

BALAZS

1979

HIMB OUTGOING LETTERS
G.H. BALAZS

December 31, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Friberg:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

bcc: Rene Grandperrin, SPC

December 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Bannister:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 31, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Huang:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Encl.

December 31, 1979

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

Dear CDR Stevens:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

December 31, 1979

Mr. C. Paulin
Dominion Museum
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Mr. Paulin:

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 31, 1979

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

Dear Val:

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

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

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 31, 1979

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

Dear Patty:

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

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

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

Ms. Patty Shaver
Page 2
December 31, 1979

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

December 28, 1979

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

Dear Andy:

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

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 28, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Huang:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

December 28, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Saracho:

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

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 28, 1979

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

Dear Sally:

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

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

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

December 28, 1979

Mr. Pascal Draikolo, Chief
Nathalo Village
Lifou, Loyalty Islands
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Draikolo:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the valuable information on sea turtles that you provided to us during our visit to Lifou on 17 December 1979. As promised, I have enclosed a copy of the photograph taken at that time.

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

December 28, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Konku:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 28~~th~~ 1979

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

Dear Sylvia:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 27, 1979

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 27, 1979

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

Dear Colin:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 27, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

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

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

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

Ms. Sylvia Spring
Wildlife Division
Department of Lands and Environment
P. O. Box 4585
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Gigaroff:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear William:

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

Best regards for the New Year,

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Barerei:

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

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Richard:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Dale:

As you are probably aware, discussions took place at both the Washington Conference and Noumea Workshop concerning the absence of baseline data on seaturtles at Rose Atoll. At the present time there is virtually no information on the numbers of each species that seasonally nest at this location. Furthermore, several authorities have suggested that predation on hatchlings by rats may be significant. There is clearly a pressing need to carry out a concise assessment of the sea turtles at Rose Atoll during the peak periods of both nesting and hatching. Based on the available literature, this would appear to be the time periods of August-September and October-November. During 1980 I would like to undertake these required investigations with some financial support from the Fish and Wildlife Service. At your earliest convenience, I believe it would be productive for us to meet and explore the options available for this research.

Hopefully you have now received a copy of my report on the Hawaiian green turtle which was prepared for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Thomson:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Fourmanoir:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Rancurel:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

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CHB:nd

Enclosures

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Gaudriller:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

December 26, 1979

Miss Jain Nisha
P. O. Box 85
Sigatoka
Fiji

Dear Miss Nisha:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Goodwin:

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

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

Best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 26, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Devambe:

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

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHE:md

December 24, 1979

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

Dear Rene:

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

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

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

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

Two important points that I should list as reminders are:

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

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

Sincerely,

mk

George H. Balazs, Asst. Mar. Biologist

December 24, 1979

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

Dear Michel:

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

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

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

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

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enclosures

December 24, 1979

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

Dear Nick:

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

Best regard for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 24, 1979

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

Dear Harry:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: R. Showara, NMFS
R. Grandperrin, SPC



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 21, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Vivian:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Wayne:

Not knowing at this time when the follow-up meeting of the WCSTC Scientific Advisory Committee will take place, I thought I would take this opportunity to offer some suggestions on the Conservation Strategy and other aspects of our Conference. On Thursday, December 6, I will depart for the SPC/NMFS Marine Turtle Workshop in New Caledonia, and will not return to Honolulu until approximately December 19. My comments are as follows:

1. Under "Highest priority by reason of population size" we should probably include the Philippines and Sabah turtle islands in view of our Action Projects 77 and 78. This point was emphasized to me by Ed Gomez shortly before leaving Washington, D. C.
2. Slow expressed considerable concern about Action Project 76 which urges that the incubation of leatherback eggs be increased, "up to 50 percent." He wanted this to be deleted and replaced with his own two project ideas of (a) more "sanctuaries" (Malay style), and (b) more hatcheries. While these two projects may very well be acceptable, I personally do not think that Action Project 76 should be removed. The current percentage of eggs being hatched seems dangerously low, and certainly 50% is a worthy figure to strive for, although we all realize that it will probably never be reached.
3. When the Conservation Strategy and Action Projects were being discussed, one of the conference participants from Japan objected to the use of the words "dishonorable practice" in Action Project 64. Russell Train responded that this would be deleted. In my opinion, the words should be retained. The dictionary definition of dishonorable is "shameful" or "disgraceful," certainly appropriate words for the decimation of hawksbill populations by Japanese international commerce. Let's tell it like it really is - the practice is dishonorable.

Dr. F. Wayne King
Page 2
December 5, 1979

4. The deadline of 1 January 1980 for submitting revised, final papers for the Proceedings is excellent. The Proceedings need to be published at the earliest possible date in order to maintain momentum. However, all invitational speakers may not have been present on Friday afternoon to hear the deadline announcement. Perhaps an immediate written notice should be sent out on this matter.

5. The "offer of assistance" by T.V.-newsman Andy Guthrie (18100 Scottsdale, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122) accepted by a written reply. This man's talents, connections and enthusiasm for sea turtles should not be allowed to fall by the wayside for lack of interest on our part. He has great potential for aiding in the conservation of sea turtles.

6. Please note that several of the scientific papers, including my own, contain recommendations that will need to be incorporated into the Conservation Strategy.

Wayne, at one point during the course of the conference you mentioned that we need to focus in on one isolated green turtle rookery and saturation tag for an extended period to determine, once and for all, recruit and mortality rates of adult females. This is an excellent suggestion, and certainly French Frigate Shoals would offer numerous advantages as the study area. Perhaps I should be considering the preparation of a research proposal along these lines.

We should all be proud of having played a part in what turned out to be a superb conference!

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Associate Marine Biologist

mk
cc: A. Carr, D. Ehrenfeld,
V. Silverstein

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Mike:

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

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

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Jennifer:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Sally:

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Argelis:

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 5, 1979

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

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Haney:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

December 3, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

December 3, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Truland and Ms. Woodward:

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

Warm Aloha and Mahalo,

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

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

November 21, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

Many thanks for your informative and encouraging letter dated 16 November concerning the production of more Inconel #25 tags. In three days time I will be departing for Washington, D. C. to participate in the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. Nearly every project involved in tagging sea turtles will be represented at this gathering. Furthermore, on Tuesday, 27 November, I will be chairing a discussion period on tagging and tag problems. Your up-to-date information has therefore arrived at a most opportune time. I will be passing this along to all interested parties and, at the same time, compile a list of potential buyers. I will telephone you from Washington if any points are in need of clarification at that time.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md

November 21, 1979

Luciano Perez
Head Teacher
Nukunonu Atoll
c/o Office of Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 365
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Luciano Perez:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your kind cooperation in my effort to obtain information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Nukunonu Atoll. I am currently trying to compile information on sea turtles at various islands throughout the Central Pacific Ocean for use in a report to the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Your assistance will undoubtedly be of considerable value, as there is virtually no information on this subject for Nukunonu at the present time.

I am interested in learning about the following points:

1. Do turtles nest and lay eggs at Nukunonu? If so, how many different kinds of turtles?
2. Where do turtles nest at Nukunonu? I have enclosed a map of the atoll for you to mark and return to me.
3. Do turtles nest throughout the year, or only during certain months?
4. Approximately how many turtles nest during each night?
5. Do the people of Nukunonu eat turtles and eggs? Are they an important source of food?
6. Are there any restrictions or laws on the catching of turtles?

Luciano Perez
November 21, 1979
Page 2

I hope that you will be able to help me with this request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. I am also writing similar letters of inquiry to the Head Teachers at Fakaofu and Atafu.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN, Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

November 21, 1979

Hosea Kirifi
Head Teacher
Fakaofu Atoll
c/o Office of Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Hosea Kirifi:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your kind cooperation in my effort to obtain information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Fakaofu Atoll. I am currently trying to compile information on sea turtles at various islands throughout the Central Pacific Ocean for use in a report to the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Your assistance will undoubtedly be of considerable value, as there is virtually no information on this subject for Fakaofu at the present time.

I am interested in learning about the following points:

1. Do turtles nest and lay eggs at Fakaofu? If so, how many different kinds of turtles?
2. Where do turtles nest at Fakaofu? I have enclosed a map of the atoll for you to mark and return to me.
3. Do turtles nest throughout the year, or only during certain months?
4. Approximately how many turtles nest during each night?
5. Do the people of Fakaofu eat turtles and eggs? Are they an important source of food?
6. Are there any restrictions or laws on the catching of turtles?

I hope that you will be able to help me with this request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. I am also writing similar letters of inquiry to the Head Teachers at Nukunonu and Atafu.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

November 21, 1979

Tenise Atoni
Head Teacher
Atafu Atoll
c/o Office of Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Tenise Atoni:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your kind cooperation in my effort to obtain information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Atafu Atoll. I am currently trying to compile information on sea turtles at various islands throughout the Central Pacific Ocean for use in a report to the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Your assistance will undoubtedly be of considerable value, as there is virtually no information on this subject for Atafu at the present time.

I am interested in learning about the following points:

1. Do turtles nest and lay eggs at Atafu? If so, how many different kinds of turtles?
2. Where do turtles nest at Atafu? I have enclosed a map of the atoll for you to mark and return to me.
3. Do turtles nest throughout the year, or only during certain months?
4. Approximately how many turtles nest during each night?
5. Do the people of Atafu eat turtles and eggs? Are they an important source of food?
6. Are there any restrictions or laws on the catching of turtles?

Tenise Atoni
November 21, 1979
Page 2

I hope that you will be able to help me with this request. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. I am also writing similar letters of inquiry to the Head Teachers at Nukunonu and Fakaofo.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:md

Enclosures

November 13, 1979

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

Dear Antonio:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Oaxaca participants
IUCN/SSC

November 9, 1979

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

Dear Rene:

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

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

Dr. Rene Grandperrin
November 9, 1979
Page 2

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

I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Shomura

November 8, 1979

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

Dear Colonel Sharman:

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

Again, many thanks for your fine support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Commanding Officer, Wake Island
Det 4, 15th Air Base Wing
APO San Francisco 96501

November 5, 1979

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

Dear Harry:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

November 1, 1979

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

Dear Henry and Dick:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

November 1, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Chua:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Gibson:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

nk

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Karen:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Fletemeyer:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Solomon:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Musick:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 31, 1979

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

Dear Dr. van Rhyn:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 29, 1979

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

Dear Jack:

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

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

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

Dr. Jack Woody
October 29, 1979
Page 2

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

October 29, 1979

Mr. Stuart Inder, Editor
Pacific Islands Year Book
Pacific Publications (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.
76 Clarence Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

Dear Mr. Inder:

I want to take this opportunity to offer three constructive comments on your generally excellent Pacific Islands Year Book (13th ed.) which I recently used as a reference source.

First, I think it would be valuable for you to include Marcus Island (24°18'N, 153°58'E) in your next edition. Marcus is noticeably absent from your 1978 volume, and certainly well within your area of interest and coverage. Secondly, I believe that you should discuss, or as a minimum at least list, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. For more details on this, please see my enclosed publication entitled "Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles and Seals." My last comment is more of a correction, in that under Midway Island (actually Midway Islands) you state that "The islands are also classified as a National Wildlife Reserve..." and that "This facet of the islands falls under federal statutes as set forth by the U. S. Department of Interior." Actually, as detailed in my short booklet, all of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, except Midway and Kure, are part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior. Midway is a U. S. Territory completely under the control of the U. S. Navy. The Navy also classifies the area as a Wildlife Reserve, but actually this is a very loose designation that could be changed at any time should military needs make it necessary. The seabirds themselves are protected separately under the U. S. Migratory Bird Treaty.

Hopefully these comments will be of use for your future editions.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

October 29, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Whiu:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Dr. A. Carr

October 29, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Hendrickson:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

bcc: A. Carr
W. King
P. Pritchard

October 29, 1979

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

Dear Antonio:

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

October 29, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Goodwin:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

October 17, 1979

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

Dear Antonio:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

FILE



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 10, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 10, 1979

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

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Riggsby:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 5, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Matsuzaki:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

September 7, 1979

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

Dear Mike:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 22, 1979

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

Dear Sir Peter:

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

With best regards and Aloha,

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

August 21, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Thielsen:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 13, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Gomez:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

Enclosures

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

August 10, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Robertson:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

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

August 10, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Ruiz:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 10, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Casas-Andreu:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 10, 1979

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

Dear CDR Stevens:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: J. Caperon, Director HMB

August 9, 1979

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

Dear Tim:

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

HIMB 1, 4, 7 and 8 - hyoplastrons

HIMB 2 and 5 - humeri

HIMB 3 - femur

HIMB 6 and 9 - xiphiplastrons

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 7, 1979

Ms. Sara Miller
c/o Ms. Pat Morosic
186 Kailua Road
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Dear Ms. Miller:

My purpose in writing to you is to ask if you or your shipmates made observations of sea turtles during the eight days adrift north of Midway. Our knowledge of the lives of sea turtles while in the open ocean pelagic environment is extremely sparse, therefore any information that you can provide is potentially very valuable. I would also be interested in your observations of open ocean sharks, since such animals are likely to be predators of small turtles drifting at the surface. Were you able to identify any of the sharks that came around your raft? The oceanic white-tip shark, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, can be easily distinguished by the white tip on its dorsal fin.

You may be interested to learn of the book STAYING ALIVE by Maurice and Maralyn Bailey (Ballantine Books, N.Y.) which describes the experiences of being adrift from 3 April to 30 June 1973 after the sinking of a small sailboat near the Galapagos. The Baileys were able to catch a number of sea turtles during this time, a factor that helped them survive.

Enclosed is a short color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and monk seals that I hope you will find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

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

GRB:md

Encl.

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

August 7, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Anderson:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Jeff Leis

August 7, 1979

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

Dear Vivian:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 7, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Jim:

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

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

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

RMCS J. M. Bradley
NAVCOMMSTA HE. Holt

August 6, 1979
Page -2-

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Zahida:

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Encl.

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bailey:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:rec
Encl.

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Jeanne:

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

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

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

August 6, 1979

5) In the Conclusion section you mention "protein level of the diet." This may very well cause the reader to ask what the percent protein content is for each of the plant and animal food items presented. If you are not prepared to present such data, you may want to somehow get around using the words "protein level."

6) For the Hawaiian Islands, I have some evidence that suggests shifts in food habits on a short term basis (i.e. *Codium* this week, *Amansia* the following week). Could your turtles possibly be alternating between feeding sites to achieve a well balanced diet in terms of required nutrients (i.e. *Thalassia* this week, algae next week)? Did you cut open the entire GI tract of some animals to check for such a dietary change?

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Lutcavage:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Stancyk:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

See: Archie Carr

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Rao:

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

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

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

Dr. T. R. Rao

-2-

August 6, 1979

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 6, 1979

TO: Gilbert Oshima
RCUH

FROM: George H. Balazs
HYMB

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

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

Thank you for your continuing assistance with these project matters.

GHB:ec

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Col:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Friberg:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosure
bcc: R. Grandperrin, SPC

August 6, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: A. Carr

July 23, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THE JUNE 1979 SEA GRANT FIELD STUDY

AT FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS

by

George H. Balazs

1. Nesting activity on East Island (FFS) was intensively monitored for 13 consecutive nights to obtain a reliable estimate of the size of the 1979 Hawaiian green turtle breeding assemblage. Approximately 100 adult females were found to be using this island, while approximately 80 females were using the other nesting islands of Whale-Skate, Trig, Tern, Little Gin, and Gin.
2. Of the 13 previous tagged adult females encountered, 11 were found to have been tagged in 1977, thereby displaying a two-year breeding cycle.
3. An immature green turtle tagged in 1976 at FFS was recaptured with a scoop net from the same inshore feeding pasture near East Island. Growth rate during this three year period averaged only .04 cm per month.
4. Two adult turtles fitted with depth meters were found to not exceeded depths of 20 and 42 feet, respectively.
5. Deep body (cloaca) temperatures were measured for six adult turtles basking ashore during the daytime. The maximum temperature recorded was 30.7°C; ambient seawater temperature was 26.9°C.

July 9, 1979

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

Dear Mary:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

July 9, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Hirth:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. SALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

July 9, 1979

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

Dear Larry:

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

Looking forward to seeing you later this month.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 9, 1979

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

Dear Leo:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

July 6, 1979

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

Dear Jim:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

July 6, 1979

To: Dr. Jack R. Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

From: George H. Balazs

Subject: Sea Grant Year 11, Project NI/R5
(RCUH Account No. 1984) - Green Sea Turtle Assessment

I am sorry to have to inform you that expenditures have exceeded available funds by \$1,790 in my Year 11 Sea Grant project. This was brought to my attention today by Mr. Gilbert Oshima of the Research Corporation. I was unable to detect such a deficit from the monthly computer printout sheets at an earlier date because I erroneously thought the sheets covered a full month instead of just the first two weeks of each month.

The deficit is in the salaries category and can be attributed to the fact that I have maintained employment of my research assistant, Alan Kam. This has been a continuing problem in that, for each of my previous Sea Grant years, budget reductions have been requested. I must of course pay myself on a fulltime basis, but at the same time it would be a hardship to the project not to have a research assistant for most of the year. I attempted to alleviate this earlier in the year by having Alan Kam work for two months with the Marine Options Program. Apparently this was not sufficient to provide the amount of salary relief needed in my project's budget. I apologize for this oversight.

If your funds will permit, I respectfully request the deficit amount from your office for payment to RCUH.

GHB:md

cc: Gilbert Oshima

July 5, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

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

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

July 5, 1979

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

Dear David:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

July 5, 1979

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

Dear Itaru:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:nd

July 2, 1979

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

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

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

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

GHB:md

July 2, 1979

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

Dear Admiral Lauth:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

June 6, 1979

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

Dear Sir Peter:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

June 4, 1979

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

Dear Colin:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Colin J. Limpus

-2-

June 4, 1979

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

June 1, 1979

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

Dear Ken:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 31, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Forehand:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 31, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 31, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 31, 1979

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

Dear Nancy:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Joe:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Duke:

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

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

Hopefully all of your work is going well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Quraishy:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Jerry:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Peter:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: Archie Carr
Nicholas Mrosovsky
Wayne King

May 29, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

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

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

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
Page 2
May 29, 1979

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: Archie Carr

May 29, 1979

Mr. Robert Redford
c/o Publicity Department
United Artists Corporation
166 North Robertson
Los Angeles, California 90048

Dear Mr. Redford:

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

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

Mr. Robert Redford
Page 2
May 29, 1979

To give you some preliminary background information, I have enclosed two articles dealing with survival problems of the hawksbill as well as other species of sea turtles. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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

mk

cc: Dr. Archie Carr, Group Chairman, Univ. Florida
Dr. Parran Ross, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Enclosures

May 22, 1979

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

Dear Murray:

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

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

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

With best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 22, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Dodd:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

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

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

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

Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, Director
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory

May 21, 1979
Page 2

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Rene:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Richard Shomura