Dear Dr. Ruiz:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your  
article "Mycobacterium chelonae intragenic infection"  
(J. Clin. Microbiol. 7(3):319-321).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 10, 1979

CDR Joseph M. Stevens  
Special Assistant for Ecology  
Department of the Navy  
Pacific Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Makalapa, HI  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear CDR Stevens:

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the Navy's report which discusses the findings presented in my November 1978 report on sea turtles of Kahoolawe. A recent newspaper article on this subject has been enclosed for reference purposes.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: J. Caperon, Director HMB

August 10, 1979

Mr. Dougal Robertson  
Author of "Survive the Savage Sea"  
c/o Bantam Books, Inc.  
666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your kind assistance in gaining information on the sea turtles that you and your family judiciously utilized during the period adrift in the Eastern Pacific from June - July 1972. Your observations can be of considerable importance to the scientific community, as very little is known of the lives of sea turtles in the open ocean environment. I do not know if you have been contacted about this subject at an earlier date, however I am hopeful that you will have the opportunity to respond to my inquiry.

The most important point that I would like to determine at this time is the kind(s) of turtles that you observed. To the best of your knowledge, did they all appear to be the same species? There are only five kinds of turtles that could be present in that area of the ocean, and they are all quite different from one another. For reference purposes, I have enclosed some drawings that should be helpful for making an approximate identification.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important subject when your time permits.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Crescent Island • P. O. Box 1216 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

I can understand and appreciate some of your disappointments in not being reappointed as Co-Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Turtle Group. At the same time, I hope you will understand that I have some responsibilities as Assistant Chairman with respect to the continuation of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter. It is my feeling that this publication should be issued on a regularly scheduled basis, as well as when important conservation matters need special attention. In the best interests of sea turtles, I therefore think you should notify both Archie and me if you intend to continue on as Editor, or if we should proceed to make this assignment to another Group member. I hope that you will give me your final answer to this question within a few days after receiving this letter.

As Deputy Chairman, I believe that I can do some additional good for the conservation of sea turtles by periodically sending out separate notices to individuals and organizations around the world. An example would be this SPC/NMFS turtle workshop scheduled for December in New Caledonia. I would therefore like to have you send me a copy of the names and addresses on your master list for the Newsletter. Although I don't know if he wants or needs it, perhaps it would also be appropriate for you to send a copy of this mailing list to Archie.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
cc: A. Carr



9 AUGUST 1977  
HIMB

Nicholas -  
your letter concerning the NMFS/SPC turtle workshop arrived yesterday afternoon. This is just SPC's standard procedure to "request nominations" for observers to their various meetings. Apparently numerous organizations received similar letters. I presume that one was sent to you because you are the Editor of the Newsletter. Please note that there was an error in listing me as the one in charge of the workshop. Actually, both Archie and I have been invited as outside consultants. There is also a very good chance that Peter will attend. As you may recall, I consulted for SPC for two weeks in Fiji and the Cook Islands during early 1977.

You mentioned in your letter that when (and apparently if) the next Newsletter is issued you will run my Kemp's ridley write-up, along with one by Peter. I am therefore sending you an updated and slightly expanded version for such use.

Nicholas, quite honestly, I think you should stop pressing for the creation of some title other than Editor. Regardless of who may be right

or wrong in this entire matter, I am convinced that if you continue to pursue this course the conservation interests of turtles will ultimately suffer. As I've said on numerous occasions, I hope that you agree to retain the Editor position so we can continue to work together.

Best regards,  
George Balay



August 7, 1979

Base Commander  
Bellows Air Force Station  
P. O. Box 1010  
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request the renewal of the Bellows real estate license which has allowed me to periodically capture and tag green turtles from your property. A copy of my expired license has been enclosed for reference purposes. I am agreeable to, and will continue to abide by, all of the previously stated conditions and restrictions set forth by your office. I anticipate using this license on three occasions during the months of August and September, and on one occasion during each of the following months covering a one year period.

A copy of my current Threatened Species Research Permit for green turtles has been enclosed for your files.

Thank you for your past and continuing cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



August 7, 1979

Ms. Vivian Silverstein  
1244 19th Street N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Vivian:

For your information, I am sending you a notice that is being distributed by the South Pacific Commission (Noumea, New Caledonia) concerning the NMFS/SPC Marine Turtle Workshop 11-14 December 1979. In conjunction with some of your press releases for the Washington Conference, I wonder if you would try to obtain some publicity for the Noumea Workshop? This would seem to go together very nicely, as one meeting is a major event with numerous authorities in attendance, while the other is basically a "grassroots" regional gathering by Fisheries officers and other persons interested in sea turtles from the Pacific island nations.

A few of the early notices sent out by SPC indicated that I would be directing the Noumea workshop. This is not the case. Actually, both Archie Carr and I will be attending the meeting in the capacity of official consultants. I thought it best to clarify this point with you so that further misunderstandings do not develop.

Vivian, unfortunately the University of Hawaii will only be able to cover my air fare to and from Washington for the Conference. Is there enough money in your budget to cover my hotel and food costs? I realize this is a late date for such a request. Were you able to make a hotel reservation for me, as requested in an earlier note? Also, did you ever get a response from my contact in Peking? Did anyone in Cuba receive notice of the Conference?

I will telephone you at home, as usual, before your next Scientific Advisory Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

August 7, 1979

Dr. Warrick Anderson  
Department of Zoology, James Cooke University  
Townsville, Queensland  
Australia

Dear Dr. Anderson:

My good friend and colleague, Dr. Jeff Leis of the Australian Museum in Sydney, has informed me that you recently saw a juvenile green turtle basking on dry land at Lizard Island. Although land basking by sea turtles is common in our remote Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, it is not generally recognized to occur at other locations. I would therefore be most interested to learn of the details of your sighting. Did you have the opportunity to take photographs? Was the turtle completely out of the water and dry, and did the turtle appear to be healthy? Is it possible from the location of your observation that the turtle entered shallow water and was subsequently left stranded by a falling tide?

Any information that you are able to provide on this occurrence would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Jeff Leis

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Bolger:

The purpose of this letter is to nominate four species of marine turtles that occur in the United States as themes for a commemorative stamp issue. All of these unique reptiles are experiencing serious conservation problems and are presently protected under the United States Endangered Species Act. The names of the marine turtles, along with a brief description, are listed as follows:

1. Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) -
2. Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) -
3. Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)-
4. Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*) -

During previous years several foreign countries have issued stamps portraying marine turtles. I have enclosed copies of several of these in order to illustrate the attractive artistry that can be achieved from such subject matter. I would be pleased to provide you with any additional information that may be needed to evaluate this commemorative stamp proposal.

Sincerely,

Encls.



August 6, 1979

RMCS J. M. Bradley  
NAVCOMMSTA HE. Holt  
Box 27  
FPO San Francisco  
CA 96680

Dear Jim:

I'm sorry to say that I am just now responding to your letter of April 1979 which contained some excellent photographs of green turtles nesting, presumably at the Northwest Cape. If I remember correctly, this area is "tapu" to Australian aborigines due to a religious sanction (?). I was particularly interested in the dark to black colors of these adult females. Is this the common pigmentation, based on what you have observed? Also, is there a peak to the nesting activity or does it go on at a low level all year? If there are peak months of nesting, approximately how many turtles would you see in one night while walking along the accessible beach? The most important question that I want to ask you is, do you still see turtles hauled out basking on the beach during the daytime? I recall the slides that you showed me of this rare behavior taken when you were originally stationed in Western Australia. If you do still see basking, are the males also involved?

My studies at French Frigate Shoals went very well this season, with about 185 nesting females being present. In addition, I am continuing to tag and recover juveniles in feeding pastures, particularly at Necker, Lisianski, and Bellows Beach right here on Oahu ~~not~~ more than five miles from our home. Just this past week Dr. Archie Carr and two other sea turtle researchers were here in Honolulu for a small workshop meeting. In November I will be going to a world sea turtle conference in Washington, D. C. Then in December I go to Noumea, New Caledonia for another sea turtle meeting. I certainly would like to get out to Western Australia to look at your turtles, but I don't see how I can get the funds for the air fare at this time. I suppose that MAC would be out of the question. If available, would you send me a map of your immediate area and mark on it the nesting beaches with which you are familiar. I would find this to be interesting and informative.

Our son Christian is growing bigger each day. He is now almost eight months old - amazing how time passes so rapidly. I will find a picture to send you in my next letter.



RMCS J. M. Bradley  
NAVCOMMSTA HE. Holt

August 6, 1979  
Page -2-

It's been over a year now since I have been out to Midway. I really don't have a contact there any more. Gary and Linda Means were in Honolulu for a few weeks last month to take a short class at the University. They certainly don't like living in Okinawa.

I hope that all is going well for you and your family. Perhaps one of these days you will be visiting Honolulu or passing through.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

August 6, 1979

Zahida Whitaker, Editor  
Madras Snake Park Trust  
Guindy Deer Park  
Madras - 600 022  
INDIA

Dear Zahida:

Enclosed is US\$2.00 in currency to cover the 1979  
subscription cost of your very informative and interesting  
Newsletter.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Encl.

August 6, 1979

Dr. Steve Stancyk  
Assistant Professor  
Belle W. Baruch Institute  
for Marine Biology  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear Dr. Stancyk:

The information contained in my unpublished manuscript on shark predation which you saw in Dr. Carr's files may be used in your review paper, but should be cited as follows:

Balazs, G. H. 1979. Synopsis of biological data on marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands. Draft report, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, contract no. 79-ABA-02422, 76 p.

This report, which will be available for distribution in September, also contains my documentation of a 21 inch green turtle that was recovered from the stomach of a 450 lb. grouper caught in the Hawaiian Islands in 1974.

I am sorry to say that I am scheduled to be in the field during the time of John Dean's stopovers in Hawaii. I certainly would like to accept your offer to present a seminar in Columbia following the Washington Conference, however, I have a commitment to attend the SPC/NMFS Sea Turtle Workshop in Noumea on 10 December. This will place some tight restrictions on any travel schedule.

I look forward to meeting you in person at the Conference.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

August 6, 1979

Ms. Molly Lutcavage  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Dear Ms. Lutcavage:

Many thanks for your informative and interesting letter of 12 July 1979. I am sorry to say that there is no published literature describing how to age sea turtles. A portion of my research project is presently being directed toward the development of such a technique. Unfortunately, this is still at a preliminary stage.

If you haven't done so already, you should consult George Hughes' publications dealing with the loggerhead turtles of South Africa. He is an authority on this species.

I look forward to meeting you in person at the Washington Conference.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure



August 6, 1979

Dr. T. R. Rao  
Reader in Zoology  
University of Delhi  
Delhi 110 001  
INDIA

Dear Rao:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in resolving the matter of the turtle in Hindu religion once and for all. Specifically, is there indeed a basis for the widespread mythical belief that the world rests on the back of an elephant that stands on a turtle? As you know, we have talked about this for years and, at one time, you were going to find out authentic information for me from one of your relatives. During a recent visit with Archie Carr, the subject was discussed and has once again become important to me. In Archie's book THE REPTILES (Time Nature Library), he discusses this Hindu belief, but in conjunction with the reincarnation of Vishnu which you previously related to me in superb detail. I have enclosed Xeroxed pages from this book for your information. You will note that Archie states that the turtle "avator" (is this a correct name?) stays at the base of creation with an elephant on his back, with the world on the elephant's back. Unfortunately, Archie wrote this long ago and does not know his original reference. If you can confirm this last portion of the story, then our mystery will be solved. I am hopeful that you will do this for me at your earliest convenience.

As usual, I have been heavily involved in field work and report writing activities. In November I will be going to a sea turtle conference in Washington, D. C., and in December to a sea turtle workshop in New Caledonia. I am absolutely confident that one of these years soon I will be traveling through India. My involvement in the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group has increased considerably since being appointed Deputy Chairman, with Archie as Group Chairman.

Activities at HIMB seem to be continuing very well under the firm leadership of Dr. Caperon. Liz Corbin still works at the lab for Steve Smith, and John Corbin is a key administrator in the State's Aquaculture Program. Dick Brock has just finished up his Ph.D., and Wim Kimmerer is still working hard toward his degree. I understand that Margo Stahl now works for a private aquaculture company, but I do not have any details. Francine got married about two months ago, and still works at the lab. I do not know her husband. Jed Hirota and wife just had their second baby. Our son grows larger each day - he is now 8 months old.

Dr. T. R. Rao

-2-

August 6, 1979

It seems to me that you were going to call upon me from time to time for reference articles, etc., that I would send to you fairly easily from Hawaii. I am still available for such assistance.

Best regards, and I hope to hear from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

June 4, 1979

Mr. Colin J. Limpus  
Northern Regional Centre  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Pallarenda Q4810  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Colin:

Many thanks for your recent postcard, and the fine book that arrived last month. Your chapter is interesting and informative - good work.

As you may have heard, there has been some reorganization in the IUCN/SSC Turtle Group for the next three year period. I have been asked to serve as Deputy Chairman, in the capacity of assisting Archie as Chairman. This news arrived totally unexpected a few months ago. After lengthy discussions with Archie, Nicholas and Wayne King (Deputy Chairman of SSC), I made the decision to serve. Of course, there is no pay involved in this sort of thing. A priority challenge for all of us, as I see it, is to somehow "pull the plug" on the Japanese hawksbill and hide industry. Are you aware that all of those olive ridleys that Suarez is butchering in Mexico are for the Japanese hide industry? They are used in manufacturing such "important" items as shoes, sandals and billfolds. In Costa Rica, I spoke through a translator to the Director of the Japanese Ministry of Industry and was informed that they do not feel responsible for the killing of olive ridley because the hides "only represent a byproduct." I've heard this before - everything is a byproduct.

Colin, you may be interested to know that your name has been submitted for renewal of membership in the Turtle Group. I am of the strong opinion that a more "activist" position needs to be taken if we are indeed going to be able to slow the decline of sea turtles taking place in many areas. I would like to get two or three good ideas from you (and hopefully from the other members) as to specific action that might be taken for conservation. Think carefully about it, focus in on a problem, and suggest a possible action that could be taken, either by the Group as a whole, or an ad hoc committee. This can be as activist-oriented as you see fit, although we should probably stop short of commando raids on the turtle fleet at Escobilla!

Enclosed is a notice for the NMFS/SPC workshop to be held in New Caledonia following the Washington, D.C. conference. I don't know if the hierarchy of your government has informed you of this or not. As it stands now, both Archie and I have been asked to go down there and participate.



Mr. Colin J. Limpus

-2-

June 4, 1979

While in Costa Rica I shared a room part of the time with Perran Ross. Another friend of turtles, and a good man to have on our team.

Try not to be the miserable correspondent that you were the first eight months after visiting us here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



August 6, 1979

TO: Gilbert Oshima  
RCUH

FROM: George H. Balazs *G/H.B.*  
HIMB

SUBJECT: MAC (4053) and Sea Grant (2068) Green Turtle Project Administered by  
RCUH.

As of 1 August 1979, funds for my salary should be derived entirely from Sea Grant RCUH Project 2068. An SF 5B has been initiated for this action by our Personnel Officer, Mrs. DeRego. Also effective 1 August, all funds for Alan Kam's salary should be derived from MAC RCUH Project 4053. This will be indicated on all future time sheets submitted by Mr. Kam.

Thank you for your continuing assistance with these project matters.

GHB:ec

August 6, 1979

Mr. Colin J. Limpus  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Northern Regional Centre  
Pallarenda Q4810 Australia

Dear Col:

Your letter of 13 July 1979 arrived here at our institute only yesterday (3 August 1979). I am responding to your concerns immediately because I can understand, to some extent, how you must feel about this whole matter. I only wish that we both had access to a shortwave "ham" radio so I could discuss this with you by voice and save the time, delay, and other inadequacies of letter writing.

First, let me say that although I am a member of the scientific advisory committee, I have only had the funds to travel to one of the planning meetings in Washington, D. C. Nevertheless, I share some responsibility because it had always been my understanding that an invitation would be extended to you to give a status report on Australian sea turtles. To the best of my knowledge, it is all just as simple as that. Everyone assumed that your name was a "cornerstone" on the list, and when the last circular came out a number of us were surprised to note that it was not there. On Sunday 29 July I telephoned Vivian Silverstein at her home in Washington to inquire, among other things, about this absence. She indicated that it was indeed a terrible oversight on all our parts. It is my understanding that it will be corrected in short order.

The question of inviting Kowarsky to present a paper on the subsistence hunting of sea turtles in Australia is a different matter. It has been my understanding that Kowarsky was directly involved in the "farming" projects with indigenous peoples of Australia. He has, in fact, published several papers in recent years dealing with Australian sea turtles. You stated that much of his data are acquired second hand, suggesting perhaps that he is not a reliable researcher or source of information. If this is in fact the case, how were we to know? If there are two other better qualified authorities on the subject, as you have stated, why haven't they corresponded, or somehow interacted, with the international sea turtle research community over the past few years, such as you have undertaken?

Mr. Colin J. Limpus  
Page 2  
August 6, 1979

With respect to the timings of both the Washington and Noumea meetings, you are certainly wrong in suggesting that they were somehow planned to coincide with the peak of the Australian breeding season. The Noumea workshop simply follows the SPC Technical Fisheries Meeting that had been planned years in advance. The official mailing of announcements by SPC to government agencies outside the SPC Region is scheduled to take place within the next few weeks. The announcement that I originally sent to you had been distributed only to fisheries officers within the SPC Region.

You may have noted during your three day visit with me here in Hawaii that I was completely open with you on all the various aspects of my research program. Certainly most workers would have been more reserved for fear of giving away so-called "secrets." I did not feel this way with you simply because, after our time in Toronto, I developed a respect, trust and high regard for you and your work in Australia. To state the opposite in the second paragraph of your letter is clearly erroneous.

Although you never mentioned it to me, Nicholas told me that you have a growth paper in press with HERPETOLOGICA. If this is the case, could you see your way clear to send me a copy so I can reference it properly in my forthcoming papers.

There are indeed numerous important topics on research and conservation that we can talk about when we get together again. Hopefully, this will be in Washington or Noumea, or both.

Incidentally, the turtle barnacle reprint you mentioned was not enclosed with your letter.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



August 6, 1979

Mr. Christer Friberg  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Northern Group  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
P. O. Box 96  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

Your letter to the Director of our Institute concerning sea turtle research in the Cook Island was forwarded to me as I am the Principal Investigator of sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands.

As you may be aware, the South Pacific Commission will be holding a joint workshop with the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service in Noumea, New Caledonia from 11-14 December 1979. Dr. Archie Carr and I will be attending this workshop as outside consultants. I hope that you will attend this meeting so that we can discuss in detail the status of sea turtles in your area of the world. It would be especially helpful if you or one of your staff would prepare a background paper on this subject for presentation at the meeting. A copy of the paper should be sent in advance to the SPC Fisheries Advisor in Noumea.

I am personally quite interested in the sea turtle resources of Palmerston and Penrhyn.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosure  
bcc: R. Grandperrin, SPC



July 9, 1979

Mr. Larry Ogren  
SEFC, Panama City Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
3500 Delwood Beach Road  
Panama City, Florida 32407

Dear Larry:

I was pleased to learn that you may very well be able to attend our NMFS Pacific turtle planning meeting here in Honolulu later this month. When asked about possible participants several months ago, I suggested your name to Richard Shomura along with Archie (of course) and Harold Hirth. I know that you have a lot of good ideas and information on sea turtles, and certainly you should be called upon for input more often.

Looking forward to seeing you later this month.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 9, 1979

Professor L. D. Brongersma  
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie  
Leiden  
The Netherlands

Dear Leo:

When time permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article "Notes upon some turtles from the Canary Islands and from Madeira" (Proc. K. Ned. Akad. Wet. (c), 71: 128-36). This was cited in Hirth's (1971) FAO synopsis on the green turtle.

I hope that all is going well for you. I found it interesting and informative to be able to visit with Joop once again during the SSC and CITES meetings in Costa Rica.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

July 9, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Hirth:

I was sorry to recently learn that you will not be able to attend the NMFS meeting here in Honolulu later this month, or the Washington sea turtle conference in November. There will certainly be a loss in not having the benefit of your extensive knowledge and experience.

Enclosed is some of the demographic information for the French Frigate Shoals' breeding colony which you previously requested. I would greatly appreciate receiving any comments you may have on this material.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.



## University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 6, 1979

Dr. James P. McVey  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Galveston Laboratory  
4700 Avenue U  
Galveston, Texas 77550

Dear Jim:

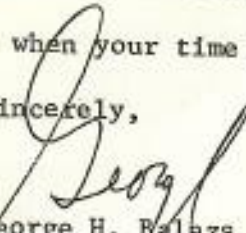
I was sorry to have missed you during my brief visit to the Galveston Lab on Saturday, March 24th, 1979. I telephoned your secretary on March 23rd, immediately upon arrival at the Houston Airport from Costa Rica. Also, I tried without success to call you at your home Saturday afternoon after spending a few hours at the rearing facility.

As you will probably recall, I have not been a strong advocate of 'headstarting' as a management technique for restoring depleted and endangered sea turtle populations. Nevertheless, small scale experimental projects (portrayed to the public as indeed being 'experimental') are certainly warranted in order to hopefully assess their effectiveness with the various species. In this respect, I was somewhat surprised to recently read two articles (The Florida Naturalist, Oct 1978; International Zoo Yearbook, 19, 1979) that described the Palau hawksbill headstart endeavor as being highly successful. Based on our earlier discussions, I was not aware that the results and data supported such a conclusion. Perhaps you could bring me up-to-date on this important subject.

In order to be accurately informed on the status of U.S. sea turtle projects, I would also greatly appreciate learning how many Kemp's hatchlings are being retained this season for headstarting purposes. I plan to be in Texas again later this year, and hopefully we can get together at that time to discuss other sea turtle research and conservation topics.

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

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md



July 5, 1979

Ms. Sally Hopkins  
South Carolina Wildlife  
and Marine Resources Department  
Box 12559  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

It is my understanding that you have recently distributed a memorandum to various people expressing your views on the Galveston Kemp's ridley headstart project. If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of this correspondence. I am presently attempting to evaluate the pros and cons of this experimental endeavor, and therefore would undoubtedly benefit from your opinions and knowledge.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

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

July 5, 1979

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

Dear Itaru:

I have sent a copy of your letter of acceptance (June 13, 1970) to Vivian Silverstein who is coordinating the Washington Conference. She is in charge of most of the organizational matters, such as hotel reservations and other forms of assistance to the participants. Perhaps it may even be possible for Ms. Silverstein to arrange for a Japanese-English translation for your presentation.

I would of course be very happy to check your English manuscript before the October deadline.

I apologize for not having prepared a draft grant proposal by now on the Japanese hawksbill problem, as discussed in my last letter. I have been in the field for the past several weeks, and presently I am confronted with numerous reports and papers that must be prepared. Nevertheless, I am still hopeful that we will eventually be able to work together on the Japanese hawksbill problem.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

July 5, 1979

Mr. David Mack  
World Wildlife Fund  
Traffic (USA)  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear David:

I'm sorry to say that I'm not readily familiar with Bekko. However, I'm sure that Dr. Uchida could provide us with an answer.

I feel certain that the values released by the Japanese Tortoise Shell Association only represent raw, unworked tortoiseshell. As far as the 7000 kg discrepancy between subtotal and grand total I am afraid that I cannot locate this difference in the table. In what column does this exist?

Your outline looks fine except that: 1) do the data of A. Carr and P. Ross support IV B & C; 2) can you provide solid evidence for VI C; and 3) are you sure that American Samoa has exported tortoiseshell (possibly this should be Western Samoa?).

In an earlier letter to Nicole, I provided some data on Japanese imports of sea turtle skins from Mexico. However, this was only communicated to me verbally.

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

July 2, 1979

To: Dr. Doak C. Cox, Director  
Environmental Center

From: George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

I certainly concur with the concerns expressed in Kelley Dobb's letter of 10 May 1979 about the harmful effects of possible oil spills in our Leeward Hawaiian Islands. It is my understanding that the Coast Guard can designate certain waters as "areas to be avoided." While not having the force of law, the designation of at least a 100 mile area surrounding each island would probably be honored by many vessels.

As I see it, oil spills are only one concern. Other hazards would include direct shipwrecks on the islands or reefs (for which numerous historical accounts exist), and even nuclear wastes being transported by vessels. Do we know how close the *Pacific Fisher* and *Pacific Swan* travel to the Leewards on their various trips from Japan?

GHB:md



July 2, 1979

Admiral David F. Lauth  
Commander, 14th Coast Guard District  
TJKK Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Admiral Lauth:

I want to take this opportunity to once again express my appreciation to the Fourteenth Coast Guard District for providing various logistical support to my research project of the green sea turtle in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

With the closing of the French Frigate Shoals Loran Station, I would like to particularly acknowledge the important role this facility has played as a periodic base for my field studies since 1973. I am appreciative of the excellent cooperation and assistance provided by your personnel at this location over the years.

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

June 6, 1979

Sir Peter Scott, Chairman  
Survival Service Commission  
The New Grounds  
Slimbridge  
Gloucester GL2 7BT  
England

Dear Sir Peter:

It is with great pleasure and honor that I accept your invitation to serve as Deputy Chairman of the Turtle Group for the next triennium. I am hopeful that with all of us working together we will be able to enhance the survival status of sea turtles.

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

July 5, 1979

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

Dear Brent:

As I indicated during our return flight from Tern Island on June 30th, I would like to offer some ideas and thoughts relating to the immediate FWS Refuge caretaker role for French Frigate Shoals.

1. Glass balls - I recommend that your office issue rules prohibiting the collection and removal of all glass balls from French Frigate Shoals, except for those found on Tern Island that can be retrieved without disturbance to wildlife. With six years of field experience at French Frigate Shoals and other areas in the Leeward Hawaiian Islands, I can attest to the fact that the quest for glass balls by most civilian and military personnel quickly turns into a mania that is both excessive and unreasonable. Karl Kenyan has written extensively about the deleterious effects on the monk seal resulting from this hunt and find "sport." The same case can be made for basking turtles, particularly at French Frigate Shoals. On both Trig and Whale-Skate Islands, the highest incidence of turtle basking occurs along the same shorelines where glass balls come ashore. I have documented on numerous occasions the easily disturbed state of turtles basking at these locations, in contrast with baskers on East Island where far fewer glass balls come ashore. My conclusion is that repeated disturbances by personnel gathering glass balls over the years on Trig and Whale-Skate have been responsible for this increased sensitivity to man. Furthermore, another important consideration is the fact that most of the glass balls coming ashore on the various islands at French Frigate Shoals are highly transitory; that is, they wash ashore for several days and then are carried by tides and currents along the shorelines back into the ocean. This requires resident glass ball hunters to frequently visit each island in order to gather the standing crop.

With the recent change in authority at Tern Island, the time is indeed right for a glass ball prohibition. If action is not taken now, it will probably be difficult to initiate such a rule once your permanent caretakers are on duty.



Mr. Brent Giezentanner  
Refuge Manager

July 5, 1979  
Page Two

2. Lights on Tern Island - As you will have noted in the draft Tern Island Study Report, lights at Tern have been adversely impacting turtles for many years. I therefore urge you to totally ban the use of the high intensity tennis court and boat hoist lights, except under emergency conditions. Furthermore, as many of the smaller (but nevertheless bright) outside building and sidewalk lights as possible should be turned off.
3. VHF Radio - A standard VHF base station radio should be installed at a central location in the facility for full-time monitoring of emergency channel 16. This will provide a measure of safety for vessels passing the area, as well as a means of communicating with observed or suspected violators of the refuge boundary.
4. Surveillance for Trespassers - A lookout should be conducted daily using binoculars from the rooftop of the generator plant building. From this vantage point a reasonable view of Trig, Whale-Skate and Shark can be obtained. On calm weather days, East and the waters adjacent to La Perouse Pinnacle are observable. An evening check, perhaps just before turning in for the night, would also be worthwhile. I mention this point about regular surveillance from Tern Island because, on a number of occasions over the years, vessels have been well within the northern half of French Frigate Shoals without being noticed by resident personnel.

Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to offer these suggestions, some of which you may already have under consideration. With your departure in several weeks time, I want to express my appreciation for your dedication to wildlife conservation during your tenure here in Hawaii. Although we have not always been in total agreement on every issue, I feel that we have maintained a quality relationship that will insure friendship and mutual professional respect for many years to come. I wish you all the best and happiness in your new job.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

cc: Dale Coggeshall  
G. Causey Whittow



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

August 6, 1979

Maurice and Maralyn Bailey  
Authors of STAYING ALIVE  
c/o Ballantine Books  
201 East 50th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bailey:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your kind assistance in gaining information on the sea turtles that you judiciously utilized during your period adrift in the Eastern Pacific from 3 April - 30 June 1973. Your observations can be of tremendous importance to biologists as very little is known of the lives of sea turtles in the open ocean environment. I do not know if you have been contacted about this subject at an earlier date, however, I am hopeful that you will have the opportunity to respond to my inquiry.

The most important point that I would like to determine at this time is the kind(s) of sea turtles that you observed. To the best of your knowledge, did they all appear to be the same species? The photographs in your book *SECOND CHANCE* (pages 249-250) show an olive ridley (sometimes called Pacific ridley) sea turtle. I am certain of this identification. Were the turtles seen during your time adrift the same as the one shown in *SECOND CHANCE*?

I have enclosed a booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and monk seals that I hope you will enjoy.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec  
Encl.

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

August 9, 1979

Dr. Tim Smith  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 271  
La Jolla, California 92038

Dear Tim:

As we discussed, I am sending you an assortment of sectioned and polished bones originating from immature Hawaiian green turtles. The sections are imbedded in resin and identified with inscriptions as follows:

HIMB 1, 4, 7 and 8 - hyoplastrons

HIMB 2 and 5 - humeri

HIMB 3 - femur

HIMB 6 and 9 - xiphoplastrons

HIMB 1-3 and 8-9 are from turtles of an unknown age.

HIMB 4-7 are from a turtle that was hatched at French Frigate Shoals in August 1972 and raised in captivity at HIMB until May 1975. At that time it was returned to FFS, tagged and released. The turtle subsequently stayed around Tern Island and would feed on fish wastes discarded by Coast Guard personnel. It was found dead of unknown causes in October 1976.

I am proceeding to analyze this material based on information I have been able to obtain from the published literature. Any assistance or advice that your specialists are able to provide will of course be greatly appreciated. If interest is generated, perhaps this is an area in which we can collaborate.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

July 23, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

The Government Documents section of the University of Hawaii's library system has suggested that I write to you concerning two documents which I need for my research. The reports are:

Munter, W. H. (1915) Report of destruction of bird life on  
Laysan Island. Ann. Rept. Coast Guard for 1915: 130-140.

Baylis, J. S. (ms.) Cruise report for the *Itasca* for the month  
of June 1934. Record Group 26, U. S. National Archives,  
Washington, 6 pages.

Both of these reports appear as references in the publication, "The Natural History of Lisianski Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands" by Roger B. Clapp and William O. Wirtz II (*Atoll Research Bulletin* No. 186, February 1975, Smithsonian Institution).

Thank you in advance for whatever help you are able to provide in obtaining copies of these reports. I will of course reimburse your office for whatever duplicating charges that may be involved.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 6, 1979

Herpetological Information Search System  
American Museum of Natural History  
New York, New York 10024

Dear Sir:

I would like to obtain a copy of the paper that originally described *Chelonia mydas japonica* (Thurnberg), the green turtle of the Western Pacific. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. I will, of course, reimburse you for whatever costs that are involved.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:ec



July 9, 1979

Ms. Mary T. Mendonca  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Central Florida  
Box 25000  
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Mary:

I would be pleased to read over your manuscripts and make appropriate comments. Mail them off to me at your earliest opportunity, rather than having Peter hand carry them. I'm sure they will get here much sooner.

Of the three meetings you mentioned, the November Washington conference is the only one I will be attending. I have been serving as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee for this gathering. My good friend and colleague, Dr. Causey Whittow, will be presenting a paper at the ASZ meeting covering some of the results of our work on the thermal ecology of land basking *Chelonia*.

When available, I would appreciate receiving a copy of your final report to NASA covering the three year period.

Incidentally, Peter will not be attending a "recovery team meeting" here in Hawaii, but rather a planning meeting to identify research and management needs in the Pacific. Archie Carr will also be in attendance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

May 31, 1979

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond  
Program Administrator  
World Wildlife Fund-USA  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

This is in response to your request for advice concerning an inquiry by Marianne Riedman (24 April 1979) on the possibility of WWF funding for research of green turtle breeding behavior. I am afraid that the information provided in Ms. Riedman's letter is just too sparse to make any sort of realistic appraisal of what will be undertaken or accomplished. Does she anticipate that her work will aid in the conservation of Chelonia and other sea turtles? In my opinion, this is an absolute necessity if WWF funds are to be used. In this respect, I was not very encouraged to read Ms. Riedman's statement that "This research urgently needs to be completed while it is still possible to observe these vanishing animals...".

I suggest that if Ms. Riedman wants to be considered for funding it will be necessary for her to submit an appropriately detailed research proposal. This is the only way we can determine the potential value the work she has in mind.

Many thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide input into your evaluation process.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

mk

May 31, 1979

Public Affairs Office  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lloyd 500 Bldg, Suite 1692  
500 N. E. Multnomah Street  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your report entitled "Final recommendations on the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System" authored by Assistant Secretary Robert L. Herbst. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 31, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your report entitled "Final recommendations on the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System" authored by Assistant Secretary Robert L. Herbst. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



May 31, 1979

Mr. William T. Forehand  
Project Manager  
Shock and Vibration Information Center  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Code 8404  
Washington, D. C. 20375

Dear Mr. Forehand:

I would appreciate receiving any information you may have on the effects of underwater explosions on sea turtles, particularly the green turtle (Chelonia mydas).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

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

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of 23 April 1979 that was copied to Archie. My apologies for taking so long to respond.

First off, I should say that when I mentioned in my brief note to you last month that "I would fill you in on the happenings in San Jose at a later date" I was referring to sea turtle matters in general (Suarez, Mancite, captive bred definition, etc.), and not the hierarchical organization of the Turtle Group. Actually, this matter was not extensively discussed in Costa Rica, although the uncertainty of your continuing as editor of the newsletter received some attention in my personal talks with Archie, Peter and Perran. As you know, I have been an ardent supporter of the IUCN/SSC Turtle Newsletter, having sent you literally scores of mailings over the past few years containing copied articles and information to help you be an informed editor. I continue to support your work with the newsletter, as well as a system within the Group in which the three of us can work synergistically on turtle conservation matters. I do not, however, feel that it would be proper or appropriate for me to "push others" or exert so-called "leverage" over the issue of what you consider to be a suitable title. Nicholas, this is simply not my place, particularly as a new appointee. Furthermore, I do not agree with your feeling that the title of Editor is inadequate and that a very status conscious world requires something more glossy. The IUCN/SSC Group appointments are made on a three year basis and, as I understand it, there are no guarantees for repetitive terms. It seems to me that the ultimate reward for any of this unpaid

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky  
Page 2  
May 29, 1979

turtle conservation work is the selfsatisfaction of feeling that one has somehow helped to slow the decline of a magnificent group of animals - somehow helped to send this genetic material further into the future than it would have gone had we not become involved. I realize that this is a fairly philosophic statement, but nevertheless it represents some of my thoughts on the matter.

In your letter, you mentioned that Peter is involved in organizing a plan to use Cayman Turtle Farm facilities for housing Kemp's ridleys. It is my understanding that you are also a signatory member of the group organizing this plan. Perhaps you should prepare something for the newsletter outlining your plan and the rationale for it being implemented at this time at Cayman. Concerning my own short "additional strategy" write-up, I don't really think this would confuse anyone or be anything but a constructive suggestion. I doubt if Peter wants to assume a role of approving or vetoing potential newsletter articles.

I am hopeful that our friendship and professional working relationship remain on a solid footing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
cc: Archie Carr



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

May 29, 1979

Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard  
Florida Audubon Society  
P. O. Drawer 7  
Maitland, Florida 32751

Dear Peter:

I have no desire to become involved in a lengthy written debate with a respected colleague and friend such as yourself, nevertheless it seems important that I make at least a few comments on your widely circulated "headstart" memorandum of 10 May 1979.

As you are aware, I verbally raised the question to you about provisions of the Galveston endangered species permit covering laboratory experimentation. To reiterate, my interest in this point stems from descriptions by Galveston employees and my own firsthand observations of density experiments in which the animals were being severely bitten and mutilated. Along with others, I questioned the wisdom of intentionally continuing such trials when the results were so obvious and devastating. Contrary to your critical statement, this is a legitimate concern which in my opinion represents a high regard for the integrity of the species. I believe that the U. S. Endangered Species Act, and the permit system required under that act, represent powerful tools for conserving endangered and threatened species. Government agencies are not exempt from these laws, and certainly their activities should be examined in a manner equivalent to those of the private sector.

I would like to have seen something in your memorandum about the recoveries thus far made of headstarted Kemp's ridleys released into the wild. It was my understanding that a number of animals have been found under strange circumstances and in emaciated conditions. Is this correct? Your comments on this subject would have been useful.



Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard  
Page 2  
May 29, 1979

I personally have very little confidence in headstarting at the present time simply because I have seen nothing which indicates success. It was therefore interesting to read in your October 1978 Florida Naturalist article that you considered the headstarting operation conducted in Palau to be "highly successful." I do not know what data this optimistic evaluation is based upon, but certainly it should be disseminated to those of us who are doubtful.

In the introduction to your memorandum, you described yourself as an "interested observer." I was under the mistaken impression that you had some formal role in the project. Does the project presently have an overall coordinator to look after all of the various components?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Archie Carr  
Nicholas Mrosovsky  
Wayne King

May 29, 1979

Dr. Joseph R. Sylvester  
Turtle Project Manager  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Duval Building  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Joe:

Many thanks for your encouraging letter of 10 April 1979 concerning my thoughts on establishing a reservoir of captive Kemp's ridleys at various facilities. I personally don't think that it's a good idea to put "all the Kempi eggs in one basket" at the Cayman facility.

I seem to recall that many months ago the Southeast Region issued a contract to someone for the preparation of a bibliography on the loggerhead turtle. I wonder if this project is now completed and if I could obtain a copy of the bibliography.

Many thanks for your continuing assistance on various matters relating to sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 29, 1979

Dr. Howard Campbell  
National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory  
412 N.E. 16th Avenue, Room 250  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Duke:

I thought that you would be interested to learn that I received a reply from Dr. Quraishy of Pakistan (copy enclosed). This is a valuable contact, and I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter.

I have also enclosed a copy of correspondence received from my Chinese contact. You may want to write to him with regards to crocodilians.

Hopefully all of your work is going well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Quraishy:

I want to thank you for your letter of 7 May 1979 and the articles on sea turtles of Pakistan. I found this material to be most interesting and informative. You should be commended for your efforts to conserve these unique reptiles.

Hopefully we will have the opportunity to meet in person in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle  
Specialist Group

mk



May 29, 1979

Dr. Gerald Bertram  
Office of International Affairs  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Jerry:

I thought you would be interested in the attached correspondence concerning my interests in Chinese sea turtles. This is at least a start, and I hope to pursue the matter further.

Sorry that you were not able to attend the Turtle Conference planning meeting held in Washington, D. C. on April 13. Everything seems to be progressing very nicely for November. Hope to see you at that time.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

*file*

April 23, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

In my opinion, the use of a corporation and the signing of document all for the rearing of two dozen ridleys is a bunch of unnecessary nonsense. I do, however, see some merit in establishing a reservoir of animals at a number of facility, as outlined in my "additional strategy" write-up. As far as Cayman Island is concerned, it wouldn't surprise me a bit if they use the undertaking and document in their suit against the U. S. government. Those present at the meeting should have been alert to this possibility; maybe they were, but didn't care. Incidentally, if Cayman is so concerned about Kemp's ridleys, why didn't they get some on their own? After all, the turtles are in Mexico, so why go to the U. S.? Of course, we both know the answer to that question.

I'll be out in the Leewards doing field work for a few weeks. Hope to recapture some immature turtles that I tagged at Necker Island 18 months ago.

I trust that you received my letter of last week. Enclosed is some additional copied information on the New Caledonia workshop.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

May 22, 1979

Dr. Murray D. Dailey, Director  
Southern California Ocean Studies Consortium  
P. O. Box 570  
Long Beach, California 90801

Dear Murray:

Many thanks for your letter of 12 April containing information on the leeches recovered from turtles at Sea Life Park. To my knowledge, this is the first record of such a parasite in Hawaii. It was probably transmitted to the captive green and hawksbill turtles by a stray loggerhead brought into the facility. Loggerheads are almost never found in Hawaiian water.

In response to your request for more specimens, I am sending you two leeches and egg cases which I found last month on a green turtle at Necker Island. This is the first time I have seen leeches on naturally occurring green turtles, therefore the identification will be important to my work. I suspect that they will also turn out to be *Ozobranchius margo*, but I want to be certain through an authority such as yourself.

I want to be sure and have you visit our lab on your next trip to Hawaii - including lunch!

With best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GNB:md

May 22, 1979

Mr. Edward H. Dodd  
Chairman, Editorial Board  
Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc.  
79 Madison Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Dodd:

Many thanks for your letter of 8 May 1979 which only arrived in today's mail. While I am certainly interested in working on a book project, I do not have a specific topic in mind at the present time. As you are aware, my research interest is sea turtles. In addition, I have been trying to get greater use out of my color photography in order to develop interest in the seabirds, sea turtles and monk seals of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Perhaps this would be a subject of interest to your company.

I have enclosed several items which you may be interested in reviewing. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



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

May 21, 1979

Ms. Nicole Duplaix - TRADES  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nicole:

I just came across some additional information on sea turtle commerce that may be of value to your report. At CITES on 22 March I spoke to a Mr. Fujimura of the Japanese Ministry of Industry. Mr. Yagi, who was also a member of the observer delegation from Japan, served as interpreter. It was stated that for 1977, 6.835 metric tons of tanned turtle skins and 5.244 metric tons of raw turtle skins were imported into Japan. Furthermore, 90% of this amount came from Mexico where, and I quote "Mexicans love the meat, and the hides are just sold as by-products." It was indicated that the Japanese use this leather primarily for sandals (zoris), shoes and billfolds.

Later in our discussions, it was also mentioned that six species of freshwater turtles are being shipped to Japan from Bangladesh for use as food.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Wayne King  
Archie Carr

May 21, 1979

Dr. Ken Myers  
Department of Zoology  
College of Biological Sciences  
University of Guelph  
Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1

Dear Ken:

The islets of Manana and Lehua in the Hawaiian Islands both have rabbit populations. Manana, commonly called "Rabbit Island", is fairly accessible during most of the year with just a short drive from Honolulu. However, permission would first have to be obtained from our State Division of Fish and Game. I suggest that you write to Mr. Ronald Walker, Chief, Wildlife Branch, Division of Fish and Game, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu 96813. You should give him some background on your research and the dates you plan to be in Hawaii.

Concerning your interest in the rabbits previously at Laysan Island, I have enclosed several copies pages from a 1973 issue of Atoll Research Bulletin.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 21, 1979

Dr. F. Wayne King  
New York Zoological Society  
185th and Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, N. Y. 10460

Dear Wayne:

Looking at the various commitments that I have for the rest of this year, I don't really feel that I'll be able to prepare three full papers for the Washington Conference as requested. The topic "Options and Potentials for Management of Sea Turtle Populations" should therefore be made available to another participant. Although I don't always agree with his views, perhaps Peter would be the best one for this due to his lead role on the U. S. recovery team.

In looking over the draft "list of invited speakers and solicited topics" I noticed a large area of duplication within the topics assigned to Hirth and Pritchard. That is, the U. S. Trust Territory of the Pacific is basically the same area as Micronesia. You will probably want to do restructure here.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Vivian Silverstein





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Rene:

I want to thank you for the copied letters you have been sending me, as well as the draft notice for the Noumea workshop. I certainly look forward to meeting with you in person here in Honolulu at the end of July for Richard's meeting.

You will recall that some months ago we discussed the sea turtle research efforts conducted in Tahiti, and the almost total absence of information or results available to the scientific community outside of French Polynesia. I am therefore hoping that someone from Tahiti will be agreeable to preparing a paper on this work for the Noumea workshop. The Tahiti project, along with the lengthy hawksbill hatchery project in Western Samoa, constitute two potentially important endeavors for sea turtle management and conservation within the SPC region. I am sure you will do everything possible and appropriate to solicit papers covering this work.

I am sorry that circumstances will not allow you to attend the Washington conference. We would like to have had an SPC official such as yourself serve as a participant.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Richard Shomura



May 21, 1979

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

Dear Rene:

I want to thank you for the copied letters you have been sending me, as well as the draft notice for the Noumea workshop. I certainly look forward to meeting with you in person here in Honolulu at the end of July for Richard's meeting.

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Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Richard Shomura

May 18, 1979

Praeger Publishers, Inc.  
111 Fourth Avenue  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Sir:

I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with the current address of Dougal Robertson, author of your book entitled "Sea Survival: A Manual."

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 16, 1979

Dr. Nicole Duplaix  
TRADES  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nicole:

Enclosed is a copy of the translated Japanese tortoiseshell report which you requested. Hopefully this will be useful in preparing your paper. If you haven't done so already, you should also obtain a copy of the Gato-Pritchard report on commercial trade of sea turtles.

I am also sending you the 1978 data for tortoiseshell imported into Japan which I obtained from Dr. Itaru Uchida of the Himeji City Aquarium (Nobusue, Tegarayama, Himeji City, 670, Japan).

Please contact me again if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

May 15, 1979

Mr. Seamus McElroy  
Department of Management Science  
and Technological Studies  
University of Stirling  
Stirling, Scotland

Dear Seamus:

Thank you for your letter of 5 April 1979 which I have only recently received following my return from an extended boat trip to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. You may recall that several years ago we spoke to one another about turtles over the Peasesat communications system.

I would be pleased to help you with your article on sea turtles in the Solomon Islands. I presume that your co-author will be Andrew McKeom. I have corresponded with Andrew on several previous occasions, however, I have not heard from him now for about a year. Please give him my regards.

With respect to possible journals for publication, I would suggest BIOLOGICAL CONSERVATION, BRITISH JOURNAL OF HERPETOLOGY, COPEIA, or HEPETOLOGICA. Of course there are many other appropriate journals, the styles of which you can review at your University's library. Also you will note that since 1974 a considerable number of articles on sea turtles has been published on an array of topics. This would be a time consuming task for me to abstract and list them for you. Instead, I suggest that you consult and review the professional abstracting publications (Current Contents, Herpetological Review, etc.) that are normally received by all University libraries. This should bring you up to date with very little difficulty.

You will undoubtedly be interested to learn that a joint SPC and U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service workshop on sea turtles will be held in New Caledonia during 11-14 December 1979. I will be attending this meeting, and it would be valuable if you could send your paper as a contribution. This workshop will immediately follow the SPC Fisheries meeting, which I imagine Mr. Dick James will be attending as a representative of the Solomon Islands.

I am sorry that I am not at liberty to send you a copy of my report on the SPC Fiji/Cook Islands turtle project. This would have to be sent to you directly from SPC headquarters as it was a confidential document.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec  
Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

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

May 15, 1979

Dr. John Kowarsky  
Department of Biology  
Capricornia Institute of  
Advanced Education  
M. S. 76  
Rockhampton 4700, Australia

Dear Dr. Kowarsky:

Thank you for your letter of 17 April responding to my request for information on your present involvement with sea turtles. I was sorry to learn that your position precludes active research. Nevertheless, I hope you will remain active in matters relating to conservation, as the opportunities may permit.

If it would not be too much trouble, I would greatly appreciate receiving a prepublication copy of your article on returns of pond-reared juveniles.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your vitae to Wayne King at the New York Zoological Society and Archie Carr.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

May 15, 1979

Ms. Marianne Riedman  
Coastal Marine Laboratory  
Division of Natural Sciences  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Dear Ms. Riedman:

I have only recently returned from an extended trip by boat to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, thereby causing the delay in my responding to your inquiry of 4 April 1979.

Unfortunately, at this time I cannot offer much in the way of encouragement for French Frigate Shoals as the site of your proposed underwater study of breeding green turtles. My reasons include 1) uncertainty of transportation to FPS and logistical support within the area after July 1979, 2) frequent turbid water conditions at sites where turtles copulate, 3) abundance of aggressive tiger sharks during the turtle, monk seal and seabird breeding seasons, and 4) potential conflicts of researchers with monk seals during the pupping season. In addition, there are no Scuba diving facilities at FPS although I suppose that a compressor could be purchased for such purposes.

Considering the success that Julie Booth had on the Great Barrier Reef, I wonder if it would be to your advantage to investigate her study area for your own project. With respect to Rose Atoll, I suspect that logistical problems would also be very difficult for this isolated site. Western Samoa does not have a green turtle rookery. Hawkbills nest on offshore islets of the Eleapata District; this was the site of a fatal tiger shark attack on a turtle researcher in 1972.

Please feel free to contact me again as your plans progress.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

April 20, 1979

To: Mr. Brent Giezentanner  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge

From: George H. Balazs

This is to inform you that between April 23-May 5, 1979 I will be conducting research of green turtles at the HINWR units of Necker and French Frigate Shoals. Under my direct supervision, my assistant Alan Kam will also be involved in observation and tagging activities. Transportation to the study areas will be provided by Skip Naftel in the vessel EASY RIDER. At French Frigate Shoals, this will involve being dropped off at Tern Island.

mk  
cc: S. Naftel

April 19, 1979

Dr. Thomas H. Fritts  
Department of Zoology  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, California 92182

Dear Dr. Fritts:

Both Duke Campbell and Ken Dodd have suggested that I contact you for information on your research activities with green turtles in San Diego Bay. As a researcher of Hawaiian Chelonia, I would be interested in establishing lines of communication with you and learning more of your project.

Enclosed are several publications dealing with my own work which you may find interesting. Hopefully you received the hawksbill report which I sent in October 1978.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



April 19, 1979

Mr. Roy Clare  
949 North Alfred Street #9  
Los Angeles, California 90069

Dear Mr. Clare:

Thank you for your letter of 9 February 1979 inquiring about the use of my monk seal-green sea turtle photograph. Please understand that I am not a professional photographer in the business of selling photos. Nevertheless, depending on the circumstance, it might be appropriate for me to provide you with a copy of the photo for use in your book. You mentioned "literary accounts" alluding to the co-habitation of the species on Isla Mujeres in former times. I am not presently aware of such accounts, and therefore would greatly appreciate being informed of your specific literature reference or references.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

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

April 19, 1979

Mr. Michael Bean  
Environmental Defense Fund  
1525 18th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mike:

As a management option, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Honolulu is currently seriously considering a request by the State of Hawaii to establish a commercial fishing station on Tern Island at French Frigate Shoals, one of the units of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Under a special use agreement with the FWS, Tern Island has been the site of a small (20 man) Coast Guard LORAN Station. However, this facility will be abandoned on 1 July 1979. As you are probably aware, French Frigate Shoals consists of a total of 12 islets distributed over a 16 mile reef area. In excess of 95% of all green turtle breeding in the Hawaiian chain occurs at French Frigate Shoals. It also contains the largest concentration of Hawaiian monk seals, and accounts for the greatest pup production by this endangered species. Numerous species of nesting seabirds also use these islets. Tern Island is presently one of the least used by turtles and seals, however this is very likely due to human activities (walking the beaches for "glass balls," shore lights, recreational boating and swimming in adjacent water, etc.).

My reason for writing to you at this time is to ask if, in your opinion, the Fish and Wildlife Service has the legal authority to actually allow a commercial fishing station to be established within and on a National Wildlife Refuge that is of considerable importance to two species protected by the Endangered Species Act. Any insight that you can provide on this subject would certainly be appreciated. Personally, I feel that the FWS may have acted recklessly by even agreeing to consider a commercial fishing station. Certainly the facility should be available to all mariners under emergency conditions (as it always has been), but this is quite different from a permanent base.

For background purposes, I have enclosed some Xeroxed pages on French Frigate Shoals and Tern Island. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity that your busy schedule permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

April 18, 1979

Dr. Perran Ross  
Museum of Comparative Zoology  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Perran:

I wonder if you would provide me with some of the details of what transpired at the Mittag/Pritchard meeting in Florida? I understand that some sort of an agreement was signed for the rearing of two dozen Keap's ridleys. Peter has said that he will send me a copy of the agreement when he returns from Ireland. Perhaps you should consider preparing a write-up for distribution that gives your viewpoint of the meeting.

You may be interested to learn that Ralph Daly and his wife spent an afternoon with me at our laboratory. This was both enjoyable and informative. They both had very good words to say about you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

Dr. S. P. Christman  
National Fish and Wildlife Lab  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
412 N. E. 16th Avenue, Rm. 250  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Dr. Christman:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your publication  
"Rare and endangered vertebrates of the Southeastern U. S.  
coastal plain - a summary of public concern for sensitive  
wildlife."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



April 18, 1979

Clifford H. Fiscus  
Wildlife Biologist  
National Marine Mammal Lab, NWAFC  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
Building 32  
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Cliff:

Many thanks for your letter of 6 April with information on the August 1978 leatherback mortality in Alaska. The full documentation of this case would really be quite valuable as a short publication, and certainly encourage you to write it up. I would be pleased to aid you in whatever way necessary and appropriate. I am only aware of one other such case for Alaska (Cordova), which unfortunately has not yet been recorded in the scientific literature. I do, however, have full measurements, a photograph and case history details from the person involved.

Based on your color slide and the turtle's carapace length, I would have to conclude that the animal was a mature female. The degree of tapering for the length of the tail would, in my opinion, rule out the possibility of the tail having been longer but severed at a distal site. Needless to say, it is unfortunate that the entire turtle could not have been examined - especially the GI tract and reproductive organs. Shortly after learning of this case some months ago, I wrote letters to FWS and NMFS personnel in Alaska hoping to get details of stomach contents. The FWS man responded with the bad news of everything internal having been discarded. Incidentally, it will probably be valuable for you to know that the IUCN monograph on leatherbacks lists adult female carapace lengths ranging from 137 to 180 centimeters.

I would be interested to learn what will happen to the material after you have completed your analysis? I suppose it will go the Smithsonian, however while visiting the facility last week I noted that they already have a complete skeleton and carapace in a display case.

Clifford H. Fiscus  
Page 2  
April 18, 1979

Yes, I did send you the vial of squid beaks. They represented a composite from castings I have collected over the years. I thought that perhaps there might be some strange beak that would be of interest to you. I could not identify the spiny items.

I am returning your color slide as requested. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to look this over.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

Ms. Jeanne A. Mortimer  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Jeanne:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your interesting and informative thesis. This is certainly appreciated. If I could have seen it at an earlier date, I would have included it as a reference in my short "sampling of dietary components" article.

You will be interested to learn that in the turtles I have posted I have not seen the "enlargement in the gut, about the size of a football, at the beginning of the large intestine". By suggesting that this was the cecum, I assume that there was some form of blind pouch present. Could this possibly have been some abnormality caused by lengthy holding and transporting the turtles (on their backs?) after capture in the feeding pasture? I can't imagine what to make out of this apparent anatomical difference between your turtles and the ones I have seen here in Hawaii. I would appreciate hearing any thoughts you may have on this subject.

If copies are available, I would like to receive a reprint of Archie's article "God, Congress and the fate of species". What a title!

Mahalo and Aloha,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

Dr. A. A. Quraishy  
Superintendent  
Zoological Gardens  
K.M.C. Karachi-3  
Pakistan

Dear Dr. Quraishy:

Dr. Howard Campbell of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has kindly provided me with your name and address in response to my request for information on sea turtles in Pakistan. Dr. Campbell indicated that you had considerable information on the conservation status of turtles nesting at Sandpit and Hawk's Bay, as well as the small island of Astola. I would greatly appreciate receiving information on these areas, particularly any articles you may have authored on the subject.

I have enclosed several articles on Hawaiian and Pacific sea turtles which you may find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures



April 17, 1979

Dr. Howard Campbell  
National Fish & Wildlife Service Lab  
412 North 16th Street, Room 250  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Duke:

Hopefully your trip back up to Gainesville from Guatamala was pleasant, and you have now fully recovered from your Costa Rican illness. I have just returned from a four day trip to Washington, D. C. where a planning meeting was held for the forthcoming World Sea Turtle Conference. Things seem to be progressing rather nicely for this event.

My short visit to the NMFS headstarting project in Galveston while returning from Costa Rica proved to be very informative. I am not impressed with their rearing methods, and certainly changes should be made if this effort is going to continue. For instance, the animals have been exclusively reared on floating pelleted food. Also for the past few months the animals have been individually contained in 10 quart plastic buckets (with perforated bottoms) suspended in large tanks. In most cases the turtles barely have room to turn around.

If your crocodilian travels bring you through Hawaii, be sure to make contact with me at 247-6631 (office) or 395-6409 (home).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures

April 17, 1979

Dr. George W. Barlow  
University of California  
Department of Zoology  
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear George:

Many thanks for your interesting and cordial letter of 6 April 1979. I most certainly would like to look through your photographic collection when the circumstances are appropriate. I will be traveling to the mainland in both June and November, so perhaps at your convenience I will be able to visit with you for an afternoon on one of these two occasions. I will provide you with specific dates several weeks in advance.

Please plan on visiting with me here at the HIMS laboratory when you come through Honolulu on your way to Enewetak.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

Dr. Gustavo Casas-Andrew  
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico  
Instituto de Biologia  
Laboratoria de Herpetologia  
Mexico D.F.

Dear Dr. Casas-Andrew:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Analisis de la anidacion de las Tortugas Marinas del Genero Lepidochelys en Mexico."

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

Mr. I. N. Sumertha  
Fakultas Perikanan  
Institut Pertanian Bogor  
Bogor, Java, Indonesia

Dear Mr. Sumertha:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of your publications entitled "Study of the marine turtle habitat in Pangumbahan Island, Sukabumi" and "Some biological aspects of Chelonia mydas and its management on Ai Ketapang beach, Sumbawa Island."

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



April 17, 1979

Dr. S. Musquera  
Departamento de Fisiología Animal  
Facultad de Biología  
Universidad de Barcelona, Spain

Dear Dr. Musquera:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your  
article entitled "Blood proteins in turtles"  
(Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

Dr. S. Yoshie  
Nippon Dental College  
Department of Oral Anatomy  
Hamaura-cho 1-8  
Nugata 951, Japan

Dear Dr. Yoshie:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Light and scanning electron microscopic studies on the esophageal spines in the Pacific ridley turtle" (Archivum Histologicum Japonicum).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

World Wildlife Fund  
Education Project  
Butts Lane, Woodmancote  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL52 4QH England

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is \$5.00 to cover the cost (including airmail postage) of your FSD40 "Turtles in Danger" (AVP 014/40). Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosure

April 17, 1979

Sir Peter Scott  
The New Grounds  
Slimbridge  
Gloucester GL2 7BT England

Dear Sir Peter:

For some time now I have been interested in the <sup>unique information on</sup> sea turtles contained in the book Staying Alive, authored by Maurice and Maralyn Bailey (Ballantine Books, N.Y. 1974). You will undoubtedly recall that you wrote a short foreword for this book. The authors' record of observations of turtles in the pelagic environment is not presently well known among sea turtle people. I therefore intend to summarize and interpret the relevant information for distribution to the Turtle Group and other interested parties. For such purposes, I believe that it would also be worthwhile for me to correspond directly with the Bailey's in order to possibly obtain additional data. My purpose in writing to you at this time is to ask if you have the Bailey's current mailing address. Having written the foreword, I thought that perhaps they were your acquaintances.

I thoroughly enjoyed attending the SSC meeting in Costa Rica, as the event proved to be both informative and pleasant. It was especially nice to meet your capable assistant, Jane Fenton.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



April 17, 1979

Skin Diver Magazine  
Underwater Forum  
8490 Sunset Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90069

Dear Sirs:

I want to offer my compliments on your March article on sea turtles by Geri Murphy which focused much needed attention on these unique and gentle ocean creatures. Sea turtle populations around the world are indeed in serious trouble due to direct exploitation, habitat destruction, and accidental drownings in fishing nets. Informing the public about such survival problems can be a very positive step toward conservation.

It is important to note that all sea turtles are now fully protected in the United States under the Endangered Species Act. Certainly this was a wise move by Federal authorities considering the lengthy time periods required for a population to recover from exploitation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

SAME LETTER TO:

The Honorable Ted Rowlands  
Minister of State  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
London SW1 A 2AL  
U. K.

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

April 10, 1979

Mr. C. Brian Kendall  
His Honor the Administrator  
Ascension Island  
c/o P. O. Box 4608  
Patrick Air Force Base  
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Kendall:

It is my understanding that feasibility plans are presently underway to assess certain sites on Ascension Island for development as tourist resorts. While not being totally opposed to all tourism, I nevertheless have had the opportunity to observe the growth of Hawaii's tourist industry with its various adverse environmental and sociological impacts. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am also aware of the deleterious consequences that can take place when human habitation and disturbance are allowed to occur on ancestral nesting beaches.

The sea turtle nesting beaches of Ascension Island are well known to researchers and conservationists around the world as a critical component in a truly incredible animal migration. The continued protection of these beaches is therefore of considerable concern to the international community. Hopefully such protection will be a key factor in any plans you may formulate for eventual development.

When your schedule permits, I would greatly appreciate being informed of the status of your plans for building tourist resorts at Ascension. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 16, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

Your expertise and presence was missed at the joint meetings of the Steering and Scientific Committees on April 12th. The letter you wrote to Russell Train was distributed to participants, with your point on "wrist-slapping" well-taken and agreed upon. Incidentally, those in attendance included Ken Dodd, Jim Tyler, Russell Train, Wayne, Peter, Laura Tangley, and Patty Shaffaer. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 11 at the Florida Audubon Society.

Needless to say, there was some lunchtime discussion with Wayne, Ken, Peter and me about this "agreement" signed with Cayman Turtle Farm at Peter's meeting. However, nothing of substance was resolved. In fact, it is still unclear to me actually what the document said. Apparently a private "independent" foundation was established with Mittag money, with certain of the participants being listed as Directors. According to Peter, the Farm will agree to rear "a dozen or two" Kemp's ridleys. I understand that Ann (or Jeanne ?) also attended, therefore you could provide me with some additional details. Peter has said that he will send me a copy of the signed document. Also, separately I will request a copy from Nicholas. It came as a surprise that Nicholas attended, and signed. Could this be interpreted by others to imply some sort of IUCN Turtle Group endorsement?

Among the enclosed items you will find a brochure on the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. I am sending this as an example of the type of brochure I thought would be appropriate for the one we have been talking about (since November 1974) for sea turtle conservation. In Honolulu,



Dr. Archie Carr  
Page 2  
April 16, 1979

this sort of thing could be printed for about \$90.00 per 1,000. Black and white photographs could be easily incorporated for very little extra cost. My original thought was to pattern the brochure after the "Princip and Recommendation" document on sea turtle usage. Perhaps working with Vivian, this project could be one of the education/information results of the November conference.

The small research planning meeting that I discussed with you over the telephone on March 3, has been scheduled for 30 July-1 August 1979. It will be held at the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. You should make airline reservations for this as soon as possible. We have an extra bedroom and would be pleased to have you stay with us. However, if you prefer your own quarters, you should also make hotel reservations at an early date. The Honolulu Lab office is near the main University campus and fairly centrally located. Almost any of the hotels would therefore be suitable. Again, all expenses will be covered by NMFS, according to the Honolulu Lab Director,

Richard Showara. Others in attendance at this research planning meeting are suppose to include Harold Hirth, Larry Ogren and Peter Pritchard (the latter was urged by Bill Aron in telephone conversations with Richard Showara). Rene Grandperrin (SPC Fisheries Advisor) may also be there.

You will have noted from the earlier copied letter that I sent you that the meeting in New Caledonia will be held 11-14 December 1979. You should also make airline reservations for this event. Rene will undoubtedly arrange for our lodging.

Hopefully your meeting in Costa Rica went well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



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

April 2, 1979

Dr. John Kowarsky  
Department of Biology  
The Capricornia Institute of  
Advanced Education  
MS 76, Rockhampton 4700  
Australia

Dear Dr. Kowarsky:

The purpose of this letter is to introduce myself as a researcher and conservationist of sea turtles based in the Hawaiian Islands. Recently I have been appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, with Dr. Archie Carr as Chairman. At the present time I am making inquiries to various individuals in an effort to determine their level and scope of involvement with sea turtles. I am of course aware of your previous fine publications in *Aquaculture*, *Biological Conservation*, and *ICLARM Newsletter*. However, I wonder if you would be kind enough to inform me about your present and future activities and interests with respect to sea turtles. Does your present employment and circumstances allow you to continue with your previous involvement? I look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

For your information, I have enclosed a preliminary circular describing a conference on sea turtle conservation that will be held in Washington, D. C. later this year.

All the best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

April 2, 1979

Dr. Edward O. Moll  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, Illinois

Dear Dr. Moll:

At the IUCN/SSC meeting in Costa Rica earlier this month Wayne King suggested that I correspond with you about your present research and conservation activities involving sea turtles in Malaysia. You may recall that we previously exchanged letters following publication of your interesting and informative 1976 article in *Herpetological Reviews*.

Recently I have been appointed to the position of Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Turtle Group, with Dr. Archie Carr as Chairman. One of the initial steps we are taking is to determine who is presently involved in conservation programs of sea turtles within the various geographical locations. At your earliest convenience, I would be appreciative if you would give me a brief overview of your own activities.

Perhaps at some future date you may even be traveling through Honolulu and have the time to visit with me for a day or two. I would certainly be most pleased to meet with you in person and discuss matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

April 9, 1979

Maria Luisa Alfaro Bermudez  
Herido Calle 6 Av 12-14  
Costa Rica, CA

Dear Maria Luisa:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your hospitality during my visit to Cahuita National Park. I enjoyed meeting you and learning about the natural history of your National Park.

As promised, I am sending you several publications about Hawaiian sea turtles. I have also enclosed some recipes for a Hawaiian cookbook on algae (algae or seaweed in Hawaiian is called "limu"). You may want to try these using the Codium in your area.

I would certainly like to hear about any involvement you may have with the research of sea turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

P.S. I apologize for not being able to write this letter in Spanish.

April 5, 1979

Mr. Guillermo A. Canessa  
Servicio de Parques Nacional  
Apdo 10094  
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Canessa:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you and your colleagues in the Parks Department for making my visit to Costa Rica so pleasurable and rewarding. The hospitality and assistance that you consistently offered during the SSC meetings was greatly appreciated. Hopefully in the future you will have the opportunity to visit Hawaii and I will be able to extend to you the same goodwill.

I wish you continued success in the building of a truly great National Parks System in Costa Rica.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
3 April 1979

Peter-

On my way home from Costa Rica, I had the opportunity to visit the Galveston headstarting project for a short time. The turtles are being held individually in 10 quart plastic buckets, which in most cases mean that they barely have room to turn around. Also, I was informed that the sole diet since hatching size has been floating pellets produced by Central Soya. All animals are in full view of their caretakers, and are extremely conditioned to their presence.

I thought you would be interested in these findings. Hopefully all went well with the remainder of your stay in Costa Rica.

Best regards- looking forward to seeing you this summer.

George Balazs

*P.S. Your comments on the enclosed write-up would be appreciated.*

oceanariums and appropriate zoological facilities in the United States, Mexico and other countries. Such a survival plan could involve 50 or more different facilities each being consigned a small group of hatchlings (4-10) for rearing and permanent maintenance in captivity. The actual

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lished through the

enting aquariums,

April 3, 1979

Mr. P. H. C. Lucas  
Deputy Director General of Lands  
Department of Lands and Survey  
Private Bag  
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Bing:

It was good to make your acquaintance in Costa Rica, and I am pleased to have established contact with an individual such as yourself who is directly involved in the management of the Kermadec Islands. As promised, I am sending you two articles dealing with this interesting island group. I suspect, however, that you may have already seen the publication authored by W. T. Devine, as the address listed is your department.

As I indicated to you in person, for some time now I have been interested in the sea turtle population of the Kermadec Islands. This is an almost totally unknown feeding aggregation that could have far reaching and significant migratory implications with respect to other Pacific populations. We simply need to gather more information for this site, and I certainly am willing to cooperate with your Department in whatever way necessary to achieve such an objective. I look forward to hearing from you on this subject as your overall plans for the area develop.

If your travels bring you through Honolulu, please telephone me at 247-6631 and I will arrange for a visit to our laboratory.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

mk





## University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
29 March 1979


Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

I wonder if you can tell me if any new developments have taken place concerning the possibilities of conducting satellite tracking experiments on Hawaiian green turtles. This continues to be of great interest to me, as unique conditions exist in Hawaii for the conduction of such research.

Also, I would be very interested to learn of the outcome of your preliminary radio tracking of head-started and released Kemp's ridleys. I understand that some of the initial work was just carried out a few weeks ago in Florida.

Any information that you can provide on these important subjects would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
George H. Balazs

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

March 29, 1979

Dr. C. Fontanilla  
Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife  
Research Division  
Forest Research Institute College  
Laguna 3720  
Philippines

Dear Dr. Fontanilla:

I would greatly appreciate a copy of your article entitled "The sea turtle that lays the golden egg is vanishing" (*Canopy* 4(7), 8-9, 12:1978).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md



March 29, 1979

Mr. David L. Olsen (FWS/RF)  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dave:

Many thanks for your letter of 22 March concerning my inquiry about green turtle basking at Nihoa and the September 1971 Refuge Report. I certainly appreciate hearing your thoughts on the use of file data collected by Fish and Wildlife personnel.

I should perhaps clarify my earlier statement about the Kridler-Olsen trip reports being "lost to history and science." What I actually meant was that the reports are so inaccessible that, for all practical purposes, the contents are lost to history and science. Indeed, very few people are even aware of their existence. As I previously suggested, one way to remedy the situation would be to deposit a complete bound set in the Hawaiian-Pacific Collection of Hamilton Library at the University of Hawaii. This would insure easy accessibility for all interested persons located in Hawaii. It is my understanding that such a set is on file at the Smithsonian Institution.

I just returned from Costa Rica a few days ago where I attended meetings of the IUCN/SSC and CITES. During this time I had the pleasure of meeting Duke Campbell and Jerry Bertram of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Enclosed are several short publications that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

March 29, 1979

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy  
World Wildlife Fund - U.S.  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Tom:

Many thanks for your letter of 18 March. I also enjoyed having the opportunity to personally meet with you in San Jose, although it was unfortunate that circumstances did not allow us to have longer discussions. I concur with your suggestion for some sort of priority ranking of projects for sea turtle conservation. This was undertaken to some extent at our meeting in Toronto during May 1978. Although I have not yet seen the final copy that resulted, I was under the impression that you were aware of our deliberations. In my new role as Deputy Chairman, I will certainly attempt to find out where this matter now stands. In any event, the forthcoming Washington sea turtle conference should yield additional information of value.

I look forward to working with you during the coming months on various matters relating to sea turtle conservation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

March 28, 1979

TO: Dr. F. Wayne King  
New York Zoological Society

FROM: George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

SUBJECT: Accounting of travel funds issued for IUCN/SSC and CITES meetings  
in San Jose, Costa Rica (11 - 25 March, 1979).

Round trip air fare - Pan Am economy	\$793.00
TAM vouchers	151.00
Hotel (Cariari and Ambassador)	215.00
Meals, laundry, transportation	<u>235.00</u>

Total \$ 1,394.00

Advance check \$ 1,500.00

Enclosed refund to NYZS \$ 106.00

GHB:ec

Enclosure

TERRITORIAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

DETACH BEFORE DEPOSITING  
THE ATTACHED CHECK IS IN FULL PAYMENT OF THE FOLLOWING

	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. <u>S-47881</u>	GEORGE H. BALAZS	\$106.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT NO. _____	MARCH 28, 1979	
SHARE LOAN NO. _____		
HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN NO. _____		
LOANS IN PROCESS NO. _____	PAYABLE TO: NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY	
0-1 <u>2320.2</u>	CHECK FOR CHANGE	
0-1 _____		

DRAWN BY

ks  


APPROVED BY

020347



March 27, 1979

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

Dear Itaru:

Many thanks for your good letter of March 12, 1979. I was pleased to learn that you are enjoying my seabird calendar. As requested, I am sending another copy for your cousin.

I have just returned from San Jose, Costa Rica where I attended meetings of the IUCN Survival Service Commission and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna). An observer delegation from Japan was present and I had the good fortune to meet Mr. Yagi (ambassador to Switzerland), Mr. Fujimura (Ministry of Industry) and Mr. Suzuki of the Wild Bird Society of Japan (Tokyo). I was able to learn some very interesting additional facts about the tortoiseshell industry. Also, I was surprised to hear that Japan is now importing very large numbers of olive ridley skins from Mexico. Do you have further information on this serious subject?

It is very kind of you to offer the use of your sister's house if I visit Tokyo. I greatly appreciate this generous courtesy. However, as you may know by this time, the Malaysian sea turtle conference has unfortunately been postponed. There will be an international meeting on sea turtles in Washington, D. C. (26-30 November 1979) which I hope you will be able to attend.

I would like to submit a small research proposal to the World Wildlife Fund to investigate the tortoiseshell industry in Japan. This would involve visiting with you in Japan and traveling to Nagasaki. Would you be willing to be a co-investigator with me on this project?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



March 27, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Threlfall:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "First record of the Atlantic leatherback turtle from Labrador."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 27, 1979

Dr. George E. Henderson  
Florida Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Research Laboratory  
100 Eighth Avenue SE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Dr. Henderson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of Florida Marine Research Publication No. 33, "Proceedings of the Florida and Interregional Conference on Sea Turtles, 24-25 July 1976." Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

SHB:md

March 27, 1979

Mr. Ray Kramer  
Game Biologist  
Department of Fish and Game  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Many thanks for your letter of March 20th responding to my earlier inquiry. The information that you provided is very much appreciated. I was particularly interested to hear of your reports of green turtles in Alaskan waters. These should really be compiled and published somewhere as a note. I would encourage you to undertake such a project.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

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 96755  
Cable Address: UNIHAW

March 27, 1979

Mr. Ismail Rasheed  
Post Master  
General Post Office  
Malé, Republic of Maldives  
Indian Ocean

Dear Mr. Rasheed:

I would greatly appreciate receiving information on how I can obtain your forthcoming issue of stamps displaying sea turtles. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



March 27, 1979

Dr. Joseph R. Sylvester  
Turtle Program Manager  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Duval Building  
9450 Koger Boulevard  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Joe:

I just returned from San Jose, Costa Rica where I attended meetings of the IUCN Survival Service Commission and CITES. Peter Pritchard was also present and he mentioned that copies of his report (authored with Cato) on trade in sea turtle products could now be obtained from your office. This would be greatly appreciated. Also, I wonder if the bibliography on loggerheads is now completed.

While in San Jose I also had the opportunity to have dinner with Dick Roe and discuss turtle matters of common interest.

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

January 25, 1979

The Honorable J. J. Webster  
Minister for Science and the Environment  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT  
2602, AUSTRALIA

Dear Minister Webster:

The Australian Consul General of Hawaii has suggested that I contact you concerning my desire for information on a matter relating to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). It is my understanding that Australia has submitted a proposal to the Secretariat requesting that populations of the green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, at Tromelin and Europa Islands (Indian Ocean) be transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II. This will be one of many proposals under consideration at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Costa Rica this coming March. I plan to attend this meeting as an observer. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am interested in learning more about the Australian government's proposal. I would greatly appreciate receiving background information on this matter. Is there sufficient data to warrant lessening the protection afforded under CITES at these two locations? Why has the Australian government submitted this proposal when Tromelin and Europa are under French jurisdiction? Have Australian researchers carried out studies at these locations?

Thank you in advance for any assistance that you are able to provide to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Mr. William Roe  
Consul General

- Jan Preston

524-5050  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

March 12, 1979

TO: Office of the Marine Affairs Coordinator

FROM: George H. Balazs

SUBJECT: Review of Hawaiian Monk Seal Critical Habitat Discussion  
Paper, as Requested by MAC

- page 13 - The Hawaiian Archipelago contains eight main islands.
- page 15 - Monk seals habitually haul out at Nihoa and Gardner Pinnacles. Nearly every survey made has found seals resting at these locations. The two land areas should therefore be included in this section and similar sections that follow. Line 5 should read "...major pupping or hauling habitats".
- page 16 - Tern Island consists of 57 acres, not 21. Total land area at French Frigate Shoals is 111 acres.
- page 28 - Line 6 should read "...beach at Sand Island, Midway Islands (G. H. Balazs, personal communication)".  
Line 8 should read "...general area of Midway (J. B. Giezantner, personal communication)".
- page 35 - The monk seal remains found in three different tiger sharks at French Frigate Shoals are suspected as having been derived from a single seal (see Taylor and Naftel, 1978).
- page 40 - Following line 15, mention should be made of the commercial turtle fishing that took place at French Frigate Shoals in 1959.
- page 41 - Line 16 reference should be "Archaeology of Nihoa and Necker" by K. Emory 1928, not ARB's 206 and 207.
- page 42 - Line 2 should read "...numbers 500-1000 surviving..." (see The recent status of *Monachus monachus*, the Mediterranean monk seal by Sergeant *et al.* 1978, *Biological Conservation*).



Memo to Office of the Marine Affairs Coordinator  
March 12, 1979  
Page 2

page 52 - Line 10 should read "...12 islands...".

page 57 - see reference cited above for page 42.

page 70 - What is the "...new information which has become available on both Hawaiian and Mediterranean monk seals."?

GIB:md



March 5, 1979

Dr. George W. Barlow  
Department of Zoology  
University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Barlow:

My good friend Leighton Taylor recently informed me that you were stationed at French Frigate Shoals when the Loran station was moved from East to Tern Island. Since 1973 I have been regularly visiting French Frigate Shoals to conduct tagging studies of the nesting green turtles. Most of this work has been focused on East and Whale-Skate Islands. Over the years I have also attempted to contact as many Coast Guard and Navy personnel as possible in order to gather historical information on turtles, as well as monk seals.

I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with any memories you may have of sea turtle nesting, basking or swimming in the area. I am particularly interested in numbers present at various times of the year, and the sizes (approximate shell length) represented. Predation on adult turtles by sharks is an important consideration, and any such observations you may have made would also be valuable.

In addition to historical details, I am also attempting to assemble photographs from each time period which show wildlife, islands and human facilities. If you have such material and would be willing to make prints, I would of course pay you for whatever costs involved.

Enclosed are two items relating to my work which you may find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

March 1, 1979

To: Dr. David J. Kittelson  
Hawaii Collection  
Hamilton Library

From: George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: Donation of unpublished manuscripts to the Hawaiian  
Collection.

The following unpublished manuscripts are being submitted to your office for possible inclusion into the Hawaiian Collection:

- Balazs, G. H. (1977) Ecological aspects of green turtles at Necker Island. 26 pp.
- Balazs, G. H. (1978) Sea turtles of Kahoolawe Island: A preliminary survey. 21 pp.
- Balazs, G. H. (1979) Bibliography of Kaula Island, Hawaiian Archipelago. 19 pp.

GHB:md

March 1, 1979

Dr. Samuel H. Elbert  
3293 Huelani Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Dr. Elbert:

The purpose of this letter is to request additional information on an entry that appears in your fine book "Place Names of Hawaii" which you authored with Mary Pukui and Esther Mookini. Specifically on page 155, Moku-manamana is listed as being an old name for Necker Island. No reference is given, and I have been unable to confirm this definition through extensive reading of Hawaiian folklore and other materials. I am especially interested in Necker Island as it is one of my field study areas for research of the Hawaiian green sea turtle, Chelonia mydas. During 1977 I spent a total of 10 days on Necker in conjunction with this work.

Thank you in advance for any information that you are able to provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 1, 1979

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

Dear Kenji:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a Xerox copy of the following manuscript report which should be in your files.

Ikehara, I. I. 1960. Job completion report; shark predation studies, Project No. F-5-R-8, job no. 12, D.F.G., S.O.H., 10 pp.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



February 26, 1979  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Telephone 247-6631

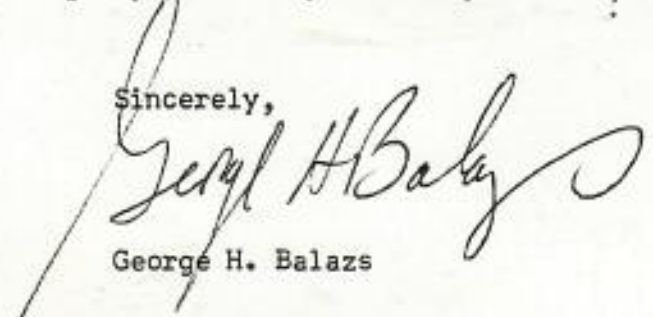
Letters to the Editor  
Honolulu Advertiser  
P.O. Box 3110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

Dear Sir:

I was disappointed to see that Mrs. Francee King has once again inappropriately used her DINING OUT advertising supplement of The Sunday Star-Bulletin and Advertiser to encourage readers to buy and eat products derived from sea turtles. In a recent issue (2-18-79) Mrs. King stated that turtle steaks are being brought into Hawaii "from the Grand Cayman Turtle Farm, where turtles are propagated for the express purpose of supplying turtle meat without in any way endangering the species". This is unfortunately reminiscent of Mrs. King's erroneous statements of three years ago (1-18-76) when she attempted to stimulate Hawaii's restaurant trade in turtle soup. The fact of the matter is that due to serious population declines, sea turtles are now federally protected under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, based on a lengthy and careful consideration of the facts, officials of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service have ruled that the commercial activities of the foreign-based Cayman turtle "farm" are not in the best conservation interests of sea turtles. Consequently, the recently passed final regulations on the subject will prohibit importation of all "farmed" (as well as wild) sea turtle products into the United States. Interestingly enough, in California these same products have been banned by state law since late 1977.

I certainly have no objection to Mrs. King saying nice things about restaurants in Hawaii that pay her to do so. However, it is not proper for her to use this advertising space to promote commerce in threatened species of wildlife. The Hawaii Newspaper Agency has a responsibility to see that this does not take place.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs

February 28, 1979

Mr. R. J. Kramer  
Alaska Division of Fish and Game  
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Kramer:

Recently I had the opportunity to read through some of the unpublished reports dealing with visits to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. One of these reports was entitled "A report on a survey trip to the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, June 1962" which you authored. This particular trip was made on the LST Stone County 1141. On page 1 of the report under the heading Itinerary, for June 20 you indicated that while enroute from Laysan Island to French Frigate Shoals, an eight hour detour was necessary "due to atomic testing." I wonder if you can recall the circumstances surrounding this event? I am unaware of any past atomic testing or radioactive materials occurring in this area of the Pacific. Any information that you can provide me would therefore be interesting, informative and greatly appreciated. I hope to hear from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 23, 1979

Mr. Dave Olsen  
9417 Athens Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22040

Dear Dave:

I would like to take you up on your kind offer to provide me with a copy of one of the HINWR trip reports. Specifically: Kridler, E. (1971) Hawaiian Islands Natural Wildlife Refuge Trip Report, September 2-17, 30 pp. This is cited in the Atoll Research Bulletin for Nihoa Island authored by Clapp and Kridler. There appears to have been an observation of a turtle basking on a rock ledge at Nihoa during that expedition. Were you on the trip and, if so, do you recall such an occurrence? If this actually took place, it would be an important thing for me to look for during future trips.

The various valuable information in all of the Kridler-Olsen trip reports should really be made available to researchers in Hawaii. As it stands now, for all practical purposes they are lost to history and science. I propose that in the near future copies be made of all such reports for transference to the Hawaiian and Pacific Collection at Hamilton Library of the University of Hawaii. This way they could be bound and made readily available to interested parties. I would be most willing to help in such a project in any way appropriate and possible. What are your thoughts on this matter?

Hope you received in good condition the second calendar that I sent.

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

February 20, 1979

Commander T. C. Kelley  
Special Assistant for Ecology  
Department of the Navy  
Pacific Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Makalapa)  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear Commander Kelley:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to conduct an observational survey, from land, for the presence of marine turtles in the inshore waters of Kaula. It is my understanding that a team of biologists will visit Kaula for three days in March to investigate humpback whales and the various species of nesting seabirds. A need exists to also specifically look for the presence of marine turtles. As you are aware, the green turtle (Chelonia mydas) and hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) are listed, respectively, as Threatened and Endangered species under provisions of the U. S. Endangered Species Act. Both of these turtles occur at certain locations in the inshore waters of the Hawaiian Islands. The ordnance practice periodically conducted in the shoreline areas of Kaula makes it imperative that any occurrence of green or hawksbill turtles be identified and defined.

Your consideration of this request for logistical support to Kaula will be appreciated. If such support is provided, I will submit a written report on my findings under the same terms which we agreed upon for my earlier survey at Kahoolawe that was supported by the Navy (reference report "Sea Turtles of Kahoolawe Island: A Preliminary Survey " November 1978, 21 pp).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Mr. D. Gates, NMFS  
Captain L. T. Profilet



February 20, 1979

Commander T. C. Kalley  
Special Assistant for Ecology  
Department of the Navy  
Pacific Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command (Makalapa)  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear Commander Kalley:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to conduct an observational survey, from land, for the presence of marine turtles in the inshore waters of Kaula. It is my understanding that a team of biologists will visit Kaula for three days in March to investigate humpback whales and the various species of nesting seabirds. A need exists to also specifically look for the presence of marine turtles. As you are aware, the green turtle (Chelonia mydas) and hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) are listed, respectively, as Threatened and Endangered species under provisions of the U. S. Endangered Species Act. Both of these turtles occur at certain locations in the inshore waters of the Hawaiian Islands. The ordnance practice periodically conducted in the shoreline areas of Kaula makes it imperative that any occurrence of green or hawksbill turtles be identified and defined.

Your consideration of this request for logistical support to Kaula will be appreciated. If such support is provided, I will submit a written report on my findings under the same terms which we agreed upon for my earlier survey at Kahoolawe that was supported by the Navy (reference report "Sea Turtles of Kahoolawe Island: A Preliminary Survey" November 1978, 21 pp).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Mr. D. Gates, NMFS  
Captain L. T. Profflet

February 16, 1979

Ensign Scott Bair (OAN)  
Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
300 Ala Moana  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Bair:

The purpose of this letter is to request space on the Coast Guard C-130 flight that is scheduled to travel to Midway and Kure from Barber's Point on 27 February and return on 29 February. I would be traveling alone with less than 50 lbs. of baggage; all overnight lodging involved would take place at Midway rather than Kure.

The objective of this short trip is to confer with various Coast Guard and Naval personnel cooperating in my research activities of green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This ongoing research program is sponsored by the Office of the Governor's Marine Affairs Coordinator (State of Hawaii) and the Sea Grant College Program (NOAA). As you may be aware, since 1973 the Fourteenth Coast Guard District has provided logistical and other assistance to my project on numerous occasions. Copies of correspondence authorizing my travel with the Coast Guard on a mission congruent basis are on file with your office. In addition, the necessary security clearances for U. S. Naval Station Midway have been processed and are on file with the Commanding Officer.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this request. Please contact me at 247-6631 or 395-6409 if there are any questions that I have left unanswered.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 15, 1979

The Librarian  
Oceanographic Research Institute  
P. O. Box 736  
Durban, South Africa

Dear Librarian:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving the Investigation Reports of your laboratory covering *Sharks of the East Coast of Southern Africa* by A. J. Bass, J. D. D'Aubrey and N. Kistnosmy. This literature will be of value to my research and will also be made available to colleagues with our Institute.

Thank you for your assistance in this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

February 15, 1979

Dr. James R. Wood  
Cayman Turtle Farm, Ltd.  
Box 645  
Grand Cayman Island  
British West Indies

Dear Jim:

If copies are still available, I would appreciate receiving reprints of your February and August 1977 articles that appeared in the Journal of Nutrition.

I only recently learned that Fern was in Honolulu for the World Mariculture Society meeting. This was unfortunate as had I known this earlier I would have invited her for a visit to our laboratory.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA  
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY  
P. O. BOX 1346  
KANEHOE, HAWAII 96844

February 15, 1979

The Honorable Thomas Davis  
Premier of the Cook Islands  
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Dear Premier Dr. Davis:

In March of 1977 I had the pleasure of visiting Rarotonga and Aitutaki for eight days in the capacity of special consultant to the South Pacific Commission Sea Turtle Project. During that time I also met with you briefly, although you probably will not remember the occasion in view of the many people you must come in contact with.

My purpose in writing to you at this time is to inquire about the status of any research, management, or other activities involving sea turtles that may be in progress under your new government. Based on the available data, the Cook Islands appear to contain some of the most important nesting areas for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Polynesia. As one of only several sea turtle researchers in the Pacific region, it would therefore be of value for me to know of any activities under your jurisdiction. I want to thank you in advance for any assistance that you or your staff can provide to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md



## University of Hawaii at Manoa

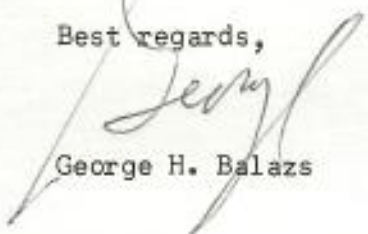
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW  
13 February 1979

Wayne-

By all rights, Nicholas should also have copied this letter to you. Since he did not, I am taking the initiative to send it to you confidentially.

I am not at all pleased that Nicholas has asked me to personally deliver the letter to Sir Peter. He could just as well have sent it to him directly. I do not intend for him to take advantage of our friendship in such matters on any further occasions.

Best regards,



George H. Balazs

PS- For the Malaysian conference, we need to find out why Siow was given apparently complete control as to what papers from within Malaysia would be acceptable for presentation. This is potentially dangerous, as it could bias the information available.



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

February 12, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

I will deliver your letter to Sir Peter as requested, however I cannot help but feel that you are placing me in somewhat of an awkward position. It would have been more appropriate for you to send this directly to him, since the question of your title is, at this point, a matter over which I feel I have no control or influence. By having me personally deliver the letter (copied to me), there will almost certainly be some conversation along these lines that will prove uncomfortable. You are indeed correct in stating that you can take me at my word when I told you that I would be quite happy with some system involving the three of us. When the newly created position of Deputy Chairman was offered to me, I specifically asked on two occasions if some sort of three-way chairmanship might not be established. As I subsequently related to you over the telephone, the response was completely unfavorable. It was stated to me that the decisions in this matter had been made, and that the course of action would not be changed even if I decided not to accept the position. I also told you that I had extended myself on your behalf as much as possible and appropriate under the circumstances. Please understand that, in my opinion, when one is asked to fill an honorary position, such as I have been asked, one does not start off by pressuring the appointing agency as to who else to appoint and to what position. To do so would be undiplomatic and something less than good manners.

There will, in fact, be a three-way leadership of sorts to the Group, comprised of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Editor of the Newsletter. I concur with your statement that the copy machine can be set at three almost as easily as at two, thereby providing the Editor with full information. However, some of your other comments have caused



Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky  
February 12, 1979  
Page 2

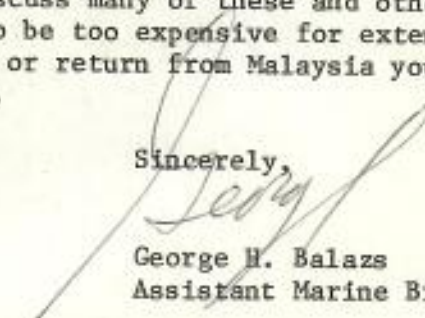
questions to surface. You mentioned that I may not have seen or been aware of all the sea turtle conservation work in which you have been involved as Co-chairman. This should not be the case. With the Group's present structure of only six regular members, all material and activities should have been made available to each member for input. If the copy machine can be set at three, it could have been set at six. With respect to grant proposals which you have now mentioned several times, no copies have ever been sent to me for review or internal comment. In short, it now appears to me that, as one of the six regular Group members, I have received relatively little copied information on what has been transpiring. An important example would be the arrangements, planning and decision to have an international meeting in Malaysia. Except for our very general group discussions in Toronto, there was no request for input on my part. With the exception of Siow, were any of the other regular members closely consulted on this matter? Further, were there any consultations with respect to the decision to give Siow what appears to be complete control over what papers from within Malaysia are presented at the conference?

It is not really my intention to dwell on or dredge up the past, but rather to move ahead working in whatever way possible to strengthen the survival status of sea turtles. I am certain that you have no question as to my personal commitment to this goal. I have worked effectively in the past without titles and, if need be, I will work without titles again in the future. In the meantime, as Deputy Chairman I intend to use whatever prestige and status the title affords to promote the same goal. This has, of course, been my decision, and I fully realize that values differ. If you decide to withdraw as Editor due to the absence of an additional title, I will of course be disappointed, but nevertheless capable of partially understanding your difficult situation.

Before closing, I should mention something about the growth articles in the last newsletter. I believe I am justified in saying that, as Editor, it would have been beneficial to set a deadline for receiving the articles. As near as I can determine, my article remained in limbo for at least three months waiting for Limpus to send in his. This was not right, particularly in view of the fact that during this time you were presumably corresponding with Limpus about the possibilities of holding a meeting in Australia.

I still do not know at this point if I will be able to attend the Malaysian meeting. There are several problems, one of which is travel funds. Nevertheless I do hope that in the not too distant future we will have the opportunity to discuss many of these and other matters in person. Telephone calls tend to be too expensive for extended conversations. Hopefully on the way to or return from Malaysia you will be able to visit with us for a few days.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

March 30, 1979

Mr. Huang Zhou-Jian  
Institute of Zoology  
Academia Sinica  
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Zhou-Jian:

Your name has been given to me by the Chinese delegation that attended the C.I.T.E.S. Convention which was recently held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Members of the delegation included Mr. Shu Zhong Chong, Mr. Ju Chin Chao, Mr. Wan Cheng Chiang, and Mr. Tsien Ming Chin.

I am interested in obtaining information on the occurrence of marine turtles in China. It is my understanding that you are conducting some research on this group of reptiles. For the past six years I have been investigating the ecology and population dynamics of the Hawaiian green turtle, Chelonia mydas. I also serve as Deputy Chairman of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Dr. Archie Carr, Graduate Research Professor at the University of Florida is the Chairman of our group.

I believe that it would be mutually beneficial to our research programs if we would initiate correspondence on the scientific aspects of marine turtles. I hope that you will be agreeable to such a proposal, and that I will hear from you within the near future.

I have enclosed several publications dealing with my research that I hope you will find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

Enclosures