

BALAZS

1979

HIMB OUTGOING LETTERS
G.H. BALAZS
PART 2 OF 2

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Wayne:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:ec

cc: Vivian Silverstein

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Nicole:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Wayne King

May 21, 1979

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

Dear Ken:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

May 18, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

In order to have the Marine Turtle Group names "inscribed in stone at Slimbridge," I would imagine that all you have to do is send a nomination list to Sir Peter along with a short cover letter. The list I previously suggested would be as follows: (1) Barwani, (2) Bhaskar, (3) Bjorndal, (4) Bacon, (5) Erenfeld, (6) Fretey, (7) Hirth, (8) Hughes, (9) Kaufman, (10) Kowarsky, (11) Lescure, (12) Limpus, (13) Marquez, (14) Meyland, (15) Moll, (16) Mortimer, (17) Mrosovsky, (18) Ogren, (19) Polunin, (20) Pong, (21) Pritchard, (22) Ross, (23) Schulz, (24) Siow, (25) deSilva, (26) Sumertha, (27) Suwelo, (28) Uchida. For the "steering committee" I suggested 8, 12, 13, 21, 22, 28 and 17 (17 only if he stays on as Editor of the IUCN/SSC Newsletter). As indicated in my earlier letter (3 April), I also had some questions about the present turtle activities of several individuals. If you feel that any deletions are warranted in these cases, please make them.

I was surprised and disappointed that Nick expressed reluctance to print my Kempi write-up. I mean really, my idea is so simplistic that I doubt if anyone would become confused because of "too many different plans."

I am growing weary of Nick's letters which keep shoveling responsibility in my direction.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 18, 1979

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

Dear Peter:

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

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

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

Dr. Peter Pritchard

-2-

May 18, 1979

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

May 18, 1979

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

Dear Sir:

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

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 16, 1979

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

Dear Nicole:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

May 15, 1979

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

Dear Seamus:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

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

May 15, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Kowarsky:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 15, 1979

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

Dear Ms. Riedman:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

April 23, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

April 20, 1979

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

From: George H. Balazs

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

mk
cc: S. Naftel

April 19, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Fritts:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 19, 1979

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

Dear Mike:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

April 19, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Clare:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Christman:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

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

Dear Cliff:

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

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

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

Clifford H. Fiscus
Page 2
April 18, 1979

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

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

Dear Perran:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 18, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Quraishy:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

April 18, 1979

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

Dear Jeanne:

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

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

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

Mahalo and Aloha,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

The Editor
Ballantine Books
Random House, Inc.
201 East 50th Street
New York, New York 10022

Dear Sir:

I am interested in obtaining the mailing address for the authors of your book, STAYING ALIVE (SBN 345-24515-6-150), copyright 1975, first printing June 1975. The authors are listed as Maurice and Maralyn Bailey. Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide to this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Duke:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

April 17, 1979

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

Dear George:

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

Please plan on visiting with me here at the HMB Laboratory when you come through Honolulu on your way to Knewetak.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

Dr. Gustavo Casas-Andrew
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Instituto de Biología
Laboratorio de Herpetología
México D.F.

Dear Dr. Casas-Andrew:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Análisis de la nidación de las Tortugas Marinas del Género *Lepidochelys* en México."

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Sumertha:

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

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Musquera:

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Yoshie:

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Sir Peter:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 17, 1979

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

Dear Sirs:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 16, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

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

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

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

Dr. Archie Carr
Page 2
April 16, 1979

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

The small research planning meeting that I discussed with you over the telephone on March has been scheduled for 30 July-1 August 1979. It will be held at the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. You should make airline reservations for this as soon as possible. We have an extra bedroom and would be pleased to have you stay with us. However, if you prefer your own quarters, you should also make hotel reservations at an early date. The Honolulu Lab office is near the main University campus and fairly centrally located. Almost any of the hotels would therefore be suitable. Again, all expenses will be covered by NMFS, according to the Honolulu Lab Director, Dr. Richard Shomura. Others in attendance at this research planning meeting are suppose to include Harold Hirth, Larry Ogren and Peter Pritchard (the latter was urged by Bill Aron in telephone conversations with Richard Shomura). Rene Grandperrin (SPC Fisheries Advisor) may also be there.

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

Hopefully your meeting in Costa Rica went well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

SAME LETTER TO:

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

April 10, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Kendall:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 9, 1979

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

Dear Maria Luisa:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

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

April 5, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Canessa:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

April 3, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with some of my preliminary thoughts for membership in the Turtle Group. For reference purposes, I have enclosed a copy of the membership list that was previously in effect. This includes six "regular" members and 15 "corresponding" members. Of the individuals listed, I am not familiar with the present sea turtle research or conservation activities of: P. R. Bacon, R. Kaufman, T. Y. Pong, I. N. Sumestha, I. S. Suwelo and J. Lescure. Do you know if these people are indeed now involved in sea turtle research or conservation? Depending on the situation, we will probably want to make some deletions here.

I think we should give serious consideration to offering membership to the following additional individuals:

1. M. A. Barwani (Oman)
2. S. Bhaskar (Madras, India)
3. K. Bjorndal
4. J. Pretey (Tahiti)
5. J. Kowarsky
6. A. Meylan
7. E. Moll
8. J. Mortimer
9. L. Ogren
10. P. Ross

A total membership of 25 (following some deletions and additions) would not seem to be too large, in my opinion, if we appoint a steering committee to have responsibility for core work and decisions. The steering committee could consist of Limpus, Hughes, Maraux, Uchida, Ross, Pritchard, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. I propose that Mrosovsky also be on the Steering Committee, but only if he continues as editor of the newsletter.

Dr. Archie Carr

-2-

April 3, 1979

With this letter as a starting point, please give me some of your ideas at an early date so we can send a nomination list off to Wayne and Sir Peter.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

April 3, 1979

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

Dear Bing:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

mk

April 2, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Kowarsky:

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

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

All the best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

April 2, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Moll:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHE:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

6
March 30, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Zhou-Jian:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:MB

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

Enclosures

March 29, 1979

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

Dear Tom:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr

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

March 29, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Fontanilla:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Asst. Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 29, 1979

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

Dear Dave:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

March 28, 1979

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

FROM: George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

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

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

Total \$ 1,394.00

Advance check \$ 1,500.00

Enclosed refund to NYZS \$ 106.00

GHB:ec

Enclosure

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96755
Cable Address: UNIHAW

March 27, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Rasheed:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 27, 1979

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

Dear Joe:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:rec

March 27, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Kramer:

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

Again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 27, 1979

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

Dear Itaru:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 12, 1979

TO: Office of the Marine Affairs Coordinator
FROM: George H. Balazs
SUBJECT: Review of Hawaiian Monk Seal Critical Habitat Discussion
Paper, as Requested by MAC

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

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

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

page 57 - see reference cited above for page 42.

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

GIB:md

March 5, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Barlow:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

March 1, 1979

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

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: Donation of unpublished manuscripts to the Hawaiian
Collection.

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

Balazs, G. H. (1977) Ecological aspects of green
turtles at Necker Island. 26 pp.

Balazs, G. H. (1978) Sea turtles of Kahoolawe Island:
A preliminary survey. 21 pp.

Balazs, G. H. (1979) Bibliography of Kaula Island,
Hawaiian Archipelago. 19 pp.

GHB:md

March 1, 1979

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

Dear Kenji:

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

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

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 1, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Elbert:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 28, 1979

To: Timothy C. Tricas
Zoology Department

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

Subject: COMMENTS ON DRAFT MANUSCRIPT "DIEL BEHAVIOR OF THE TIGER SHARK, Galeocerdo cuvier AT FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS" AUTHORED BY TRICAS, TAYLOR AND NAFTEL

1. Personal communications relating to green turtles that are attributed to me may be retained as written.
2. I was the only person to repeatedly observe the pair of tiger sharks at daylight near East Island. Although you did not previously ask my permission to incorporate these observations (or those of the sharks seen feeding on albatrosses), I nevertheless consent for you to do so at this time. It should be noted that both Laysan and black-footed albatrosses were involved as prey.
3. Your Figure 1 is actually a slightly modified version of a chart that I personally paid to have prepared in 1976. Although you did not previously ask my permission to incorporate it into your paper, I nevertheless consent for you to do so at this time provided proper credit given.
4. In your Acknowledgements section, assistance which I provided to the manuscript should be confined to "personal communications;" "fieldwork and review" should be deleted.

mk

February 28, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Kramer:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 27, 1979

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

Dear Dick:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 23, 1979

Mr. Dave Olsen
9417 Athens Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22040

Dear Dave:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 20, 1979

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

Dear Commander Kelley:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

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

February 20, 1979

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

Dear Mrs. Denert:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 16, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Bair:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 15, 1979

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

Dear Librarian:

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

Thank you for your assistance in this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

February 15, 1979

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

Dear Jim:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

February 15, 1979

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

Dear Premier Dr. Davis:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

February 15, 1979

To: Dr. John Caperon
Director, HIMB

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist (R3-52)

As requested, I am providing you with a dossier relating to my professional activities while employed at HIMB since 1971. It will be useful for you to know that my employment objectives within the University system are 1) to obtain all or a portion of my salary from State funds; and 2) to pursue professional activities and development that will allow me to advance to the level of Associate Marine Biologist or the equivalent. I would appreciate any support, assistance or recommendations that you are able to provide in these matters.

GHB:md

Attachments:

- Balazs bibliography of scientific publications, reports and miscellaneous articles relating with marine turtles
- Promotion dossier of 1977
- Copies of unsolicited letters reflecting some of my research and community service activities
- Reprints of selected publications relating to marine turtles
- Reprints of three publications relating to previous endeavors in aquaculture

February 12, 1979

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

Dear Nicholas:

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

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

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
February 12, 1979
Page 2

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

February 9, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Jones:

Thank you for your telephone call on 26 January concerning our note on the tiger shark seen feeding on a monk seal. Except for some minor editorial changes, the manuscript that I sent you on 5 December 1978 will be published in either the March or April issue of *'Elespaio*.

I would like to call to your attention a letter that I wrote to Dr. Twiss on 11 September 1978 (copy attached) concerning the need for the appointment of a monk seal recovery team. I wonder if your office ever received this letter, and if positive action is now being taken to appoint such a team in the immediate future? Your early response to this inquiry would be greatly appreciated.

You may be interested to learn that the March 1988 "Bibliography of the Hawaiian monk seal" which I co-authored with Dr. G. C. Whitton is now being republished by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program. We have taken this opportunity to update the references through January 1979. I will send your office a copy when it is published.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

February 8, 1979

To: Rose Pfund
Karen Tanoue
Sea Grant Publications

From: George H. Balazs

Enclosed is the revised and updated Hawaiian monk seal bibliography. that you expressed an interest in republishing. As requested, I have discussed this matter with HIMB Director John Capron and he has granted approval. After the manuscript is retyped, please give Dr. Whittow and me the opportunity to proofread it before publication. Also, we would each like to receive at least 20 copies of the final product for our own distribution. If you decide that you would like to use a photograph of a monk seal on the cover, please contact me and I will supply the necessary material.

GHB:md

Encl.

February 8, 1979

Mr. Mark Wexler
National Wildlife
225 E. Michigan
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Mark:

Many thanks for your letter of 1 February. As I previously mentioned, I would be happy to cooperate with you in whatever way feasible to do a story on some aspect of Hawaiian wildlife.

With the exception of Midway, travel to the Leeward Islands is difficult, often unpredictable, and usually involves spending 2-3 weeks in the field. My schedule for this year is very unsettled for the present time. I will almost certainly be making some trips on the 85' vessel *Easy Rider*, but this will be in conjunction with charter funds provided by other projects. Quite simply, I am underfunded and must frequently rely on travel paid for by others. This is complicated by limited sleeping accommodations on the boat.

At this date, I would say that the only positive trip we could plan would be to Midway and Kure in a Coast Guard C-130. This might include overflights of other islands on the way out. I should mention, however, that the breeding abundance and richness of the wildlife declines rapidly after June.

Your thought on doing a story on a particular controversy has considerable potential. Two possibilities would be 1) the jurisdictional problem between the State and the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Leeward Islands; and 2) the Navy's use of the seabird island of Kaula as a bomb target. I have enclosed various items on these growing controversies that you may find interesting.

Perhaps we can discuss these matters over the telephone in the not too distant future. You wouldn't by any chance be going to the CITES convention in Costa Rica during March?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

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

February 8, 1979

Mrs. Jane Selley
College of Biological Science
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
Canada N1G 2W1

Dear Mrs. Selley:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any printed material that has resulted from the First International Conference on the Mediterranean Monk Seal.

Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide to this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 7, 1979

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

Dear Archie:

I have received a cordial letter from Sir Peter Scott indicating that my formal appointment as Deputy Chairman will be forthcoming. Sir Peter will be in Hawaii for several days later this month and we have made some tentative plans to visit with one another. Hopefully this will materialize.

I want to make you aware of several ideas/projects I have been pondering that could advance the conservation of sea turtles and possibly improve the Turtle Group. Your opinions on the following would therefore be appreciated. I hope there will be ample opportunity for us to discuss these and other topics in detail at the Costa Rica meeting.

- 1) Restructure the Turtle Group to a single class of membership - all members selected should be "regular" members.
- 2) Initiate a policy whereby each Turtle Group member will automatically distribute to other members a reprint of new publications authored. You recently did this with your American Museum article, but most members unfortunately do not take the initiative.
- 3) Appoint one or more of your very capable and active lady graduate students to the Turtle Group.
- 4) Assign someone the task of preparing, printing and distributing the conservation brochure that was mandated at our 1974 ad hoc meetings in Miami and Cayman.
- 5) Initiate contact with appropriate individuals in mainland China in order to gain information on nesting and foraging turtles in the South China Sea. You may recall that I tried this several years ago, but did not receive a response. With the newly-found national friendship, perhaps some success could now be obtained. The Chairman would be the appropriate person to make such an inquiry.

Dr. Archie Carr

-2-

February 7, 1979

- 6) Initiate a formal request for the issuance of a set of U. S. commemorative stamps featuring sea turtles. This has been regularly carried out for other wildlife (see attached). Perhaps this could also be initiated concurrently in certain other countries.

In closing, I should mention that a usually reliable informant has indicated that high mortality is now taking place in the Mexican ridleys being reared in Texas. Can you verify or reject this rumor?

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:ec

Encl.

February 5, 1979

Ms. Nancy Bray
Department of Zoology
Biological Sciences Building
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Nancy:

During your visit to our laboratory on 17 April 1978, you described a report that was in preparation covering the results of your statistical analysis of nesting turtles and egg harvesting in Surinam. I recall that you indicated that the data showed a very definite decrease in the population. If your report has now been completed and is available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy. I realize that your work and travel in this project was privately financed by Cayman Turtle Farm, however this support should not preclude the distribution of such potentially important information. However, if you would rather not send your report out directly, perhaps you could provide me with the title and date so that a formal request can be made to the Cayman Turtle Farm.

I appreciated receiving the various other copied reports which you sent several weeks after returning to Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

bcc: Archie Carr
Wayne King

February 5, 1979

Ms. Jean Caton
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (WFO)
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ms. Caton:

I would greatly appreciate receiving any information that may be available at this time concerning proposed changes to the Endangered Species Treaty. I am particularly interested in the proposed changes dealing with sea turtles.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 5, 1979

Ms. Joyce L. Eden
Research Assistant
National Sea Grant Depository
Pell Library Building
URI, Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, RI 02882

Dear Ms. Eden:

I would greatly appreciate receiving the following publications on loan.

ORES-U-76-009

ORES-U-75-073

RIU-Z-72-074

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 26, 1979

Sir Peter Scott
The New Grounds
Slimbridge
Gloucester GL2 7BT
United Kingdom

Dear Sir Peter:

Thank you for your cordial letter of 12 January. Your words of encouragement are certainly appreciated. As Deputy Chairman, I will devote my best effort toward furthering the conservation status of sea turtles.

At the present time, my field research schedule for February is unsettled due to problems of transportation to our Leeward Islands. It would be a great pleasure to meet you and your wife when passing through Honolulu. At that time, please try to telephone me at 247-6631 (days - Kaneohe Laboratory) or 395-6409 (evenings - home). If this is not possible due to your demanding travel schedule, I will contact you in Maui provided I am not in the field.

Best regards and Aloha,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

January 25, 1979

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

Dear Minister Webster:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Mr. William Roe
Consul General

January 23, 1979

Dr. S. C. Litwin
Department of Zoology
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Dear Dr. Litwin:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Loggerhead sea turtles of Jekyll Island, Georgia: A report on conservation."

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 23, 1979

Dr. C. L. Yntema
Department of Anatomy
Upstate Medical Center
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Dr. Yntema:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Incubation times for eggs of the turtle Chelydra serpentina at various temperatures."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 23, 1979

Dr. Richard D. Worthington
Current Literature
Department of Biological Sciences
The University of Texas
El Paso, Texas 79968

Dear Dr. Worthington:

Enclosed are two articles from journals of "limited distribution" which you might want to list in a forthcoming issue of Herpetological Review.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 22, 1979

Ms. Anne Meylan
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Anne:

Thank you for your communication of 8 December which included a complete copy of your M.S. thesis. This is very much appreciated as it will be a valuable addition to my sea turtle reference library. In response to your request for critical comments, I made several minor notes while reading through the text. These are summarized as follows:

Page 1: Do we really have data supporting a pelagic existence that only lasts for roughly one year? At least for the Hawaiian Islands, it now seems likely that this period may be considerably more than one year (see forthcoming issue of IUCN/SSC Turtle Newsletter).

Page 20: Carrying the float out into waist-deep water at night was indeed an act of bravery. At French Frigate Shoals, I have on several occasions seen three meter long tiger sharks patrolling the shoreline in water this deep.

Page 23: Have turtle parts been recovered from the stomachs of bull or any other sharks caught at Tortuguero?

Page 24: Can you give me a general idea of what percentage of the turtles (remigrants) have conspicuous tag holes?

Pages 95-96: Might it not be possible that the considerable separation between nests of a season for some turtles is actually due to an unfavorable nesting (tagging) experience (see pages 20 and 97)?

Page 110: A larger number of nonnesting emergences by remigrants could also reflect unfavorable nesting/tagging experience "remembered" from previous nesting seasons(?).

Page 115: It should be noted that high-energy surf does not necessary preclude algal plant growth. In fact, certain algae of the genera Codium, Hypnea and

January 22, 1979

Pterocladium eaten by Hawaiian Chelonia (and other populations, I suspect) actually thrive in high-energy areas. The important parameter here, I believe, is suitable bottom substrate for the plants to grow on.

Page 115: "Mortimer (1976) confirmed the widespread belief (my emphasis) that Thalassia . . . is by far the most important component of the diet of turtles in the Western Caribbean." Very well stated. In reviewing the literature on food sources, I was surprised at the lack of hard data. I am glad that she has confirmed this belief. Hopefully at some point I can get a copy of her thesis also.

Page 118: On a number of occasions I have also found plastic in Chelonia stomachs. I do not, however, believe that ingestion was accidental. Some of our turtles frequently eat physalia and other drift invertebrates. To me it seems likely that the turtles are mistaking the floating plastic for such animals.

Page 121: I have also documented lengthy migrations well against prevailing winds and currents (Balazs, 1976 Biological Conservation - Green turtle migrations in the Hawaiian Archipelago).

These comments are only meant to be helpful as, overall, you have in my opinion certainly carried out excellent research that resulted in a quality thesis. Hopefully we will have the opportunity to meet in person at some future date and discuss research and conservation matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 22, 1979

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

Dear Sylvia:

Thank you for your letter of 16 January along with the prompt refund check. I am pleased that the samples arrived in excellent condition.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 19, 1979

To: Office of the Marine Affairs Coordinator

From: George H. Balazs

Subject: Matching MAC funds for the green sea turtle Sea Grant proposal (1979-80) as a component of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Commercial Fisheries Investigation.

For the foreseeable future, green sea turtles in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are likely to continue to be viewed as a nonconsumable wildlife resource associated closely with the protected areas of the National Wildlife Refuge. Along with the monk seals and numerous seabird species, the turtles within that portion of our island chain are not likely to provide direct and tangible economic benefits for man. Nevertheless, their existence and well being are of value and importance to a large segment of the citizenry of Hawaii and the nation. Although the form of this value certainly varies among individuals, it is usually described in terms of aesthetics, America's wildlife heritage, diversity of genetic resources, or biotic components necessary to maintain the healthy ecosystem upon which man is dependent. We are all in agreement that the orderly and rational development of any commercial fisheries by the State in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands must take place with a minimum of adverse impact to these valued, but noneconomic, wildlife species. It is therefore within this context that the management-oriented life history study of the green turtle has been incorporated as a key component of the Sea Grant NHI Fisheries Investigation. I have attempted to make these points clear in my proposal narrative, along with other relevant and clarifying information.

There is another point concerning the research of Hawaiian sea turtles which I believe may be worthwhile to emphasize at this time. With financial support from the MAC office, it has been possible to develop within Hawaii an authoritative source of information on sea turtles that can be drawn upon internationally, but most importantly by island nations of the Pacific. This acknowledged expertise can be demonstrated in part by my honorary consultancy assignment with the South Pacific Commission (see Dr. Mahony's letter of 7-8-77 to Mr. Kono), and my appointment as a full member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN - Switzerland). Hawaii is already recognized for providing expertise from a broad spectrum of marine

Memo to Marine Affairs Coordinator's Office
January 19, 1979
Page 2

disciplines, and it is an additional credit that the biology and ecology of sea turtles can now be added to the list.

I appreciate having the opportunity to clarify and confirm some of these points relative to my work.

GHB:md

January 18, 1979

TO: Mr. Richard Shomura, Director
NMFS, Honolulu Laboratory

FROM: George H. Balazs

Based on our discussions of Tuesday, January 16th, I thought it might be useful to summarize for your reference some of the subject areas that, in my opinion, should be considered for support when NMFS sea turtle funds become available for the Pacific.

Hawaiian Islands

- 1) Travel to forthcoming meetings and workshops;
- 2) Development of a technique to determine age of turtles from bones or laminae;
- 3) Long distance satellite telemetry (in collaboration with NMFS-NSTL lab);
- 4) Supplemental support for life history study of Hawaiian green turtle population, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands' emphasis - research assistants, travel to study areas, and salary for Balazs (should Sea Grant funding not materialize for fiscal year starting June 1979).
- 5) Compilation of knowledge on tag durability and success.

Other Pacific areas

- 1) American Samoa stock assessment/tagging (Rose Atoll emphasis);
- 2) Assistance/consultation for Western Samoa (hawksbill hatchery);
- 3) Wake Island stock assessment/tagging;
- 4) Canton Island stock assessment/tagging (before departure of U.S. Air Force support capabilities);
- 5) Palmyra stock assessment/tagging;
- 6) Stock assessment/tagging at select areas in the Trust Territory (Helen's Island (?); Survey of native dependencies (?).

GHB:ec

January 18, 1979

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

Dear CDR Kelley:

Thank you for your letter of 10 January concerning my request for information on the possible sightings of sea turtles at Kaula. My inquiry referred entirely to turtles foraging in the inshore waters, and you are of course correct in stating that it is highly unlikely that any nesting could take place. However, it should be noted that the presence of a steep, rocky coastline does not preclude acceptable foraging habitat. For instance, the precipitous coastlines of Necker Island (23°35'N, 164°42'W) and the Kau District (19°10'N, 155°30'W) of the Island of Hawaii both host resident concentrations of green turtles.

Incidentally, I never did hear from the environmental consulting firm which you previously mentioned would be contacting me concerning my Kahoolawe turtle report forwarded on 13 November 1978.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 17, 1979

Dr. Eugene Gaffney
Department of Vertebrate Paleontology
The American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, N. Y. 10024

Dear Mr. Gaffney:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of any articles you may have authored dealing with fossil sea turtles.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 17, 1979

Mr. Thomas Ritchie
Chief Naturalist
M.S. Lindblad EXPLORER
c/o Lindblad Travel, Inc.
133 East 55th Street
New York, N. Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Recently Mr. Brent Giezantner, Manager for Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuges, informed me of your observations of sea turtles while visiting Rose Atoll. Although your observations were brief, they nevertheless provide some further insight into this little known location for nesting and foraging turtles.

I would greatly appreciate learning of any additional observations of sea turtles which you may make during the course of your travels.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 17, 1979

Dr. Roger Conant Wood
Faculty of Natural Science and Mathematics
Stockton State College
Pomona, New Jersey 08240

Dear Dr. Wood:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your 1976 article entitled "*Stupendemys geographicus*, the world's largest turtle" which appeared in *Breviora*. I would also like to receive reprints of any articles you may have authored dealing with fossil sea turtles.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

G. H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 17, 1978

Dr. John E. Byrne
Coordinator, Pacific Island Studies
Fish and Wildlife Service
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1692
500 N. E. Multnomah Street
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Dr. Byrne:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the report entitled "Literature review and synthesis of information on Pacific island ecosystems."

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

January 15, 1979

Ms. Laura Tangley
Defenders of Wildlife
1244 Nineteenth Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Ms. Tangley:

Many thanks for your informative letter of 8 January concerning the international conference on sea turtles and the forthcoming planning meeting of the steering and scientific committees. I have been aware of these events through telephone conversations with Dr. Wayne King, but nevertheless greatly appreciate your correspondence. It is still very uncertain if I will be able to attend the 26 January planning meeting due to the present absence of travel funds. I will notify you if and when this situation changes.

I look forward to meeting you in person in November.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 12, 1979

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

Dear Dr. Braddon:

The turtle flesh samples which you requested were sent by air freight on Braniff on 11 January in accordance with the schedule I described to you during our telephone conversation. Hopefully the parcel arrived in good condition with the samples still frozen solid. I look forward to learning of the outcome of your research project.

I have attached a copy of the Braniff shipping receipt, a receipt for the dry ice, and an invoice for personal travel mileage incurred transporting the parcel to Honolulu International Airport. I would appreciate receiving a refund for these expenses at the earliest date possible.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.