

1979 HMB #8 INCOMING
LETTERS TO G.H. BALAZS

SINCE NINETEEN-HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

September 17, 1979

Mr. Ross Witham
Florida DNR Marine Lab
P.O. Box 941
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

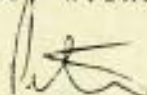
Dear Ross:

I see our combined writing effort has now gone out to NMFS from Sally Hopkins' office. Let's see if any information on the oil spill/sea turtle question is forthcoming.

I notice in the Florida Conservation News and elsewhere that the nesting of the head-started loggerhead is being reported as fact, but I recall that there was considerable confusion regarding the number on the tag when I spoke to you about it. What is the actual situation? Is it a case of the observers reporting an "impossible" number, and you making the supposition that it must have been a certain other number, or do you indeed feel sure in your own mind that a correct tag reading was made? I am as keen as you in demonstrating that head-starting works - as you know, I have a major interest in the Kemp's ridley operation, in which head-starting is a vital ingredient - but a premature report of an uncertain case of nesting of a head-started turtle could bring forth the scorn, or worse, of those who do not believe in head-starting sea turtles.

I would appreciate if you could drop me a line describing exactly what happened regarding the reading of the tag number, so that I will be clear in my own mind what happened and can explain to other people who express interest or ask questions. Also, if the report is definite, I want to start quoting it!

Best wishes,


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

PP/spmc

September 1979						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 1 Blue Crab Festival, Panacea
- 1-3 Offshore Sportfishing Tournament, Sebastian Inlet.
- 3 Labor Day
- 5-7 Tax Collectors annual meeting, Pensacola Beach Holiday Inn.
- 8 Anniversary of founding of St. Augustine
- 13-15 Artificial Reef Construction/Maintenance Conference, Plaza Hotel, Daytona Beach, sponsored by Florida Sea Grant College.
- 14-16 Marlborough Billfish Tournament, Destin.
- 14-16 Pensacola Seafood Festival.
- 15-16 1979 king mackerel and spinner shark tournament, Ponce Inlet, sponsored by Halifax Sport Fishing Club Inc., South Daytona.
- 21-23 Florida Wildlife Federation annual meeting, Marco Polo Hotel, Miami Beach.
- 25-26 Coastal Campground Operations Seminar, St. Petersburg, sponsored by Marine Advisory Program.
- 25-27 Aquatic Plant Management and Control Conference, Capitol Building, Tallahassee.



No Danger From Oil Spill Seen For Florida "But We Are Keeping ... Watch"—Landers

The massive oil spill which is affecting Texas beaches poses no immediate threat to Florida, Department Interim Director Jay Landers said recently.

Landers' statement is based on consultation with national oil spill experts and oceanographers, as well as Department staff.

As a precautionary measure, however, the Department sent a coastal protection officer to Texas to meet with national and regional response teams, Landers announced.

"We see no immediate danger to our beaches at this time," said Landers, "but we are keeping a close

watch on developments."

Oil spill experts say tar balls from the spill could eventually reach certain portions of Florida if the runaway crude makes contact with the Gulf of Mexico's loop current south of Mobile. Experts agree a hurricane would alter their calculations.

The oil slicks and tar balls have been drifting toward Texas for two months from an oil well off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Some oil has washed ashore off the southwestern Texas coastline, but currents are stalling and actually reversing in some places, according to U.S. Coast Guard reports.

First Pen-Reared Turtle Seen Laying Eggs

The first pen-reared turtle to be sighted laying eggs was discovered recently on Jupiter Beach. The seven-year-old loggerhead, tag number A196, was released in August, 1972, on Hutchinson Island by Department Marine Biologist Ross Witham, of the Marine Research Laboratory in Jensen Beach.

Marcia Kartub and Craig Barsumian spotted the turtle midway between

the high-tide line and the dunes on June 13 at about 2 a.m. They reported the egg count to be 132. Counts usually run from 90 to 160 eggs per laying.

When released in 1972, the turtle was almost eight inches long and weighed slightly more than three pounds. According to Kartub and Barsumian, the turtle now measures 34 inches in length and weighs approximately 180 pounds.

Witham said the sighting was "significant, since it is the first report of a head-started sea turtle nesting."



National oyster shucking champ Heidi Harrelson receives the good wishes of Gov. Bob Graham, top, and a check from Bob Jones, below, to attend the international oyster shucking contest in Ireland Sept. 14. Jones heads the Gulf and south Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation.



The beach at Anastasia State Recreation Area was the destination this summer for 80 members of the Wandering Wheels, 60 cross-country cyclists. The group departed from San Diego and made the coast-to-coast trip, some 3,000 miles, in 30 days.

18th September, 1979

29 Greville Street, London EC1N 8AX
Telephone: 01-404 5691
Cables: Pandafund London EC1

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

Dear George,

I have just been looking at the super seabirds, turtles and seals booklet you sent me, and calendar with yet more luscious pictures all taken by yourself!

One picture struck me very much in particular, which is the picture on one of the early pages in the Seabirds Guide of the monk seal and green turtle taken in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

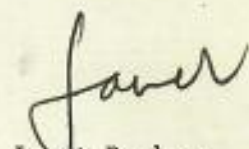
WWF-UK is developing a Membership Magazine, copy of which I enclose, and we even have a budget to pay photographers for their pictures! Are all your pictures with an agent or do you keep them yourself? I would so much like to use the one of the monk seal and the turtle in, if possible, the next issue of our magazine. I would need the picture within the next two weeks if I were to use it. Is there any chance at all that you could let me have it within that time. We could pay about £100 for its use. I am sure this falls far short of what you deserve to be paid!

The latest news on Ascension Island, is that it seems less likely that tourism will be developed on the Island. The decision rests with the Governor of St. Helena, who I am told by our Foreign Office, should be reminded of the arguments against building on Ascension Island.

A letter is being drafted to go from the SSC, and I will follow this up by informing Archie Car and Jeanne Mortimer of the latest news.

With very best wishes and thank you so much again for the super calendar and book, for which I have not yet thanked you.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Barber
Head of Information and Conservation

Encs.

Sorry this is so late - Dr. King was away
and we have had illness in the staff, plus machine
breakdowns, and therefore it is now getting into
the mails.

S. Sidaway
Secretary to Dr. King

SINCE NINETEEN-HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

August 31, 1979

Vivian Silverstein
1244 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

SEP 5 1979

*George - FYI.
Wayne*

Dear Vivian:

Thank you for your letter. The reason I delayed in sending the Rare and Endangered Biota volumes is that I was trying to get you some for free. Even though we edited the thing and started the whole ball rolling, we received very few complimentary sets, and these have now all been sent out. We can sell you the four volumes happily enough for a total of \$24. (Including postage and packing), but if you want to save that you might contact Dr. Ross Wilcox, Florida Power and Light Company, P.O. Box 529100, Miami, Florida 33152) - Florida Power and Light got a large number of complimentary copies and may be able to send you a set for free.

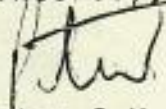
Thanks for arranging for the hotel room and the travel reimbursement for me. I don't envy you your financial headaches with the conference but you seem to be coping very well.

I suspect that Carlos Nagel's expenses could be covered by himself or by Suarez, though cannot say for sure at this point. I will be seeing both in late September, so can talk about it with them then. Incidentally, when you told me you would not be able to go to Oaxaca, I invited Defenders to send either Tom Garrett or Laura Tangle, or both, instead. It also seems probable that Wayne will not be there for most or all of the meeting, but he will be represented by either George Balazs or by Christina Palacio. In view of the guidelines on total numbers of people Suarez said he was willing to finance, I feel it would probably not be appropriate for us to ask him to add Patty Shaver to the list at this time; though if she can pay all her own expenses (i.e. not just to Mexico City, but for the whole stay), there would probably be no problem. Do make liason with Defenders, though, since they are already paying for at least one of their staffers to be there. The meeting is set for September 25 (arrival in Mexico City) to September 30.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

The draft agenda looks ok. I must confess that it is sad that we have produced exactly the long list of "show and tell" items that we had hoped to get away from, but that is the Committee's fault, not yours. The downplaying of the "debates" is also a big mistake; we simply owe it to all interested turtle conservationists to have a decent amount of time to cross-examine and argue with Mittags and Suarez, and I doubt if we will be able to provide for that as things stand. But again we are the victim of the Committee. The agenda does not say when the "discussion" periods will end, only when they begin; and since they follow directly after series of talks on certain specific topics, there may well be some confusion as to what the discussions will be about. (i.e. whether about the proceeding presentations, or about the turtle farming/Mexico fishing issue.) I do not wish to be the one to write to the Mittags and Suarez to tell them what their truncated roles will be, since I disagree with the way these important topics have been shunted out of the mainstream and into these tightly constricted "discussion" slots; but obviously someone has to do it so they can review whether their time and money would be wisely spent in their attending. I'll leave that decision to you, knowing you are on my side. And for the record I must mention that I object to the shrimpers, who are about the most unconstructive enemies that turtles have, being allowed to curry favor and public relations by hosting a cocktail party. I would much rather debate them. What weird dual standards we must seem to have!

Sincerely,



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

c.c. Wayne King
Archie Carr

PP/sep

ISSUED BY **Western Airlines** PASSENGER TICKET AND BAGGAGE CHECK SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT ON BAGGAGE & CLOTHING PASSENGER'S COUPON

ENDORSEMENTS (GARNON) **SWABBY MEETING**

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DESTINATION **HONOLULU** **SC 313 5**

NAME OF PASSENGER **BALAZS, GNR** DATE OF ISSUE **21 SEP 79** ISSUED IN EXCHANGE FOR

DATE AND PLACE OF ORIGINAL SALE **HNL HC 3U**

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Y		HA	562	Y	24SEP	845A	OK	YXJ 21			
Y		HA	637	Y	24SEP	645P	OK	YXJ 21			
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Y		HA	565	Y	29SEP	300P	OK	YWE 21			24287

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03/80*BWG

NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

DATE **9/13/79**

DATE OF INVOICE	INVOICE NO.	GROSS AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
9/06/79	17320	500.00		500.00
<i>Turtle Conservation Meetings in Mexico</i>				
VENDOR NO.	4494	500.00		500.00
VOUCHER NO.	29707	TOTAL INVOICE AMOUNT	TOTAL DISCOUNT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAID



NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

New York Zoological Park
New York Aquarium

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

Center for Field Biology and Conservation
Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences

September 14, 1979

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

Dear George:

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$500.00 to cover your roundtrip air fare, Honolulu to Mexico, for the Suarez meeting, September 25-30. I certainly hope the meeting is successful.

I should be attending the World Conference in Washington and I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope all goes well with you.

Best regards,

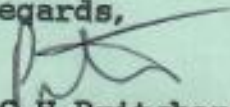
Cristina Palacio
Staff Conservationist

CP:gb
enc.

Dear Wayne:

The meeting with Suarez in Oaxaca has been set for the latter part of September. Please arrange to fly to Mexico City on Sept. 25 and to proceed to the Hotel Geneve (Calle Londres) where a room has been reserved for you. We will all be there that night, and will fly on to Oaxaca the following day. Suarez has planned a meeting that would take the remainder of the week, so I hope you will be able to stay throughout. Let me know if there are any questions. The first arribada apparently took place on August 11, but I have no further details.

Best regards,



Peter C.H.Pritchard

TOURIST
CARD
PASSPORT

Since 1900, The Voice of Conservation.

Florida Audubon Society
(305) 647-2615 • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751

LONDRES No. 130

MEXICO DF

525-1500

#19

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



Mexico's
shoes
Dominguez
1600 000

Tortuga Legitima

AUG 16 1979



SCRATCH PAD

13 August '19

George -

do you have any suggestions -
what can the Humane
Society and Friends of
Animals do here in Hawaii
to put guys like Searey
out of business.

Cathy

955-5122

Hawaiian Humane Society

Speaker and Topic

1. A. Carr: Comparative Migratory Behavior in Sea Turtles.
2. J. Wood and F. Wood: The Mating Behavior of Sea Turtles in Captivity.
3. H. Hirth: Comparative Nesting Ecology and Behavior of Sea Turtles.
4. R. Witham: The "Lost Year" Question in Young Sea Turtles.
5. N. Mrosovsky: Behavioral Thermoregulation in Sea Turtle.
6. D. Owens: Comparative Reproductive Physiology of Sea Turtles.
7. P. Licht: Evolution of Sea Turtle Reproductive Hormones and Their Functions.
8. R. Ackerman: Respiratory Constraints on Sea Turtle Clutchsize.
9. W. Rainey: Reproductive Isolation in Sea Turtle Populations.
10. R. Zangerl: The Paleontology and Evolution of Marine Turtles.
11. J. Hendrickson: The Ecological Strategies of Sea Turtles.
12. P. Pritchard: The Conservation of Sea Turtles: Practices and Problems.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843

713-845-6131

August 6, 1979

George Balaza
Hawaii Institute of Marine
Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii

96744

Dear Mr. Balaza:

As a participant in the upcoming "World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation", you may also be interested in attending another meeting on Marine Turtles which will be held December 28-30 in Tampa, Florida. A symposium entitled "The Behavioral and Reproductive Biology of Sea Turtles" will take place at the regular 1979 meeting of the American Society of Zoologists. The enclosed announcement lists the important particulars of the meetings as well as the address where complete information may be obtained.

The symposium will take place on December 28 with twelve invited speakers presenting in depth reviews of various aspects of the biology of marine turtles (see enclosed topic list). On December 29 and 30, contributed paper sessions on various aspects of sea turtle biology will also be held. The symposium is being dedicated to Dr. Archie Carr to honor his tireless leadership in the research and conservation of these species. The papers will be published in a 1980 issue of the American Zoologist.

All interested scientists from both the Americas and overseas are urged to participate in what should prove to be a very exciting meeting.

Sincerely,

David Owens

David Owens

bjn
enclosure



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

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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SOCIALS

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FOR PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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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

CENTRO CIENTIFICO TROPICAL

APARTADO 8-3870 - SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

MEMORANDUM

A: Archie Carr

Fecha: 3 July 1979

DE: J.A. Tosi Jr.

Asunto: Proposed Law on Turtles

The enclosed newspaper clipping from La Republica of today is self-explanatory.

ASCONA is writing a letter of protest, as will Centro Cientifico Tropical. However, these politicians are principaled only to the extent that there is a public outcry against their proposals, or sometimes, excellent technical facts upon which to base a contrary decision.

I believe that CCC should make every effort, directly and indirectly to block this legislation. We will back you up. Particularly, we need more technical information on the probable consequences.

I personally believe that only total prohibition on ~~xx~~ killing and sale of meat can save the green turtle here. Present legislation is such that animals killed

LIL 289309-20/100-477

illegally within coastal waters can be sold as deep water specimens.

Menos protección a Tortuga Verde

El diputado limonense Juan Rafael Barrientos presentó un proyecto de reforma de ley, con el fin de disminuir el área de protección de la tortuga verde, que se encuentra clasificada como una de las especies más amenazadas, de extinción.

La denuncia de este proyecto fue presentada por el biólogo Jorge Rodríguez, administrador del Parque Nacional Tortuguero, ante diversos organismos.

Actualmente la ley creadora del parque prohíbe la caza de dicha especie en el área ubicada entre el río Matina, la desembocadura del río Colorado, y hasta el límite del agua territorial de Costa Rica.

El proyecto presentado por Barrientos disminuiría tal área de protección a las zonas que componen el parque de Tortuguero, la extensión de playa ubicada ante dicho parque, y tres millas a partir de la pleamar ordinaria.

Barrientos dijo que actualmente los pescadores enfrentan un gran problema, porque tienen que trasladarse 1 2 millas

mar adentro para poder pescar la tortuga y, debido a los sistemas artesanales con que realizan su trabajo, corren mucho peligro. Por tal motivo, el proyecto tiene como fin disminuir el gasto de combustible de los pescadores y darles mayor seguridad en su trabajo.

Agregó que el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería permite la caza de dicha especie tres meses al año, y el producto de dicha caza es dedicado al consumo interno; dijo que los pescadores están luchando para que les permitan la exportación.

Barrientos concluyó diciendo que le preocupa la conservación de las tortugas, pero también le preocupan los problemas sociales de más de 5 000 HOGARES DE pescadores que dependen exclusivamente de la pesca en el Mar Caribe. Considera que se puede hacer un plan nacional, por medio del cual se pueda explotar y conservar a la vez dicha tortuga.

La Republica (San Jose, Costa Rica) July 3, 1979

The Limon representative Juan Rafael Barrientos presented a bill of law-reform, ~~with~~ the aim of which is to decrease the area of protection for the green turtle, which is now classed as an endangered species.

Denunciation of this proposal was presented by Jorge Rodriguez, Administrator of Tortuguero National Park, before various groups.

At present the laws creating this park prohibit hunting this species in the region between the Matina and Colorado rivers, and seaward to the limits of Costa Rican territorial waters.

The proposal of Barrientos would reduce the protected area to the confines of Tortuguero Park, the stretch of beach along the park, and three miles into the sea.

Barrientos said that at present the turtle hunters have a serious problem, because they have to go 12 miles out to hunt the turtles, and because of the techniques used, they are subjected to much danger. Thus the proposal will have the effect of both diminishing the consumption of motor fuel, and providing greater security for the turtle fishermen.

He added that the Ministry of Agriculture and Ranching permits turtle hunting three months out of the year, with the product of the harvest being limited to domestic consumption. He said the fishermen are struggling to be allowed to export green turtles.

Barrientos concluded saying that he was concerned over green turtle conservation; but that he was also concerned over the economic plight of more than 5,000 homes of fishermen that depend exclusively on proceeds from fishing in the Caribbean Sea. He believes there should be a national plan by which the green turtle can at the same time be exploited, and conserved.

NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD



*note
Bustard's
could be
Syn. article*

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS } "FAUNA"
TELEGRAMADRES }

RESERVATIONS ONLY
BLIGS BESPREKINGS }

TELEPHONES } 51514
TELEPHONE } 51221/5

RAAD VIR DIE BEWARING VAN NATALSE PARKE, WILD EN VIS

P.O. BOX/POSBUS 662

PIETERMARITZBURG

3200

YOUR REFERENCE
U VERWYSINGSNOMMER

PLEASE QUOTE
OUR REFERENCE E.6/1
MELD ASSEBLIEF
ONS VERWYSINGSNOMMER

29th August 1979.

Prof. Archie Carr,
Department of Zoology,
University of Florida,
G A I N E S V I L L E,
FLORIDA 32603,
U N I T E D S T A T E S.

Dear Archie,

Not having had any news from IUCN of late as to whether our Group still functions as a group or not (and Nicholas doesn't seem to know either) I am writing to you for advice.

You will recall that ten years ago we, along with some now departed colleagues, formed the Turtle Group and went forth, so to speak, to assess the world situation. With a fair spirit of optimism I need hardly add. I think that some of us tried very hard to assess and assist and in doing that I prepared many reports and had many conversations with interested people both government and non-government.

It was never my philosophy and certainly was not that of the Group, to be against exploitation but only overexploitation. Therefore in many areas I tried to get people to regard their sea turtles as a valuable resource and not merely as objects of beauty. In this part of the world the latter plea would remain basically unheard.

Therefore, from my reports and suggestions has arisen the possibility of some turtle farms in the Indian Ocean. One in the Seychelles and the other in Mauritius. I had heard many rumours of these in the past and one chap actually came to see me to discuss a farm and offered me a directorship to get me in. This I turned down flat because firstly I've worked in conservation for twenty years and moneymaking is not my basic aim in life and secondly it would provide me with vested interests which I wish to avoid at all costs. Anyway I've never seen that gentleman again.

Very recently I've been approached again by a firm of engineering

2/...

consultants to provide them with biological and, more particularly, conservation advice concerning the two proposed farms mentioned above. It would appear that the finance is German but certainly not the Mittags.

Now I have discussed this matter with my Board and pointed out that I should like to consult for these farms for a number of reasons:-

- (a) I am partly responsible for creating the belief that sea turtles are a resource in these areas in which I worked;
- (b) I should like to be in a position to know whether the farms are operating on a valid conservation basis and not just purely exploitation because you know how much work I've put into the sea turtles in my area and I don't want to see the whole lot destroyed;
- (c) Finally, I believe in all seriousness that the only way to save the green turtle in certain parts of the Indian Ocean is by having a farm. We've tried the plea method in the Seychelles for example - a government nearly changed hands on the strength of whether the Seychellois would be allowed to take turtle or not. To the best of my knowledge all of Jack Frazier's work has been ignored.

I know that this point of view has considerable opposition in certain quarters and I also know the good reasons for being against farming (market stimulation, difficulty of identifying products, etc) but these problems pale into insignificance compared with the human population increases in the under-developed areas such as the Seychelles and Mauritius. These people need food and they will take every last turtle they can get to eat and we will be left with a few sterile academic arguments and no sea turtles. In the Seychelles at this time I see no alternatives.

Now if I accept this offer of a consultancy, which means that they pay me each time they want my advice, or want me to visit the farms, how will this affect my standing on the Group? Obviously there is a limited remuneration for my participation but it will in no way increase the quality of my life style and is thus of no importance. On the other hand, I feel that I can't do this for nothing because I'd have to do the work in my own time.

It has been made very clear to this firm that if I consider that they are violating conservation ethics or stringing me along that I will turn against them in every way possible so they are well aware of the way I feel about things.

So much depends on your advice. I know how you feel about these things and you know too how I value your opinions and your open-mindedness. If you feel that I should be drummed out of the Group please say so but I am sure that you know that my prime objective remains the survival of the sea turtle in our area.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

George
for: DIRECTOR.

P.S. To whom should I write at IUCN after you have replied?

(c) Finally, I believe in all seriousness that the only way to save the green turtle in certain parts of the Indian Ocean is by having a farm. We've tried the plea method in the Seychelles for example - a government nearly changed hands on the strength of whether the Seychellois would be allowed to take turtle or not. To the best of my knowledge all of Jack Frazier's work has been ignored.

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Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

George
for DIRECTOR.

P.S. To whom should I write at IUCN after you have replied?

GRH/mh

P.S. Archie, included in the stipulation I put to my board is that you are fully in the picture. *Yes.*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

September 7, 1979

Dr. George Hughes
Natal Parks, Game & Fish Preservation Board
P.O. Box 662
Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter.

I have just turned over to Wayne King the recommendations that George and I are making for the composition of the new Turtle Group. Wayne will take them to Morges Monday, and I have no doubt that they will be approved.

Most assuredly you are listed as a full member. Your convictions about turtle farming don't alter your status in any way--at least they don't in my and Wayne's opinion. George may have relevant observations to make. If so you will hear from him directly.

I will say I don't envy you the prospect of involvement in an exercise which, because of the prevalent spreading opposition to world trade in endangered or vulnerable species, is bound to find itself repeatedly, and even in some cases perhaps undeservedly, a whipping boy. I've tried to reduce my own unshakable antipathy to its essence. It seems to be just that any such enterprise is bound to lust after international outlets, and at the same time is, in my judgment, bound to remain unable to satisfy potential demand. This situation generates intractable poaching, and smuggling. So I am sorry to see you get into such enterprises, because I have regard for you and don't think you will enjoy what you learn and experience. However, as a member of the Turtle Group you would be a treasure house of insight into the kinds of turtle problems that your farms will foment, and so will improve our judgment and understanding. I should add that your farmers will very likely plague you to wheedle the Group into endorsements of their undertakings. To unburden their minds of that rosy possibility should of course be high on your initial agenda.

Anne is in Tanzania visiting her husband, who is digging fossil tortoises with Mrs. Leakey. She was saddened by the idea of being on the Dark Continent and not being able to visit you; but even on a map you seemed a long way from Tanzania. Jeanne Mortimer is in Tanzania, too, on a completely separate excursion--a tour being lead by a friend of hers, a graduate student from Botany here. I doubt that she will get to Durban also.

Meanwhile, unless George is distressed over your venture, you are a full and highly respected member of the reformed Group.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr

translation

Camara de Industrias de Costa Rica
Apartado Postal 10.003
San Jose, Costa Rica
August 23, 1979

Señor
Lic. Rodrigo Carazo Odio
Presidente de la Republica
Casa Presidencial
S. D.

Distinguido señor Presidente:

The Chamber of Industry of Costa Rica, by virtue of an accord in its executive committee, under the prerogatives provided by the political Constitution in its Article 140, very respectfully requests herein that you be so kind as to consider the possibility of denying your sanction for Bill No. 8267, which seeks to reform Article 8 of the Law Creating the Tortuguero National Park, No. 5680, 3 November 1975. Our petition is based on the principle of defense of our natural patrimony, which involves not only scientific values but also standards of national prestige which our position as a civilized country imposes.

Our organization has reached this decision, Mr. President, after being made aware of scientific facts attested to by world authorities in this field and furnished to us by the Caribbean Conservation Corporation. These leave no room for doubt that the authorization sought in this bill--namely that catching turtles be permitted within the zone of three miles out from the Tortuguero breeding ground--would in a very short while result in the extirpation of this species from Costa Rican waters. Realizing that these facts have been made known to you, and appreciating your extreme awareness of and concern for the protection of our natural resources, we have the hope that the petition we now make to you will be favorably received.

This optimism is reinforced by the fact that the benefit promised by the bill for a small number of fishermen in the zone of Limon is ephemeral and inconsequential and would be of very short duration and could in no way justify the danger to our heritage or the grave deterioration and impairment of the prestige of Costa Rica in international scientific circles as a civilized nation which treasures its biological resources. Also one cannot ignore the negative impact threatened for the tourist industry if it should be deprived of our natural aesthetic resources.

We sincerely believe it to be consonant with the policy of augmenting the exploitation of marine resources that your government proposes, to conceive a program which replaces and augments, on a stable basis of real benefit to Costa Rica, the aid proposed for this small group of Limon fishermen, who clearly merit the concern of the government and of their compatriots.

Thanking you in advance for your gracious attention to this petition, it is a pleasure to renew to the President of the Republic assurances of our highest consideration and respect,

Chamber of Industry of Costa Rica
Francisco Terán Valls
Secretary

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



the florida
state museum
museum road
university
of florida
gainesville
32611
904/392-1721

14 August 1979

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

Dear George:

Last February I received an inquiry from the Italian government concerning the possibility of their taking reservations in crocodilians and sea turtles under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Duke Campbell responded with information on the crocodilians, but I am ashamed to say that I did not get in touch with you concerning the hawksbill and green turtles listed in their letter. Enclosed are copies of their original letter as well as the letter they wrote in response to Duke's reply. I would encourage you to send them information on these species. I think it would be wise to send them detailed data on a few populations in order to back up whatever general statements you may make about the status of the species as a whole.

Again I apologize for not calling this to your attention sooner--I simply focused too narrowly on the crocodilians.

Sincerely,


F. Wayne King

FWK:chn

Enclosures



Ministero dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste

DIREZIONE GENERALE

PER L'ECONOMIA MONTANA E PER LE FORESTE

Roma, li 22/2/1979

Dear Sir,

Dr Alh eriti re of the Environmental laws Office of the FA.O. recommended me to consult you, as zoological expert, to obtain informations on the actual status of some endangered species of reptils. It is a question which concerns possibility of entering reservations, on depositing Italian instrument of ratification of the Washington Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora, following a similar disposition adopted by France in May 1978.

The concerned species are the followings:

- *Crocodylus cataphractus*
- " *niloticus*
- *Osteolemis tetrapsis*
- *Melanosuchus niger*
- *Caiman latirostris*
- *Eretmochelis imbricata*
- *Chelonia Mydas*

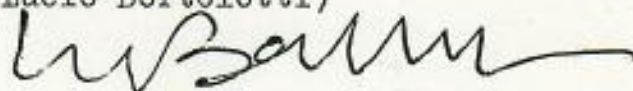
The entering of reservations of above species, which, except *Caiman latirostris*, are the same of France, has been requested by industrial associations of the leather goods.

To have a clear idea with regard to the mentioned request, I will be very grateful if you could give me objective elements of judgement on the status of the above species.

./.

Looking forward to hearing from you, sincerely yours.

(Lucio Bortolotti)



P.S. Could you please send me some information concerning books and paper on this subject?

Dr. Wayne King
Zoological Society
Bronx Zoo

Bronx

NEW YORK 10460 (USA)

My address : dr. Lucio Bortolotti - Direzione Generale
Foreste - Via Carducci 5 - 00160 ROMA

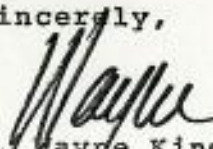
June 8, 1979

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

Dear Duke:

At the CITES meeting in Costa Rica, I mentioned that I had received the enclosed letter from the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forests requesting information on the status of the 4 species of crocodilians and 2 turtles. I have deliberately stalled an answer because I am convinced that the Ministry will choose to pursue France's example of entering reservations on these species rather than interfere with the Italian hide industry and thereby give an economic advantage to France. However, I cannot stall indefinitely. As soon as I get settled in at the FSM, I intend to mail off a long list of materials, mostly IUCN, NYZS, Medem, and Pooley articles on the crocs, and IUCN, Carr, Pritchard, and Ross articles on the turtles. Can you think of any particular articles that should be included?

Sincerely,


F. Wayne King
Director of Conservation

FWK:dh



*Ministero
dell'Agricoltura e delle Foreste*

DIREZIONE GENERALE
PER L'ECONOMIA MONTANA E PER LE FORESTE

Roma, li

Dear Dr. Campbell,

thank you very much your letter of 8 june and for the careful informations concerning the endangering of the species of Crocodilians that I asked you and for the documents sent to me.

In effect it is necessary to undertake a strict observation of all rules of CITES and my engagement will be for a rapid ratification of Italy (within this year) without reservations.

In any case I wrote to Mr. Antony POOLEY to have recent dates on African species, Prof. Federico MEDEN for comments on situation of South American species and to Dr. Graham WEBB.

I will not hesitate to write you again as I will need other informations.

Sincerely yours

(Lucio Bortolotti)

Dr. Howard W. CAMPBELL
Chairman IUCN/SSC
Crocodile Specialist Group
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Fish and Wildlife
Laboratory
GAINESVILLE STATION
412 N.E. 16th AVE, ROOM 250
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601
U.S.A.



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TELEPHONE: (202) ~~367-8888~~
797-7901

September 10, 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

Please find enclosed a preliminary draft of our sea turtle report. We would appreciate your comments and a evaluation of our data. The trade figures have been compiled from a wide variety of sources and we feel that our analysis probably reflects some deficiencies.

If you could find time to please help us once again and send us your comments during the next three weeks, we would be very grateful. Thank you for your assistance and guidance.

Best regards,

Nicole

Nicole Duplaix
Director - TRAFFIC (USA)

Enclosure: Sea Turtle Report

Dear George,

I wrote to Uehida asking for information on sea turtle trade in Japan & just recently was told that a Mr. Johnson at the U.S. Embassy in Japan is compiling information on sea turtle trade, so I wrote him also. I sent copies also to Peter, Archie, Dick Felger, Wayne, Jack Frazer, and others for their comments.

Look forward to seeing you in November.

David Mack

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



the florida
state museum
museum road
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of florida
gainesville
32611
904/392-1721

10 August 1979

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

Dear George:

The attached letters are self-explanatory. The situation is desperate for the bill which would decrease the boundaries of the Tortuguero National Park and allow the export of sea turtle products has already passed the Costa Rican Congress. The only chance of preventing this bill from becoming law is to persuade President of the Republic Rodrigo Carazo Odio to veto it. If it should become law it will provide Costa Rica with a legal basis for violating the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. It evidently passed because a number of the Costa Rican congressmen simply did not understand the implications. Letters to the President are urgently needed. Feel free to excerpt the information in the attached materials, but please do not reveal the source of the information in Costa Rica--I also encourage you to maintain the individuality of your letter by avoiding direct quotes from the material. Letters should be addressed to:

Lic. Rodrigo Carazo Odio
The President of the Republic
Casa Presidencial
San Jose, Costa Rica

Time is short so please do not delay.

Sincerely,

Wayne
F. Wayne King

Enclosures

FWK:chn

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

16 July 1979

Dr. J. A. Tosi
Centro Cientifico Tropical
Apartado 8-3870
San Jose, Costa Rica

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter with the dismal news of the proposal to move the seaward limits of Tortuguero National Park closer in toward shore. This move will make it next to impossible to prevent massive exploitation and poaching. It took us 17 years to persuade Nicaragua to stop exporting green turtles and it is distressing to learn that Costa Rica, for years a model of conservation conscience, has degraded the protection provided for the West Caribbean green turtle in its one remaining place of reproduction at Tortuguero.

The Tortuguero nesting colony will not withstand exploitation. Before the three Nicaraguan packing plants were closed three years ago, extinction curves worked out by Karen Bjorndal from our Tortuguero data showed that the population would be exhausted within 35 years. Now that export trade in Nicaragua has been stopped, if Costa Rica continues to protect Tortuguero it may be possible to stabilize the population. This is by no means certain, because local demand is increasing rapidly.

One reason the Limon turtle fishermen are so anxious to come in close to shore off the nesting beach is that the turtles mate there. When the pairs are courting or copulating it is easy to harpoon both

JUL 19 1979

sexes without a chase. Another reason is that people can be put ashore at night to turn turtles at the nest, then buoy them with logs, and the next morning release them in the surf to be easily caught by canoes waiting offshore. So catching green turtles in the water off the nesting beach is not very different from turning them on shore. Reaction against killing turtles on the breeding ground has spread all over the world. If Costa Rica lets turtle boats operate close inshore it will be one of the only remaining countries in the world that allows such violation.

The number of Costa Ricans who derive economic benefit from commerce in turtles is very small. The statement, quoted in La Republica, that 5,000 "hogares" are involved is ridiculous. For Costa Rica to let this noisy minority impair its reputation for enlightened concern for the natural assets of the country is incomprehensible.

One factor in the attack by the Limonenses on the Park Boundary Law is that last year's nesting colony was exceptionally large. There is no possibility that the 1978 peak in nesting reflected a sudden increase in the population. It was no doubt partly due to the closing of the three Nicaraguan turtle-packing plants two years before. The Miskito Bank turtle hunters harvest both adult turtles and sub-adults within two or three years of maturity. Closing the packing plants must have increased the number of migrants to the Tortuguero breeding ground one to three years later. Moreover, much of the turtling for the Nicaraguan plants was done

by setting nets in the "mud-set" area, where Miskito Bank green turtles en route to Tortuguero pass in concentrations very near the coast, and where they can easily be intercepted by nets.

A more important cause of the big 1978 season, however, was probably just the drastic, unexplained fluctuations that the nesting aggregation undergoes. Tortuguero turtles never nest at any other locality, so a slump in nesting cannot be attributed to a change in breeding grounds. The fluctuation is probably somehow related to the diversity and shifts of migratory periods of the individual females. No female nests every year; intervals between nestings are 2, 3 or 4 years, with 3 years predominating. However, no female is locked into a single period length; she may change from a two-year interval to one of three years, and then back again. So we are now inclined to attribute at least some of the peculiar waxing and waning of the nesting population to coincident period-shifts that increase or decrease the expected number of arrivals in a given year. The West Caribbean green turtle populations based on Tortuguero did not suddenly grow larger last year; and for Costa Rica to emasculate its model turtle regulation because Limon fishermen saw a lot of turtles last season seems very shortsighted.

The turtles that come to Tortuguero to nest usually stay there for six weeks or more, nesting on the average three times, at 12-day intervals. Anne Meylan's research has shown that during the interesting periods, they

move back and forth along the coast, rarely going far in either direction or out to sea. Thus, throughout the season there is a concentration of female turtles in this "internesting" habitat, and these have only partly completed their season's reproduction. It is to get access to this habitat that the turtle fishermen want the offshore hunting limit cut down from 12 miles to three miles.

Prior to 1977 when the turtling was legal to within 3 miles from shore that limit was totally disregarded. Enforcement was impossible, and the boats regularly came in just beyond the breakers and often speared turtles that had just been tagged and released by workers of the Tortuguero green turtle program. One of our research projects, designed to investigate internesting ecology and departure courses, was repeatedly disrupted when the turtle boats seized the tracking buoys and hauled in our experimental turtles. This occurred regularly right in front of the research station, with several of us watching helplessly on the beach. Thus, the proposed reduction of the protected zone will be tantamount to giving the harpoon boats free access to the breeding colony. I know of no civilized country in the world that knowingly tolerates such abuse.

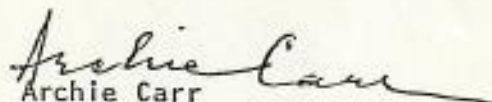
The political pressure from the vociferous vested minority in Limon ought to be weighed against the loss of prestige for Costa Rica around the world. Only two months ago Costa Rica was host to the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convencion Sobre el Comercio Internacional de

Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestre. Costa Rica concurred in listing the green turtle on Appendix 1 of this treaty, a designation that prohibits all international trade in the species. At the Cuarta Reunion Tecnica Sobre Animales Migratorias (Programa Regional de Desarrollo Cientifica y Tecnologico) of the OAS, a resolution was passed congratulating Costa Rica for its exemplary stewardship of the Tortuguero nesting ground of the green turtle.

This move to change the Park law was so surreptitious and unexpected that it has taken us by complete surprise. Billy Cruz, who has been away in London for several weeks will find it quite hard to cope with the reverse. Your interest is thus very welcome indeed. If you are willing to take an active part in opposing this backward move, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation will be most grateful and will provide any help it possibly can. Billy Cruz is in a position to help with local publicity for any counter moves you and ASCONA can generate. If you, in Costa Rica, think it will be helpful we can quickly set in motion through the IUCN an international campaign of protest, in the form of letters to President Carrazo from people in high places around the world.

Meanwhile, I am extremely glad you are on the side of the turtles.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Technical Director
Caribbean Conservation Corporation

cc: ASCONA
Billy Cruz
Wayne King
Colin Phipps



Hawaii Marine Charters, Ltd.

Post Office Box 1855 · Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96732 · Phone (808) 242-9600

8/10

George -

The enclosed were sent back to me by mistake -

Thanks for your assistance - the story came out extremely well. Thanks to your stunning photos. I hope to get the opportunity to collaborate with you again soon -

Phil

BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM

P. O. Box 6037, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818 • Telephone 847-3511

(5) Sept. 1979

Dear George,

Thank a lot for your help in editing these labels. There are a lot of words scratched out + others written in, but I think you'll be able to follow it ok.

My father has reviewed the text up to page 18, + I have revised where necessary according to his suggestions.

I have penciled in notes where I have questions or where one of your photos or specimens is needed.

My deadline for turning in the final text copy is Sept. (17). Between now + then I need to have your comments, my Dad's comments on the second half + I need to have one of our museum editors look it over for readability + grammatical errors.

With any luck we'll get this thing put together on time. Oh, before I forget, please keep the evening of November (20th) open. We're having an opening night reception for the Bishop Museum Association + other guests, + as Hawaii's resident turtle man you will (hopefully) be our guest of honor. You may have to share the spotlight with a turtle (if we can get one) but I'm sure you won't mind!

Thank for your help,

Dave Kemble
Exhibits Chairman

Carla

SINCE NINETEEN-HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

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

August 13 1979

Dear George:

Many thanks for your note and the copy of the Carranza documents. For your information I am sending a copy of a letter I just sent off to Shomura.

Sorry I didn't get a chance to contact you again. I spent two very interesting days on the Big Island; and, as I anticipated might be the case, did not get back to Hilo in time to get a flight earlier than the one I was booked on. It also seemed that I would have had to pay more if I made another stop-over in Honolulu, and cash at that point was running pretty low; so I ended up flying straight through to Los Angeles.

I do not yet have a copy of the Solomon Islands paper, so if you have a chance perhaps you could make a xerox of yours for me and send it on.

I am hoping that a way will be found for me to attend the Noumea meeting. Perhaps you would be kind enough to encourage Richard Shomura in this direction in any way you see fit.

I really enjoyed my evening at your house. Warmest thanks to you and Linda for your hospitality.

Best regards,

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

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

August 13, 1979

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

Dear Richard:

I am writing to thank you for the invitation to attend the NMFS Honolulu turtle research meeting, and to say how struck I was with the interest shown by all of the fisheries officials present and by the difficult and penetrating questions that they asked us. My congratulations to you for instigating and conducting this most worthwhile conference.

I believe we departed with a fair consensus that any funds NMFS may have for turtle research in the Central and Western Pacific area should generally be committed to two separate approaches. First, we are all agreed that George Balazs' excellent work throughout the Hawaiian archipelago should be put on a more secure funding basis. While it is true that George has sufficient dedication to continue with turtle research in Hawaii even if he has to pay for it out of his own pocket, I would like to emphasize that the work George has been doing during the last few years has been of enormous value to everyone working on sea turtles. His work particularly with basking turtles and with the variable growth rates of juvenile turtles in different parts of the archipelago has, as far as I know, no counterpart elsewhere in the world. He deserves solid NMFS support to continue this work, and I trust you will be able to ensure that it is available.

The other part of the work, as we all agreed, is to gather at least some preliminary data on the eighteen or so "turtle islands" that we identified in Micronesia and Samoa, that have never been investigated by a biologist and the status of whose turtles remains unknown. The area, of course, is an uncommonly difficult one to work in because of the vast distances involved. But I believe that liaison with military authorities should make it possible for the islands we identified in the Marshalls to be examined from aircraft, and turtle tracks and nest pits on beaches observed and counted. I agree with Mike McCoy that a more profitable approach in the other districts would be to place volunteers on the islands themselves, for periods of several weeks where possible, to monitor the nesting turtles and the numbers collected by visitors

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

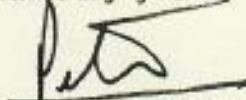
921 Lake Sybilla Drive • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751
(305) 647-2615

Richard Shomura
August 13, 1979
Page 2

from neighboring (or distant) inhabited islands. Base-line data of this kind will be necessary if we are ever to get a hold of the status of stocks of the sea turtle populations of the Central and Western Pacific, and to make any adequately informed recommendations for their proper management. At the present time, as I mentioned at the meeting, it is probable that all stocks are in a state of severe and advanced depletion. The difference between the numbers of turtles nesting on the Micronesian turtle islands and the green turtle islands of Australia may in part reflect different ecological limiting factors, but I believe it also reflects the result of years or centuries of uncontrolled exploitation of the turtles and their eggs at the stage of the life cycle at which exploitation can least be tolerated.

I received today an official notice of the Noumea meeting in December. As I mentioned to you in Honolulu, I am extremely keen to attend this conference, and if desirable to present a paper on turtles of Papua New Guinea or Micronesia, if some source of funding can be located. I am advised that the round trip fare from Orlando to Noumea would be \$2,200 (though there are possibilities of cheaper excursion rates), and the only expenses in addition to that would be a small per diem for the duration of the meeting. Please let me know if you think NMFS could approve such an expenditure.

Sincerely yours,



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

P.S. - My personal supply of copies of Marine Turtles of Micronesia is now exhausted. There may still be some available in the hands of the publisher, Mr. R. M. Christensen, 536 Fifth Avenue, San Francisco, California 94118. If you think there would be any need for a substantial number of copies to be distributed at the Noumea meeting or elsewhere, he could probably also find out how much reprinting would cost; I assume he still has the original printer's mechanicals.

cc: Harold Hirth
Archie Carr
George Balazs
Mike McCoy



United States Department of the Interior

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/OES Sp

SEP 11 1979

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

Dear George:

I want to thank you for inviting me to attend the Marine Turtle Workshop to be held in December at Noumea, New Caledonia. Although I applied for permission to attend and present a paper, my request was rejected because it does not relate to present priorities, travel restraints, and the amount of time consumed in attending such a distant meeting. I hope you will let me know how it goes and that I can obtain a copy of the proceedings when published. Good luck with the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr., Ph.D.
Staff Herpetologist
Office of Endangered Species





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

Duval Building
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

September 7, 1979

TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: Charles A. Oravetz, FSE6 *Chuck*
SUBJECT: New Telephone Number

The new number for the Environmental and Technical Services Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Task Team is: FTS: 826-3366, COMM: 813-893-3366. Mr. Oravetz and Dr. Sylvester's replacement can be reached at this number. A secondary number is: FTS: 826-3720, COMM: 813-893-3720.

DISTRIBUTION:
All SERO Personnel
F12x4, Fred Berry
F6
Turtle Recovery Team
FWS, Ken Chitwood (Atlanta)



Dept. of Biological Sciences
James Cook University of North Queensland
Greenland.
Australia, 4811.

21. August. 1979

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

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter received 15th August.
I am sorry for the delay in replying, but the existing workload presently experienced by myself inevitably creates some delays.

The turtle witnessed was quite definitely a green turtle + the time of day of the sighting was around 1 p.m. The turtle, I assumed at first, to be dead, as it was lying at about the upper level of high tide marks. On my approach it raised its head, but made no attempt to crawl away. It was lying in the shade of some large boulders + was facing seawards. I continued to approach the turtle + subsequently picked it up, whereupon it began beating its flippers in a swimming motion (my bruised fingers attest to the vigor of this beating). It had no apparent wounds of any sort + seemed to be in reasonable health. The creature was dry + I assumed it had been out of the water for a considerable period of time, the tide at this stage was about 2 hours from being low. I then carried the turtle to the waters edge, + on its immersion, immediately sped off in the direction of deeper water. This further indicated the animal to be in no way physically lacking in strength.

It would be difficult to determine whether the turtle had been left stranded or was, as you say possibly basking (although in shade). It was in a slight depression on a large expanse of rock, with some associated rocky rubble (small diameter) but it seemed that, with the tide falling, the incline of this rocky shoreline being quite steep (about a 1 in 5 drop), the turtle would

have been able to quite easily reach deeper water.

Its carapace length was about 40 centimetres + its exact location was on the eastern end of Coconut Beach, Lizard Island

Unfortunately I did not have a camera at the time of the sighting, but I hope the above description is adequate for your purposes. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please have no hesitation in contacting me,

yours most sincerely,

W Anderson

W. ANDERSON

THIS FORM MUST BEAR POSTAGE AT THE RATE FOR AIR MAIL LETTERS.

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JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY OF N. Q.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEPT.

WARWICK ANDERSON

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

(U.S.A.)

KANOA, HAWAII 96744

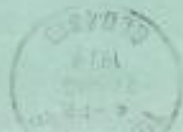
P.O. BOX 1346

HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY,

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA,

GEORGE H. BALOGS

AUSTRALIA 30c



AEROGRAMME



PESQUERA INDUSTRIAL DE OAXACA, S. A.
PUERTO ANGEL, OAXACA

ETZATLAN 28 (COL. MAZA)
MEXICO 2. D. F.

TELEFONO
789 - 95 - 00

Agosto 7, 1979,

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

Estimado Peter:

En contestación a tu carta de fecha 24 de julio pasado, deseo indicarte lo siguiente:

Veo los nombres de personas de alto prestigio científico, con lo que a tortuga marina se refiere; y me dá mucho gusto ser anfitrión en México de dichas personalidades.

Una vez más confirmo lo que te ratifiqué en mi carta anterior, respecto a los gastos de todos los invitados, que correrán por cuenta de nuestra compañía a partir de su llegada a México, Distrito Federal.

Una vez analizada la fecha más idónea, para poder percatarse dichos señores de la labor que desarrollamos en México, tanto en la pesquería como en la protección de tortuga marina "*Lepidochelys olivácea*", sugerimos que dicha reunión se celebre dentro de la segunda quincena del mes de septiembre, confirmándote dentro de este mes o a más tardar antes del 5 de septiembre próximo, la fecha exacta de la llegada a México. Nosotros nos encargaremos de todo lo que a desplazamiento dentro de México se refiere, por lo cual debes despreocuparte de este problema.

Sin otro particular de momento, aprovecho la ocasión para saludarte muy atentamente.

Antonio Suárez G.

c.c. Carlos Nagel
Wayne King ✓
Archie Carr

David Ehrenfeld
Laura Tangley
Jack Woody

D r. Jorge Carranza

AUG 24 1979

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



the florida
state museum
museum road
university
of florida
gainesville
32611
904/392-1721

28 August 1979

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

Dear George:

Enclosed are copies of the only materials I have concerning the visit to Suarez' operation in Oaxaca. Please note that the card from Peter indicates that a reservation has been made in my name at the Hotel Geneve located on Calle Londres. I will phone Peter and ask to have the reservation changed to your name. However, if you find you have no reservation when you arrive in Mexico City, don't forget to ask for the room I would have occupied.

I am today requesting that a check in the amount of \$500 be forwarded to you from the New York Zoological Society to pay for your roundtrip air fare from Honolulu to Mexico City. I hope it arrives before you actually depart.

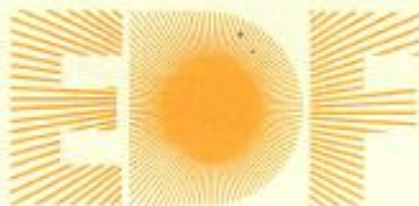
The only other background I can give you on the meeting is derived from my discussions from Peter. He met with Suarez when he was returning from his last trip to Rancho Nuevo. During those discussions Suarez indicated that he is concerned over the criticism being leveled at him by conservationists around the world, but felt that things were being misrepresented. He pointed out to Peter that while a number of the arribadas have disappeared where PIOSA has control of the rookery beaches, at least a few are still occurring each year. Where PIOSA has no control, the arribadas have disappeared completely. I can't help wondering if he might argue that Dachau was not as bad as Auschwitz because they didn't kill as many people there. Peter in no way is saying that Suarez is not to be excused for what he is doing to sea turtles, however, he does believe that Suarez may be the lesser of several evils and therefore deserving of our efforts to proselytize him.

Incidentally, I indicated to Peter that I felt it was extremely useful to do a bit of role-playing with Suarez. Peter will be the

"friendly conciliator" who will constantly remind Suarez that if he does not compromise he will come under more and more criticism from the conservation community. I, on the other hand, was going to play the role of "uncompromising hard-line conservationist" and criticise the PIOSA operation at every opportunity. Since I will not be going you will have to assume the role of "tough guy". If we are successful in getting Suarez to change his operations at all it will probably be through this combination of friendly conciliator trying to help him avoid criticism from the hard-liners. Peter agreed this is the approach we should take, so please have at Suarez and the PIOSA operation, but do it diplomatically.

Sincerely


Wayne King



September 11, 1979

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Post Office Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Enclosed is the final biological opinion of the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning Kaula Island. The opinion concludes that dropping of live ordnance on the island during December through April is likely to jeopardize the survival of the endangered humpback whale.

Although this biological opinion does not, by itself, constitute a prohibition of live ordnance bombing during the specified months, the Navy cannot continue bombing without running the risk of a citizen lawsuit to enjoin it. In such suits, the courts have given a strong presumption of validity to the conclusions of the expert agency biological opinions. The Navy could, within the next 90 days, seek an exemption from the Endangered Species Act pursuant to the exemption process created by the 1978 amendments to that Act. The Navy could also seek to have the Secretary of Defense certify that continued bombing "is necessary for reasons of national security", which would automatically exempt the bombing from the Act.

Despite these theoretical options available to the Navy, I have been informally and unofficially advised that the Navy is content to conform its practices to the requirements of the biological opinion and will eliminate live ordnance bombing during the specified months. If you have anything to the contrary, please advise me.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Bean
Chairman, Wildlife Program

Enclosure

MJB/sc

TURTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

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

with
stamp
and

Your Ref.:

Our Ref: TINP/55/1/53

Date: 1st September, 1979.



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



Dear George,

Many thanks for your note and the useful enclosures which came as I was preparing a note on the Philippine situation for the conference. I am hoping to make it and see you, Linda and the boy en route.

In Hawaii, you have a small but excellent aquarium and I want to have another look at it. We may be able to establish one on ~~the~~ our islands on a smaller scale for educational purposes.

Incidentally, will it be possible for you to collect few uncommon sea shells for me? If so, they will be very welcome. Hoping to see you soon if all goes well.

With all good wishes and kind regards to both of you.

Yours sincerely

Stanley
G. S. de Silva.



malaysia sarawak 10c



Mr. George Balasz

University of Hawaii at Manoa,

Hawaii, Institute of Marine Biology,

P. O. Box 1346, Coconut Island, Kaneohe,

Hawaii, 96744, United States of America.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address:

Turtle Islands National Parks

P. O. Box No: 768 Sandakan,

Sabah, East Malaysia



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

← First fold here →

Handwritten text: 58, 10.2.80

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



30 August 1979

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

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

Dear George:

I am working on my papers for the Washington Conference and would like to ask you a few favors along these lines. For a paper on migration, I am trying to briefly summarize tag return data for each colony that has received attention. Is there new information, since your 1976 migration paper, which you would like included in this summary? If so, please provide me with the details and proper citation. Could you tell me approximately how many turtles have been tagged, all together, at French Frigate Shoals?

Dr. Carr mentioned that you had observed turtles basking between nestings. There is one mention of this in your 1976 paper. Have you additional records of this? If so, is this information published anywhere? I would like to mention this in my interesting paper.

Thanks for your time and help. I'm looking forward to meeting you in Washington.

Sincerely,


Anne Meylan

9/4/79

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WILLAMETTE VALLEY & OREGON COASTAL
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX
ROUTE 2, BOX 208
CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330

Dear George & Lynda -

Thanks for sending me the copy of Emmett Finch's letter to the editor. Sounds like Emmett hasn't changed one bit.

I notice they (FWS) are advertising for a new refuge manager and also a new staff wildlife man for the Hawaii Area Office. Understand they were holding off on the latter till Kriller retired. I hear the new Area Administrator Dale Coggeshall is doing an acceptable job. Will be interested in your impressions.

All is well here. Nothing really exciting or new. We've been working on the garden most of the summer, now on a patio and treehouse.

Took Matt to Disneyland earlier this summer. Really great! Can't say the same for the rest of Los Angeles.

Hope all is fine with you. Best regards,
Falmer

...y, the knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal characteristics involved
...ing out the duties and responsibilities of your current and past positions.

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Series/Grade</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Personnel Office Receiving Applications</u>
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Include: (1) Ability to type scientific, technical and other specialized material from rough draft into final form; (2) Ability to establish and maintain a variety of files; (3) Ability to interpret federal travel and administrative regulations and procedures; (4) Ability to work effectively with co-workers, the public sector, and other government agencies; and (5) Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing. This is a Career-Seasonal position not to exceed 50 weeks per year. Full performance level of this position is GS-4.

**Refuge Manager	GS-485-12	Hawaiian & Pacific Islands NWR, Honolulu, Hawaii	Region 1
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Ranking factors include: (1) Demonstrated ability/high potential as an effective project leader; (2) Demonstrated ability to work closely and communicate effectively with a broad spectrum of groups and individuals including numerous native, private, local, state, and governmental agencies; (3) Ability to formulate and implement operational plans for protection and management of wildlife populations and habitats, for public use, and for wildlife investigations; (4) Demonstrated ability to apply analytical skills and to prepare, direct, and manage program plans and budgets, and (5) Demonstrated ability to develop and consider alternatives and reach workable decisions/solutions. A probationary period will be required for any selectee who has not previously served as a supervisor. Full performance level of this position is GS-12.

**Refuge Manager	GS-485-11	Columbia NWR Othello, Washington	Region 1
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Ranking factors include: (1) Knowledge of and demonstrated experience with theories, principles and methods of wildlife management; (2) Experience in working closely and communicating effectively with a broad spectrum of groups and individuals including numerous private, local, state and government agencies; (3) Experience in the preparation and management of budgets, work plans, program schedules, and other planning documents; (4) Ability to supervise, train and accomplish work through a staff of employees with various backgrounds and skills; and (5) Experience in planning, organizing, and implementing wildlife-oriented public use programs. A probationary period will be required for any selectee who has not previously served as a supervisor. Full performance level of this position is GS-11.

**Supv. Wildlife Biologist (Management)	GS-486-11	Animal Damage Control Reno, Nevada	Region 1
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Incumbent serves as Assistant State Supervisor in Reno, Nevada as principal assistant to the project leader in managing the Nevada Animal Damage Control Program. Ranking factors include: (1) Previous experience in operational animal damage control program

(2) Experience in supervision and administration; (3) Experience and ability to work cooperatively with other state and federal administrators, agencies, individuals; and (4) Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing with individuals and diverse groups. A probationary period will be required for any selectee who has not previously served as a supervisor. Full performance level of this position is GS-11.

Maintenanceman	WG-4749-7 PH \$6.95 to \$8.11	WG-4749-8 \$7.23 to \$8.43 PH	Sheldon-Hart Mountain-Modoc NWR, Denio, NV	Region 1
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Ranking factors include: (1) Initiative, knowledge, and demonstrated skill required to carry out duties with minimum supervision; (2) Experience and skill in supervision; (3) Ability to plan, implement, and carry out work projects; (4) Willingness to perform law enforcement duties; and (5) Willingness and ability to live and work in an isolated duty station. Other considerations: Duty station is located 27 miles west of Denio, Nevada. The closest medical facilities are 100-120 miles away in Winnemucca, Nevada or Lakeview, Oregon. Denio has very limited shopping facilities and a grade school. If successful applicant has not had required law enforcement training he/she will be required to attend FLETC in Glenco, Georgia. Incumbent required to live in government housing.

+Supv. Fish & Wildlife Biologist	GS-401-12/13	Office of the Administrator Honolulu, Hawaii	Region 1
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Ranking factors include: (1) Demonstrated ability/high potential as an effective project leader; (2) Demonstrated ability to work closely and communicate effectively with a broad spectrum of groups and individuals including numerous native, private, local, state and governmental agencies; (3) Ability to formulate and implement operational plans for protection and management of wildlife populations and habitats, for public use, and for fish and wildlife investigations; (4) Demonstrated ability to prepare, direct and manage program plans and budgets to apply analytical skills; (5) Demonstrated ability to develop and consider alternatives and reach workable decision/solutions; and (6) Experience with tropical and semi-tropical environments and knowledge of Endangered Species Act and its amendments desirable, but not mandatory. A probationary period will be required for any selectee who has not previously served as a supervisor. Full performance level of this position is GS-13.

Secretary (Typing)	GS-113-4	Law Enforcement Boise, Idaho	Region 1
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Amended to include the statement: This is a Career-Seasonal position not to exceed 50 weeks per year.

MICRONESIAN MARITIME AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX D; KOLONIA, PONAPE
EASTERN CAROLINE ISLANDS. 96941

August 9, 1979

Mr. George Balazs
HIMB
P.O.Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii
96744

Dear George,

I returned to Ponape to have a letter awaiting me from Margie Falanruw urging my attendance at the Washington Conference. This was followed in a day by an urgent telegram from Sylvia Silverstein requesting to know if I would attend and present a paper. My first inclinations were to write Sylvia and request the cash, sending the paper by air mail, and using the money to put 2 or 3 people on West Fayu next summer for the nesting season. For what it will cost to get me to Washington, I could double the amount of knowledge we now have on sea turtles in Micronesia.

But then the bureaucratic-self surfaced and told me that if we got to Washington and presented a comprehensive plan to people, that we might obtain funding for some real work along the lines I've been plugging for the past four or five years. So, I buy a pair of galoshes & will meet you in DC.

In the interim I hope to work on refining some of my ideas on research out here, and to correspond with Shomura on his plans. I would shoot for the nesting season beginning about March 1981 for my own personal involvement; and next year with my relatives (including Piailug) for some preliminary work. So, in this context the Washington meeting might enable me to see who's who and what's what, and I'll be looking forward to hints and thoughts from you.

Aside from standing in line for funding, I will be fairly tied up with negotiations regarding fishing rights in early and mid-November. There is no way I can attend the Noumea meeting (for fisheries) and be on Satawal for Christmas

con't.letter8-9-79

at the same time, so trust you and the crew can attend and obtain worthwhile information.

Thanks so much for including me in your social activities with Drs. Carr, Hirth & Pritchard; my wife and I had a good and informative evening. The best to your family, and start looking around the Goodwill in Honolulu for a size 46 overcoat for me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike A. McCoy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "M" and "A".

Mike A. McCoy
Executive Director, MMA



29th Aug '77

Dear Peter, Archie, George —

Some points on your letters about the newsletter:

In various previous letters and remarks of mine, I have stressed 3 things: the need for information, status, and the need for financial support. I am sorry that people seem to be focussing only on the status thing. Of course in itself this is ridiculous, but there are other absurd things too. Although this is an IUCN newsletter, I cannot get information from IUCN despite requests. I have in fact received virtually nothing since the start of this year although I know they have material relevant to sea turtles over this period. For instance, there is material relevant to headstarting; I don't want to devote an issue to this without knowing about it. It is my belief that as IUCN are so concerned about status, this might help with them, though sometimes I despair of them. I don't mind being the cause for laughter, but I would appreciate some help also. Please try to accept that my request for status was as a means to solve certain problems.

The funding situation has deteriorated recently, in that WWF Canada now are saying that starting in 1980 they cannot fund the newsletter without some matching help from WWF International. They will, I think, continue with interim funds through this year.

As I have indicated before, I plan to try to continue the newsletter through this year, funds permitting, and fulfil present obligations. This would also enable us to get a better appreciation of each other's views at the Washington Conference.

One alternative for 1980 I raised before would be to have George or someone else run something for IUCN, with me continuing mailing on an independent basis when I felt moved. The Mittags have twice indicated, without any suggestion on my part, that they think the newsletter a useful thing, and would probably be able to help. Of course this would raise suspicions in some quarters, but I think it would be possible to take an independent line; at least I would not be willing to run a newsletter if it was not. There might also be other sources of support. The more general point is that I think we should not be stuck with the notion that the newsletter has to be an IUCN one. What is needed is support to run it in a creative way, and if funds for fact finding (i.e. long distance phone calls) were provided perhaps I could compensate by direct links for failure of Morges to send material.

Yours

Nicholas Mrosovsky

P.S. Peter, Archie: Rudloe's book. I spoke with Anne Meylan on the phone and she thought that someone at Gainesville would do the review. Now Peter has offered. Could you perhaps sort it out between you? I would be happy to have a review from either of you, or Archie's students. It should, however:

- a) not be too long, about 1/2 page of newsletter, or a little more if you are using the review as a vehicle for some interesting thoughts beyond the book.
- b) must reach me by September 27th, or it may not be in time for the October issue, which is in an advanced state now.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

August 20, 1979

Captain Jacques Cousteau
Cousteau Society
777 3rd Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Captain Cousteau:

We have heard that you may be on the verge of undertaking a film about marine turtles, and would like to bring to your attention what we feel to be one of the most critical problems in sea turtle conservation today. The hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) appears to be second only to the Gulf ridley (Lepidochelys kempi) as a candidate for imminent extinction. Although it has a circumtropical distribution, all known populations are believed to be declining. As a result of its tendency to nest diffusely throughout its range, hope to protect the reproductive members of the population is dim. Historically and at present the major drain on this species has not come from local subsistence - the meat is not even considered edible in some regions - but rather, from an irrepressible demand for tortoiseshell. The number of hawksbills killed in 1977 is estimated at between 100,000-140,000 (Report of Traffic IUCN/SSC). The main sources are Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, which provide over 60% of the world supply. Other major sources are India, Bangladesh, Panama, Cuba, Nicaragua, Kenya and Tanzania. Other exporting countries include all the Caribbean Islands, Fiji, Samoa, the Seychelles and the Maldives. In addition to the trade in shell, the market for stuffed juvenile turtles is estimated to be 24,000 turtles/yr.

The market is actually broader than the figures reveal. In nearly every coastal town in the Caribbean the profits to be made from tortoiseshell are known to the people. Consequently, tortoiseshell originating in countries that prohibit its sale is clandestinely funneled into open markets.

Importing countries often take comfort in the belief that the hawksbills from which the shell is taken would have been killed anyway for local consumption. The fact is that the demand for shell is generating its own market, and in so doing poses the most serious survival threat to the species today. The price of hawksbill shell in some areas so far exceeds that of the meat that many turtles are stripped of shell, amounting to maybe 4 or 5 pounds, and then discarded. In Bocas del Toro, Panama, shell sells for \$25-40/lb, while meat sells for 40¢/lb - if you can sell it. In remote areas, the cost of getting the meat to market is sometimes prohibitive.

Captain Jacques Cousteau
Cousteau Society

- 2 -

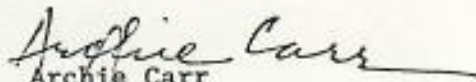
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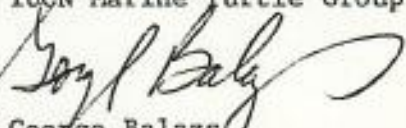
Although the traffic in shell brings some immediate income to people in need of it, it is at the same time depriving them of a resource on which they must depend, for many years to come, for protein.

The tortoiseshell is, as you may know, used primarily for decorative articles. In many places it has even become fashionable to display polished whole turtles in one's house. The market appears to have suffered only a slight setback from the introduction of synthetic tortoiseshell, although the two are nearly indistinguishable.

If you should decide to make a film on marine turtles, we urge you to take advantage of your access to millions of viewers, especially in Japan, to draw attention to this senseless exploitation of the world's hawksbill populations. If the tortoiseshell market in its present dimensions is allowed to continue, there seems to be no hope that the hawksbill will survive.

Sincerely,


Archie Carr
Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group


George Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

AC/GB:s

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

August 28, 1979

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

Dear George:

I'm sorry the Cousteau letter was mistakenly mailed to him. If you approve what it proposes, will you please sign the xerox copy and send it on, together with my apologetic note? If you object, explain your objections to him.

Please also peruse the enclosed list of members of the reorganized turtle group. If you have suggestions for changes please communicate them to Wayne, who is going to Morges shortly, or to Peter Scott, or to both. I'm leaving for Costa Rica for a week or so. I now have no compunctions about the plethora of Carr students on the list; and I think it would be simpleminded to exclude them. Moreover, inasmuch as Anne Meylan will be taking care of most of the detail of the Gainesville pole of the chairmanship, I think her contribution will merit designation by a formal role-name. I propose Agenda Officer. This doesn't necessarily have to be a title in the sense of an official SSC designation, but merely a committee term coined to recognize Anne's otherwise unrewarded function in the chairmanship role--the reward being simply an additional term for future C.V.'s.

I don't know what the status of Nicholas' request for a co-chairmanship is; I don't think, however, that we need to wait on that decision to propose to him that he continue the newsletter and remain a member of the Group, possibly as a member of the steering committee.

I haven't heard anything from Noumea since our Honolulu meeting. Do you know whether other communications have gone out? Do you know, also, whether prepaid tickets will be sent to you and me, as consultants?

I heard from Wayne today that you may join Peter, David Ehrenfeld and me at Suarez's soiree in Oaxaca. I hope you do--it will be an apocalyptic encounter if both you and David are there.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr

Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:ljw
enclosures

Barcelona, 21.VIII.79

Apreciado colega: Dr. G.H. Balazs

Dear Sir

Cher Collègue,

Sehr geehrter Herr Kollege,

Le agradezco el envío de sus artículos.

I acknowledge the reprints of your papers.

Je vous remercie l'envoi de vos publications.

Mit besten Dank bestätige ich ihre liebenswürdige Separatenversendung.

Le agradecería que me enviara una separata de su artículo:

If available for distribution, I would appreciate a reprint of your article:

Je vous serais obligé de m'envoyer un tiré à part de votre publication:

Ich wäre dankbar für die Zusendung Ihrer Veröffentlichung:

Atentamente

Yours sincerely

Avec mes meilleurs sentiments

Ihr sehr ergebener

J. Francesc Vilella

Sección de Herpetología



AYUNTAMIENTO DE BARCELONA

Museo de Zoología

BIBLIOTECA

Apartado de correos 593

Parque de la Ciudadela

BARCELONA (3)



Dr. George H. BALAZS

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

Hawaii

U.S.A.

Sylvia Spring,
Wildlife Division,
P.O. Box 2585,
KONEDOBU. P.N.G.
14th August, 1979.

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

Dear George,

I hear from Peter Pritchard that you are getting some pretty exciting results from your growth rate studies. I hope to be doing a similar study in some remote islands in P.N.G. next year, so I'll be interested in reading your results when they're published. In any case I'll be seeing you at the Conference in November. Speaking of the Conference, I guess you know that I'm doing a paper on the Status of Turtles in Melanesia. Peter tells me that you have a copy of Andy Mckoen's paper on the Solomons. I have written to Peter Vaughan asking him to get me a copy but in case it doesn't arrive in time could you send me a photocopy of yours. Many thanks.

Well nothing much exciting is happening here, I have been doing a few surveys in the Provinces collecting distribution and status data, but no research. Next year I hope to have some experienced Australian volunteers working with me doing some year round tagging and population studies. I need some help, its just too much for one person.

Well I guess that's about it, I enclose some material for you. I would really appreciate a photocopy of McKoen's paper and could you put me on your mailing list for publications.

Regards,

Sylvia


Sylvia Spring

P.O. Box 189,
Aitkenvale
Q 4814
Australia

14th August, 1979.

Dear George,

Your reply to Col's letter arrived today. As Col is, at this moment, involved in his crocodile field work & will not be back for four weeks, I have taken the liberty of answering your letter — or at least commenting on it. I feel that I must apologize for Col's apparent tactlessness in his letter to you.



He was extremely upset at the absence of Australia in the Status section of the seminar papers, not so much that he hadn't been asked to present a statement but that no one had been asked. Usually, he gives me the drafts of letters

2.

he writes for typing but these letters to the Planning Committee and to you I didn't see.

He has a high regard for you as a person and as a researcher and I feel that, when the two of you get together in Washington, you'll be able to sort things out. Your idea of a "ham" radio contact sounds good. I have a few friends here in Townsville who have the facilities — perhaps we may be able to link up sometime. Talk to Col about it.

Regarding John Honearsky — once again talk to Col at the meetings. I've booked Col's flights to Washington today so he definitely is going to be there. Unfortunately I'll not be able to attend.

Once again, I'm sorry for Col's hasty thoughts — as I feel they were. Please don't hold it against him. He feels very strongly about Australia's sea turtles.

Perhaps we'll meet sometime

Regards

Gail Simpson.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

August 21, 1979

FL42:RSS

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

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for your letter of 13 August 1979 and your comments regarding the Honolulu turtle meeting. I have received letters from several of the fisheries officers who were in attendance and all found the meeting to be extremely valuable and educational. I am extremely glad that I decided to expand the meeting at the last minute to include these fisheries officers. After all, these are the key people who can make the research "fly."

Peter, both Rene Grandperrin and I agree that your presence at the Noumea meeting would be extremely valuable. This is especially so since your recent work did involve a survey of the turtle resources of Papua New Guinea. We both thought we could locate funds to support your travel and per diem. By copy of this letter, I am going to suggest that Rene see if SPC will provide support for your participation. This would mean that NMFS would cover the travel costs for Archie Carr, George Balazs, and a pop dy expert. If Rene should run into any problems I am sure we will be able to resolve them. Thus, I would suggest that you plan on making reservations to attend that meeting.

Returning to the subject of the Honolulu meeting, Richard Uchida of my staff has prepared a summary of the meeting. I plan to send it out to participants within a week for comments. I am planning to use this report as a basis for drafting out the planning document which I described during the course of the workshop.

Peter, it was a pleasure meeting you and all the other turtle experts. I certainly learned a lot about turtles and am looking forward to continued close association with you.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Shomura
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

cc: ✓ G. Balazs
A. Carr
R. Grandperrin



JSC

The New Grounds
Slimbridge
Gloucester
GL2 7BT

Letter to the King of Spain

With the Compliments of

Jane Fenton

cc: David Munro
Charles de laas
Richard Folger
Archie Carr
Wayne King ✓
Richard Pitter
Janet Barber
IUCN/SSC Office, Forges

Jr
JP: 6.8.79

AUG 16 1979



THE NEW GROUNDS
SLIMBRIDGE
GLOUCESTER GL2 7BT

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

31st July 1979

Your Majesty

I write on a matter of some urgency concerning the conservation of marine turtles in Mexico, and I am hoping it might be possible for you to write two letters which could do much for the conservation of these animals. It is urgent because the nesting and hunting season has already begun.

The first letter would be to HE the President of Mexico and the second would be to Sr Antonio Suarez Gutierrez (Pesqueira Industrial de Oaxaca S.A., Etzatlan No 28, Colonia Maza, Mexico 2, D.F.) - a Spaniard now living in Mexico who owns or controls the sea turtle processing plants on the Pacific Coast. I am told that he is an intelligent man who realises that the turtles will become extinct very soon unless the exploitation can be significantly reduced. The two letters need not be at all detailed but should simply reflect the great international concern of the scientific and conservation communities for the survival of the Pacific and Atlantic sea turtle populations breeding on Mexican shores.

This concern is shared by the World Wildlife Fund and by the Survival Service Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. In the light of your Majesty's own concern for conservation, the point might be made that you would welcome any steps which the President, or Mr. Suarez Gutierrez might take to ensure the continued survival of these reptiles, which represent an important natural resource, if only it can be wisely husbanded.

I hope your Majesty will forgive me for bothering you with this matter, but there is no doubt that your help at this time would be especially valuable.

Please convey my very best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen.

I have the honour to be, Your Majesty,

Very respectfully yours,

Peter Scott.



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DAN DAVIS, Director

IMPORTANT

1/2 to 200
info p. 142/143
with school (11/22/79)
(Buller's)

May 8, 1979

Rec'd 19/7/79

28.7.79

Sir Peter Scott
c/o The Wild Fowl Trust
Slimbridge, Gloucester
GLS 7BT
ENGLAND

How is it possible that
this letter only came
on 19 July. I can't know, but
it did. ^{disc}
We've unfortunately lost
another 9 days.

Dear Sir Peter:

I am asking for assistance concerning the sea turtle situation in Mexico. Although we have been able to demonstrate that sea turtle conservation in Mexico is possible, the populations continue to crash primarily due to excessive takes. The major problem centers around taking animals at the nesting and breeding sites in southern Mexico, mostly on the Pacific coast. One man, Sr. Antonio Suarez, owns or controls the sea turtle processing plants on the Pacific coast. He has considerable power. Luckily, he is an intelligent and sensible man, and realizes that the sea turtles will become extinct if something cannot be done. Yet, he continues to exploit sea turtles. He is a Spaniard, now living in Mexico.

I believe we have had some influence on the situation, and yesterday I was told that the harvest quotas this year will be substantially reduced and that no female turtles will be taken. This is probably not good enough to satisfy the conservation community, but it is a significant change in attitude. Suarez has the ability to protect major sea turtle nesting sites, and we are applying peer pressure to persuade him to change his ways. It is with this in mind that I am wondering if it would be possible for you to prevail upon the King of Spain, Juan Carlos, to send a letter to the President of Mexico, and, most importantly, a letter to Sr. Suarez. This would be very significant. The letter would not have to be detailed, but merely reflect the great concern of the scientific and conservation community concerning the desperate situation for sea turtles in Mexico. Since the nesting and hunting season begin soon, anything that can be done to expedite correspondence might well affect the sea turtles. Because of continued cultural ties and strong feelings about Spain, such a letter should be very effective. The address for Sr. Suarez is:

INSERT
address
in brackets

Sr. Antonio Suarez Gutierrez
Pesqueira Industrial de Oaxaca S.A.
Etzatlan #28
Colonia Maza
MEXICO 2, D.F.

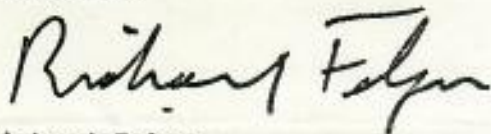
Page Two
May 8, 1979

Although continued effort from the scientific and conservation community is needed, letters from royalty would add a new dimension.

It would also be helpful to have any letters from other royalty sent to the President of Mexico, concerning sea turtles. Again, the content is probably not so important as the fact that the international community shows concern. The effect is cumulative and I think we are starting to see some results of our efforts.

Please give my best to Lady Scott and Jane Fenton.

Sincerely,

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

Richard Felger
Senior Research Scientist

RF/ggh
cc: Nancy Hammond



TRAFFIC (USA)
1601 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
CABLE: PANDAFUND TELEX: 64505
TELEPHONE: (202) 797-7901

August 7, 1979

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Colleague,

The IUCN/Survival Service Commission will meet next in Cambridge on 10-13 September. The next day, 14 September, is the 70th birthday of our Chairman, Sir Peter Scott. We will mark the occasion by presenting Peter with a bound collection of congratulatory letters from members of the Commission and Specialist Groups. We hope you will join us by sending a personal congratulatory letter that can be included in the collection. Letters should be addressed to Peter but sent to:

Nicole Duplaix, Director
TRAFFIC (USA)
1601 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20009
U.S.A.

We are also planning to give Peter a suitable personal gift from the Commission members. If you should wish to contribute to the purchase of the gift, please send a voluntary donation to Nicole at the above address.

Time is short so please do not forget to send the congratulatory letter and, above all else, please keep this confidential so Peter will be surprised. - - - HURRY!!

Sincerely,

F. Wayne King
Deputy Chairman, SSC

Nicole Duplaix
Chairman,
SSC Otter Spec. Group



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD
P. O. BOX 50223
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

IN REPLY REFER TO:

INV 8-8071

August 16, 1979

Received by me this date the following item which has been temporarily loaned to Mr. George Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Kaneohe, Hawaii;

One (1) stuffed green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas)

David Hiji
Receiving Official

James H. Bartee
James H. Bartee
Sr. Resident Agent
Transferring Official



Save Energy and You Serve America!



MARINE SCIENCES CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
Diliman, Quezon City 3004
Philippines

7 August 1979

Dr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1067
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Balazs:

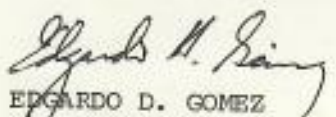
The South Pacific Commission has just sent me an announcement sheet and draft agenda for the Workshop on Marine Turtles and I have learned that you will be directing the meeting. This workshop will be of great interest to us since the Philippines is now in the preliminary stage of formulating a marine turtle conservation program. The President has just issued an executive order for the creation of a task force to draw up the program. I have been informally approached to play a key role in the program.

As with a number of other activities relating to marine resources, we literally have to start from scratch. I am therefore in the process of gathering information that will be useful for the task force.

I am writing to you for some assistance. Firstly, I will be happy to be kept posted on your activities and, in particular, on the plans for the workshop as those crystallize. Secondly, I will appreciate receiving from you any publications you might spare on marine turtles in general. Thirdly, I will be happy if you can send me the names and addresses of key people involved in marine turtle research. Lastly, may I ask you whom to contact about the details for the "World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation" to be held in Washington, D.C. 26-30 November 1979. I feel someone from the Philippines should attempt to attend that meeting.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Very truly yours,


EDGARDO D. GOMEZ
Director



August 2, 1979

Dear George,

I received a letter from W.T. Brown of the South Pacific Commission asking me to nominate observers for the regional turtle workshop in Noumea this December, but pointing out that funds would not be provided. I noted from the enclosures that you are listed as organizing the turtle part of this meeting.

Since funds are not provided, and it is very late ~~to~~ anyway, I don't see much point in my nominating observers as I have no idea who would be able to obtain any funds, if anyone. I would have thought it more appropriate, if you are organizing this meeting, and are in the know about what it hopes to achieve, that you should be the person who determines who is invited to observe, ... so I pass this one to you. I will write to Brown later, when I hear from you if this is agreeable to you, saying that I am not in a good position to suggest observers, and that you would be the best person to do this.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Mrosovsky

P.S. I am hoping to publish your ridley plan in the next newsletter, but when that will be is not clear yet. Peter's will be in it also.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC
SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TEL: SUVA 27 131
OUR REF.
CABLE: UNIVERSITY SUVA

P.O. BOX 1168
SUVA, FIJI.

25th July 1979

Dear G. H. Balays,

I would be most grateful if you could let me have
a reprint of your paper *Terrestrial critical habitat for sea
turtles under United States jurisdiction in the Pacific Region*

Published in *'Elepaio* 39(4) : 37-41

With Thanks,

Yours sincerely,

M. L. Guinea

M. L. GUINEA
School of Natural Resources
University of South Pacific
P.O. Box 1168
Suva, Fiji.

*Sent
8/8/79*

← To open cut here →

Sender's name and address: THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC

P.O. BOX 1168

SUVA, FIJI.

AG

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

The 'APSLEY' Air Letter
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George H Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
PO Box 1346
Honolulu, Hawaii 96744
U. S. A.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

21 July 1979

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

Anne
pop
nos.

Dear George:

I am enclosing the final version of my Nicaraguan feeding ecology manuscript for your information. I submitted it to Ecology for publication but I haven't heard whether or not it has been accepted for publication.

I did not cite your observations of green turtles feeding on algae, but I would like to. I don't think it is too late to do so before my paper goes to press (when and if it gets accepted for publication). May I cite your paper entitled "Ecological aspects of green turtles at Necker Island," or should I just refer to your article in the Marine Turtle Newsletter, No. 10?

Elepaio

I will be giving a paper on Feeding Ecology at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D.C., in November. In it, I will try to review what is known of the feeding habits of sea turtles, especially the green turtle, on a worldwide basis. Do you have any additional data on the feeding habits of Hawaiian turtles, or of those in other parts of the Pacific which I might include in my presentation? Do Hawaiian turtles ever eat seagrasses?

Status report

Halophila

I would appreciate receiving reprints of some of your papers if you have any available. In particular I would like to have copies of the following:

- Loggerhead turtle recovered from a tiger shark at Kure Atoll. 'Elepaio.
- Analyses of turtle parts recovered from shark stomachs sampled at Pearl and Hermes Reef and French Frigae Shoals, northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Ecological aspects of green turtles at Necker Island.

10/2/79

Tiger shark & Algae
I believe I have copies of most of your other papers. However, I would appreciate being on your mailing list for anything you put out in the future.

Kaula

Best regards,

Jeanne A. Mortimer

BOOKORDER

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Biology,
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Kaneohe,
Hawaii 96744.
U.S.A.

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PLEASE QUOTE REFERENCE
and RETURN ATTACHED COPY



F 21399

Date 21-9-'78

Please send copy/ies

George Balazs.
Preliminary report on the Hawksbill turtle
in Indonesia, Philipines, Malaysia and Singapor

28 July 79

Dear George:

Thought you might be interested in the enclosed job clipping.

I just returned from Lizard Island. Saw lots of turtles there. Mostly in the reef lagoon there. One unusual thing. One of the people there saw a relatively small (ca 24" carapice) turtle upon a dry rocky area next to a sand beach. The turtle was apparently basking. If you want to contact him, his name is Warrick Anderson at James Cook University of North Queensland, Department of Zoology, Townsville, Queensland, Australia.

Hope things are going well.
Regards to Lin and the little Balazs.

Cheers,

Jeff

Leis
Austr. Mus.
PO Box A285
Sydney South, NSW
Australia

Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

July 25, 1979

Dear George:

A bookstore here in Washington tells me that Bottoms Up Cookery was written by Robert B. Leamer, published by Fathom Enterprises in 1975. At that time, the green wasn't even listed in the U.S. as threatened, as you well know. Is it a new edition of the book that your letter to Drs. Carr and Mrosovsky is about? What action are you planning to take on the issue? We are ready to do what we can from here to look into problems with the cookbook and sea turtles.

The bookstore I called does not stock the book, and I'm not sure if it is widely available. Have you seen it sold in stores recently?

Keep me informed about what you learn about the book. I hope to see you again at the August 21 sea turtle meeting.

Sincerely,

Patty

Patty Shaver





**NATIONAL PARKS
AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE**

Our reference
Your reference

Date 13 July 1979

Mr George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
KANEOHE HAWAII 96744

PO Box 190
Brisbane North Quay
Queensland
Australia 4000
Telegraphic code QUENPAWS
Head office
138 Albert Street
Brisbane
Telephone (07) 221 6111 74 1411
Northern Regional Centre
PALLARENDA Q4810

Dear George,

It is good that you have accepted Deputy Chairman of IUCN/
SSC Turtle Group. You are, I believe, an obvious choice. I
was interested to learn from you that I had been renominated for
membership. If I end up in the Turtle Group I will certainly
contribute what I can. I'll write to you further on this
matter.

My main reason for writing is that I am very upset at the disregard for Australian turtle research and conservation shown in the recently circulated agenda for the Washington conference in November. Find attached a copy of my letter to Washington. I can not understand the exclusion of Australian turtles when considering world turtle status. I am sorry that none of the other major researchers or administrators involved in Australian sea turtles and their conservation were invited to contribute to the conference - indeed most were not even notified officially of the conference. The only Australian invited to present a paper at the conference has been Kowarsky. I find this surprising since we do not regard him as being able to contribute much to our understanding of Australian sea turtles because he has had such little experience with sea turtles and much of his data he acquires second hand. I could name two better qualified persons than Kowarsky - in case you are wondering I do not include myself - who have much greater first hand experience in the study of subsistence hunting in Australia. I guess my personal pride has also been hurt that you and others did not feel I had anything to contribute in the area of underwater life of turtles. I will accept my work not being rated highly but there is no way I will sit back and allow the Australian turtle stocks to be ignored. I'm used to Australians unfamiliar with turtles dismissing them but I did not expect persons dedicated to turtle conservation to do so. I realise I have no official standing to do this but I feel I have had to voice a protest on behalf of the Australian turtles and those few of us who have taken it upon ourselves to work for their conservation. I will not sit by and see the efforts of my colleagues and myself ignored.

Well George in reading the above I find I have been more specific to you than in the similar letter I have written to

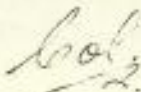
Peter Pritchard. I have written to you both since, as friends who were listed as members of the Conference scientific committee, I felt I owed you an explanation of how I felt on the matter. If I'm still upset tomorrow I'll probably write to Archie as well.

While I'm in the mood I might as well continue. You sent me a copy of a circular letter to fisheries officers re joint S.P.C. and NMFS workshop on turtles for December. Inquires I've made indicate that no official contact have been made with the Australian State Government agencies involved in the conservation of sea turtles. None of the principal researchers (myself, Dr C.J. Parmenter and Jeff Miller) have been contacted. I guess living in Australia (and not Florida) qualifies us to be ignored. As things stand at present I probably won't even consider this workshop - especially when it is planned to co inside with the peak of the turtle nesting activity of the south west Pacific area. Some of us actually try to do some research down here at that time.

I'll write you another friendly letter on whats up turtle wise in Australia when I have cooled down.

Enclosed is a reprint resulting from some previous work I did with barnacles on turtles. I was looking for a means of identifying the types of feeding grounds supplying turtles to our rookeries. The barnacles proved not to be useful indicator species for this. They are largely turtle specific rather than habitat specific. Similar work is in hand with the wide range of other crustaceans, molluscs and (cnidarians) that are symbiotic on our turtles.

Regards,



C.J. LIMPUS
ZOOLOGIST

cjl:kss

enc copy letter - washington conference
reprint - turtle barnacles
advertisement hawksbill jewellery - PNG

George, for your information

*Col
2*

Queensland Turtle Research
P.O. Box 189
AITKENVALE QLD 4814, Australia

11 July 1979

Ms Vivian Silverstein
1244 19th Street NW
WASHINGTON D.C. 20036

Dear Ms Silverstein,

I would appreciate your forwarding this letter to the persons concerned with the organisation of the forthcoming World Conference on sea turtle conservation.

I wish to voice a protest at your apparent disregard for the place of Australia in the conservation of sea turtles. Australia supports some of the world's major breeding populations of sea turtles. As well as having the world's largest green turtle rookeries, large numbers of breeding hawksbills and the largest rookeries for loggerheads in the Pacific Ocean if not the world, the flatback turtle is endemic to our waters. Two other species also breed in Australia. It is difficult to understand why such a rich area for sea turtles as Australia does not rate specific consideration in the status section of your agenda for the forth coming conference.

Those of us actively involved in Australian sea turtle research and conservation have been disappointed at the degree to which the conference has not been announced to us. Most of my colleagues here have heard of it only indirectly. The timing of your conference presents difficulties for those of us engaged in turtle field research in Australia since your conference dates co-incide with the dates when turtle nesting will be nearing its peak on most of our major rookeries. This has excluded several researchers from attempting to attend your conference.

I realise that this protest is probably being made too late in your planning for the conference to have much effect but in the interests of conservation of Australian sea turtle stocks I must say that I believe that your organisation has been short-sighted in this area.

I remain yours sincerely,

C.J. LIMPUS

C.J. LIMPUS
ZOOLOGIST

cjl:kss



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA, S. C. 29208

BELLE W. BARUCH INSTITUTE FOR
MARINE BIOLOGY AND COASTAL RESEARCH

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look up my
shark write up
Personal comm. (photo)
Hughes - ocean white tip
Tinker, as Bull?
as for Hirth

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

July 6, 1979

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I have been asked to prepare a review of "natural predators on sea turtles and their control" for the upcoming World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. While I was going through Archie Carr's reprints in Florida, I found a short paper from Hawaii which discussed shark predation on turtles. Anne Meylan told me at that time that you were preparing another manuscript, or at least had a great deal more data concerning sharks feeding on turtles. Since all the records I could find but two indicated that the shark predator was the tiger shark (the other two were white sharks), I am especially interested in whether you have records of other shark species feeding on adult turtles. It would be a great help to me if you could send me additional information on fish, especially sharks, which feed on turtles. Also, I am interested in your record of a species of grouper feeding on a turtle. I couldn't find a reference for that one, or any additional details. Any help you could give would be greatly appreciated.

While I have your attention, two other things: John Dean asked me to pass on to you that he will be in Honolulu on September 5 and 27-28, and he would like to see you. Secondly, we would be delighted if you could find a way to come by Columbia after the sea turtle conference in Washington. There are a lot of people in this state interested in sea turtles, and we could have some good discussions whether or not you gave a seminar. You can work out details with John Dean if you are willing to come down. Columbia is a good stopover point between Washington and Gainesville, Fl, if you are thinking of going down there.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I'll see you in Washington in November.

Sincerely,

Steve Stancyk
Assistant Professor



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

WILLIAM J. HARGIS, JR.
DIRECTOR

Phone: (804) 642-2111

12 July, 1979

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Dear Dr. Balazs:

Dr. Jack Musick and I are just getting into a research study of the natural history of the marine turtles in the lower reaches of the Chesapeake. I have been working up stranded turtles since June 1, and as of today have seen a total of 70 turtles and have reports for 50-odd, not seen by us. To our knowledge there is little documented information available on what most of the turtles are doing in this part of their migration cycle. Most of the turtles (all but 2) have been females, and usually are loggerheads. My Sea Grant graduate research money covers my work until 1 October, when our major grant comes through. Hopefully I shall complete my masters on some aspect of the loggerhead natural history, though I haven't narrowed it down as yet. There's so much to be done!

SI 205
or
internal
exam?

Kelvin Char and I worked together on the Va. CZM program and he was also a source of encouragement regarding my work on sea turtles. He mentioned that you might be more than well-versed in all aspects of their life history. (He's considering a job with OCZM in D.C. at the moment but will be at the Turtle Conference this Nov.)

Can you direct me to the [appropriate age-growth (natural) literature or provide some hints as how to age the carcasses I'm examining?]

Everything I've read concerns early growth (juveniles) or captive specimens. Thought perhaps skulls might be easy to work with but I'm not so sure how close they would come to the carapace relationships already developed. Meanwhile I'm collecting every available skull.

So far none of the turtles have been tagged nor had tagging scars. One of the major goals of the study will be to conduct a full-fledged nesting survey next season and tag any marine turtles encountered.
Until then we have to content with a serious threat to the females

EVERYONE!

when they interfere with the pound net fishery so popular in Virginia. The incidental catch appears to be large; catch may be the wrong word as many of the females have been shot with 22's or gaffed. Nonetheless, it will be a tough problem to solve , given the stubborn demeanor of Tidewater fishermen.

I would be happy to supply any information you might want regarding our research strategies and goals; looking forward to meeting you at the Conference.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly Lutcavage". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Molly Lutcavage



Marine Resource Advisory

A Sea Grant Advisory Service

ADVISORY NO. 16

JUNE 1979

VIRGINIA MARINE TURTLE STRANDING FORM

Date of Find _____ (Please respond as soon as possible).

LOCATION

(be as accurate as possible) _____

IDENTIFICATION OF TURTLE (see reverse side of sheet)

positive unsure

SEX Male (tail extends beyond rear edge of top shell).
 Female (tail shorter than edge of top shell).

Have you ever seen marine turtles in this area before? Yes No Explain: _____

MEASUREMENT DATA (Measure along the central ridge (curve) front to rear edge and side to side at widest point).

Top shell length _____ inches (along curve)

Top shell width _____ inches (along curve at widest part)

Head width _____ inches (at widest point)

Tag No. and description _____
(if tagged) _____

CONDITION OF TURTLE

Shell and body intact, little or no foul odor or bloating.

Shell not intact and/or body bloated and discolored.

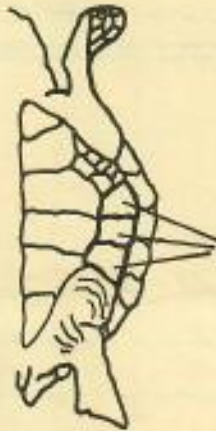
Skeleton only.

It is important to note any **MUTILATION** of the body, missing limbs, gashes, missing eyes, wounds, etc., in order to determine possible cause of death. Please list all/any such signs that describe the turtle's condition:

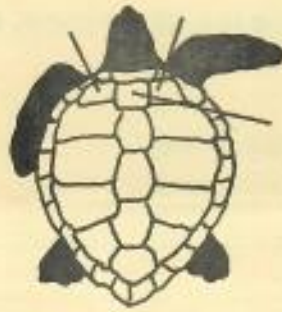
Please RETURN THIS FORM to: MARINE TURTLES, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, Tel. (804) 642-2111, Ext. 151.



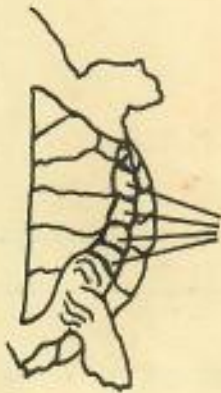
ATLANTIC LEATHERBACK: Seven longitudinal ridges on a leathery top shell, without plates. Our only black marine turtle. Lower part of head, limbs and body may be spotted with white or yellow. Often very large (to 7 feet).



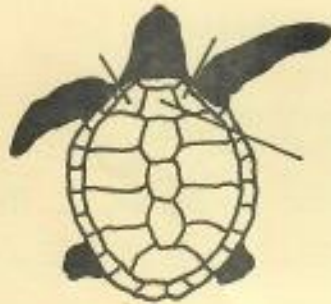
3
bridge
plates



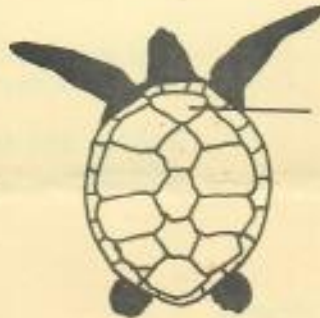
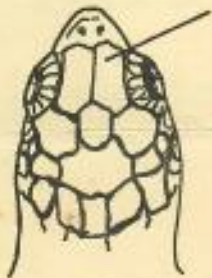
ATLANTIC LOGGERHEAD: Top shell reddish brown in color. Has "extra" pair of shoulder plates touching neck plate. May be large (> 100 lbs.). Three plates on lower shell bridge.



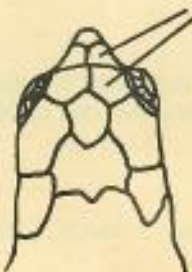
4
bridge
plates



ATLANTIC RIDLEY: Top shell grey and almost circular. May be some white on head, limbs and bottom shell. Has "extra" pair of shoulder plates touching neck plate. Usually small size in Virginia (< 40 lbs.). Four plates on lower shell bridge.



ATLANTIC GREEN: Top shell is broad, with plates barely overlapping, if at all. Olive to brown color (sometimes mottled). Has large triangular central plate touching neck plate and two plates between eyes.



ATLANTIC HAWKSBILL: Top shell shield-shaped, dark brown or tortoise shell in color; plates on top shell broadly overlapping. Has large triangular central plate touching neck plate and four plates between eyes.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

July 5, 1979

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

Dear George:

This is a belated reaction to your last letter concerning the urgent need to congeal a new turtle group. I appreciate the need, but there was doubt in my mind about a couple of names on your trial list. I am in favor of a bigger group than the Toronto gathering represented, and I accept the idea of using a shifting set of criteria in selecting people (i.e., one because he's a good turtle biologist, another because he represents a good turtle region, and so on). On the other hand we've got to keep out dead wood, professional wranglers, and vested commercial interests if we want to get anything done.

Would you consider Dr. John Parmenter, instead of Kowarsky as an Australian representative? Perran thinks Parmenter is way ahead. Do you know what Limpus's opinion would be?

Perran says the position of Barwani in Oman politics is weakening, and that since his position was his chief recommendation we ought to drop him from consideration.

We are bound to hear some complaining about Carr graduate students being so prevalent; but that doesn't bother me so long as it doesn't impair the functioning of the group. Maybe the steering committee selection will placate critics. Incidentally, I want to follow Wayne King's suggestion that I appoint an assistant to help me keep day-to-day group affairs and communication going. Anne Meylan is my Research Assistant and, though well occupied with her own research, she could probably spare the time to provide the discipline necessary to keep me in creative touch with you and the rest of the turtle world. So please consider naming Anne to the unsalaried Group post of Agenda Officer, subject to the approval of Peter Scott and Wayne.

I can't give you data on weights of raw turtle skins but Anne just weighed a complete set of tanned Olive ridley skin pieces, and they seem to weigh 244 grams.

→ Question then becomes -
Are shipments of ridley skins from
Mexico to Japan raw or tanned?

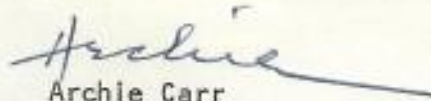
Mr. George Balazs
July 5, 1979
Page 2

Did I answer your note asking if I am interested in satellite tracking? The answer is yes. I've been trying to work up such a spree since Nimbus B. I was actually aboard that one, but couldn't get the platform ready. So if I could help in any such work out there I would gladly participate if invited.

I hope we'll be talking this over before long.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw