

7 FEB 79 INCOMING #5.
HIMB CORRESPONDENCE
TO G.H. BALAZS

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

April 24, 1979

Dr. Archie Carr
Dept. of Zoology
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Archie:

Many thanks for your letter and the copy of your letter to George Balazs.

I am not disappointed at all that you do not wish to be associated with our at-present theoretical plan to maintain a captive breeding colony of Kemp's ridley at Cayman. I personally think it is worth doing, or I wouldn't have become involved; but these are unquestionably politically dangerous waters, and it is better that a few of us should test them first without there being any kind of stampede! So your caution does not distress me in the least.

Nevertheless, in case you think I have taken leave of my senses or been bought off by someone sinister, let me take a minute to explain my point of view. As a turtle conservationist interested principally in saving species and genetic entities rather than feeding humanity, Kemp's ridley is for me by far the highest priority in turtle conservation. We may lose the species completely in a few more seasons - as you and I have been pointing out for some time - since we have no control whatsoever, apart from unenforceable laws, during the aquatic phase of the animal's existence. I think the plan of keeping a captive breeding group is one that will at least preserve a few of our options if in a few years we patrol the Rancho Nuevo beach and no turtles come ashore to nest; I prefer this to just hand-wringing and saying, "I told you so" to National Marine Fisheries Service and the shrimp industry.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

921 Lake Sybelia Drive • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751
(305) 647-2615

The question then becomes one of locating a facility and staff who are able to house and breed sea turtles. If someone other than Cayman Turtle Farm were available, they would be my preference for obvious political reasons; but at the present time I don't see who else could do the job. I don't think that we are simply keeping a few ridleys in a pen for reasons of nostalgia, watching them die off gradually like the last passenger pigeon. That was certainly not my intention, and the operation will be a clear failure if the ridleys do not breed. What is happening at the present time, however, and what I am afraid George Balazs is proposing in his recent circular, is akin to the passenger pigeon syndrome - keep some ridleys around in widely-separated facilities so people can see them and feel sorry for them as they gradually die off.

Also, the plan for the captive group is not a head-starting exercise unless wisdom accumulating in the years to come suggests that that is indeed worthwhile. I would personally envisage that the eggs laid by the captive colony would, to a large degree, be transferred to Rancho Nuevo so that they could hatch and enter the sea as naturally as possible; others might be released as hatchlings; but whatever we do, options, in a limited way, will have been preserved. When ridleys fail to appear at Rancho Nuevo, if we do not get on with some insurance plan of this kind now, no options will have been preserved. This way, we can keep our captive stock until the shrimp industry is using effective excluders - or is out of business - and then try some serious re-introduction.

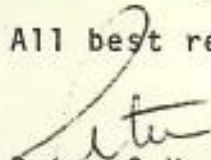
The reason we decided to form a corporation to set policy for the project is simply to ensure that the Cayman Turtle Farm - or anyone else with potentially different or conflicting motives - does not call the shots. It is important, for example, that we have the right to switch the whole operation to somewhere else if we perceive that someone else can do a better job.

There is a residual danger that the project we have outlined will be used by the Turtle Farm people to attempt to justify their existence for access to commercial markets for their green turtle products. This is a danger, though one that I think, on balance, we should be willing to risk. I doubt that our at present theoretical document would have any bearing on a court of law or other body deciding whether NMFS was within its rights in excluding them from the United States. Certainly I would be the first to demand that the issues be considered completely independently. But my main theme is that turtle conservationists have been too preoccupied for too long with commercial turtle farming, and arguing on theoretical grounds with each other as to whether market stimulation or market saturation would be the governing result. I have plans to try and get some real answers to this, but meanwhile, if the turtle farming issue diverts our attention either from Suarez and his cohorts, or from the imminent extinction of kempi, we have not made a good ordering of our priorities, in my opinion.

I think we have built adequate safeguards into our plan to prevent any diversion of attention away from saving wild kemp, and also to prevent the pillaging of the tiny surviving stock for the breeding colony. My recommendation in fact is that we utilize one-eyed and other survivors of the Galveston 1978 operation that are vigorous and genetically sound, but because of various injuries not suitable for release. This seemed a good idea to most people I talked to; we were adamant that adult turtles should not be taken from Mexico, and that we would prefer not to use Mexican hatchlings either.

Please continue to disagree with me, Archie, as publicly as you wish. I know our friendship can stand it without strain, and it is important that the political dangers that are inherent in an undertaking of this kind be aired and emphasized.

All best regards,


Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Vice President - Science & Research

c.c. George Balazs
Wayne King
Leo Brongersma
Perran Ross
George Hughes

sep



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 18, 1979

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

Dear Peter:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your April 24 letter to Archie outlining your thoughts on keeping Kempi's ridleys at Cayman Island.

I was indeed sorry to see that you misconstrued my two page Kempi write-up, particularly in view of the fact that we discussed this topic over lunch in Washington on April 12. I am certainly not proposing, as you have suggested, that we keep some ridleys around in widely separated facilities so people can see them and feel sorry for them *as they gradually die off*. Quite the opposite, I am suggesting that Kempi hatchlings be distributed to a number of aquariums at this time to establish a reservoir for future use as captive breeding stock. The absence of sand beaches at most of the facilities is, in my opinion, not really important at the present time because 5-10 years (or longer) will be required for the animals to reach sexual maturity and actually need a sand beach. When that time arrives, two options would be available. Some facilities might decide to construct a small artificial beach patterned after the one successfully used by captive greens at Sea Life Park here in Hawaii. I should point out that the cost of such an undertaking would not be exorbitant - the Sea Life Park beach was constructed adjacent to an existing pool for less than \$3,000. The second option would be to transport (by air) selected mature turtles from the facility in which they were reared to other facilities where beaches exist. Yes, while the turtles are growing many people would see them and feel sorry for the species (and, hopefully, other kinds of endangered sea turtles). In my opinion, this would certainly be desirable. Lots of people today feel sorry for whales, and I would personally like to see that type of ground-swell support also develop for sea turtles.

The three main problems with housing Kempi at Cayman Turtle Farm, in my opinion, are: 1) the highly controversial and commercial (marketing of turtles) nature of the facility; 2) the legal implications of the pending law suit filed by Cayman Turtle Farm against the U. S. government; and 3) the vulnerability of having all of the future breeding stock at one facility. Incidentally, wherever the stock is located, I do not think it should consist of one-eyed or other mutilated survivors of the 1978 Galveston project. Any plan for developing a future breeding stock will have enough uncertainties without adding further to the list.

Dr. Peter Pritchard

-2-

May 18, 1979

In your letter to Archie, you referred to the Oviedo Statement of Intent as an "at present theoretical document." Does this mean that the document has not yet been signed by the various participants in agreement?

Obviously different conservation strategies for sea turtles will continue to be set forth, as so many have been in the past. Because we are dealing with the survival of species and populations, it would behoove us to make known and carefully scrutinize each such proposal. In this respect, I hope that you will do a write-up for the Newsletter describing the Cayman Kempi project. I sent a copy of my short write-up to Nicholas, however, he indicated that I would have to first check with you before printing it because "we don't want to confuse people with too many different plans."

We look forward to seeing you in Hawaii in late July.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Archie Carr
Perran Ross
Leo Brongersma
George Hughes
Wayne King

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

13 April 1979

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneoke, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

I enclose a copy of the Orlando kempi "agreement," typed from a Xeroxed copy of Leo Brongersma's penscript original. As you will see, neither Anne as my representative, nor Perran Ross signed the paper at the meeting, and I have not signed here subsequently -- for various reasons involving my sense of logic and my position vis-a-vis the SSC and CCC.

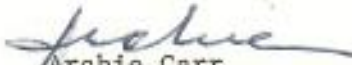
Needless to say, I am not opposed to anybody assembling and forever maintaining a breeding stock of kempi -- providing it can be built up and kept without bringing any sort of damage to the wild remnant of the species. However, I don't see why a corporation is necessary to mount such an undertaking, and I don't have the slightest confidence that such a stock would ever be of use in rehabilitating the species.

I sympathize with the urge to keep a pen of ridleys. As a matter of fact, two years ago, I told a member of the Orlando gathering about an aimless compulsion of my own to get some ridleys and keep them somewhere, more or less as the last passenger pigeon was kept in the St. Louis Zoo till she died of old age. That whimsy may have been the beginning of the present exercise.

My reasons for not putting my name on the present agreement are that I see no point in signing a document that would have legal power if any litigation affecting turtle farming should arise; or in my joining in a move that would inevitably spread the ethereal hope that the ridley could be restored from captive sources. If I had faith in the possibility of replacing the lost natural population of kempi with pen reared turtles I might possibly try to suppress other misgivings and sign the paper; but I simply don't have that faith. You know the weakness of the head-starting rationale as well as I. Restocking from captive stock is merely a self-sustaining exercise in head-starting.

I'll be interested in hearing your reaction to all this.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

STATEMENT OF INTENT

To whom it may concern:

Recognizing the vital importance of the current and ongoing efforts by the Departamento de Pesca, Mexico, to restore and perpetuate the only known breeding colony of the endangered Kemp's Ridley Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii [Garman]) and motivated by the desire to assist this laudable effort in every possible way, acknowledging the essential approval and cooperation of Mexico, we are agreed that it appears desirable at this time to establish a captive breeding colony of Kemp's Ridley Turtle to ensure preservation of this genetic entity, if efforts to preserve the species in the wild should fail. Also the establishment of this captive colony should in no way lessen the vigour of the efforts to preserve the species in the wild.

We are agreed that Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd. facilities with its existing scientific and technical personnel appear to offer the best prospects at this time, for the housing of this captive colony.

We are agreed that this colony should not be drawn from the Mexican adult turtles, but that this stock should be derived from existing aquarium specimens, accidentally caught individuals, and/or individuals from the 1978 hatch currently in the hands of the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

We are agreed that the management of the captive colony should be guided by a non-profit corporation dedicated to the propagation of the species, which shall establish overall policies for the colony in accordance with technical advice by the scientific director of Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd.

This corporation shall be managed by a board of directors, which shall as a minimum include the Chief of the Nacional Sea Turtle Project of the Mexican Instituto Nacional de Pesca, Mexico, as an ex-officio member, as well as representatives of major non-governmental conservation organizations. It is considered important that the corporation shall have the endorsement of the bodies represented by the individual directors. The number of individual Ridleys kept by Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd, shall be mutually agreed upon by Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd. and the board of directors. This stock will be held in trust for the corporation only for propagation of the species. The sole intent of the signatories of this agreement, the proposed corporation, and its described activities is the safeguarding and augmentation of the species in its natural, wild state and no animals shall be disposed of for any other ultimate purposes.

We are agreed that the services provided for this purpose by Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd. shall not be utilized for promotional purposes, but that open channels of communication with all concerned scientists shall be maintained.

We are agreed that the costs of maintaining the initial captive stock for at least the first year of operation shall be arranged by Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd., and that subsequently, when the incremental costs of housing and maintaining those animals have been determined, discussions will be entered into for subsequent funding.

The actual investigations of the mechanics of this agreement shall be pursued by Prof. L. D. Brongersma, London, and Dr. P. C. H. Pritchard, Oviedo, Florida.

Orlando, Florida, U.S.A., April 7, 1979.

Signers:

Prof. L. D. Brongersma

Dr. P. C. H. Pritchard

Prof. L. Ehrhart

Prof. N. Mrosovsky

Dr. J. Mittag

Dr. R. Marquez Millan

Dr. G. H. Hughes

Ross Witham

Prof. J. R. Hendrickson

Dr. J. R. Wood

Herr Dr. Mittag (cannot read initial)

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

10 March 1979

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Downing Street
London SW1 A 2AL
U.K.

Gentlemen:

I am writing with regard to the controversial issue of development of tourism on Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic Ocean. I lived on Ascension for 16 months while studying the green turtle nesting colony there as the topic of my doctoral dissertation. In a previous letter to you (see enclosed letter), I explained why I feel that the development of tourism on the island would be extremely harmful to the sea turtles. I still think that protection of an endangered species, especially one as large, economically valuable, and unique as the green turtle, should in itself be reason enough to limit commercial development of an area. However, aside from these more esoteric conservationist arguments against development, there remains the pragmatic question of whether the development of tourism on Ascension is in fact an economically viable proposition.

I understand that many people see the climate, unique terrain, picturesque beaches, and diving opportunities as strong drawing cards for a tourist center there. In the following pages, I give some arguments why this attitude is falsely optimistic. During the time I spent on the island I hiked extensively over its landscape. I also logged approximately 100 dives, and thus am personally familiar with diving conditions around the island. Overall, it is my opinion that the island does not have many natural assets that would be of interest to the average tourist, considering the expenses that a visit to the island would entail. The assets that it does have, such as the magnificent nesting sea turtle colony, will be seriously threatened by large scale tourist development of the island.

Please do what you can to halt this scheme.

Heron Island

Respectfully yours,

Jeanne A. Mortimer
Doctoral Candidate

3 enclosures

THE UNATTRACTIVE FEATURES OF ASCENSION ISLAND

People have already said much about the attractive aspects of Ascension Island. Personally, I am very fond of the place. However, I feel it would be in the best interests of Ascension, its population, and others concerned, if people were also made aware of its negative attributes, before any drastic action is taken towards large scale development of it as a tourist resort area. Below I list some of the reasons why I feel that such a venture would be doomed to failure.

1) Swimming

Although the sand beaches of the island are all picturesque, none of them can be considered really safe for swimming. There is quite a steep drop off very near shore, making the beaches unsuitable for wading. Furthermore, because there is no continental shelf, all sides of the island are subject to huge waves, locally called "rollers" which arrive without warning. There are records of drownings and near drownings of Ascension bathers caught by these freak waves.

2) SCUBA Diving

SCUBA diving is dangerous for the same reasons swimming is. Although no SCUBA divers have yet been killed, there have been countless injuries and a number of near fatalities. Diving from the sand beaches tends to be uninteresting because of the dearth of fauna associated with the sandy bottom. Although the fauna encountered when diving off the rocky shore's is somewhat more interesting, the entries and exits can be downright treacherous.

Water clarity at Ascension is generally poor. In winter, July to October, there is an upwelling of cool nutrient-rich antarctic waters heavily laden with plankton, which sometimes decreases visibility to less than ten feet. Summer, December to April, is "roller" season. The rollers not only make diving dangerous, but also decrease water clarity. Although the marine life of Ascension is intriguing to a scientist, to the average tourist it probably would not be. There are no plants to be seen because they are consumed by the immense schools of voracious blackfish which are in abundance everywhere. There are no coral reef formations. Even the fish fauna is (depauperate) in terms of variety, and most of the fish species present are drably colored. There is only a small population of divers now on the island. However, the two favorite species of food animals, the "bulls-eye" fish and the lobster,

have already been seriously depleted. Although they were at one time very abundant, they are now scarce. Thus, it seems evident that the inshore fauna will not tolerate the pressure of large numbers of tourists spearfishing.

Moray eels comprising several species, are very abundant, and are a constant source of annoyance, for they are known to emerge from rock crevices and bite divers without provocation. The eels are particularly dangerous when divers are spearing fish, and have inflicted serious gashes requiring more than 30 stitches to close. During most of the year, sharks are regularly encountered in both deep and shallow waters all around the island.

3) Bird watching

Although Ascension possesses a biologically interesting population of sea birds, it is doubtful that the seabirds of the island are spectacular enough to draw tourists to the island. The only seabird that breeds conspicuously on the main island is the Sooty Tern (or Widewake) whose nesting aggregations make them very vulnerable to human disturbance. In any case, one need not go all the way to Ascension to see Widewakes. Large nesting colonies can also be found at several places in the Caribbean, the Persian Gulf, the Pacific Ocean, and the Indian Ocean. The other (ten species) of Ascension Island seabirds can only be found nesting in any numbers on Boatswain Bird Island, which measures 275 meters across, and is located just northeast of the main island. Boatswain Bird is a plateau, with sheer cliffs dropping precipitously to the sea on all sides, from an elevation of about 100 meters. The birds live primarily at the higher elevations, and are not easily viewed from a boat at water level; nor are they clearly visible from any point on the main island, 350 meters away. To bring tourists onto the rock would be destructive to the bird colonies nesting there, and at the same time very dangerous for the tourists.

4) Hiking

Except where trees have been planted on the top of Green Mountain and in the villages, there are no trees on the island. There is no fresh water. The landscape is stark, hot, dry and rugged. The volcanic formations are striking but forbidding in appearance. Many people describe the island as a "bloody slag heap" and do not find hiking over jagged lava, in the blazing sun, appealing. Unlike such attractive volcanic landscapes as those of the Galapagos Islands, which possess a fascinating endemic flora and fauna, Ascension has only a very depauperate terrestrial biota. During a day-long hike in the lowland regions of the island, one will be fortunate

to see a few land crabs scurrying across the lava or some seabirds in the distant sky.

5) The Amenities of Civilization

All materials for the construction of hotels or other facilities constructed on the island, will have to be transported to Ascension by ship or air. Obviously, this will be costly. Fresh water used by tourists on the island must be distilled from sea water. In view of the fact that swimming in the ocean would be ill-advised for the average tourist, swimming pools will probably have to be constructed. For a large scale tourist industry, electricity will of course have to be produced in large amounts. If the tourists expect to be served fresh fruit, vegetables and milk, new arrangements for the procurement of these items will be required. At the present time, such food is not available to the resident population through the NAAFI shops.

In summary, it would appear that the entertainment and amenities available on Ascension will not be sufficient incentive to tourists to make them willing to pay the exorbitant prices necessary to maintain them on the island.

*stopover
for little, if any,
addition airfare*

TOURISM

A PERSONAL VIEW

18 Throxenby Lane,
Newby,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

3rd January, 1979.

Dear Editor,

Having subscribed to The Islander prior to my departure from Ascension last April, I look forward to receiving copies at periodic intervals. Having received another set just before Christmas, I have only now found the time to read them all.

No 379, dated 27th October, with a leader on 'Tourism: Friend or Foe?' makes very interesting reading indeed. I assume that it is a factual article and not a very droll send up!

Having spent a year on Ascension with my family, and being what one could call an avid tourist, may I pass a few comments on the prospect of tourism on Ascension.

Before the first charter flight of tourists departs from wherever may be in mind - the UK, the States, South Africa - let us consider the expense that one or more backers will have to face. I assume that the two agents who visited Ascension were given all the facts and do not doubt for one minute that everything of interest was shown to them.

For the first hotel, we would have to import on to the Island everything from cement, bricks, wood, plaster, glass, paint, doors and so on for the construction; then all the items that furnish a hotel, including double beds (which must be a luxury for Ascension). On top of that, there is the expense of a swimming pool, which presents an obstacle: can the Beeb's desalination plants cope with the added water demand, or will new plants have to be installed for the initial hotel? Also, electricity - from the Power House to One Boat is the island feeder, which splits at One Boat for Georgetown, Two Boats and the Earth Station. Will a hotel be fed off that line, or is the hotel trade to be fed with a separate supply. If so, then this will alone cost a small fortune.

Assuming that we have a hotel on Ascension, what about food? For the estimated cost of (quote) '£350 in all for 14 days', one would assume that fresh food would be available to the tourist as follows: fresh milk, fresh eggs, fresh fruit, fresh veg and fresh meat. The year that I was there with my family, the choice of fresh foods left a lot to be desired. This was apparent by the orders that were placed through me for the R.A.F. to bring down on the C130s on their training runs to Ascension.

What has Ascension to offer the would-be tourist? If one is any or all of the following, then Ascension offers a lot (at specific times of the year): Ornithologist, Marine Biologist, Geologist, Scuba Diver, Fisherman. But to the normal sun-seeking tourist, which is 99.9% of tourists today, Ascension offers very little indeed. There are no beaches that can be classed as 100% safe to swim from, there are no taxis, no buses, no hire cars. There is no indigenous population, so there is no local entertainment to be had. I do not agree with the statement (quote) 'there is no permanently settled population to be disrupted or antagonised'. In all tourist places wherever they may be in the world, tourism depends to a large extent on the local population for staffing and, most of all, entertainment of a local nature. Do the hotels remain resident only? I know from experience as Two Boats Entertainments Member that it was a hell of a job to hold a private function in the Club for members only, without being inundated with gate-crashers in flip-flops, jeans and jaws tee shirts. The only way it was able to hold a private function was to have the police in attendance. Funny,

TOURISM - A Personal View, continued from page 7.

when one thinks about it, but the Exiles never during my tour had any of these problems.

One point that I forgot to mention with regard to fresh food: if the hotels receive fresh food, does it also become available through the NAAFI to the resident population?

Having been to most holiday resorts in Europe - i.e.: Mallorca, three times; Spain, three times; South of France, twice; San Remo and Naples in Italy; Greece; Turkey, both the South and Istanbul; Malta, three times; and having been on Cyprus for four years with the P.S.A. (Cyprus being the best island this side of the Atlantic for a tourist holiday, bar none) - I think there are a lot more places that, for the outlay of £350 for 14 days, give far better value than Ascension: the States, West Indies, Australia (from February 1st, £324 return). If all the Brits were asked to spend £350 for 14 days on Ascension, how many that are there now would honestly even consider it? In fact, if most were asked where Ascension was, how many would know if they were not working there? For the Brit on Ascension, doing his two or whatever years tour, everything is peaches and cream. I paid tax when I was there and found it to be the most expensive place I have ever been to, whether it was as a tourist or to work. For the C&W staff and the Beeb on tax-free salaries it makes to a lot easier living.

I completely agree with Brian Joshua that the future for the St Helenian must be considered, just in case one or more of the organisations withdraws from Ascension, but I do not think TOURISM is the answer.

As a very good friend of mine in the R.A.F., who has been to Ascension a lot of times in the last 10-15 years, said, Ascension is one hell of a night stop but nothing else. I tend to agree with him: my year on Ascension was one of monotony with no variations or choices. When P.S.A. were there, Ascension was the shortest accompanied tour we have, and that answers it all for me.

Sorry folks but 'Ascension is for the birds and turtles'.

Yours sincerely,
P.J.S.Waller.

Just Passing Through

INCA'ALLAH (which means 'If God Wills' in Arabic) is registered in Nantes, France, and is owned by Alain Ligot and Judith Strauss. They've been working their way down the west coast of Africa for some time, having set out from Amsterdam in June 1973. Their 39ft, Dutch-built steel ketch (bought in Grimsby, UK) is crewed by Joelle Grapon, Pascal Bone and Hugues de Villecot.

During 1973 they chartered the boat in Brittany, and then worked as divers in the Canary Islands, moving on to the Cape Verde Islands in June 1974. From August 1974 to September 1977, they worked as journalists in Dakar, Senegal, while giving the boat a complete overhaul.

Moving along the coast, they reached Libreville in Gabon in November 1977, where they stayed until last December. New Year's Eve was spent in Lome, Togo, from where they set out to Ascension on January 9th.

From here, they have headed off for Salvador de Bahia in Brazil, hoping to arrive in time for the carnival. After several months in Brazil, they'll be heading on for the West Indies, through Panama and into the Pacific.

They enjoyed their short stay here very much, everybody having been very pleasant and helpful to them; in particular, they'd like to thank Jan and Bill Walker for their hospitality.

Forthcoming meeting
SPO

Dear Dr Balazs, Andrew McKeown N Dick James

5th April 1979.

I worked in the Solomon Islands between 1972-1974 and collected a lot of information of the marine turtle populations there — nesting sites, estimates (v. much first approximations) of numbers of each species nesting, etc, etc. I am currently involved in (modelling) the Antarctic Ecosystem in order to make some assessment of the impact that kilt fishing may have upon it. However, my interest still remains strong in the area of my former work, and I am now planning to write up a manuscript I wrote in conjunction with Andrew another Volunteer on Nesting sites of ^{marine} turtles in the Solomon Islands I have shown this to people at the Natural History Museum here and their reaction was very favourable. Therefore, I am now intent upon completing a revision of the original draft by the end of June.

You can help me in several ways

Biological Conservation

1. Suggest possible Journals for - 10. 1

Hirth
x

2. Send me any bibliographies on marine turtles — basically I need to know in some detail what work has been done since 1974 in order to take due account of it in what I write.

3. Could you send me a copy of the report you wrote for SPC on marine turtles

4. Give me any contact addresses you think may be useful to me of people who have recently worked on marine turtles.

THE UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING

Second fold here

Second fold here

By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aérogramme

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING



Dr G.H. Balazs

Hawaii Institute of Marine
Biology
PO Box 1346

Kaneohe

Hawaii 96744.

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University of Stirling
Stirling, Scotland

Mr Seamus McElroy
Dept of Management Science and
Technological Studies

Sender's name and address

10

10 April 1988

First to

I realize I ask a lot.

However, I hope & trust you will help me
to try and get this thing done - and for it to
be up to standard.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours most sincerely

Seamus McElroy

P.S. Excuse the writing style - I am off to
Rome & Poland in 2 days & am trying to get a lot
of things done before then & so have been working late.

DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES
APPLIED SCIENCES BUILDING

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

4 April 1979

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I was told that you might be able to give me some information regarding green sea turtles breeding in the French Frigate Shoals and in the South Pacific. I'm presently doing graduate work with Dr. Burney Le Boeuf at UC Santa Cruz in California. I'd like to do a behavioral study on green turtles (my doctoral thesis) which would involve marking male and female turtles and making underwater observations. I'm interested in the mating system and social structure during breeding, and reproductive strategies of individual males and females. (As far as I know, the only other study dealing specifically with mating behavior is that of Booth and Peters (1972) in Australia. Bill Rainey and others seem to think that my methods will yield some productive results, so I'm becoming increasingly hopeful that the study will work out.

One of my (many) problems concerns finding an appropriate study site. My main considerations in choosing a study area are that the water is clear enough to make underwater observations and that the area is relatively free of human disturbance. I was thinking about Whale-skate island in the French Frigate Shoals as a potential study area and thought you might be able to provide me with some details concerning this island. Have you ever done any tagging and/or censusing of animals in the F.F. Shoals? Can you briefly tell me: approximately how many animals breed on Whale-skate island; is the water clear and relatively shallow; are there any facilities nearby such as a compressor for filling SCUBA tanks? In general, what do you think of this area as a study site?

I'm also considering Aves Island in the Caribbean and possibly Rose Atoll or Western Samoa as potential study areas. I also haven't the slightest idea if work in the South Pacific would be practical; if you have any suggestions regarding a suitable study site in the South Pacific, I would appreciate your ideas very much.

It's always difficult to get started on a project like this, with all the unfamiliar logistic problems, so I'd be most grateful for your thoughts about these potential study locations, since you study green turtles in these areas.

Thanks for your opinion and help!

Sincerely,

Marianne
Marianne Riedman
Coastal Marine Lab, UCSC

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Date Jan 16 Time _____For George - Many thanksMr. for your note

Mrs. _____

Miss sorry we could not giveof you the Was Ingift in person, Telephonedbut knew we would notbe at HIMB for a week orso. Hope all 3 are doingfine! Changed the date Will call again. of your lecture Please call. No. is as Berger Returned your call. had a labon the Tues.

Taken by _____

let me know if it is
not a convenient date.

Best wishes
are available to qualified students
the staff. Such assistantships rarely
had an opportunity to assess the
and and working conditions are similar
3.

Julie

ences

one grant per year from the National
support doctoral candidates under-
fishery biology. Ordinarily, the
andidate who has spent at least one year
wait. This grant includes a stipend,
student with children, a dependents!

George Balazs

I will have a 35 mm projector ready - any other equipment needs?

Zoology 200 - MARINE BIOLOGY

Lecture: TTh 10:30-11:20

Lab T., Th. 1:30-4:20

Tentative Class Schedule (Spring 1979)

		<u>Lectures (Edm. 355)</u>	<u>Laboratories (Edm. 361)</u>
Week 1	Jan. 23	Introduction - Marine Environment	Introductory remarks and Plate tectonics movie
	25	Tides, currents	
Week 2	30	Reef Invertebrates	<u>Field Trip</u> to H.I.M.B., Kaneohe
	Feb. 1	" "	" "
Week 3	Feb. 6	Algae (J. White)	Seaweeds, Identification and pressed samples
	8	Phytoplankton & Productivity	
Week 4	13	Zooplankton	Plankton
	15	Intertidal I	"
Week 5	20	<u>Mid Term I</u>	<u>Field Trip</u> - Hanauma Bay
	22	Intertidal II	
Week 6	27	Hawaiian estuarine & brackish waters (R. Brock)	Sand samples and Hawaiian estuarine fauna
	Mar. 1	Soft sediment communities	
Week 7	6	Coral reefs I	Movie "Cloud over a coral reef", live corals.
	8	Coral reefs II	
Week 8	13	Coral Reef Ecology	Coral rock communities
	15	Ecology of Reef Fish (R. Brock)	" " "
Week 9	20	Fish (& movies)	Fish - mouth parts and dissections
	22	<u>Mid Term II</u>	

SPRING RECESS (March 26-31)

Week 10	→ Apr. 3	Turtles (G. Balazs)	<u>Field Trip</u> to Fort Kan reef
	5	Birds (A. Berger)	
Week 11	10	Marine Mammals (G.C. Whitrow)	Aquarium visit
	12	Deep sea	" "
Week 12	17	Pollution (S.V. Smith)	Mullet movie and aquaculture lab
	19	Pollution	
Week 13	24	Aquaculture (M.E. Lindenfelser)	Visit to an aquaculture facility.
	26	Fisheries (R. Ferraris)	
Week 14	May 1	Aquaculture	Lab exam
	3	Utilization of Mar. Resources	" "
Week 15	8	Review lecture	

FINAL EXAM May 15th

ZOOLOGY 200 - Marine Biology

Reading Schedule

Text - Introduction to Marine Biology
by Bayard McConnaughey

Week 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 19 and browse through Ch. 20.
Week 2	Chapter 4
Week 3	Chapter 7 (to page 104), 5, 6
Week 4	Chapter 8, 9, 10 and pp. 104-108
Week 5	Chapter 12, (pp. 233-278)
Week 6	Chapter 13 (to page 315)
Week 7	Chapter 12 (pp. 216-232)
Week 8	Chapter 11 and Hobson's paper*
Week 9	" " "
Week 10	Chapter 14 (pp. 323-338)
Week 11	Chapter 14 (pp. 339-351)
Week 12	Chapter 22 (pp. 461-471 and pp. 425-426)
Week 13	Chapter 21, Chapter 20 (pp. 442-444)
Week 14	Chapter 22 (pp. 453-461)
Week 15	Review for final exam

*Hobson, E. 1975. Feeding patterns among tropical reef fish.
American Scientist 63:382-392.
You will be given a copy of this paper to read.

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Smith, De Boyd L. A Guide to Marine Coastal Plankton. 82 pp.
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Idyll, C. P. 1964. Abyss. Thomas Crowell Co., N. Y. 382 pp.
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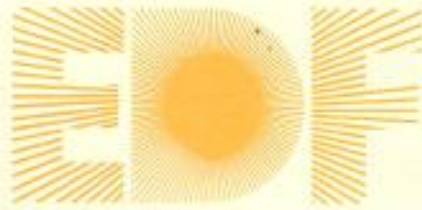
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POLLUTION AND ECOLOGY

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- Carvell, P. and M. Tadlock. 1971. It's Not Too Late. Glencoe Press. 312 pp.
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- Turk, A., J. Turk and J. Wittes. 1972. Ecology Pollution Environment. W. B. Sanders Co. 217 pp.



April 16, 1979

Mr. George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

I am responding to your recent letter requesting a copy of a report by Dr. John Hendrickson dealing with scute material of various species of sea turtles.

I am sorry to report that I am not familiar with the report, nor with Dr. Hendrickson. We do have a small wildlife program which has been involved with sea turtle protection issues. It is possible that Michael Bean, EDF's Wildlife Program Chairman, may be acquainted with this report or its author. However, Mr. Bean is out of the country until April 23rd. Upon his return, I will certainly inquire and notify you if we can supply any information.

I regret this office cannot be of more direct assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherrard Coleman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

(Ms.) Sherrard Coleman
Wildlife Program Monitor

SC/

**National
WILDLIFE**

Editorial offices: 225 E. Michigan Milwaukee, Wis. 53202 Phone: 414/273-2486
Publications of the National Wildlife Federation

**International
WILDLIFE**

17. April 1979

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
PO Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thanks very much for the comments
and information regarding our green
turtle piece. The issue should be
available to us in late June; I'll
send you a copy at this time.

Sincerely,

Rosanne A.

Rosanne Hallowell
Assistant Editor

Received
9/19/79

Dear George,

Please send another beautiful book of yours, with the excellent color photographs. I've enjoyed it very much and a friend would like a copy. Thanks.

Sincerely
Pulee

Box 462

Kaunā Ka Kai

Molokai HI 96748

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Dr. George Balazs, Hawaii Inst.

Rue et no (gata och nummer)

of Marine Biology, PO Box 1346,

Lieu (adresspostanstalt)

KANEOHE, Hawaii 96744.

Pays (land)

U. S. A.

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ATTENTION NE RIEN INSCRIRE CI-DESSUS
Communications (meddelande till mottagaren)

Bengt
10/25/78

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Please send me the "Preliminary Report on the hawksbill in Indonesia etc." Travelling soon to Malaysia and Singapore I expect to find it useful.

Sincerely,

Bengt Sjogren

BENGT SJOGREN
Humlerödshus
S - 240 14 VEBERÖD
Sweden

20 SEP. 1978



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE LABORATORY

Department of Biology

University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Telephone 505: 277-5340

Department of Zoology
San Diego State University
San Diego, California 92182

September 21, 1978

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

sent 10/25/78

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Please send me a copy of "A Preliminary Report on the Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in Indonesia, Phillipines, Malaysia and Singapore." I am enclosing a money order for the report for \$8.00. If this is not the correct amount for the publication, please advise me. Please send to the San Diego address.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas H. Fritts

THF:prf

Enclosure

George,

He may have some old information that you could use. I presume that he means that sea turtles & monk seals basked in the Caribbean

February 9, 1979
Ray Clare
949 North Alfred St. #9
Los Angeles, California
90069

B. H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
/Sea Grant

Dear Mr. Balazs,

I was interested in your photograph of the monk seal and green sea turtle which appeared in National Wildlife (Feb./Mar. 1979:16). I would like to purchase a similar photograph if you have one; an internegative to reproduce in a book I am preparing on the northeast coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. Literary accounts allude to the co-habitation of the species on Isla Mujeres in former times, though the Caribbean monk is now extirpated.

Sincerely,

Ray Clare

Ray Clare

Causey -
This fellow again!
I wish we could figure out
what he's talking about -
any ideas?

GHB

I am not seeing his head
the photo - at least
not until we
get more info on
his project!

February 9, 1979
Ray Clare
949 North Alfred ST.#9
Los Angeles, California
90069

B. H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
/Sea Grant

Dear Mr. Balazs,

I was interested in your photograph of the monk seal and green sea turtle which appeared in National Wildlife (Feb./Mar.1979:16). I would like to purchase a similar photograph if you have one; an internegative to reproduce in a book I am preparing on the northeast coast of the Yucatan Peninsula. Literary accounts allude to the co-habitation of the species on Isla Mujeres in former times, though the Carribbean monk is now extirpated.

Sincerely,

Ray Clare

Ray Clare



RAY CLARE
949 N. ALFRED #9
LOS ANGELES
CALIF. 90069

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Pacific Biomedical Research Center

May 8, 1978

Mr. Ray Clarke
949 N. Alfred Street #9
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you for your letter. I was particularly interested in your remarks on the religious significance of basking. I have not published anything on the turtle yet, as I have not been working on their basking behavior for very long. I am, in fact, collaborating with George H. Balazs of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii. While I am interested in a number of problems in the thermal ecology of several species of animals, George is specifically interested in turtles and knows a great deal more about them than I do. I suggest that you write to him.

I have a paper in press on the Monk Seal; I shall send you a reprint when they become available. I don't have any black and white prints of Monk Seals; I could have one made from a color slide. Where will your manuscript be published?

Sincerely,

G. Causey Whittow

G. Causey Whittow
Professor of Physiology

MAY 2, 1978

RAY CLARE
949 N. ALFRED #
LOS ANGELES
CALIF. 90069

PROFESSOR
G. CAUSEY WHITTOW
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
KEWALO MARINE LAB.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96822

DEAR PROF. WHITTOW

I WOULD LIKE TO INQUIRE ABOUT
YOUR RESEARCH WITH THE THERMAL
ECOLOGOT OF MONK SEALS AND
GREEN SEA TURTLE. I'M ALSO
INTERESTED IN THIS AREA. I AM
INVOLVED IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY
STUDY OF ISLA MUJERES, QUINTANA ROO,
MEXICO, WHICH IS A FORMER BREEDING
GROUND OF THE CARIBBEAN MONK,
AND STILL SURVIVING GREEN ROOKERY.

P. 3
p. 6-15
p. 34-35

THE BEST THAT I CAN GATHER FROM CARIBBEAN SEA TURTLE RESEARCH IS THAT GREENS ARE RARELY SEEN BASKING "ON THE LAND" TODAY, THOUGH THEY DID SO IN EARLIER TIMES. AS INDICATED BY PARSONS (1962). ANTHROPOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF ANCIENT INHABITANTS OF THE ISLAND INDICATES THEY VIEWED THE GREEN'S STATIONARY BASKING WITH GREAT ESTEEM AND ATTACHED A GREAT DEAL OF RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE TO IT.

IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN ANY PAPERS ON THIS AREA OF THERMAL ECOLOGY I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD REFER ME TO THEM.

I AM ALSO SEEKING PHOTOGRAPH(S) BLACK AND WHITE, OF BASKING GREENS AND MONK SEALS ON LAND TO PRESENT IN A SCHOLARLY MANUSCRIPT.

SINCERELY
RAY CLARK



Tampa
FLORIDA

**1979 ANNUAL MEETING
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS
SOCIETY OF SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY**

DECEMBER 27 - 30

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER

RATES: \$19.00 SINGLE ROOMS, \$24.00 DOUBLE ROOMS

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION - \$25.00 REGULAR AND
\$12.50 GRADUATE STUDENT**

*George, Hope you will
attend and present
a contributed paper.*

Law

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTED PAPERS: APRIL 1979

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 1979

SYMPOSIA

CELL VOLUME REGULATION

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE AVIAN EGG

IMMUNOLOGICAL MEMORY

DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY OF FISHES

SOCIAL SIGNALS - COMPARATIVE AND ENDOCRINE APPROACHES

BEHAVIORAL AND REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY OF SEA TURTLES

SYSTEMATICS - ECOLOGY INTERFACE

LIFE HISTORY STRATEGIES OF MARINE ORGANISMS

**APPLICABILITY OF FUNCTIONAL MORPHOLOGY TO THE
CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSIFICATIONS AND PHYLOGENIES**

ANALYSIS OF FORM

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

MS. MARY WILEY, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

BOX 2739 CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN COLLEGE, THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA 91360

TELEPHONE (805) 492-4055

Defenders OF WILDLIFE



Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

February 16

Hi -

Thanks so much for sending the calendar --- it's beautiful! I only wish I was in Hawaii right now to enjoy the tides (+ a lot of other things) in person. You don't by any chance require a completely inexperienced research assistant, do you? Under certain conditions, I work very cheaply!

If you're still talking to Wayne King a lot, I guess you know all the latest on the turtle conference. Although I won't be too involved in the planning from here on, I'm still very interested and will continue to follow closely what's happening. I hope you'll be able to attend some of the future scientific committee meetings.

Thanks again --- see you in November!

Jana Tangle

1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510

Can you please send me a reprint of your paper
entitled " Terrestrial critical habitat for sea
turtles under United States Jurisdiction in the
Pacific Region."

Thanking you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley
G. S. de Silva.

*sent
9/16/79*

TURTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

BOX 768, SANDAKAN, SABAH, MALAYSIA.
CABLES "NATAPARK", SANDAKAN. TEL. 2188

Your Ref.:

Our Ref:- TINP/27/1/55

Date: 4th April, 1979.

Mr. George H. Balazs,
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,
P.O. Box 1346,
Kaneohe,
Hawaii 96744,
U. S. A.



← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Turtle Islands National Parks

P. O. Box No: 768 Sandakan,

Sabah, East Malaysia

↑ To open out here



AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE: IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.



Mr. George H. Balaze,

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,

P.O.Box 1346,

Kaneohe,

Hawaii 96744, U. S. A.

If your interested in
possibly selling your Tahiti —
I'd like to talk with you:

Bill Neumeister
Central YMCA Rm 403
941-3344

BLM
SMOKE
JUMPER
B 3505
FT WAIN
AK 99701
WRYK

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

April 9, 1979

George Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
PO Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter and report. It was a pleasure to see you in San Jose.

I am glad you were able to visit the Galveston lab. I too was concerned about the uniformity of the hatchling diet, but apparently the little turtles adjusted immediately to dead fish in Miami, and also chased live fish mercilessly until they caught and consumed them at Galveston, so I am not concerned that they would not be able to feed in the wild. Their major problem is that they are such aggressive feeders that they chomp down on each other all the time! - hence the isolation in plastic buckets. I also watched the released turtles carefully for evidence of habituation to people or inappropriate responses. There was some variation in behavior, and several (about seven, I think) of the released animals have washed up on shore in various places. But the majority seemed to swim away vigorously and to show appropriate flight and diving responses when approached closely by the boat, so things should not be too bad. The procedure is certainly not proven, and will need to be constantly improved, but I think we are on the right lines.

Regarding your "additional strategy" paper, I have a few comments. I agree that something must be done in case the wild population slips into oblivion, and that was the motivation for my meeting with the Cayman Turtle Farm owners and others last weekend. However, I have a few problems with your proposal, as follows:

1) Raising Kemp's ridleys from hatchling stage is difficult. It is much harder than raising green turtles. I doubt if one could locate anything near fifty facilities that I would be prepared to trust to do a conscientious job. In fact, while it is easy to criticise the Galveston operation, I think we should stick with them for the time being for this stage of the raising process, and simply help them upgrade their operation with constructive advice. We have obtained

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

921 Lake Sybelia Drive • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751
(305) 647-2615

a commitment from Cayman Turtle Farm to provide facilities for grow-out and breeding of a captive stock on their premises, without any compromise on our part, and they have also agreed not to use this project in any of their promotional materials. The turtles will be controlled entirely by a separate corporation that will be totally outside the control of the Farm, so I think we have achieved more than I imagined possible at our recent meeting. Having the turtles on the Farm would certainly be preferable to having them in zoos and aquariums spread all over the place, especially since almost none of the latter have any breeding facilities. I do not believe the public relations value of having the turtles in the multiple facilities would be significant - the species already has plenty of moral support - and it could easily have actually negative PR (e.g. people would ask why the turtles were being kept in a tank instead of being placed somewhere where they could breed).

Sincerely,



Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Vice President - Science & Research

sep

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

1 April 1979

Mr. George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island, Kanaeche, Hawaii

Dear George:

Thank you for sending the manuscript describing your stomach content sampling technique. I had heard about your method previously and was very interested to learn the details. I am tentatively planning a study of hawksbill forage-ground ecology as my doctoral research and this method of studying dietary components could prove extremely useful to me. Since young greens and young hawksbills seem to occur in the same general areas, I hope to get some comparative data. It will be interesting to see if adult hawksbills submit to having a tube put down their throat!

As far as comments go, I can only suggest that you cite Jeanne Mortimer's work in the beginning, since it is perhaps the most extensive study of dietary components of green turtles. Since it is unpublished, is it inappropriate to cite it? You might be interested to know that water hyacinths carried to sea by the river effluent and eaten by Tortuguero green turtles pass through the digestive system virtually unscathed. Karen thinks the turtles may lack the appropriate gut microbe fauna to digest them. Incidentally, we were all amazed to hear that fecal pellets wash up on the beach.

Enclosed is a preprint of a short paper Dr. Carr and I submitted to Copela this past fall. It is slated for the second issue of 1980! I wish you better success with your publisher. Any comments on the paper would be appreciated.

Best regards,

Anne
Anne Meylan

DIVISION OF ECOLOGY
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1979

Officers: Malcolm S. Gordon (Chairperson through 1980), Dept. of Biology, Univ. of California, Los Angeles, Ca. 90024, phone: (213) 825-4579; Thomas G. Wolcott (Secretary through 1981), Dept. of Marine Science and Engineering, Box 5923, North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, N. C. 27650, phone: (919) 737-3293; William D. Hummon (Program Officer through 1979), DASF Marine Lab, Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen, Scotland; After July 1979: Dept. of Zoology and Microbiology, Ohio Univ., Athens, Oh. 45701, phone: (614) 594-6943.

ANNUAL MEETING AT RICHMOND, MINUTES OF DIVISION BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m., December 27, 1978, by Chairperson Al Ebeling, who noted that the attendance was the best in three years -- up over 300% from that at New Orleans. He then transferred the Emblem of Office (a multidimensional hypergavel which was not visible to the members) to Malcolm Gordon, who begins a two-year term as Chairperson. Bill Hummon will remain Program Officer for another year, and Secretary-Elect Tom Wolcott took up the divisional turkey quill in the absence of Arlan Edgar.

Several divisional symposia are in the works. For Tampa (1979), "Biology of Sea Turtles" and "The Systematics-Ecology Interface" will be presented. For Seattle, Malcolm Gordon proposed "Theoretical Ecology: To What Extent Has it Added to Our Understanding of the Natural World?", which met with general approbation. Further suggestions from the Division were solicited.

Malcolm Gordon also raised the question of whether the Ecology Division ought to have a more formal relationship with the Ecological Society of America and/or with The Institute of Ecology. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Chair will look further into the pros and cons, and that input from Division members will be sought.

Another suggestion was that the Division create a fund to support travel of members to international conferences (eg., Third International Congress of Ecology in 1981). Sources could include voluntary contributions and matching grants from NSF. Opinions of members regarding such a step will be sought through the Newsletter.

The exchange of "Ecology Lab Projects that Work", similar to the "Morphology Teacher" supplements to the Vertebrate Morphology newsletters, was deemed a useful service. Members having such projects and willing to share a protocol with the membership will be asked to send it to Tom Wolcott and a way will be developed to publicize them. Members will also be asked whether they would favor having a workshop or poster session (space permitting) at future meetings for the dissemination of such teaching tips.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.

TAMPA MEETING, DECEMBER 27-30, 1979

A brochure describing this meeting and the two forms for submitting contributed papers will be included with the ASZ Newsletter scheduled to be mailed to all members shortly. A firm deadline for abstracts of August 31, 1979 has been established.

Bill Hummon reports that the Ecology Division is sponsoring a Symposium on the Behavioral and Reproductive Biology of Sea Turtles which is co-sponsored by the Divisions of Comparative Endocrinology and Animal Behavior and the Animal Behavior Society. This Symposium organized by Dave Owens (Texas A & M Univ.), has papers which will summarize the unique traits of the sea turtle's behavioral and reproductive biology where appropriate, and place sea turtles in evolutionary perspective with regard to other reptiles and vertebrates in general. Although the primary emphasis will be basic biology, special sections will be devoted to discussing modern techniques of egg, hatchling and adult handling which will be of particular use to the conservationist. Speakers include: Archie Carr, James Wood, Harold Hirth, Ross Witham, Nicholas Mrosovsky, Paul Licht, Ralph Ackerman, William Rainey, Rainer Zangerl, John R. Hendrickson, Peter Pritchard and David Owens. Tentatively, the symposium is scheduled December 28, with a discussion session that evening, and contributed papers on Sea Turtles the next day.

A second symposium is sponsored by the Society of Systematic Zoology and co-sponsored by the ASZ Divisions of Systematic Zoology and Ecology. Plan to stay through the very last day of the meeting to attend the Symposium on The Systematics-Ecology Interface, organized by Frances C. James (Florida State Univ.) and scheduled December 30. New research that demonstrates the special advantages of combining questions and methods often applied separately in the fields of systematics and ecology will be presented. In several cases data on past and/or present variation in the morphology and the geographic distribution of animals are integrated with behavioral, ecological and physiological information. In other cases statistical techniques used by systematists to view relationships among sets of correlated variables are used to ask ecological questions. In this manner patterns in the morphology of sets of coexisting species can be identified and related to the resources of the community. These approaches can be applied to questions of adaptation on the level of the local population, to intrageneric lineages, and also at the level of community structure. Examples will be presented in such different areas as paleoecology, physiological ecology, and population genetics. Speakers include Lawrence Abele, Edwin H. Bryant, Alan J. Kohn, James C. Findley, Richard F. Johnston, James R. King, Bernd Leisler, David B. Wake, S. David Webb and Frances C. James.

George - Note the above. Craig

PROPOSED DIVISIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR SEATTLE MEETING

As mentioned in the minutes of the Business Meeting held in Richmond, the members assembled there all agreed that it would be interesting and valuable to have a symposium at the Seattle meeting which would be directed toward presenting as balanced an evaluation as possible of the current status of the contributions to ecology which have been made by model building and other theoretical approaches. A possible title for this symposium is "Theoretical Ecology: To What Extent Has It Added To Our Understanding Of The Natural World?"

Your Division Chair is willing to develop, organize, and coordinate this symposium, but he needs the assistance of the members in order to insure that it will be as good, as balanced, and as complete as possible. Please send him your comments, on the questionnaire accompanying this Newsletter, about any or all of the following aspects: (1) Optimum duration (ASZ symposia are generally only one day); (2) Major topic areas to cover (suggested possibilities: community energetics; species diversity in different habitats; life history strategies; predator-prey relations; competition; population structure); (3) The best speakers for each topic area (a mix of empiricists and theoreticians is essential).

In thinking about speakers, please consider major figures from outside the U.S. as well as our home grown talent. It seems desirable to try to have the treatment be as international as possible.

Based in part on the comments he hopes to receive, the Chair will set up a small ad hoc committee of members to help develop the program before June 1. This committee necessarily will have to function primarily by telephone.

ORGANIZING A SYMPOSIUM

The first step in such an undertaking is to communicate with your Division Chairperson (Malcolm Gordon) and Program Officer (Bill Hummon). Bill Hummon is on professional leave from mid-August, 1978 to September 1, 1979 at DAFS Marine Laboratory, Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen, Scotland AB9 8DB. Please contact him there via air mail. Explain your plan -- topic, speakers needed, costs, etc. This initial contact is necessary since the approval and scheduling of symposia is the responsibility of the society and division officers. Assuming encouragement from these individuals, obtain a copy of the Society's Application for a Symposium from the ASZ Business Office. Return the completed form to Mary Wiley by June 1, 1979 for a symposium that is to be given at the 1980 meetings in Seattle. Decisions on the proposals will be announced in August. Requests for funding must not be submitted to any agency until the proposed program has the official approval of the Division and Society.

WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS WILL MEET WITH ASZ IN SEATTLE

They will be offering three symposia of interest to members of our Division: Bioluminescence in Marine Organisms, organized by James Morin (UCLA); Benthic Marine Algae, How and Why They Got Where They Are, arranged by Sylvia A. Earle (Calif. Academy of Sciences); and The Biology and Ecology of Marine Shallow Water Crustaceans with co-chairmen Drs. Gary Brusca (Humboldt State Univ.) and Rich Brusca (Univ. of Southern California).

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Institute for Electron Microscopy, Duke Univ. Marine Laboratory: Electron Microscopy (Transmission, Scanning, Freeze-Etch Replication, EM Autoradiography, X-ray Microanalysis); September 9-21, 1979.
2. Immunocytochemistry Workshop, September 24-26, 1979.

For descriptive brochure and application forms, write to: Dr. Eve L. MacDonald, Program Coordinator, Electron Microscope Institute, Duke Univ. Marine Laboratory. Mailing address: Dept. of Toxicology & Experimental Pathology, Wellcome Research Laboratories, 3030 Cornwallis Rd., Research Triangle Park, N. C. 27709.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITIES REPRESENTATIVE

The representative for the Ecology Division is Tom Wolcott. He will routinely receive legislative alerts and statements of hearings on impending legislation directly from the Public Affairs Office of AIBS. Please contact him at the Dept. of Marine Science and Engineering, North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, N. C. 27650, to indicate interest in participating by testifying and alerting others to issues in which you have particular interest and expertise.

GOT ANY ECOLOGY LABS THAT WORK?

For several years the Division of Vertebrate Morphology has periodically put out "The Morphology Teacher" to share useful teaching tips among the membership. This seemed like such a good idea that at the annual meeting it was decided to try something similar in our Division. If you have a nifty lab or field protocol that works well and seems to turn students on, and if you would be willing to divulge the secrets of your success, send a write-up to Tom Wolcott and it will be disseminated. Note the boxes on the questionnaire where you can express your approval (or not) of this project, and may suggest a name for the supplement.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Duval Building
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

April 10, 1979

FSE72:JRS

Mr. George Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

I've just received and read your proposal on the Kemp's ridley. We've had several meetings over the past months with the Recovery Team and several million? people in the turtle world.

This proposal parallels fairly closely what Peter Pritchard, Florida Audubon and Recovery Team Leader, and Fred Berry, NMFS, Southeast Fisheries Center, want to accomplish in trying to save this species. Presently, the Miami Seaquarium has consented to hold several juvenile ridleys on display, and Peter Pritchard last week indicated that he was in contact with Cayman Farms on providing space and facilities for rearing ridleys. Basically, he wants to establish a breeding colony of ridleys at the Farm, so that if all other recovery efforts fail, there will remain at least one breeding colony intact.

As for legal considerations, I believe endangered species of turtles may be held or captured for display now, if some scientific research is conducted. I think age growth and maturation studies would be ideally suited for aquarium facilities.

In terms of mechanics, an aquarium such as Waikiki Aquarium would have to apply for a permit from FWS, Wildlife Permit Office, and then contact Peter Pritchard or Rene Marquez from Mexico on getting hatchlings or young turtles. I believe the first arrival of ridleys at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico will be within the next several months.

If I can be of further help in getting permits or distributing your proposal, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph R. Sylvester



Mae E. Mull
P. O. Box 275
Volcano, Hawaii 96785

April 10, 1979

Dear George Balazs,

your account of your observations of Stellaris Sea Eagle at Kure and your photos are intriguing. Those northernmost islands in the chain are the source of exceptional bird records. I was on Midway for five days in 1973 and had a fantastic time with the birds. Be on the lookout for the Short-tailed Albatross on your trips up there.

It was most thoughtful of you to send me your report on sea turtles at Kahoolawe.



TLES CATIS . HULU-MOA . HONOLULU
HAWAIIAN MITLETRE

I'm delighted to add that to my natural history file on that suffering island. Your findings and evaluation certainly will be incorporated in the Navy's EIS eventually, but your report should be available in the open literature to researchers.

at the Hilo ^{Book} Gallery I was pleased to find your striking book of photographs of sea birds, monk seals and turtles. What a delight to the eye!

Mahalo a nui loa,
Mae Mull

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

26 February 1979

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

I now have a few names of people to whom you might want to write within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

Ted Rowlands Esq., M.P.
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

B.W. Hefferon
West Indian and Atlantic Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The tourist consultants sent out to evaluate the island were hired by the Ministry of Overseas Development at the request of the governments of St. Helena and Ascension Island. I do not have the address of the Ministry. However, you might want to express your views to the following:

Mr. C. Brian Kendall
His Honor the Administrator
Ascension Island
c/o Commander Ascension
P.O. Box 4608
Patrick A.F.B.
Florida 32925

Mr. Geoffrey Guy
His Excellency the Governor
St. Helena
South Atlantic Ocean

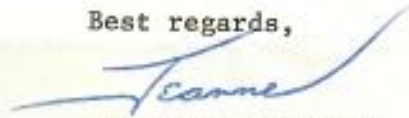
Among the British conservation organizations which have involved themselves in this matter are the following: the ICBP, Sir Peter Scott of the Wildfowl Trust, the Nature Conservancy Council, the Fauna Preservation Society, and the British Chapter of the WWF.

-- 2 --

I am afraid I do not have any other ideas about other agencies within the British government which could be influential. If you do, please let me know.

Thank you so much for your interest concerning this problem.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanne", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jeanne A. Mortimer



Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

P. O. DRAWER AG
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI 39564

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

THE GUNTER LIBRARY

March 30, 1979

Dr. George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HA 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

We are trying to locate a copy of your 1974 publication entitled "Effect of protein source and level on growth of the captive fresh water prawn, Macrobrachium rosenbergii".

The reference that we have (see enclosed copy) cites this article as being in Proc. World Maricult. Soc., 5: 1-14. We were however unable to locate the article in the Volume cited.

If you could provide us with a copy of this article, we would be most grateful. If there are any charges involved, please feel free to bill us. Thank you for any help you can give us in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Louviere
Mary Ann Louviere

*Sent
4/8/79*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank my wife Janet for her patience and understanding whilst I worked on this review; Mary Griffin for information services and Mary Dunlea for the onerous task of typing the manuscript. A brief summary of the paper was presented at the 1976 meeting of the World Mariculture Society in San Diego (New, 1976).

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Sea Grant College Program

MEMORANDUM

03 April 1979

TO: George Balazs
HIMB, Coconut Island

FROM: Joan Yamada *JY*
Sea Grant Publications

Errors as indicated on your enclosed copy of the bibliography are being corrected. There are a few questions that need to be answered by you. Please provide the answers where appropriate on the enclosed xerox copy and return this copy to our office. We will paginate the bibliography after all corrections are completed.

Please sign the enclosed "Authorization to Publish" form and return it to our office if all meets your approval. If you have any questions please call either Karen Tanoue or Joan Yamada at x7410 or x7031.

Thank you.

HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY

Date 2/5

To George

From Mae

Greenpeace Hawaii would like to have a copy of this when it is finished.

Send to:

Greenpeace Hawaii
913 Halekauwila Street
Honolulu, HI. 96813
Attn: Sue

1717 Soquel Ave.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060
March 15, 1979

Hawaii Institute of
Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Sir:

sent
4/16/79

Please send a copy of
Bibliography of the Monk Seal,
Monachus schauinslandi
Tech. Report No. 35 by George H.
Balazs + G. Causey Whittow

to me at the above address. I am
compiling endangered species information
for Hawaiian species.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Greta Nilsson

GRETA NILSSON

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
ARMIDALE, N.S.W. 2351
AUSTRALIA

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

REP.

Department of Zoology
28 February, 1979.

Dr. G. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
Honolulu
HAWAII

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I should like to obtain a copy of the 'Bibliography of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Monachus schauinslandi Matschie 1905'

My interest in the bibliography is prompted by a copy which Colin Limpus showed me. The references concerning sea turtles are of special interest. My involvement with sea turtles extends from four years ago when I worked on the beach with Colin to the present when I am involved in a comparative study of the embryology of the species which nest in Australia. Work on four species is nearly complete.

If there is any cost for the bibliography, please enclose an invoice so that I may remit promptly. I should also appreciate receiving any reprints of your which concern marine turtles.

Yours sincerely,

J.D. Miller

sent 4/6/79

J.D. Miller

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



Dr. G. Balazs

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

University of Hawaii

Honolulu

HAWAII

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Jeff D. Miller

FROM Department of Zoology

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

ARMIDALE, N.S.W.

AUSTRALIA, POSTCODE 2351

SECOND FOLD HERE

FIRST FOLD HERE



March 13, 1979

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Sir:

I am writing in reference to the article in the 'Elepaio Newsletter, Vol 39(7), January 1979, regarding the Monk Seal References.

If copies of this publication, "Bibliography of the Monk Seal, Monachus schauinslandi" (Technical Report No. 35), are still available it would be much appreciated if you could send us a copy to the address listed below.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Jacobs

Mary E. Jacobs

*Sent
4/6/79*

'ELEPAIO

*Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society*



*C. John Ralph, Editor
3467 Alani Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone (808) 988-6921*

3 April 1979

Dear George:

Enclosed are the comments by the reviewer on the diet of the turtle method.

Thnaks for the revised MS on the tiger shark's eating habits, it will appear in due course in the 'Elepaio.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned below the text "Warmest regards,".

March 29, 1979

Captain V. R. Robillard
Chief, Aids-to-Navigation Branch
Fourteenth Coast Guard District
Prince Kalanianaʻole Bldg.
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Captain Robillard:

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 1979.

I can appreciate that your regular schedule of transportation to French Frigate Shoals will be disrupted as the closure of the Station nears. In the light of your remarks, I believe that it is unrealistic of us (my colleague George H. Balazs and myself) to expect that the two of us can be accommodated at French Frigate Shoals and on Coast Guard transportation. However, there are some crucial data which we require, in order to complete our study of basking Green Sea Turtles, before French Frigate Loran Station closes. Following the closure of the station, it is very uncertain if we shall be able to get to French Frigate Shoals in the foreseeable future. Therefore, I am submitting a revised request for transportation of one of us (myself) to French Frigate Shoals during the period April-May-June. I realize that this may still not be possible but, if is, your assistance will be very much appreciated.

I have, incidentally, been in touch with the Fish and Wildlife Service and, unfortunately, their plans for a flight to French Frigate Shoals are indefinite, and it seems highly unlikely that there will be space available for me anyway.

Sincerely,

Gausey

G. Causey Whittow
Professor of Physiology

cc: J. Brent Giesentanner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

George H. Balazs ✓
H.I.M.B.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

A Sea Grant College

Spalding Hall 252 B • 2540 Maile Way

Telephone (808) 948-8191 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 / Cable Address: UNIHAW

Marine Advisory Program

March 29, 1979

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Thank you very much for the use of your black and white photo of the green sea turtles and monk seals; their calm and suntans are certainly appealing.

I would enjoy viewing more of your photos of the hawksbill, green sea and leatherback turtles; it would be nice and convenient to have a few photos for our files. Perhaps you could send a few pictures for me to look at?

Again, thanks and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Karynne Chong
Extension Assistant

1

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, in full recognition and appreciation of the dangers and hazards inherent in _____
(State nature of activity)

to which I may be exposed during the period _____ to _____, do hereby freely participate in such activities as a volunteer; I affirm that I am fully acquainted with the _____ (vessel, craft,

_____ being used and am familiar with the inherent hazards involved etc.)

and the procedures which are applicable in such activities; I have fully informed the University/RCUH personnel coordinating the activity of this fact, and hereby agree to assume all of the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in such activities undertaken by me on a voluntary basis. I shall at all times with respect to my participation in such activities agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the University of Hawaii from and against all claims or demands for damage, including claims for property damage, personal injury or death, arising out of my above-stated activities, or growing out of, or caused by any failure on my part, and without the fault or negligence of the University of Hawaii, its officers, agents or employees, during the period of my voluntary participation as aforesaid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have caused this Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement to be executed this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Volunteer



NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION
BOARD

P.O. Box 662,
Pietermaritzburg, 3200
South Africa.

17.1.79.

Dear George.

We acknowledge with gratitude your ~~papers~~ on calundas
beautiful beautiful! Are you going
to Malaya? I hope that I can
get enough funding

Yours faithfully,

As eye,
George.

CONSERVE
YOUR WILD LIFE
BEWAAR U WILD

PRINTED MATTER

ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



G.H. BALAZS
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. BOX 1346
KANEOHE
H A W A I I 96744

23 March 1979

To: Dr. Leo D. Brongersma
Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie
Raamsteeg 2 Leiden
Netherlands

Regret unable attend Oviedo meeting. Desperately short of time this quarter. Two trips Costa Rica, one just finished, another early April, badly hindering complex field course am teaching. Throughout April my schedule so packed that losing another day would be serious. Anyway you and Peter know my views head starting and international trade, so my presence meeting not essential. If Cayman should undertake purely experimental head starting as public service no one would object. That idea is all I could contribute at meeting. Thank you for invitation, and my best regards.

DR. ARCHIE CARR
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

23 March 1979

Mr. Robert W. Creamer
Articles Editor
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
Time & Life Building
New York, New York 10020

Dear Mr. Creamer:

I just returned from a siege of sea turtle meetings and surveys in Costa Rica. I am sorry to say I still find it difficult to work out a rational account of the complicated events attending the impending extinction of Kemp's ridley. The present International, interagency campaign to save it is partly sound, but partly, in my opinion, wheel-spinning. No positive results from the first season can be pointed to, except that protection of the feeble remnant of nesting turtles at Rancho Nuevo was improved. It was to get this protection that I acquiesced in the complex management program being undertaken. I have no faith in some of the things they're doing, but was willing to go along in order to get outside help for the Mexicans in protecting the nesting beach from predation and human exploitation.

So instead of being the neat, eye-catching story of an old lady trying to save a vanishing species, the ridley situation has become fantastically many-sided, with no good lead, and with the end wholly unpredictable. I am having a hell of a time trying to think how to put it into shape for SPORTS ILLUSTRATED without adding possibly unfair burdens to the job the National Marine Fisheries Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service, Texas Parks Service, Florida Audubon, and the Mexican Instituto Nacional de Pesca are trying to do.

If you are willing to stick with me through June, when the second nesting season at Rancho Nuevo will show what the present breeding population is, I may by then be able to see a way to tell the story properly. But it is really a very involved situation that will require extremely careful writing. I regret my continued stalling, but I'm very glad I didn't go ahead when I started out because the whole thing has changed vastly.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:Ijw



1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505
TELEPHONE: (202) 387-0800

March 18, 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Sciences
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

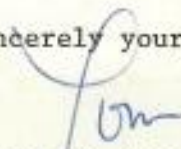
Dear George:

I was glad to have at long last met you and really hope that soon we will have a chance for an extended chat.

I know the Primate Specialist Group and the Crocodylian Specialist Group have put together global strategies with projects/topics ranked in some sort of order of priority. If not already done for sea turtles I would hope that your group could do something of that sort, and maybe that exercise would logically follow the sea turtle conference in November. Then we could see what topics WWF-US should try to support and how your growth study should fit in. With our Mexican project and the conference we have done most of what we can for marine turtles this year so the aforementioned kind of timing would fit well for us.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


Thomas E. Lovejoy

TEL:snk

cc: Earl Baysinger
Archie Carr



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

COMMANDER(oan)
Fourteenth Coast Guard District
Prince Kalanianaʻole Federal Bldg.
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850
Tel: (808) 546 7130

4600
Serial 32064
16 MAR 1979

Dr. G. Causey Whittow
Professor of Physiology
University of Hawaii
Kewalo Marine Laboratory
41 Ahui Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Auwe!

Dear Dr. Whittow:

This is in response to your letter request of March 8, 1979 for transportation to French Frigate Shoals. I regret to inform you that at present we are not able to accommodate the dates you requested.

Although the closing of the station at French Frigate Shoals is imminent, and the amount of cargo destined for French Frigate Shoals is dropping, the number of Coast Guard personnel traveling to the station is not diminishing. Personnel involved in planning the closing of the station travel there to monitor closure preparations and progress. It is not anticipated that space will be available on the aircraft on the dates you requested.

Transportation aboard CGC BUTTONWOOD may not be possible either. CGC BUTTONWOOD is currently in a maintenance period that could extend into May. This would delay her visit to French Frigate Shoals. It is also quite possible that the May and/or June deployment to French Frigate Shoals may be cancelled due to lack of cargo.

In light of the above, it is recommended that you contact the Fish and Wildlife Service office in Honolulu. The Fish and Wildlife Service periodically charters flights to French Frigate Shoals, and it may be possible to make mutually agreeable arrangements.

In the interim, your request will be kept on file should conditions mentioned in this letter change.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. ROBILLARD

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Aids to Navigation Branch
Fourteenth Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

Copy to:
Fish and Wildlife Service

March 8, 1979

Captain V. R. Robillard
Chief
Aids-to-Navigation Branch
14th Coast Guard District
Prince Kalaniana'ole Federal Building
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Captain Robillard:

On behalf of George H. Balazs of the University's Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, and myself, I should like to request permission for the two of us to travel to French Frigate Shoals on the civilian charter aircraft scheduled to leave Honolulu on April 25. We should like to stay on Tern Island until May 9, and we request permission to return to Honolulu on the USCG Buttonwood, which is scheduled to be at French Frigate Shoals on May 9.

I realize that, in the past, we have not been able to obtain transportation on the aircraft from Honolulu to French Frigate Shoals, because the aircraft has limited carrying capacity and, of course, Coast Guard personnel and baggage have priority. However, it occurred to me that, with the closure of the Station imminent, there may be fewer personnel travelling to French Frigate Shoals and that you may be able to accommodate us on this occasion. In the event that this is not possible, I should like to request that the following alternative arrangements be substituted:

Leave Honolulu on USCG Buttonwood May 7, 1979.

Depart French Frigate Shoals May 23, 1979 on civilian aircraft.

The purpose of our visit is to continue our study of the thermal ecology of basking Green Sea Turtles. Our work is authorized by permits HWS-4-78 and SUP HWS-5-76 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

G. Causey Whittow
Professor of Physiology

cc J. Brent Glezentanner, USFWS

KYLE JONES
USCG AIR STATION
BARBERS PT. HAWAII 96862

26 MARCH 79

GEORGE,

RECEIVED YOUR NICE BOOKLET AND
PICTURE. THANKS FOR REMEMBERING ME. HOPE
WE CAN FLY AGAIN SOMETIME, & AS YOU MAY
KNOW WE HAVE FLIGHTS APPROX. EVERY TWO
WEEKS TO MIDWAY & KURE.

WE'RE KEEPING BUSY WITH LOTS
OF FLYING & DUTY & PAPERWORK. FEEL
FREE TO CALL ME FOR SCHEDULE INFO.
AT 682-2672 OR 682-2621.

SEE you soon & thanks again.

Kyle Jones



HONOLULU

Dr. George Balazs,

*With the Compliments
of the
Australian Consulate*

Herewith copy of the memo we sent to our Department (Foreign Affairs) today in our diplomatic bag.

Hope it brings quick results!

Australian Consulate
1000 Bishop Street, Penthouse
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Jann Preston

9 February 1979

HL751

CANBERRA

HONOLULU

UNCLASSIFIED

826/7

314

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE - HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY

....
Dr. George H. Balazs, Assistant Marine Biologist at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (a division of the University of Hawaii) has approached us for assistance in connection with his request to the Minister for Science and the Environment (see attached letter).

2. Dr. Balazs will shortly be leaving Hawaii to attend the conference in Costa Rica and is most anxious to obtain the information he sought in his letter of January 25.
3. We should be most grateful if you could follow up with the Department of Science and the Environment as a matter of some urgency.

W.C. Rowe
Acting Consul-General

LIMPUS

National Parks & Wildlife

Pallarenda

TOWNSVILLE AUSTRALIA 4810

HERON ISLAND

26 Feb 1979.

Dear George,

Your recent letter has been belatedly received. I have been in the field since mid October except for a few days in late November. If all goes according to plan I'll be home in about 2 weeks. The season has gone well. Man Repoo was its usual^o productive self. Heron Island was back more to wards an average year for greens (very few re migrants though). I spent another 5 nights at Raine Is in early December — it was also much better than last year. I expect there would have been over 1000 greens /nights there by mid season. I'll send you a summary of the summer's work later in the year.

re your inquiry :- C.I.T.E.S.

Australia was nominated by the convention secretariat to coordinate all reviews of green turtle that were conducted for the forthcoming Costa Rica meeting. In this capacity Australia received a French proposal to down grade from Appendix I to II the green turtle population at Tromelin and Europa Islands. Australia merely incorporated the French proposal as an attachment to its ^{own} review. [your letter by the way was the first I had heard of it — I now have the paperwork before me from the Aust. National Parks and Wildlife Service — please note I am employed by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service which is a very different authority.

It is now apparent that the Australian exclusion of mydas from appendix I was to enable sale of its farm products from Torres Strait. To do this before the farms had proved an economical venture is I believe wrong. In the same way I believe the establishment of new farms other than on a purely ~~as~~ industry-research basis ~~is~~ is

to be discouraged. Unless there has been changes at Cayman that I haven't heard of, turtle farming has yet to be demonstrated as being economically worthwhile. In terms of turtle conservation I have grave doubts as to its value.

→ The French proposal appears to be based on the assumption that turtle farming ("aquaculture") will work. What ^{Bray?} data is available to show that they are not decreasing population levels. [cf. Surinam's taking of "doomed" eggs.]? In the French proposal para 22 ~~is~~ reference is made to "several visible signs of over population (self-destruction of nests) can frequently be observed on these breeding sites." This is a red herring for ~~who~~ sure - before such a statement is accepted have it proved if you can. - Bustard's paper ~~is~~ does not prove this if read carefully. Besides it is a rare event for an entire clutch to be dug up by another turtle - usually only a small portion is affected. (Sorry, I'm rambling on aren't I.)

I hope this makes sense to you. Actually in the strict sense I believe the CITES definitions of their categories to be at fault. As defined, the Australian *Cmydas* and probably lots of these populations/species belong in II. Surely this is the crux of the problem - along with the problem of aquaculture products. Another question for you: - Is an Australian green turtle ~~no~~ (ie nests at say Reine Is.) still ^{covered by} Appendix II when it harvested in Papua New Guinea or Indonesia? What ruling exists on this?

How has your work gone? Also what news on your family?

If you can plan for some week(s) in Australia on your return from Malaysia in September I try to organise some field time on the reefs for you. Think about it.

Regards. Col. Limpus

Heron Is.

P.S. George

Do turtles mate before each clutching or
are they just like humans who clutch before
each mating?

This question was recently posed
to me by a Heron Island tourist.

✓

Himeji City Aquarium

Tegarayama, Himeji City
670, Japan

March 12, 1979

Mr. George H. Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346, Coconut Island,
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George :

Thank you so much for your letter and good calendar. I am very glad to see them. As you mentioned before, I asked the manager of National Band and Tag Co. again for tags of sea turtles. I recieved a reply from the Co. last month for making of our tags. Thank you very much for your valuable information and courtesy.

I was very surprised by the good ecological photographs of Hawaiian sea birds on your calendar. I hung it beside my desk. When I looking at your calendar, my sole bounds for the tropical world with Hawaii's memory.

I am looking foward to seeing in September in Trengganu , Malaysia. What sckedule do you have after the Sea Furtle Convention ? Would you let me know about your sckedule in Asia ? If possible, please come to Japan on your return trip. I would like to take you to my Aquarium, Loggerhead Furtle nesting site and tortoise shell industry in Japan.

Tokyo is the most expensive city in the world. Please use my sister's second house in Tokyo. The house is always vacant. I will recomend you to my sister. It will save you money. I think it's more comfortable than your tent life in green turtle research in the Hawaii chain.

Please sent my best regards to your wife, Lynda.

Yours sincerely

J. Uchida
Itaru Uchida

p/s. One of my cousins wants to have your excellent calendar. if do you have a spare one, may I have it ? Thank you.

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

姫路市立水族館
Tel 0792-89-0321



3116 Sedgewick Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503
March 5, 1979

George Balazs, Marine Biologist
Coconut Island Marine Labs
University of Hawaii
Oahu, Hawaii 96822

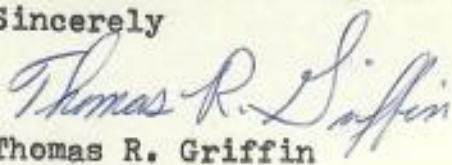
Dear George

I am planning a circumnavigation and would like your help on a few things. Would you have any advice as to what could be done research wise during this voyage? Is there anything I could do for your program on Coconut Island?

I need to get hold of Rudy Troy for plans to build a catamaran. Would you find his address for me. I think they would have it at the Oceanographic dept. on campus. Also, Have them send me thier oecanographic newsletter.

Thanksyou for your help. Willbe looking foward to hearing about what you all are doing out at the labs now. Hope to see you again in the future.

Sincerely


Thomas R. Griffin

trg

**National
WILDLIFE**
**International
WILDLIFE**

Editorial offices: 225 E. Michigan Milwaukee, Wis. 53202 Phone: 414/273-2486
Publications of the National Wildlife Federation

23 March 1979

Mr. George H. Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Thanks very much for your submission of photographs for INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE's special issue on animal behavior. I made a preliminary selection of 2 transparencies; the remaining 10 are enclosed.

You will be notified in early April if further information is required on the photos which were held, as final selections will be completed at that time.

Sincerely,

Karen Altpeter Zogg, meg
Karen Altpeter Zogg
Photo Editor

KAZ:meg

enc: 10 color transparencies

REGISTERED



MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

19 MAR 1979

Dear Mr. Balazs,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January 1979 concerning the green sea turtle Chelonia mydas.

A Special Working Session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Geneva from 17-28 October 1977. This meeting was part of an overall review of Convention fauna initiated by the 1976 Berne meeting when revised criteria were developed for listing fauna and flora in the Appendices to the Convention.

Following the 1977 meeting Australia indicated its intention to review all Australian fauna currently listed on Appendices I and II. The green turtle and five other species of marine turtle found in Australian waters are included in this review. Australia was subsequently nominated by the Convention Secretariat to co-ordinate all reviews of sea turtles being conducted by other countries.

The proposal to transfer the Tromelin and Europa Islands populations of Chelonia mydas from Appendix I to Appendix II was submitted by the French Government and forwarded to Australia for incorporation into the review of this species. The review has been presented to the Convention Secretariat and France has been identified as the originator of the proposal regarding turtle populations around Tromelin and Europa Islands. Australia has not proposed any amendments in regard to any marine turtles.

The French proposal will be discussed at the next CITES meeting at Costa Rica in March this year and will only be adopted if agreed upon by two-thirds or more of the Conference Parties voting at that meeting.

Yours sincerely,

J. J. Webster

Mr. George H. Balazs,
Assistant Marine Biologist,
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,
P.O. Box 1346,
Kaneohe. Hawaii 96744.

47
**National
WILDLIFE**

Editorial offices: 225 E. Michigan Milwaukee, Wis. 53202 Phone: 414/273-2486
Publications of the National Wildlife Federation

**International
WILDLIFE**

13. March 1979

George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
PO Box 1346
Kaneohe HI 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Would you mind reading over the
enclosed piece on the green turtle?
If you could jot down any comments
in the margin -- we're particularly
concerned with catching errors --
it would be a big help to us.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Rosanne A.

Rosanne Hallowell
Assistant Editor

COPY

ISSUE _____ PAGE _____
TITLE turtles
TYPE _____ WIDTH _____ LEADING _____

-2-

another mystery begins. They immediately disappear for a year or more, and no one can say where they go. University of Florida researcher Archie Carr speculates that ~~the~~ youngsters ^{in the Caribbean} may head for the Sargasso Sea, where they live on small crustaceans and algae. Certainly their jaws are too weak to graze on the beds of turtle grass and other vegetation favored by adults, and Carr points out that the immense weed beds of the Sargasso offer forage that would be suitable for tiny turtles. However, some biologists, including Peter Pritchard of the Florida Audubon Society, think that the coloration of baby green turtles -- dark on top, milky white beneath -- indicates that the creatures inhabit the open seas, where such colors would offer maximum protection.

where is Sargasso Sea?

No one knows how fast green turtles grow in the wild. However, Pritchard ~~says~~ ^{with} measurements of tagged turtles ~~in~~ by George Balazs in the ~~Galapagos~~ ^{Hawaiian Islands} and Australia's Great ^{Colin Limpus on}

* See enclosed EVERY SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter - articles by Balazs and Limpus

COPY

ISSUE _____ PAGE _____

TITLE turtles

TYPE _____ WIDTH _____ LEADING _____

-3-

Barrier Reef suggest that it may take ^{as long as} some
~~green turtle~~ ~~30-40~~ 60 years to reach
 full maturity, and some of these behemoths
 eventually attain weights of 500 pounds
 or more.

Despite these unknowns, scientists
 have been able to piece together a
 picture of some other aspects of the
 turtle's life. For example, the adult
 grazes on turtle grass but its young
 can eat small crustaceans. At least
 some green turtles hibernate. During
 the nesting season, the females suddenly
 show up en masse at their rookeries,
 which might be as far as a thousand
 miles or more from their turtle-grass
 pastures. The turtles mate in the
~~surf~~ ^{nearshore waters} and come ashore at night to dig
 their nest ~~holes~~ and lay their eggs.
 Once those tasks are accomplished,
 they return to the ocean, weary but
 ready to mate again with the males,

which never leave the water.

~~Most~~ ^{Many} countries possessing such

usually ()

In the Hawaiian green turtle population
 males, as well as females, regularly bask
 on land in the leeward chain.

Available evidence suggests
 that females reject advances
 of males after laying their
 first clutch

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ISSUE _____ PAGE _____
TITLE turtles
TYPE _____ WIDTH _____ LEADING _____

-4-

1 nesting sites have passed laws prohibiting
2 the taking of turtles, which are considered
3 gourmet delicacies. But such laws have
4 turned out to be hard to enforce, and
5 a thriving black market pays a poacher
6 as much as \$200 for a big turtle.

7 "Most populations are way, way down and
8 some are totally lost," says Archie Carr.

9 "For example, there were thousands of
10 green turtles in Florida when Columbus
11 discovered the New World; now that
12 population is down to about 30." ✓

13 Commercial turtle "farms" have been
14 tried with some success, but the demand
15 for green turtle soup and steaks far
16 exceeds the supply, and poaching

17 continues. *In fact, most conservationists now believe*
18 *that such "farms" will stimulate the demand for turtle products, thereby*
19 *degrading the survival status of wild*
20 *populations.* Commercial turtle hunts are always

21 quick to take advantage of new
22 information about where the green
23 turtle feeds, reproduces and hibernates.

24 One enterprising hunter even returned
one of Carr's research turtle-tags with
a note asking if the biologist had any

COPY

ISSUE _____ PAGE _____
TITLE turtles
TYPE _____ WIDTH _____ LEADING _____

-5-

1 hot tips on where he might be able to
2 sell his catch. Car^r in his book,
3 So Excellent a Fishe, does not report how
4 he responded.--Rosanne Hallowell

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University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Dear Ms. Hallowell:

This is in response to your note of 13 March 1979 which requested comments on the draft article entitled "Life's a Shell Game". I apologize for not answering sooner, however I only recently returned from a meeting of the IUCN Survival Service Commission in San Jose, Costa Rica.

I hope that the penciled comments will be useful.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



DIVISIONS:
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

George.....

Many thanks for the turtle patch! I now feel I am officially in the "Brotherhood of Mydas".

We couldn't figure out the mystery bird from the slide, although it's some kind of gull or tern. If you can, please send the pickled specimen, and we'll have Al Zeigler at the Bishop Museum help us on I.D. Will let you know what we find out.

Joan _____

Jon Walker

3/15/79



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory
National Museum of Natural History
Washington, D.C. 20560

(202) 381-5161

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

5 March 1979

Dear George,

This is just a belated note of thanks for your recent sendings (calendar, bibliography) which I so crassly did not respond to earlier. I have really been under the gun back here for some time since the demands of this project I have been working on have expanded both in time and depth. Now it would appear that it is a sort of overall coverage of the marine birds of the southeastern United States and if we get out in under 300 published pages I shall be greatly surprised. Prior to last week I had worked 21 straight days and there seem to be dozens of people wondering why I haven't answered their letters.

In any case thank you again-- that shot of the Red-tailed Tropicbird on the water is one of the best of that species I have ever seen. Must get back to pushing a few more words through the mill.

Best regards,

Roger B. Clapp
Marine Bird Project
NFWL, NMNH etc.



THE NEW GROUNDS
SLIMBRIDGE
GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT

Tele: Cambridge (045-389) 333
Cable: Wildfowl Dursley

12th January 1979

Dear Dr. Balazs

IUCN : Survival Service Commission

A more formal letter will be sent to you over my signature in due course about the SSC Marine Turtle Group; meanwhile I wanted you to know that I think it is very important that you serve our Commission by taking on the position of Deputy Chairman to the Marine Turtle Group, with Archie Carr as Chairman. Nicholas Mrosovsky will, I hope, remain as Editor of the Newsletter and a member of the Group.

I am delighted you are able to attend the meetings in Costa Rica. I won't be there I am afraid, but perhaps we could meet when I am in Hawaii at the end of February. I shall be with my wife and staying at the Pioneer Inn, Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii from February 23/28.

Yours sincerely

Peter Scott

* We'll be passing through Honolulu, of course, but it's all rather distant from Kaneohe so probably not practical.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

3/1/79

Dear George:

I would like to order a copy of the english version of "Preliminary report on the hawks-bill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore" if still available. Enclosed is a check to cover the costs. Thanks.



3/5/79

Ken Dodd

P.S. Thank you for the calendar - I have it over my desk.



University of Guelph

COLLEGE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

79 02 22

Dr. George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Monoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island
Kenechoe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thank you very much for your recent letter addressed to Mrs. Jane Selley who works with us here at the University.

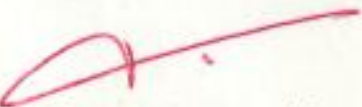
I have taken the liberty of answering the letter because I edited the final materials along with Dr. Duguay of France.

At the present time the best knowledge I have as to the state of the material is that we sent it to the United Nations Environment Programme (U.N.E.P.) in July of last year in near to final form. Since that time we have not been able to find if the material has moved forward. I suggest, therefore, that you yourself could perhaps write to Miss Mona Bjorklund, U.N.E.P., Nairobi, and enquire as to the state of the documentation. I will send a copy of this letter so that she might be aware of your interest. If I hear further within the near future, I will let you know of the state of the nation.

In finishing, might I ask if you yourself are interested in monk seals, particularly of the Hawaiian variety, and if so, what are your own interests in this work? I have enclosed a copy of a paper from Biological Conservation which you might find useful as it does summarize much of what we knew up to the time of the meeting.

Best wishes in your work.

Yours sincerely,



Professor K. Ronald
Dean
Encl.

cc: M. Bjorklund, UNEP

Telephone: 076-21246

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Prk.Tr.2612 (49)



MALAYSIA

STATE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT,
KUALA TRENGGANU,
MALAYSIA.

19th Feb. 1979 19

Mr. George H. Balazs,
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,
P.O.Box 1346, Kaneohe,
Hawaii 96744,
U.S.A.

International Conference On Marine Turtles

Due to unforeseen administrative problems and some events cropped up recently, the above conference scheduled on 2nd - 6th Sept 1979 in Kuala Trengganu has to be postponed indefinitely.

2. I thank you for your support in this conference, and I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this postponement.

Yours faithfully,

(Siow Kuan Tow)
State Director of Fisheries,
Trengganu.

FORM CD-14
(5-10-71)
Prescr. by
DAO 214-2

U.S. DEPT. OF COMM.

DATE

TRANSMITTAL SLIP

JAN. 3, 1979

TO: GEORGE BALAZS

REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.
HIMB

FROM: RICHARD S. SHOMURA

REF. NO. OR ROOM, BLDG.
NMFS

ACTION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE | <input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN TO ME | <input type="checkbox"/> PER YOUR REQUEST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN WITH MORE DETAILS | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR APPROVAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND SEE ME ABOUT THIS | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ANSWER | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR YOUR COMMENTS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR MY SIGNATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATE AND REPORT |

COMMENTS:

GEORGE, WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF
GETTING SAMPLES REQUESTED.
WILL CALL YOU DURING WEEK OF
15 JAN. TO DISCUSS THIS AND
OTHER TURTLE-RELATED TOPICS.

REGARDS,

RSS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Fisheries Center
Charleston Laboratory
P.O. Box 12607
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Handwritten notes:
12/14
KSS
0-11/16
Jm

November 29, 1978

Richard S. Shomura, Director
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

Handwritten note:
How do we
get these
samples?

Handwritten note:
}0

Dear Dr. Shomura:

I am currently working on a project under the NMFS/SEFC program for Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Management, with the objective of identifying various species of sea turtles from isolated pieces of turtle meat. I am testing various acrylamide gel electrophoresis methods for separating proteins in turtle meat, with the idea that under the appropriate conditions each species will reveal a unique pattern of protein bands on the acrylamide gel. In order to provide accurate documentation of the species of sea turtle from unidentified meat samples, I must first have samples of turtle meat that have been authenticated and are in prime condition. These samples are used to determine "standard" gel conditions that allow for the positive identification of one species of turtle from another by protein banding patterns. To date, I have been provided a sample of pelvic girdle muscle from a loggerhead turtle which was accidentally snagged in a line and drowned. I am anxious to obtain either pre-Act samples of sea turtle meat from loggerheads, greens and ridleys or samples taken under permit from leatherbacks and hawksbills.

Dr. Joseph R. Sylvester, Turtle Program Manager, has suggested that you might be of assistance in obtaining the sea turtle samples I need in order to establish these "standards". The overall goal of the project is to provide law enforcement agents with the appropriate technical assistance so that they may better protect the endangered and threatened sea turtles.

If you can provide me with identifiable sea turtle meat samples or put me in contact with anyone who might be able to do so, please contact me at the National Marine Fisheries Service, Charleston Laboratory - FTS# 677-4762, commercial #803/724-4762 - or write to: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Charleston Laboratory, P.O. Box 12607, Charleston, South Carolina 29412.

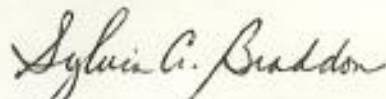
In the event that you will be able to provide me with turtle meat, I would like to include a few shipping instructions. A sample of a few grams would be helpful and over 10g would be quite adequate. Since it is important that the meat remain in optimum condition, I prefer that it be shipped on a good supply of dry ice in a well insulated chest via the most rapid carrier. Air freight is usually the best means of



shipment. The FAA now has a regulation that all packages containing dry ice must have an official label so designating this condition. This label can be obtained by filling out a form which the airlines will provide upon request. The package may be sent C.O.D. and should you require reimbursement for packaging something will be worked out. If you do send turtle samples please let me know the details of the shipment so that I can pick up the samples immediately after their arrival.

There is great interest in the protection of sea turtles and any assistance you can provide which will aid this project will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sylvia A. Braddon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sylvia A. Braddon, Ph.D.
Research Chemist



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife

P.O. Box 3092
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

TO HAWAII BIRD OBSERVERS:

We would appreciate receiving now any bird notes you may have for our Season Reports in 'ELEPAIO and AMERICAN BIRDS.

The current period runs from:

and we need your reports by:

December 1 to February 28

March 15

March 1 to May 31

June 15

June 1 to July 31

August 15

August 1 to November 30

December 15

so we can meet our deadlines.

When submitting material, be sure to give date and locality, and indicate clearly if others in your party also vouch for the birds reported. Sightings of unusual birds should include pertinent observation conditions such as approximate distance to the bird, length of time under observation, good or poor light, binoculars or scope if used, and the key criteria on which the identification is based. This information is important in determining the value of the record. For very noteworthy sightings, we urge that you submit details of the observation as a brief note for the 'ELEPAIO. But please tell us about it too!

Please send your notes to Bob at his address below. Use the back of this letter if convenient.

Thanks for your help!

Aloha,

C. J. Ralph

Robert L. Pyle
741 N. Kalaheo Ave.
Kailua, HI 96734

ph: 262-4046

P.S. Pictures of rare birds in Hawaii are needed for the Rare Bird Documentary Photo File (see 'ELEPAIO, March 1977, p.101 for description of the File). Please mention any photos of unusual visitors or very rare residents that you would be willing to let the Society copy for the File.

National
WILDLIFE

International
WILDLIFE

Editorial offices: 225 E. Michigan Milwaukee, Wis. 53202 Phone: 414/273-2486
Publications of the National Wildlife Federation

February 22, 1979

Dear George:

As I'm sure you know, I tried calling you earlier today but missed you. I wanted to touch bases with you after looking over all of the materials you sent. Thanks so much for going to all of the trouble of getting the various clips together.

From your letter, it sounds as if it would be very difficult for me to tag along on one of your trips to the refuge. I had thought it would be, but I wanted to find out for sure. Too bad. It might be a good story. In terms of the whole subject of commercial fishing in refuge waters, there might be something for us there--it sounds like it could be a very hot subject for some time in the islands. I'm not sure, though, if it's a topic I should try to tackle during a relatively short visit there. I've circulated some of the news clips to the other editors here to see what they think. It's possible that the subject could be assigned to a free lancer instead. I'll let you know.

On the Kaula controversy, that might be more manageable for me. However, to do it, I might want to visit the island (another impossibility?). And, more important, do you think this problem may be solved in the next year? Do you think the Navy will stop their target practice there? If so, then we'd probably have to forget covering it, since we work so far in advance. Let me know.

If anything else comes up, I'd appreciate hearing from you. I'm going to get looking a bit for story ideas for Hawaii, as well. I won't be at the cities conference you asked about. I assume you will be.

Best wishes,



Mark Wexler
Senior Editor

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS



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22 February, 1979

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

*sent
3/6/79*

Dear Mr. Balazs

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the "Preliminary report on the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore" and have enclosed our check for \$8.00 to cover the costs of this publication. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours

Melvin H. Goodwin, PhD
Projects Director



NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bronx Zoo
Bronx, New York 10460
Telephone: (212) 220-5100

New York Zoological Park
New York Aquarium
Center for Field Biology and Conservation
Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences

26 February 1979

George Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 for your expenses to the SSC/CITES meetings in Costa Rica. Dr. King is presently in Switzerland, and is looking forward to seeing you in Costa Rica.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Besch
Deborah A. Besch
Assistant in Zoology

Enc.

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DATE

DATE OF INVOICE	INVOICE NO.	GROSS AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
2/26/79	17376	1,500.00		
CITES/SCC MEETING IN COSTRA RICA				
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University of Hawaii, School of Medicine
Department of Physiology
1960 East West Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Doctor,

sent
3/1/79

I shall appreciate it if you will send me a reprint of
your paper entitled Bibliography of the Mont
Seal Tech. Report No. 135
which appeared in

Sincerely yours,

Ted Pettit



Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hi. 96744



Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory

University of California
Berkeley, California 94720
Telephone 415/~~843-2700~~
486-6461

February 22, 1979

Dr. George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I am working with the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion project at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. Our group is conducting ecological research on the marine environment of Hawaii in connection with the Department of Energy's proposed OTEC plant off Keahole Point. My focus is the distribution and ecology of larger marine vertebrates, including both mammals and reptiles.

Currently, I am conducting a literature survey of the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) population in Hawaii. I understand that you are engaged in studies of the reproductive biology and ecology of the species, and I would like to find out if you have any information, sources, or publication you could send to me. The most recent paper I have is your 1976 paper (Biol. Conserv. 9).

I would greatly appreciate any information you might have. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Susan Payne

SP/jev

NATAL PARKS. GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD



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YOUR REFERENCE
U VERWYSINGSNOMMER

PLEASE QUOTE
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ONS VERWYSINGSNOMMER

30th January 1979.

G.H. Balazs,
University of Hawaii at Manoa,
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,
P. O. Box 1346,
Coconut Island,
Kaneohe,
H A W A I I 96744.

Dear George,

Thank you for your note of 11 January and your comments on head starting.

As regards your question about the Australians asking for the movement of Tromelin and Europa populations from Appendix I to Appendix II I really don't have any strong feelings about that. When I submitted my report on Europa to the French I suggested that some exploitation in the form of egg removal would do little harm because the destruction of eggs by nesting females has to be seen to be believed.

What concerns me more is WHY the Australians are so interested. I don't have any recent papers on the subject but I have had no suggestion from Réunion which controls the islands, of any change in status.

I was surprised to see your reference to a Washington meeting in November. Are you unlikely to be going to Malaysia in September?

At present we are rather pleased because we have nearly completed our nesting season (loggerheads and leatherbacks) and our handling record of loggerhead females is over 15% better than our previous best year. Over 400 females in fact. Modest by some beaches but excellent for us.

Have a good year.

Yours sincerely,

George

For DIRECTOR.



Please address communications to the Director
Geliewe alle briefwisseling aan die Direkteur te rig



February 2, 1979

Sir Peter Scott
c/o George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Dear Sir Peter:

I am sending this c/o George Balazs as I understand that you are travelling but will be visiting him shortly to discuss turtle conservation. I would in particular like to make some points about the Marine Turtle Newsletter and ask you to ensure that it gets support in the fullest sense.

The job of running this newsletter is inextricably bound up with other functions of the co-chairman. It helps enormously to be at the center of things and know what is coming up. In this way one can prepare to move ahead of time, as was done with the Outside article on the Mexican turtle situation. This was recirculated through the newsletter very soon after it appeared, in time for that year's turtle season, and I think helped bring the situation in Mexico before the public. One needs also to have access to the information in reports and grant proposals. This is not a matter of using confidential information improperly. It is for things that range merely from having the addresses of authorities mentioned who should be on the mailing list, to being able to write to people asking them if they would do a piece on this, or asking for permission to use material. The newsletter however is not just passing on information, it is also moulding opinion, and this cannot be done creatively unless one is in the picture. It would be essential under any new arrangements for the turtle group that Morges was specifically instructed to send copies of all material and correspondence to the editor of the newsletter. Doubtless someone will say that this is administratively awkward, but if one can set the xerox to 2 one can set it to 3.

Alongside the newsletter there are related activities. For instance someone has just been stimulated to initiate a project as a result of an editorial in the newsletter. It is possible with the present arrangements to tell him that this work has already been proposed by someone else, but that his work could make a valuable complementary contribution if set up in a different way, etc., etc. There is no doubt also that status helps in these related activities. To take another example, it helps in trying to create "multiplier effects" in the media. It is quite likely that the British Press will pick up on the Ascension Island issue, for instance. If the IUCN do not want to have co-chairmen for groups anymore, there is still no real reason why some title such as associate chairman, or something as glossy as possible (but devoid of import in the IUCN hierarchy) cannot be provided to help the editor of the newsletter in his related activities.

The running of the turtle group may perhaps call for some different arrangements compared to some of the other groups. The marine turtles, while endangered, are in fact very widely distributed and occur in so many different nations. There are so many different problems to be confronted: excessive consumption of luxury items, mariculture, incidental catch, head-starting, and a complicated and poorly understood biology, and the need to communicate about these things between all the different nations involved. There is surely room for all kinds of activism here. The turtles need all the help they can get. Reorganization of the group should be done in a way that increases the scope of people to help, not limits it.

While I recognize that reorganization may be needed from time to time, this one appears to come at an inopportune time, just when things are starting to get going. It took much effort and time simply to find out who was in the group. We have had an ad hoc meeting which, though it has not yet borne the fruit expected of it, was fruitful in other ways. A major meeting is scheduled for next September in Malaysia (perhaps you could be present?). This offers the chance of putting pressure on the authorities there to increase their conservation quota, and to bring the expertise of outside people into a country that would benefit from such a conference. The newsletter again can be used to support such efforts. Taking away status undercuts my efforts in these directions. Altogether over the past 2 years it has been difficult enough with a co-chairman who is the first to admit he is not good at keeping up with organizational things, and with the problems in getting replies, let alone support, from Morges.

I would, nevertheless, be prepared to continue with the newsletter if full access to information can be assured, if some title can be attached to enable these activities to be as profitable as possible, and, of course, if support can be found. The present situation of having to suspend operations every so often for a few months is not too good, and there should be enough newsletters by now for a decision to be made whether to support it for a few years or not.

It is my impression that both Archie Carr and George Balazs would be quite agreeable to such arrangements, and even welcome them. They would in no way be incompatible with any new directions they wished to take the group in. Each newsletter is always sent to Archie in draft stage for comment. There is room for everyone, we all get on reasonably well with each other, there is an enormous amount to be done in turtle conservation. We need as many active people involved as possible, in different roles, even if it means making arrangements that don't fit perfectly into a Morges category.

However, there are many things to do in life, and I do hope you will understand that it would not be attractive for me to put in the great amount of work involved in this newsletter if I did not feel I could do it in a creative way, and in a way that permitted the newsletter to play its fullest part in broader developments in marine turtle conservation.

If you are ever coming through Toronto on your travels, I would of course be pleased to discuss these and other aspects of marine turtle conservation with you.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Mrosovsky

NM:cs

cc: G. Balazs
A. Carr

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

February 2, 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island
P.O. Box 1067
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter with enclosures, and hearty congratulations on your recent parenthood. I look forward to making the acquaintance of the young one as soon as the opportunity presents.

M It was a sad mixup in NMFS that resulted in your not getting funds to attend the Florida and Washington turtle meetings. At the Washington meeting, Wayne King said that the NYZS had proposed to cover the costs of bringing you up from Tampa to Washington if NMFS got you to Florida. Bill Aron said that NMFS would definitely have covered the Hawaii-Florida cost if they had known that. So there was a general resolution that this should not be allowed to happen again.

Your comments on the means of handling comatose turtles from shrimp trawls was entirely to the point. I think we should try and revise the guidelines; as you say, we do not have enough information to know the best method as yet - or even if there is a best method for all sizes of turtle, but I would think that a support that would hold the turtle in a position with the head much lower than the tail would help get fluid out of the lungs, and should at least be considered. I will have this talked out at the next Recovery Team meeting, in St. Petersburg on April 3rd.

Incidentally, we are having a meeting in Florida on April 6-7 with Cayman Turtle Farm owners and staff, regarding the possibility of the farm converting (or partially converting) to a facility that will house an entirely captive Kemp's ridley colony in perpetuity, producing eggs and hatchlings each year in case the wild population slips into oblivion despite our best efforts to restore it. It will be a politics-laden session, but the Mittag's are clearly interested in coming to some

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

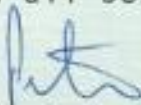
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agreement since they are underwriting the costs of bringing everyone together, which will run to several thousand dollars.

I understand that you will be the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN marine turtle group. I welcome this as an excellent step forward. Nicholas Mrosovsky knows that I have openly disagreed with the policy of having only a very small nucleus of full Group members, and I fear that under the regime the Turtle Group lost a lot of its prestige and influence. This diminution may have also been a result of the growing ascendancy of the US Federal Agencies in marine turtle conservation matters, since they have funding possibilities that the IUCN group never dreamt of (or perhaps often dreamt of but never realized). Nevertheless, I think it is important that the private sector maintain a strong voice to balance the governmental program, even though the latter seems to be entirely along the right lines at the moment. I am hopeful therefore that the Turtle Group will see as an early necessity the drawing back into the group of many of the presently excluded (and, in some cases, alienated) parties - including pro-farm interests so we are not seen to exclude inputs that we may not wish to hear.

Hope to see you soon - if at all possible at a Recovery Team meeting or a planning session for the Washington turtle conference.

With all best wishes,



Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Vice President - Science & Research

P.S. Seabird calendar arrived in good condition. I also got a nice book on Hawaiian reptiles by Sean McKeown. I never knew that Hawaii had so many exotic herps!

c.c. N. Morosovsky
sep



February 2, 1979

George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Dear George:

I am sending this letter to Sir Peter Scott via you as this seems the best way to reach him. Also I hope it will help explain to you why I do not see the newsletter as an isolated activity, and how status helps. What I said to Carr about the inter-related nature of these activities was essentially the same.

I hope also that I can take you at your word when you told me on the phone that you would be quite happy with some system involving the three of us, and that, even if you did not agree with every single thing that has occurred over the last two years, you felt overall support for my activities as co-chairman.

I therefore ask you here if you could impress upon Sir Peter how unfortunate it would be if the good things that have been started were disrupted too much on account of some petty grudge. I have no wish to quarrel with Wayne King. If I have stepped on his toes and he has taken offense, it was not intentional on my part. Moreover he can have his victory! Everyone will see I have been demoted, and he can have the credit (though some of the group in some of the underdeveloped countries will not in fact be happy). But it would not be useful to him or anyone else if people who are prepared to put a lot of work into conservation (and there has been a lot more than the newsletter, which you may not have seen) are put off completely.

... 2

There are no rational reasons why I should not be helped to do the newsletter and the Malaysian conference. It does not prevent you and Archie in anything you might wish to do. We would work together -- there is more than enough that needs doing!

Other points:

I am quite aware others could run the newsletter, especially with the model they now have in front of them. I have never considered myself indispensable. But I do think I would run it about 15% better than anyone else, having got it in hand now and having learnt a lot about this kind of thing in the last two years, some through mistakes.

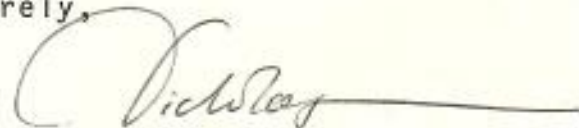
I hope you were happy with the last newsletter. Having said I would print both articles together, I could not go back on that, although it seemed Limpus was trying to pull a fast one ... but this way it works out pretty well. You were both doing similar work, as often happens in science. And, as does not always happen, in this case you were both able to say so at the same time.

The Malaysian meeting is shaping up well. I hope you will make some effort to be there, whatever happens. Why don't you give an expanded version of your growth work, spelling out some of the conservation implications more fully? I hope we will receive an abstract soon.

The farming memo has in fact been xeroxed already, and is simply waiting till I send the next memo out. I had also been hoping to hear something more from Baysinger on this issue, but it's not worth waiting for much longer.

Returning to the main point ... if something is to be salvaged from this ... perhaps that is too pessimistic a word because it might be that a reorganization could even improve things in some way ... I urge you and Archie to press the point with Sir Peter.

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Mrosovsky

NM:cs

'ELEPAIO

*Journal of the
Hawaii Audubon Society*



*C. John Ralph, Editor
3467 Alani Drive
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Phone (808) 988-6921*

23 February 1979

George Blazs
Kaneohe, HI

Dear George:

Thanks very much for your recent contributions on
the diet of the green turtle and Kaula Rock articles.

They will go out to review (actually they mostly have already)
and I'll let you know soonst about any comments.

The eagle MS is ready to go. Do you want to
see it again? Probably yes, so I'll send it as soon as
Carol goes over it for the last time.

Regards,

February 27, 1979

Mr. Richard B. Roe
Acting Deputy Director
Office of Marine Mammals
and Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 1979 which responded to my comments of 27 November 1978. Although I have been and continue to be in agreement with your final rulemaking for Hawaiian green turtles, I nevertheless wanted to make you aware of some of my views on subsistence fishing and enforcement.

I was sorry to learn of your recent severe funding and personnel constraints that may once again hamper the development of a NMFS sea turtle program for areas under U. S. jurisdiction in the Pacific region. After reading a recent item in Marine Mammal News (copy enclosed), I thought that perhaps some funding might be made available in FY 80.

From approximately March 9-25th I will be in San Jose, Costa Rica to attend meetings of the CITES and IUCN Survival Service Commission. I suspect that you may also be attending CITES, and if so I will try to make contact with you.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



The Center for Action on Endangered Species

(Formerly ESP: Endangered Species Productions)

Main Office: 175 West Main Street, Ayer, MA 01432 (617) 772-0445

Southwest Office: P. O. Box 2749, Tucson, AZ 85702 (602) 624-5115

22 February 1979

Dr. 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

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thank you so much for your prompt response to my request for information on green turtles and mariculture.

I've seen several papers proposing farming of large cetaceans. I believe in futuristic thinking, but find the idea mind-boggling.

I will get in touch with David Ehrenfeld, and thank you for the suggestion.

If we may somehow help you in your work, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Wray
Executive Director

PW:kit

Phoebe Wray, Executive Director; Rosemary Elkins, Southwest Coordinator;
Linda L. Norris, Treasurer. Technical Advisors: Howard W. Campbell,
Thomas H. Kunz, R. Bruce Means, Thomas K. Miwa, Roger S. Payne, Dimitrios Yermanos.

EDUCATION • RESEARCH • ADVOCACY

George -

Please return with comments
as soon as possible. The turtle
stuff can be found on pp 9-11.
Sorry about the mix-up on paper
credit re: the thy- albatross observations.

Tim

P.S. Please include literature
refs if you think of any.

e.g. - diel behavior
- breathing

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

12 February 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island, Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Thank you for taking the time to review my thesis. I found your comments very constructive. In answer to some of your questions:

lost year - This term has been frequently cited in the past with little data to back it up. It will undoubtedly be refined by studies like your own. I agree with your comment in the Marine Turtle Newsletter that early growth, presumably on a mixed diet, may be rapid. This may contribute at least in part to the scarcity of observations of turtles this size.

sharks - I have seen live hatchlings in the stomach of a bull shark caught on the lagoon side of Tortuguero. Gilbert and Kelso (Fishes of the Tortuguero Area, Caribbean Costa Rica. Bull. Fla. State Museum 16 (1) 1-54. 1971.) documented the occurrences of a small leatherback (size?) and the remains of a butchered hawksbill in the stomachs of bull sharks. We see a small number of fresh wounds on nesting females, but there is hardly any shark fishing done right there to confirm any suspicions.

tags - Tag loss is approximately 5%. In 1976, 110 of 2046 turtles arrived with conspicuous tag scars.

separation between nesting emergences - Although one can't rule out unfavorable tagging experiences, I would be hard to persuade on this, based on my experience on the nesting beach. Too many turtles return the same night or a night later to the exact spot where they previously nested for it to seem like they are disturbed by the tagging process. I just don't think they're that sensitive.

algae - The information on algae was very interesting to me. I certainly wish I could get a better idea of the bottom off the nesting beach. My few dredging attempts never turned up a scrap of vegetation, but I have been told by local residents that some type of plant grows on the rocks off Tortuguero River.

Again, thanks for the comments.

Best regards,

Anne
Anne Meylan



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY. SACRAMENTO
6000 J STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95819

13.2.79


Dr. George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe HI 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Many thanks for the BIBLIOGRAPHY and
your friendly lines.

Even tho' you don't speak the language
I feel warm when I learn about another
American zoologist of Hungarian descen-
dence. I have many ties to the Islands,
and an old interest in Laysan and the
Monk Seals. When I get next time to
Oahu for an extended visit I shall
drop in and we'll acquaint personally.
Perhaps I could teach you a few words
of Hungarian, such as 'barátfóka'=
monk seal.

With warm aloha nui,


Miklos D.F. Udvardy
Dept. Biol. Sciences

Vandenberg -
Canton IS

17 Feb 1979

Dear Mr. Balazs

Thank you very much for the beautiful calender of bird pictures. I have it hanging in my office. I particularly appreciate it because I was able to see most of those birds on a trip to Kwajalien and Canton Islands in 1977.

Hope your research with turtles is continuing and will be successful.

Again thank you for the beautiful pictures.

Sincerely

Mike

Mike Steger

AF
Colonel



Michael J. Steger
228 Pegasus
Lompoc, CA 93436

In chrg of range operations

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

February 12, 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

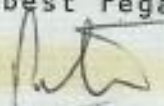
Dear George:

Many thanks for the copy of your letter to Archie.

I like all of your proposals for turtle group activities and responsibilities. Count on my support. Regarding the mainland China proposal, something to add to this, much closer to home, is Cuba. We know that Cuba is an important area for loggerheads, greens, and hawks-bills. However there is damn little information as to exactly what is happening with them. I would also be very interested in knowing if the Cubans catch Kemp's ridleys deliberately or accidentally, and if so in what numbers. Rene Marquez has been to Cuba and found the turtle people cooperative, so I shall pump him for information when I see him later this week in Orlando. Archie has also been making some overtures to the Cubans lately, but without success despite his willingly sharing with them the information available to him.

Regarding the mortality of ridleys in the Texas rearing facility: although there was very heavy mortality with the loggerheads that were raised last year as an exercise in preparation for the ridley operation, mortality with the ridleys has not been too severe. Overall survivorship at present is about 75%, and the turtles now weigh about 600 grams on average. Some 500 of them are already in Miami ready for the Florida Bay release, which now seems to be scheduled for the week beginning February 19.

With best regards,


Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Vice President - Science and Research

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

921 Lake Sybelia Drive • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751
(305) 647-2615

February 12, 1979

Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Vice-President - Science & Research
Florida Audubon Society
921 Lake Sybelia Drive
P.O. Drawer 7
Maitland, Florida 32751
U.S.A.

Dear Peter,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to George Balazs. I appreciate your letting me have your views about the IUCN group. For those who may be involved in this in the future, I will respond to a few points.

1. Having a small group and a larger one certainly has cons as well as pros. One reason it evolved in that direction was the mess-up at the Miami meeting where some members had their fares paid and others were upset because they did not. IUCN received many letters about that. When I visited with IUCN officials at Morges, they (and I) were anxious to avoid this problem, but insisted they only had limited funds.

A problem that anyone helping organize the IUCN group will have to face is that some members do nothing, but are full of resolutions at meetings. It is not completely obvious to me that the best thing is to put everyone in the group just to keep them happy. I'm sure that anyone running the group now will get off to a good start with a wave of popularity by going back to an all-inclusive group. It is also possible that a small active group, if given time ~~for things~~ for people to adjust, might have been just as effective. Who knows?

2. The present group has representation from people who are managing turtle populations that provide food to human consumption, resource-oriented people, like Schulz and Siow. There are problems about having pro-farming interests represented. It tends to turn things into an adversary format and generate bad feelings as occurred at Miami. Carr has certainly expressed strong opinions about this.
3. While on this, I suggest that any criticisms of 'the regime', especially if constructively intended as these, should at least be copied to Archie Carr, Co-Chairman of the group.
4. It is not obvious to me that the group has lost a lot of its prestige because I doubt it ever had much. Just now, probably more people in turtle conservation know about the IUCN/SSC than ever before, through the newsletter and associated activities. The Ascension Island issue is just hotting up.

5. I support your view about the need for a strong voice from the private sector. Of course the USA can take the lead in turtle conservation with all the dollars they are now prepared to spend. But most of the world's turtles are not in the USA. It is a pity that despite the encouragement given to having a larger meeting, nobody has pitched in with any support, or even encouragement for the Malaysian conference which has many potentials. I suppose they are busy working on the Washington meeting.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

NM/nm

Nicholas Mrosovsky