

6 1980-1981

HIMB OUTGOING LETTERS
OF GEORGE BALAZS

TO BANN
3/23/81

November 19, 1980

Ms. Kimberly Wright
Enforcement Division
Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 50223
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Kim:

As I described during our telephone conversation on November 17th, I found three stores in American Samoa that were openly selling turtle products imported from other areas of the Pacific. The details of my findings are as follows:

1. Burn Philp (in Pago Pago) - selling both green and hawksbill polished carapaces, with at least eight on display priced up to \$125.00. On three occasions, different personnel told me that these shells are periodically imported from Tonga. An assortment of ear rings made from hawksbill shell was also on sale at this Australian-owned establishment. According to sales literature, the manager of the Pago Pago branch is a Mr. Brian Herbert.
2. Curio Shop (at the airport) - selling a wide and plentiful assortment of jewelry and combs made from hawksbill turtle shell. The manager told me that many of these items were imported from Fiji. Labels on boxes in storage confirmed this point.

The curio shop building at the airport seems to be divided into two separate entities. The business on the left side was selling the hawksbill items; the business on the right only offered plastic imitation hawksbill jewelry.

3. Duty Free Shop (at the airport) - Two "armbands" made of hawksbill shell were on display at this store. Sales personnel told me that this was a regular sales item. Presumably a supply was on hand in their back storeroom.

I hope that you can do some good in cleaning up this unacceptable and illegal commercial drain on our Pacific sea turtle populations.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr

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

February 27, 1981

Agents James Bartee and Kimberly Wright
Enforcement Division
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 50223
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Jim and Kimberly:

As you will recall, on November 19 I wrote to your office concerning the sale and international importation of green and hawksbill turtle products in American Samoa. A copy of this earlier letter has been attached for reference purposes.

During my most recent visit to American Samoa (5 February) the following observations were made:

1. Burns Philp in Pago Pago continues to sell tortoise shell jewelry, but no whole shells were present in the store. I was unable to determine if they were "out of stock" and simply waiting for the next shipment from Tonga, or if they had discontinued these items.

Based on conversations that I had with personnel at Burns Philp in Apia, Western Samoa, tortoise shell jewelry is regularly being sent to merchants in Pago Pago.

2. The sale of tortoise shell jewelry at the Curio Shop at the airport continues to take place, as described in my earlier letter. The source of this material is Fiji.
3. The Duty Free Shop at the airport was not offering tortoise shell armbands for sale.

As you can tell, the problem still persists, with only some apparent improvement since I first notified you over three months ago. It seems to me that this situation could be inexpensively corrected, from an enforcement standpoint, by sending sternly worded registered letters from your office, or from the FWS Washington, D. C. office, directly to the businesses involved. Of course ideally an agent should regularly visit American Samoa, but given the necessary budget constraints now facing our nation, I can understand why this may not be possible.

Agents J.Bartee and K.Wright
Page Two
February 27, 1981

I would appreciate learning of the outcome of FWS investigations and actions on this matter. Please consider this to be "in-house" information, and do not disclose your source to parties in American Samoa.

Sincerely,

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

mk
cc: Archie Carr, Chairman
Wayne King, IUCN/SSC

March 17, 1981

Mr. Fred Duerr
General Manager
Kona Village Resort
Kaupulehu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Duerr:

On March 5th, following my lecture series in Hilo and Kona, I had the pleasure of speaking in person with your fine staff members Byron Ayoso and Jackie Robinson about their sightings of sea turtles off the Kona Village Resort. As a researcher of Hawaiian turtles, I had previously corresponded with Byron and requested that he send me information on turtle observations made during the course of his ocean-related activities. I was pleased to learn that turtles are regularly seen along your coastline, both foraging in shallow waters and sleeping in offshore coral formations.

A major part of my current research program involves the capturing and tagging of turtles around our main Hawaiian Islands. The objective of this work is to document growth rates, movements, population numbers and food sources. While considerable progress has been made at several sampling areas, it is essential that additional sites be carefully investigated. Based on the information currently in hand, it is my feeling that the coastal area of the Kona Village Resort offers excellent opportunities for the careful conduction of tagging research. I of course realize that such work would have to be consistent and harmonious with the quality character of your facility. I am certain that this is entirely possible and, indeed, such research activities could be expected to attract the interest and enthusiasm of many of your guests.

Having stated the above, I would like to propose, or at least explore with you, a pilot study visit to your area involving myself and my field technician, Mr. Alan K. H. Kam. Our specific activities would consist of daytime and nighttime dives (both skin and scuba) to locate, capture, tag and release as many turtles as possible over a 3-4 day period. During the course of this visit, I would be delighted to explain various aspects of sea turtle biology, conservation and research to interested guests. With your approval, it might even be desirable to present natural history lectures with illustrative color slides brought with me from Honolulu. In addition, guests

Mr. Fred Duerr
March 17, 1981
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that would like to become directly involved in the capture and tagging would be most welcome to do so under my guidance and Federal Endangered Species Research Permit.

During most of my field expeditions, accommodations for sleeping consist of two small one-man tents. The required field equipment is usually stored in a rental compact station wagon. Considering the extensive terrain surrounding your complex, I would imagine that a secluded, appropriate sleeping site could be found. This would help to ensure that no adverse visual impacts result to guests from "camping" too close to the Resort.

I am hopeful that you will be receptive to this proposal. In addition to being of immediate interest to your guests, this short-term research would result in a number of tagged resident turtles that can be viewed by future guests for many months or years to come. In short, I believe that the project would be of definite mutual benefit to our respective interests. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits. If you wish, please feel free to telephone me person-to-person collect at 247-6631 or 946-2181 weekdays during business hours.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1981

Mr. Tundi Agardy
Endangered Species Coordinator
Department of Conservation and
Cultural Affairs
P. O. Box 1879
Frederiksted, St. Croix
Virgin Islands 00840

Dear Mr. Agardy:

Thank you for your letter of January 9th that arrived here a few days ago. As requested, I am pleased to send you an assortment of articles covering my work with sea turtles in the Pacific. If you have any questions about the information presented, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

In response to your question, no, I am not aware of any new developments that now allow the tagging of hatchlings. Even if such a tag, or system, is eventually developed, its use would probably have to be restricted to sites where hatcheries are currently in operation. The problems related to capturing hatchlings for marking purposes when they emerge from underground nests on a natural nesting beach seem to me to be substantial. Personally, in the long run, I feel it will be more rewarding to catch and tag platter-sized turtles when they appear in nearshore foraging habitat. This is the focus of my own research program. Concerning your second question, yes, cattle ear tags remain the very best style of tag for sea turtles. However, as I have discussed in the enclosed publications, the type of alloy used for the tag can be very important for some turtle populations. Here in Hawaii, the standard Monel alloy was found to corrode at a fairly rapid rate. I now use tags made of an alloy called Inconel, and no corrosion has been found. In some other areas, Monel has not been a problem. Unfortunately, Inconel is very expensive, and currently it is apparently impossible to find a manufacturer that will make such tags. I am fortunate to still have a modest supply.

I hope that I have been helpful. I look forward to hearing of your results as your program progresses.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 27, 1981

Mr. Lucas Chin
Curator, Sarawak Museum
24232 Pejabat Museum
24231 Penyalenggara
MU/523/D/(39)
Sarawak, Malaysia

Dear Mr. Chin:

I recently received copies of your correspondence with Dr. Wayne King concerning the drastic decline of sea turtle populations in Sarawak waters, and the likely adverse impacts of trawling. This was indeed disturbing news, in that I have always viewed Sarawak's turtle islands as being the origin of our modern-day research and conservation efforts. Certainly this is an historic site of worldwide acclaim that deserves all of the help that we can now provide. Please count on me to contribute in whatever way you may deem to be appropriate and effective.

For background information, I would like to learn more about the trawling activities you mentioned. What kind of trawling is taking place (shrimp?), and approximately how many vessels are involved? Presumably all of these are of Malaysian registry. Do the trawlers only operate during certain times of the year, and how close to the nesting beaches do they come? Are dead turtles actually found washed up on beaches and caught in trawl nets, such as regularly takes place in our southeastern United States?

I look forward to hearing from you further on this important matter. Under separate cover, I am also taking this opportunity to send you a recent publication covering my green turtle research here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

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

mk

bcc: A. Carr
W. King

January 30, 1981

Mr. Robert Lindsey
Division of Conservation
and Resources Enforcement
P. O. Box 310
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Dear Mr. Lindsey:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Big Island. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Hawaii for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 28, 1981

Ms. Anne B. Appleby
2406 Delphi Road, SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Anne:

I regret taking so long to respond to your letter. Thank you very much for marking the locations of your turtle sightings on the map that I sent you. This assistance is greatly appreciated.

I share your concern for the integrity of the Maui reef area, and numerous other stressed locations in the Hawaiian chain. With respect to continuing your work on Maui, the only recommendation that I can offer at this time is for you to write to:

Mr. Sherwood Maynard
Director, Marine Option Program
George Hall
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Students in the Marine Option Program have at times been active in marine surveys off Molokai and Kahoolawe. When you write to Mr. Maynard, it would be beneficial for you to send any reports that resulted from your work. I am not sure what he will be able to advise, but again this is the only recommendation I can think of.

Ms. Anne B. Appleby
Page 2
January 28, 1981

We plan to return to Kivolo again, following my study visit to Western Samoa between February 4-19. The site is becoming popular for gill net fishermen, and I am afraid this is taking a toll on the turtles.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



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

January 12, 1981

Dr. Robert Shallenberger
Refuge Manager
Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Rob:

I am writing to confirm my intended schedule of green turtle research activities at French Frigate Shoals for the summer of 1981. This work will be conducted as part of our Endangered and Threatened Species Program here at the Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service.

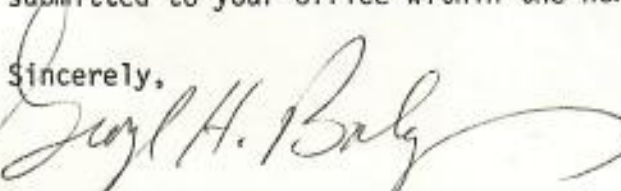
Green turtle research activities for the summer of 1981 will consist of two components:

1. Radio-tracking of adult females and males to define marine habitat usage in the vicinity of East Island- This is a continuation of work conducted during June of 1980 which focused on breeding turtles in the area of Whale-Skate and Trig islands. With Fish and Wildlife Service approval, our plans call for the establishment of the same radio-receiving unit on Tern that was used in 1980. In addition, a one-man field unit will be temporarily erected on the iron framework of the abandoned barge ramp located approximately 200 m off the west shore of Whale-Skate.
2. Monitoring of breeding parameters and tagging of green turtles nesting at East Island- This will constitute the ninth consecutive year of comprehensive monitoring and tagging during the breeding season at East Island. As during previous years, my plans are to personally conduct this delicate work through the establishment of a one-man temporary field camp.

The activities listed in the above are planned to encompass the period 4 June through 2 July 1981. Our team must consist of six individuals, but only four will be based on Tern Island for the duration of the study. One individual will monitor the radio unit off Whale-Skate (on a rotational basis), and I will be stationed at East Island. In addition, it will be necessary for us to employ two individuals already at Tern Island, hopefully Ruth Ittner and Susan Schulmeister. We would also like to request use of one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's small boats for periodic (but low level) transportation between the various study sites. With respect to usage of water and electricity at Tern Island, our consumption rates will be similar to June of 1980. Bob Schulmeister can provide you with the specifics.

A detailed proposal covering our 1981 radio-tracking and tagging research will be submitted to your office within the next few weeks.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist (IPA- Univ. Hawaii)



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

January 5, 1981

Vice-Almirante Francisco Amiana C.
Jefe de Estado Mayor, Marina de Guerra Dominicana
Base Naval 27 de Febrero
Sans Souci, Ave. Espana
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Dear Senor Vice-Almirante:

As the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I have had the opportunity to read the letter that our Chairman, Professor Archie Carr, wrote to you on December 9, 1980. I would like to tell you that here in the Hawaiian Islands we have experienced similar declines in our marine turtle populations, and problems have been encountered in efforts to protect and replenish this valuable resource. Nevertheless, with the cooperative assistance of several government, military and private agencies, we have been able to make notable progress. The future outlook for Hawaiian marine turtles is now certainly more encouraging and, with continued cooperative efforts, we hope to achieve our management goals in the foreseeable future. Concurrent with these conservation activities, a vigorous research program has also been undertaken in order to obtain sufficient biological data for use in important management decisions.

I realize that the Hawaiian Islands are a considerable distance from the Dominican Republic, but I would still like to join with Professor Carr in personally offering whatever assistance you may desire in formulating your own programs for the research, conservation and management of marine turtles. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel there is any way I can contribute to the development of your programs.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

December 10, 1980

Mr. & Mrs. Dupri Dudoit & Family
P. O. Box 310
Kaunakakai, Molokai 96748

Dear Dudoit Family:

It was a great pleasure having the opportunity to meet you and talk about sea turtles at Halawa. I want to thank you very much for the information that you gave me.

As promised, I am sending you a copy of my color booklet entitled "Hawaii's Sea Birds, Turtles, and Seals." I have also enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Will you please write to me when the egg nest hatches at Halawa. This will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you again during my next visit to Molokai.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encls.

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

October 24, 1980

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hind
P. O. Box 1149
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hind:

Once again I want to thank you for your hospitality and assistance relating to my tagging studies of sea turtles at Kiholo Bay. As I mentioned, this most recent visit proved to be exceedingly valuable, with eight turtles being recovered that were originally tagged during my March 1980 trip. The remeasurement of these turtles has provided hard-to-obtain information on natural growth rates, one of the major objectives of my research project.

The enclosed section of a 1977 report prepared by the UH Water Resources Research Center describes some of the special ecological characteristics of Wainanali'i Pond at Kiholo. From the standpoint of habitat for turtles, this is a unique and important pond that should be set aside as a legally protected sanctuary. Without such recognition, I am afraid that, as increasing numbers of people use the area, the pond will become polluted and plundered. Clearly some action needs to be taken in the not too distant future. I therefore hope that you will keep me informed by letter or telephone about any adverse changes that occur in the area, particularly with respect to easier access by the public. Hopefully your present gate will remain intact to serve as a reasonable control to the area.

The sea turtles at Kiholo, and elsewhere throughout the Hawaiian Islands, are now fully protected under Federal law. Unfortunately, this is not well known. When you issue permits for people to camp on your land, I think it would be entirely appropriate and commendable if you mentioned this fact. I feel certain that this would be helpful.

I look forward to seeing both of you again in about five months when I would like to make another turtle tagging visit to Kiholo.

Best wishes and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

November 30th, 1980
PO Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Mr. Martin Garnett
Wildlife Conservation Officer
Christmas Island
Republic of Kiribati

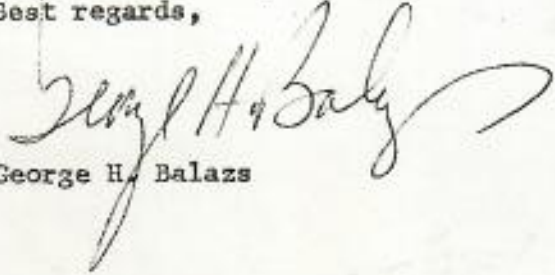
Dear Mr. Garnett:

In the enclosed article, you will read that a Dr. Ralph Schrieber of Los Angeles has recently been contracted by the U.S. Navy to study the effects of practice bombing on seabirds that breed on our small island of Kaula. Many conservationists here in Hawaii, including myself, are not at all pleased with the fact that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized this study, and in doing so, permitted bombing to continue for at least another two years. Dr. Schrieber is being portrayed by the Navy as a respected conservationist and a highly competent researcher of seabirds. This may very well be the case. Nevertheless, I have heard some second-hand, unsubstantiated comments which indicate that Dr. Schrieber recently had some professional difficulties while at Christmas Island. Again, at the present time these are only rumors. As the Wildlife Conservation Officer for Christmas Island, I am hoping that you can shed some light on this matter. If for some reason you would prefer not to comment at all, that would be understandable, as I realize that this is somewhat of an unusual request. Whatever help that you can provide will be most appreciated.

On a completely separate note, as you know Captain Cook's log described in detail the great number of sea turtles present (and captured) at Christmas Island. Can you give me any idea of their abundance at the present time, both for adults nesting on the beaches and younger turtles inhabiting nearshore waters?

I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,


George H. Balazs

enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Dear

Recently I wrote to Robert Truland of Chelonia Institute asking if his nonprofit conservation organization would be interested in financially supporting the publication and distribution of a definitive set of color picture postcards displaying the seven species of sea turtles. For some time now, I have felt that a real need exists for this type of material to be available for use in education, research, and public awareness programs. To my knowledge, there is currently no source where one can obtain quality color photographs of this nature. The production of appropriate color postcards could fulfill this need, and at the same time keep the unit cost at an absolute minimum. Much to my delight, Mr. Truland subsequently responded enthusiastically to my suggestion. He has made a financial commitment to produce about 6,000 postcards for each of the seven species (approx. 42,000 total).

As the "production coordinator," my task at this stage of the project is to obtain 35 mm color slides of each species that are of the highest quality with respect to composition, focus and exposure. I believe that it would be desirable for the representative picture of each species to be an adult, either nesting naturally on shore or swimming underwater. People or other distracting subjects should not appear in the picture - only the sea turtle in its natural environment. If the necessary photographic material can be obtained, it may also be desirable to show a copulating pair of one of the species, provided that the identifying characteristics of the species are clearly visible in the picture.

My reason for writing to you at this time is to ask if you (or a close colleague) have 35 mm slides (originals, not duplicates) that you can send to me for consideration in this project. All slides, even those selected for publication, will of course eventually be returned to you. If your color slide is used for one of the seven postcards, you will be given full photo credit on the card, as well as being offered the opportunity to help compose a caption describing your species and promoting a conservation theme. If your slide is used, we will also be able to send you a modest supply of the completed postcards at no cost. All slides that are submitted should be securely wrapped and sent to me by air mail. I am

sending out this same letter to about 10 other selected individuals. All of these requests for assistance should be received by the first week in December. A final selection of slides is therefore planned for mid-January, at the latest, so that production can get underway shortly thereafter.

I hope that you will agree to help out with this worthwhile conservation project. In addition to sending slides, if you have any suggestions for the enhancement of the project, they would certainly be most welcome. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing your slides within the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Robert Truland



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 26, 1980

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
Queensland Turtle Research
P. O. Box 189
Aitkenvale, Townsville 4814
AUSTRALIA

Dear Col:

Marianne Reidman mentioned that your mail seems to be regularly forwarded to you while you are out in the field, so I am hopeful that this letter, along with the enclosed, will reach you without too many weeks of delay. I had a pleasant visit with Marianne, and it sounded as if she had a rewarding study trip to Heron Island. Several years ago she telephoned and wrote to me about the possibilities of conducting underwater observations of mating turtle at French Frigate Shoals. I felt obligated to discourage her in this respect due to our large tiger populations and records of human attack. Just this past August we had a fellow surfing off of Maui who ended up with 100 stitches from a tiger. You are fortunate that you, and your turtles, don't seem to have this same serious problem.

In response to your undated letter inquiring about growth data, I can see nothing wrong with not incorporating my "no growth" records in computations, so long as I clearly state that such records exist. This is exactly what I did in my Washington conference paper, in my Northwestern Hawaiian Island symposium paper that I sent to you, and in a more lengthy report being issued by NMFS in a few weeks (your copy forthcoming). If a reader wants to calculate the various "growth" and "no growth" records in a different manner than I have selected, he or she is perfectly free to do so in that I have included all of the required data. You of course did this in your letter. But please keep in mind that "no growth" records have only been found in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and that only a few of the tag and recapture intervals have been as short as two months. The measurements and remeasurements in these cases, as with the vast majority, were personally carried out by me. Needless to say, I have great trust in my own work. As stated in print on several occasions, I also have considerably more faith in straight line measurements using calipers, as opposed to curved measurements using a flexible tape. Why do you use a tape? You say in your letter that in your work you compute all growth increments, including zeros and even negative values. While it does not disturb me that you use zeros, so long as this is clearly stated and detailed in the text, it does bother me somewhat that you

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
November 26, 1980
Page 2

also compute negative values. Do you have any evidence that a carapace can really shrink once it has grown to a certain size? If a turtle was undergoing such a physiological process, wouldn't it have the appearance of being a sick, or at least an abnormal, looking turtle? Doesn't it seem more probable that negative growth values are actually caused by measurement errors?

A lot of emphasis seems to have been placed on the incredibly slow growth rates I have recorded in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In part, this is probably due to the fact that this very slow growth is corroborated by your work on the Great Barrier Reef. I keep pointing out, however, that the rates of growth are much faster in pastures located around our main Hawaiian Islands. I don't want this important point to be completely overshadowed by the more sensational aspect of turtles that may take many decades to mature.

You opened your letter by saying that you wanted to engage in some "debate," so I hope that I've been helpful, in a friendly sort of way, in this respect. But while we are on the subject of debate, what about all of that baloney that Bob Bustard handed out in the Newsletter? He talked about his extensive work in Australia and the Pacific, but never once mentioned the utter mess he left behind, both sociologically and biologically if I remember our earlier conversations correctly. Why have you let him get away with this without engaging in debate, or at least rebuttal, in the newsletter and other publications? Surely you don't limit your debates to friends and people who respect and admire your work, such as Archie and I do.

I've just spent 10 days in American Samoa and 4 days on a chartered fishing boat out at Rose Atoll (a U. S. designated National Wildlife Refuge). The breeding period seemed to be almost over, but still I was able to see and tag a few greens. Their coloration, large size, and particularly their very soft skin and scales, certainly make them much different than our Hawaiian stock. I'll send you a color photo in the near future so I can get your impressions relative to Australian *Chelonia*. During 1981 I plan to undertake a one month tagging project at Rose; this recent short trip accomplished most of the ground work.

A number of months ago I wrote to both you and John Parmenter (and other Turtle Group members) suggesting that you approach the proper postal authorities in Australia about issuing a set of sea turtle stamps. Please tell me if you ever followed through on this idea. If you didn't like the suggestion, or if problems were encountered, I would appreciate hearing the details.

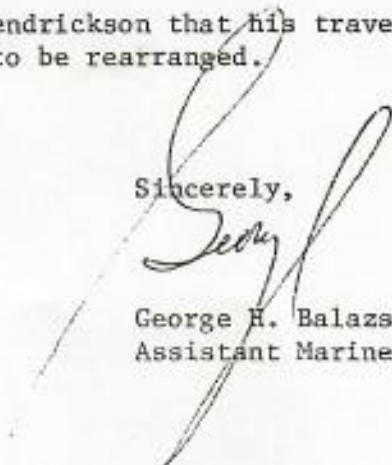
It was good to talk to you and Gayle by telephone, but I did not enjoy

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
November 26, 1980
Page 3

passing the message on to John Hendrickson that his travel plans for Australia were in shambles and would have to be rearranged.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

November 26, 1980

Lauao Ioane
P. O. Box 3317
Aoa, Pago Pago
American Samoa 96799

Dear Miss Ioane:

I am sending you a copy of the photograph which you asked for during my visit to Aoa on November 8th. I believe that it turned out very well, and I hope that you enjoy it.

The photograph is yours to keep, but I would appreciate it if you would mail me back the enclosed form using the self addressed envelope I have provided.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

November 26, 1980

Mr. James Sternberg
Research Associate
Center for Environmental Education
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Sternberg:

Thank you for your letter of August 23rd requesting comments on the draft atlas of sea turtle nesting beaches. This correspondence was postmarked October 7th, and was received here in Kaneohe during the latter part of the month.

In my opinion, this is a very difficult project that you have undertaken. As you have found, the various papers that resulted from the Washington Conference do not furnish a complete and precise listing of all sea turtle rookeries. Furthermore, the magnitude of nesting is often not known, or at least not stated. This is an important point, because it seems to me that it is absolutely essential that any atlas prepared for general distribution make a clear, careful distinction between minor and incidental nesting sites, and those sites where important, major nesting takes place for a region. If this is not clearly set forth in both symbols and captions, I am fearful that certain individuals will use the atlas to show (erroneously) that turtles are really not in trouble because their nesting sites are so numerous. Undoubtedly you have already thought about this potentially serious problem, but nevertheless I wanted to call it to your attention for further consideration.

I have heard some very good words about your organization's conservation efforts on behalf of sea turtles. Please feel free to call upon me for assistance and advice whenever you think it becomes necessary and appropriate.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 20, 1980

Mr. Peter Davis
Fish Exports Standards Officer
Department of Primary Industry
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your letter of October 14th. I am sorry for the delay in responding, but I have been in Samoa preparing for some sea turtle tagging studies to be conducted during 1981.

If you do indeed come to Honolulu for the marathon run, please be sure to contact me so that we can meet in person and further some of these topics of mutual interest. This would be very nice.

I'm not sure if it will meet your needs, but I have enclosed the narrative portion of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy that resulted from the World Conference held last November in Washington, D. C. I believe that this should give you some basic background information.

The Stanley Gibbon address, and especially the Pitcairn Island stamps, were greatly appreciated. Also, I am pleased to tell you that Republica Dominicana recently issued a set of national fauna stamps that includes a hawksbill turtle. This resulted from the "suggestion letter" that I sent earlier in the year.

I have made contact with an efficient, courteous and reasonably priced topical stamp dealer. You may want to use him for your collection:

Elholms
825 Hayes Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53405

My business telephone numbers are 946-2181 and 247-6631. My home number is 395-6409. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

November 21, 1980

Dr. John Killingley
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Geological Research Division
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Dr. Killingley:

I thought I would take this opportunity to write a short follow-up inquiry to my letter of August 25th concerning analyses of turtle barnacles. Do you feel that this area of study is of sufficient interest and promise for me to send you additional barnacles (possibly also including *Platylepas hexastylus*)? If so, I can initiate requests to some of my contacts working with turtles at other sites in the Pacific region.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

November 20, 1980

Mr. Huang Chu-chien
Peking Institute of Zoology
Academic Sinica
Peking, CHINA

Dear Mr. Huang:

I want to thank you very much for sending me a copy of your article in TRAVELLER magazine. I will try to have this translated for distribution to other members of our Marine Turtle Group.

I am very sorry that you did not have enough time in advance in order to attend the crocodile conference. However, please understand that I am not a member of the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Group, and that I have no knowledge of their schedule of meetings. The Chairman of the Crocodile Group (I do not know his name), or Dr. F. Wayne King, SSC Deputy Chairman, are the proper individuals that you should be in contact with about these matters. My involvement with IUCN/SSC is exclusively with the Marine Turtle Group.

Enclosed is a recent newspaper article about Japan's ratification of CITES that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

October 29, 1980

Dr. Robert Shoop
Department of Zoology
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, R. I. 02881

Dear Bob:

Joe Kirschvink was recently in Honolulu looking for magnetite in tumas and hatchling Hawaiian green turtles. He found sizeable quantities in both animals, although I don't have all of the details of his results at the present time. The finding for green turtles is probably not that surprising, in that he previously found magnetite in young loggerheads. I have no idea what it all means, but it certainly seems interesting.

If my memory serves me correctly, at one time you had a student testing the response of young greens when they were placed in various magnetic fields. Can you give me a brief run-down on the results of this work? Was this experimentation incorporated into a dissertation? Did any reports or publications result that you can easily send to me? Any help that you can provide along these lines would be greatly appreciated. Possibly the results of your work would be a nice item for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. You should consider this, particularly in view of Kirschvink's recent note in the Newsletter.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 31, 1980

Mr. Itaru Uchida
Himeji City Aquarium
Nobusua, Tegarayama
Himeji City 670
JAPAN

Dear Itaru:

Thank you for your letter of October 26th requesting information on laws or programs for the conservation of sea turtles in the U. S. Trust Territory (Micronesia). The U. S. Endangered Species Act currently applies to this area of Pacific. Regulations under the Act provide full legal protection to all species of sea turtles (including hawksbills), with the exception that green turtles may be taken by native residents for subsistence purposes only. The exemption for subsistence does not cover any commercial use.

For your information, I am sending you a copy of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy that resulted from our Washington Conference. This version is in English, but if it would be helpful I can send copies in either French or Spanish. The Conservation Strategy received an overwhelming endorsement from the participants of the conference. You will therefore probably want to use this document as a key reference source in the preparation of your report.

I would appreciate receiving a copy of your report when it is completed. If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

~~GH~~:ec

Encl.

bcc: A. Carr
W. King
K. Bjorndal

November 20, 1980

Dr. Val Hinds
Assistant Director (Technical)
Fisheries Management Division
P. O. Box 2298
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Val:

Many thanks for your note of October 29th and the turtle sighting report for Raoul. Again, this information is very important, and certainly greatly appreciated. In response to the request, I have enclosed more turtle badges, identification sheets, and some photographs showing three of the species of sea turtles. Please give my best regards and Hawaiian Aloha to the team at Raoul.

I see Harold Hirth about once a year, and will indeed give him your regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

November 20, 1980

Mr. Terry Ferstle
American Samoa Diving Club
P. O. Box 3620
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Terry:

I am sorry that I was not able to meet with you in person during my visit to Samoa. Nevertheless, I appreciated the opportunity to talk with you by telephone about Samoan sea turtles and diving club activities.

As promised, I am sending you a supply of my sea turtle sighting report forms (with maps of Tutuila), as well as sea turtle identification sheets for four of the seven living species. I will be most grateful for any and all information that the club members can provide using these forms.

Please extend my best regards to President Don Lagronna and other members of the diving club. There is a good chance that I will be visiting Pago for a short time during mid-January on my way to Western Samoa. I will certainly make a point of contacting you at that time.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

November 18, 1980

Mr. Christer S. Friberg
Principal Fisheries Officer
Northern Group, Penrhyn Island
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

I haven't heard from you since I mailed you the University of Hawaii catalog in May, as you requested in your interesting letter of 30 April. Did you receive this material safely? I certainly hope so.

Sometime during June, a friend of yours (a pediatrician at Children's Hospital) telephoned my home here in Honolulu. Unfortunately, I was in the field tagging turtles almost the entire month, so I was not able to talk to him. When I returned to town in July, I found he had moved to California.

I hope that your work is going along well. Can you tell me what sort of air service, if any, is now taking place between Penrhyn and Rarotonga, or any other Pacific Islands? I understand that Penrhyn has an excellent landing field that was constructed during World War II. Is this correct? I would certainly like to visit your atoll and see the motu, marae and sea turtles.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

November 18, 1980

Lt. Doug Perkins
United States Coast Guard
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Doug:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you and your wife for the fine hospitality and assistance that you extended during our recent trip to American Samoa.

Enclosed is a color booklet on Hawaiian wildlife that I prepared several years ago. Many of the same species occur in Samoa, so I thought you might find it interesting.

I look forward to seeing you again sometime during January when I travel to Western Samoa to study their 10-year old hawksbill hatchery.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

November 18, 1980

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

Dear William:

Needless to say, it was a great pleasure to visit Rose Atoll and have the opportunity to work with you and Dick. I will be discussing all of our findings for turtles in a later letter.

My reason for writing to you so quickly at this time is to ask if you will deliver the enclosed letter to Wally before he leaves for Swains Island. I think it will be quite valuable if we can get up-to-date information on turtles from the few people that are now living at Swains.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

November 18, 1980

Mr. Wally Thompson
c/o Mr. William Pedro
Office of Marine Resources
Pago Pago, American Samoa

Dear Wally:

Once again, Mahalo and many thanks for the assistance and hospitality that you provided on our voyage to Rose Atoll. Your professional seamanship was recognized and appreciated.

You mentioned that you would be taking a trip to Swains in the near future. I wonder if you would be willing to ask your friends at Swains some questions about sea turtles? This could be a valuable contribution to our knowledge of turtles in American Samoan waters. The basic important questions are as follows:

1. During what months of the year do turtles come ashore to nest and lay eggs?
2. During the peak nesting time, how many turtles come ashore to lay eggs during a one-week period?
3. How many different kinds of turtles nest at Swains?

I hope that you can help me with this request.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

October 29, 1980

Miss Kim Mitchell
P. O. Box 1257
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Dear Kim:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the photo that was taken on Saturday, October 18th, at Kiholo Bay. I hope that you enjoy it. A copy of this picture is also being sent to your friend, Lehua Ah Nee.

I was happy to see the two of you take such a great interest in my tagging studies of Hawaiian sea turtles. The enclosed color booklet provides some further biological information on these unique animals. Perhaps you could take this material to your school and present a science report on sea turtles to your class. I feel certain that your other friends would enjoy learning more about this subject.

It was a pleasure to meet you. Please feel free to write to me if you have any additional questions about sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHM:md

Enclosures

October 29, 1980

Mr. Mark Gentle
(Assistant Fisheries Officer)
PRIVATE MAIL
South Pacific Commission
BP D5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your letters of 11 and 30 September 1980. The letter dated 11 September arrived after I had already mailed my "official stationery" letter to you of 22 September. I hope that the discussion and comments in this letter relating to sea turtles did not cause you any additional problems in the SPC hierarchy. I fully realized that certain individuals within SPC were not all that keen on the subject of turtles, but I didn't realize that it was quite this bad. It is indeed surprising that the Workshop on this subject was ever allowed to take place. Perhaps this only occurred as a result of the fine, effective, and persuasive efforts of Rene Grandperrin.

I share your lack of enthusiasm over the recently published Western Samoa hawksbill paper. I really don't see how something this flimsy could have gotten by the reviewers of the journal. I do know that the author has attempted to publish this in at least two other journals over the past three years. He was turned down each time. As a project report, it would have been worthy of distribution, but it simply lacks the meaningful, hard data to be suitable for a journal publication.

You mentioned about the need for someone to spend some time in Western Samoa pulling together all up-to-date and relevant information on the hatchery project. We have money budgeted exactly for that purpose, and I hope to get down there during late January or February. Richard Shomura has laid the groundwork and I will apparently have the full cooperation of the local fisheries department. They certainly were helpful to me when I made an unofficial, brief two-day visit in 1977. Anyway, without their future cooperation, very little could be accomplished. Contact with Bill Travis will also be important.

From 5-14 November I will be in American Samoa to take part in a short study visit to Rose Atoll. I hope to obtain enough preliminary information so that the Office of Marine Resources in Pago Pago can do some intensive tagging and censusing during the peak of the 1981 breeding season. As you will recall from the Workshop, we don't even know what month that would be.

Your suggestion about a sea turtle migration map for the Fisheries Newsletter is excellent. Animal migrations seem to fascinate everyone (see the enclosed). If I draw up such a map, will SPC actually let you publish it? This is something that needs to be done for general information

Page 2

purposes anyway, so I will try to work this task in with the many other things I need to accomplish.

Have you received a copy of the sea turtle project proposal for New Caledonia that Peter Pritchard is distributing? If not, let me know and I will send you one. I received the proposal a few weeks ago, but with no cover letter or other explanatory note. I have no idea where it's been submitted for possible funding; no budget papers were included in my copy, so I don't even know how much he's asking for. I would appreciate being informed of any development at your end that involve this project or Peter. There's a long story involved in all of this, but it's not worth dredging up again at this time. Perhaps you know about some of it.

I'm sorry to say that I never did receive the information on the Australian turtle recovered in New Caledonia. The Newsletter were received (many thanks), but the recovery data was not included as you mentioned it would.

That's about all I have for this time. I hope that your job is going along well. It seems like a highly desirable position.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 29, 1980

Miss Lehua Ah Nee
Box 288
Holualoa, Hawaii 96725

Dear Lehua:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the photo that was taken on Saturday, October 18th, at Kiholo Bay. I hope that you enjoy it. A copy of this picture is also being sent to your friend, Kim Mitchell.

I was happy to see the two of you take such a great interest in my tagging studies of Hawaiian sea turtles. The enclosed color booklet provides some further biological information on these unique animals. Perhaps you could take this material to your school and present a science report on sea turtles to your class. I feel certain that your other friends would enjoy learning more about this subject.

It was a pleasure to meet you. Please feel free to write to me if you have any additional questions about sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

October 29, 1980

Ms. Patricia Chable
Survival Service Commission
IUCN
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Patricia:

I want to thank you very much for sending me the final French, English and Spanish versions of our Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy. Your assistance and prompt response in this matter are greatly appreciated.

In the copies that you sent me, I noticed two small problems that I want to bring to your attention for corrective action. In the English version, the word "marine" is misspelled in the cover-page Introduction in the first sentence of the second paragraph. In the French version, page 43 (containing Action Projects 132-136) is missing. Hopefully this deletion only exists in the two copies that you sent me, and not in all of the copies that you have thus far reproduced and distributed.

It would be good for me to know how you are proceeding to distribute this Strategy document. Has everyone that attended the Washington Conference now received a copy from your office?

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 29, 1980

Dr. Robert Shoop
Department of Zoology
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, R. I. 02881

Dear Bob:

Joe Kirschvink was recently in Honolulu looking for magnetite in tunas and hatchling Hawaiian green turtles. He found sizeable quantities in both animals, although I don't have all of the details of his results at the present time. The finding for green turtles is probably not that surprising, in that he previously found magnetite in young loggerheads. I have no idea what it all means, but it certainly seems interesting.

If my memory serves me correctly, at one time you had a student testing the response of young greens when they were placed in various magnetic fields. Can you give me a brief run-down on the results of this work? Was this experimentation incorporated into a dissertation? Did any reports or publications result that you can easily send to me? Any help that you can provide along these lines would be greatly appreciated. Possibly the results of your work would be a nice item for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. You should consider this, particularly in view of Kirschvink's recent note in the Newsletter.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 29, 1980

Mr. Charles Oravetz
Chief, Marine Mammals & Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
Duval Building
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Chuck:

I didn't really expect to be writing to you again so soon, but several matters have come to my attention in which you may be able to provide some assistance. These matters are as follows:

In either FY1976 or 1977, the Southeast Region of NMFS contracted (recipient parties unknown) to 1) have a comprehensive bibliography prepared on the loggerhead turtle, and 2) compile detailed information on the loggerhead/lobster trap fishery conflict in Florida. What reports or information on these matters do you have in your files that can be sent to me? I am especially interested in number 2 of the above, in that our lobster trap fishery here in the Hawaiian Islands is currently undergoing rapid expansion.

I understand that a "conservation manual" for sea turtles is currently being prepared under a NMFS contract. To what extent is the Conservation Strategy that resulted from the Washington Conference being incorporated into this manual? Is the SE Region of NMFS undertaking any reproduction and distribution of the Strategy document? To a great extent, the Conservation Strategy is a sea turtle conservation manual in itself. Also, as you may be aware, it is now available in both a French and a Spanish version.

I understand that a Recovery Plan has almost been completed by the SE Recovery Team. As a consultant to the team, I find it somewhat surprising that I have never received any draft copies of the various sections so that I would have the opportunity to contribute information, or possibly make helpful suggestions. I thought that this might be one of the purposes for originally appointing a number of "consultants" to the Team. Perhaps this was not the intention. Has there ever been a policy statement with respect to the role or duties of the Team consultants? If not, it would probably be a good idea to develop one, even at this later date of the Team's activities.

Mr. Charles Oravetz
October 29, 1980
Page 2

If you could provide me with some brief basic information on these matters, I will telephone you a few days after receiving your letter so we can carry out more detailed discussions.

Again, many thanks for your fine assistance. I look forward to talking to you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

October 7, 1980

Dr. Jim Richardson
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30605

Dear Jim:

Dan Stoneburner was recently in Honolulu for a few days and I had the opportunity to see the loggerhead nesting presentation filmed through a starlight scope. This is truly a magnificent piece of work - a real positive force for the conservation of sea turtles. Dan mentioned that you are responsible for distributing this film, and I am of course wondering how much a clean copy would cost. When your time permits, please fill me in on the details.

Best personal regards.

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

November 21, 1980

Director (OES)
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

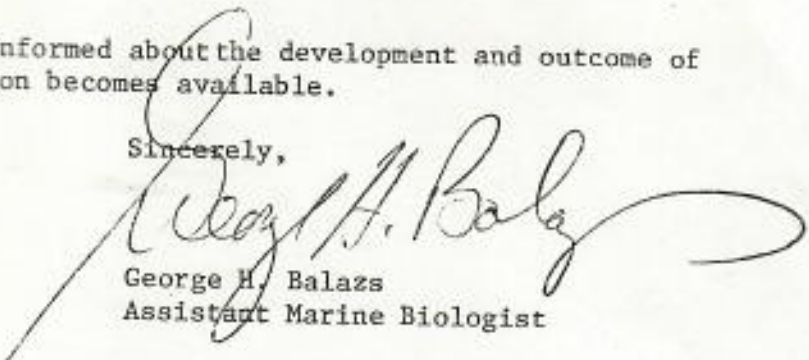
Dear Mr. Spinks:

As a researcher of marine turtles here in the Pacific, and as the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I would like to offer my full professional endorsement of the proposal to establish certain coastal areas in Puerto Rico as nesting Critical Habitat for the hawksbill turtle. The revival of this proposal by the Fish and Wildlife Service is a most welcome event for all of us concerned with the survival of this seriously endangered species.

In the final determination of the Critical Habitat, I would urge the Service to incorporate a generous amount of landward area adjacent to the beaches. This would seem to be absolutely essential in order to provide the degree of habitat protection known to be necessary for sea turtle nesting areas.

I would appreciate being informed about the development and outcome of this proposal, as the information becomes available.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 25, 1980

Dr. F. Wayne King, Director
Florida State Museum &
Deputy Chairman, SSC
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Wayne:

You will have no trouble recalling that since at least 1973 I have been broadcasting periodic messages of alarm and disgust over commercial turtle "farming" strategies at Cayman Island, particularly with respect to their distorted promotional literature. Probably one of the lowest points was the production and widespread distribution of a booklet entitled "New Hope for the Green Sea Turtle." This was truly a classic in deceit - a marvelous example of the lengths some people will go to in order to make money on sea turtles. If my memory serves me correctly, after much outcry by conservationists the Cayman company withdrew this booklet and, at our January 1974 ad hoc meeting, admitted it was a "mistake."

But material such as this, once distributed, has a way of lingering on and being accepted as factual to those who don't know better, or who don't want to know better. For example, I just recently came into possession of a Japanese translation of "New Hope for the Green Sea Turtle" dated 1977 (copy enclosed). The translation and republication were undertaken by Yoji Kurata of the Ogasawa Fisheries Center (Bonin Islands). You will recall that Mr. Kurata attended our Washington Conference and, during one of the lunchtime sessions, presented a paper on the propagation of green turtles. He is also the individual who has been pushing for the establishment of sea turtle ranches in Truk and Ponape, a potential problem that Mike McCoy has brought to our attention. I'm not sure of what action, if any, should be taken at this point, but certainly the situation needs to be carefully followed.

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
Enclosure
cc: Mike McCoy
Archie Carr
Karen Bjorndal

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

October 1, 1980

Mr. Peter Davis
Fish Export Standards Officer
Fisheries Division
Department of Primary Industry
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Mr. Davis:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of September 15th. I was indeed pleased to learn of the many letters of appreciation you have received. They are well-deserved. I was also encouraged to hear that a suggestion for the issuance of stamps portraying Australian sea turtles will be forwarded to the proper postal authorities. Your endemic *Chelonia depressa* (Flatback turtle) would be particularly amenable for this purpose.

Thank you for calling my attention to the forthcoming Pitcairn stamp that will display a carved turtle. I appreciate your kind offer to send me one of these stamps. If there is any way I can help you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am not familiar with the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, but I intend to make inquiries through our library system in the near future.

Enclosed is a booklet on Hawaiian wildlife that I thought you might enjoy.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

September 25, 1980

Mrs. Mary Ann Owens
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
P. O. Box 1164
Brooklyn, New York 11202

Dear Mrs. Owens:

I thought it would be worthwhile to send you the enclosed collection of photographs and drawing for your consideration with the sea turtle stamp proposal. I have selected these views from my own personal files, but I want to assure you that a substantial amount of additional material displaying the four species of sea turtles can be assembled from other biologists when it becomes necessary.

There are basically six categories of sea turtle behavior and life stages that I feel could superbly portray these species on a stamp issue. These are: 1) a turtle swimming gracefully through the water; 2) a turtle nesting on a sand beach and laying her eggs; 3) a hatchling turtle coming out of a nest and running to the sea; 4) a turtle sleeping underwater under a coral ledge; 5) a turtle basking on a sand beach during the daytime; 6) a turtle feeding on seagrasses. With a block of four stamps showing the different species, each stamp could also include a different portrayal of behavior or life stage. This, in my opinion, would add even further to this attractive, exciting and appropriate subject.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:dd



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 22, 1980

Mr. Colin Limpus
National Parks & Wildlife Service
Marlow Street, Pallarenda
Townsville, Queensland
Australia 4810

Dear Col:

It was good to talk to you by telephone on September 10th, although we could have used more time to discuss certain topics in greater detail. I still haven't received the letter which you indicated would be forthcoming to clarify your concern about the Balazs-Carr et al. concern over possible impacts of trawling in the Capricornia Section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

You mentioned basically three topics during our phone conversation, so perhaps it would be worthwhile to summarize in writing my responses to the questions you raised.

1) Availability of Inconel Tags - Larry Ogren, our fellow Turtle Group member with the National Marine Fisheries Service, is supposed to be in the process of issuing a bid contract for the mass production of Inconel tags. I believe you have seen some of the earlier correspondence on this. What it will involve is the purchasing by a tag manufacturing company of an extra stamping machine for exclusive use in Inconel tag production. Apparently the Inconel causes excessive "wear" on existing machinery, so it seems proper to subsidize the company so they can purchase a separate piece of equipment. Although this will be an open-bid contract, I imagine that National Band and Tag will be the only one interested. The bid process is supposed to begin in early October, but again Larry has all of the details. From what I hear, if all goes smoothly the tags still wouldn't be available to NMFS, or users such as yourself, until May or June.

You mentioned an existing 20-30% tag loss rate with your Monel tags. In comparison to my own loss rate during the early years, this sounds pretty good. You are fortunate that it is not higher.

2) Implementation of Tagging Projects in the SPC Region - I really don't see why you consider this to be a problem. Please give me your view point in greater detail at your earliest convenience. I assume that the possible tagging projects

you are referring to are the recommendations contained in the report on the SPC/NMFS New Caledonia Workshop on Marine Turtles. As I indicated on the phone, there are certainly no plans to force island territories to start tagging projects. However, in a number of cases the interest and desire does exist with local authorities and, in my opinion (and others), it would be exceedingly valuable to have them tag their own turtles. However, I am only in favor of such tagging being carried out with Inconal tags. As an example, one of the administrators in the Tahitian Fisheries Department was in my office two weeks ago expressing great interest in personally tagging turtles at Scilly Atoll. Interest also exists in New Caledonia and, with some initial expatriot assistance, turtles may soon be tagged at Huon and Surprise Islands. You said that conservation education should be conducted. I agree fully, but certainly at many locations we need both education and thoughtful tagging. I have absolutely no intention of handing out tags and pliers to every Tom, Dick and Harry that comes along, if that is one of your fears.

3) Article in AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES on Scallop and Prawn Trawling in your Marine Park - The April issue of this magazine carried an in-depth story on trawling in the Capricorn Group that would make any sea turtle biologist sit up with concern. You will recall that problems of incidental catch constituted a major focus of our Washington conference sea turtle conservation strategy. After first seeing this article, I sent off urgent notes of inquiry to both you and John Parmenter. I have yet to receive a response. In the meantime, I thought it would be entirely appropriate to ask Archie to submit a letter in accordance with the invitation for comments that appeared in the article. Archie's subsequent letter of 26 August was, in my opinion, an excellent expression of concern and I applaud his fast action.

Moving along to other matters, I thought you would be interested in the enclosed progress report by John Hendrickson on his "living tag" experimentations on hatchlings. This was sent to me by Jack Woody of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I was surprised by the statements made on page 3; either he doesn't know about the results of our wild growth studies, or he doesn't consider our finding to be "hard" data. In either case, this represents a distinct deficiency on his part. He really should correct it. As you know, he is presently in Honolulu under contract by NMFS to do more living tag work. Incidentally, I understand through reliable sources that one of his objectives while in Australia is to bring back some live flatback hatchlings for the Cayman Turtle Farm. Apparently they are keen on having other rare species, now that they have kempi. If you know all about this, please give me more details so that other Turtle Group members can be informed. I will be telephoning Archie soon about other matters, and it would be good to bring him up to speed on this case. Also, the SSC meeting will be held in Gainesville during early October.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec
Encl.
bcc: Archie Carr
Wayne King

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

September 4, 1980

Senator Spark M. Matsunaga
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Matsunaga:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of 18 August concerning my earlier correspondence to the Department of State on the potential interrelationships of marine turtles and nuclear waste storage in the Pacific. I appreciate your concern and the insight which you provided on this subject.

Mr. Louis V. Nosenzo of the Department of State subsequently responded to my inquiry and I have enclosed a copy of his letter for your information. I would like to point out, however, that no mention was made of my request to be notified of the Department's specific plans, when they are formulated, to evaluate possible storage sites in the Pacific. All three of the sites which have been suggested (Palmyra, Midway and Wake) are known to have aggregations of marine turtles in their adjacent waters.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

September 8, 1980

Mr. Sydney B. Corbett
Postmaster General
Hamilton 5-24 Bermuda

Dear Mr. Corbett:

I am writing to tell you how honored and pleased I was to receive your beautiful First Day Covers on Bermuda's wildlife. I was, of course, particularly impressed with the stamp displaying a young green turtle. I have now seen several sea turtle stamps issued by other countries and I can say with all sincerity that Bermuda's is surely the most attractive.

Our proposal to have the U. S. Postal Service issue a sea turtle stamp has received widespread endorsement both from the private sector and from within government. Although a final decision will not be made for a few more months, I am greatly encouraged by the progress thus far achieved. On the international level, I am happy to report that my letter writing activities have resulted in formal proposals for sea turtle stamps being submitted in Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Tokelau and Dominican Republic.

Thank you for the contribution your country has made to conservation of sea turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: David B. Wingate

September 2, 1980

Dr. Jeremy Cherfas
Penwith Cottage
Shettermill, Haslemere
Surrey GU27 3PP, England

Dear Jeremy:

I enjoy providing people with information on current subjects in which they have interest, so it really has been no problem sending you the newspaper clippings. I seriously doubt if anyone here in Hawaii will ever do an in-depth article on the dolphin case. As you can tell from the size of the clippings, it really hasn't been "headline" news. Maybe someday you can do a part 2 to your New Scientist composition.

I was sorry to hear that you have left New Scientist, but pleased that you are pursuing interests of your own choosing. Best of good fortune with these new endeavors.

My Washington presentation on green turtle growth rates will appear intact in the Conference Proceedings. This is scheduled to be published in the near future (4-6 months) by Smithsonian Press. I am continuing to compile more growth data through tag recoveries up and down the Hawaiian chain. What I failed to stress in my Conference paper was the tremendous amount of physical effort and stressful field conditions that are involved in this tag and recapture work. It sure isn't like netting fish by the hundreds!

I finally persuaded someone to compose and publish a general interest story on Kaula. A copy has been enclosed for your information. I think he did a very fair job of presenting the situation.

Let us continue to stay in contact on matters of common interest.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Enclosures

Dr. Robert Shallenberger
Refuge Manager
U. S. Fish and Wildlife
P. O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Rob:

I thought you would be interested to learn that my color photographs and text dealing with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will form the theme for the 1981 Dillingham Tide Calendar. As with my 1979 seabird presentation, I am hopeful that this 1981 theme will help to educate and inform the public on the values of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. With the exception of Pearl and Hermes Reef, all of the refuge units are presented in the monthly views. In addition, there are views of Kure, Midway and, of course, Kaula.

It is my understanding that distribution of the calendar will start during mid-November. Approximately 60,000 will be produced. They are available at no cost and are only distributed in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 2, 1980

Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20811

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to tell you that band number 737-95487 was found on a dead albatross on the air strip at Green Island, Kure, during March 1980. I would appreciate receiving information on the original tagging date and location.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 12, 1980

Bird Banding Laboratory
Office of Migratory Bird Management
Laurel, Maryland 20811

Dear Sirs:

Your band number 568-71220 was recorded on a live Masked Booby resting at East Island, French Frigate Shoals on 25 June 1980. I would be interested to learn of the original tagging data.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 12, 1980

Dr. D. L. Stoneburner
Cooperative Research Unit
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Dan:

Many thanks for your informative and interesting letter of 4 August concerning experiences with satellite tracking. I was indeed sorry to learn of some of the problems you had to encounter during this work.

I appreciated your kind words about my monk seal/green turtle photo. A lot of people have enjoyed this scene and I have been fortunate to have had it published on numerous occasions. A duplicate has been enclosed as I thought you might like a copy for your collection and personal use.

Please put me on your mailing list as a recipient of future reports and publications dealing with sea turtles.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 23, 1980

Mr. Belmont Faries
Chairman
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
11713 Chapel Road
Clifton, VA 22024

MRS. OWENS: H
Dear Mr. Faries: *Mr. Edward Mallet, my fellow resident here in Hawaii, has told me of your interest in the sea turtle stamp proposal and requested that I provide you with background information.*
As a researcher and conservationist of our marine environment, I have been a strong supporter of the proposal set forth by Dr. Archie Carr of the University of Florida, *which requests the issuance of* a set of four commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. In addition to constituting a part of the wildlife heritage of the coastal continental United States and Caribbean region, sea turtles have historically been an integral part of Hawaiian and other native cultures here in the Pacific. This has encompassed such important and varied aspects as food sources, religion, art, folklore, medicine and the fashioning of useful implements such as fishhooks from the hawksbill turtle. The current national and international interest in sea turtles makes it desirable for such a stamp topic, if approved, to be issued at the earliest possible time. I realize, however, that there are numerous constraints involved in the production and issuance of commemorative stamps.

Over the past several months, enthusiastic letters of endorsement for the sea turtle proposal have been sent to the Postmaster General by numerous individuals and organizations throughout the United States. *For* your background information, I have *enclosed* copies of some of the more interesting and informative letters that have come to my attention. I am hopeful that you will have the opportunity to read through this *enclosed* material before the proposal comes before your committee for *final* appraisal. It is my understanding that the next meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will take place during *October* August, and that the sea turtle proposal will very likely be considered at that time.

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter. *Please feel free to contact me for any additional information which may be required.*
Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

In addition, I am sending an article on sea turtles authored by Dr. Carr which originally appeared in Audubon Magazine.

August 29, 1980

Mr. John Thomas
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
100-11 Elgar Place
Bronx, N. Y. 10475

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Mr. Edward Mallek, my fellow resident here in Hawaii, has told me of your interest in the sea turtle stamp proposal and requested that I provide you with background information. As a researcher and conservationist of our marine environment, I have been a strong supporter of this proposal, originally set forth by Dr. Archie Carr of the University of Florida, which requests the issuance of a set of four commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. In addition to constituting a part of the wildlife heritage of the coastal continental United States and Caribbean region, sea turtles have historically been an integral part of Hawaiian and other native cultures here in the Pacific. This has encompassed such important and varied aspects as food sources, religion, art, folklore, medicine and the fashioning of useful implements such as fishhooks from the hawksbill turtle. The current national and international interest in sea turtles makes it desirable for such a stamp topic, if approved, to be issued at the earliest possible time. I realize, however, that there are numerous constraints involved in the production and issuance of commemorative stamps.

Over the past several months, enthusiastic letters of endorsement for the sea turtle proposal have been sent to the Postmaster General by numerous individuals and organizations throughout the United States. I have enclosed copies of some of the more interesting and informative letters that have come to my attention. In addition, I am sending an article on sea turtles authored by Dr. Carr which originally appeared in Audubon Magazine. I am hopeful that you will have the opportunity to read through this material before the proposal comes before your committee for final appraisal. It is my understanding that the next meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will take place during October, and that the sea turtle proposal will be considered at that time.

Mr. John Thomas
August 29, 1980
Page 2

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information which may be required.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 21, 1980

Commanding Officer
Defense Nuclear Agency
Johnston Atoll Field Command
APO San Francisco 96305

Dear Sir:

It has been some time now since I have received any turtle sighting information from Johnston, therefore I thought I would take this opportunity to provide your station with a fresh supply of report forms and ID sheets. Observations of this sort can make valuable contributions to our knowledge of Pacific sea turtle populations. The assistance of you and your men in this small project will therefore be greatly appreciated.

I would also be interested to learn if any monk seals have been sighted at Johnston during recent times. As you may know, these Hawaiian seals have occasionally been recorded during past years by station personnel (see enclosed article).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 21, 1980

Dr. Thomas M. Murphy, Jr.
Nongame & Endangered Species
South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Poco Sabo Plantation
Green Pond, S. C. 29446

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I would be interested to learn if any reports or publication reprints are now available on the loggerhead tracking studies which you described in the March 1979 Marine Turtle Newsletter. If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of this important material.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

August 21, 1980

Dr. Joe Kirschvink
Department of Geological and Geophysical Sciences
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey 08544

Dear Dr. Kirschvink:

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your request in the May 1980 Marine Turtle Newsletter, and to my good friend Karen Bjorndal's personal appeal that I provide you with specimens of Hawaiian *Chelonia*. As you may be aware, Hawaiian green turtles regularly undertake reproductive migrations that range up to 1100 km between resident foraging pastures and nesting beaches. The enclosed reprint describes some of my findings from tag and recapture studies. From what I have read of your research, it certainly appears that these turtles would make excellent candidates for magnetic material analysis. Presently I have several whole frozen specimens ranging from 10 to 100 kg that died of various natural causes. However, I should point out that the eyes have already been committed for racemization analysis.

It is my understanding that you will be visiting Hawaii sometime during late September to search for magnetic material in tuna. In addition to my affiliation with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, I am also currently associated for a one year period with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory. We therefore should have ample opportunity to discuss our mutual interests in sea turtles and determine how I can be of greatest assistance to your work.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

COPY

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

August 20, 1980

Mr. Peter Davis
Fish Exports Standards Officer
c/o Australian Fisheries
Department of Primary Industry
Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am writing to tell you that I greatly enjoyed your interesting and informative article on thematic stamp collecting which appeared in the April issue of Australian Fisheries. The representative sample from your collection on commercial fish and fishing certainly made an attractive, colorful front cover.

My own interest in thematic stamp collecting was recently initiated in conjunction with efforts to have the United States Postal Service issue a block of four commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. As described in the attached correspondence, the principal objective of such a stamp issue would be to promote conservation education for these declining marine reptiles. My involvement in this campaign prompted me to investigate and start a collection of stamps issued by other countries that show the seven living species of sea turtles. My efforts have been fairly comprehensive and thus far I have been able to obtain 70 stamps originating from 24 countries. Unfortunately, I must tell you that Australia has never issued such a stamp, even though it has one of the richest and best protected sea turtle populations in the world. This impressive wildlife heritage of your nation would, in my opinion, certainly constitute a highly desirable stamp topic. You may also be interested to learn that the flatback (Chelonia depressa), a sea turtle species endemic to Australia, has only appeared once on a postage stamp. A recent issue from the Republic of Maldives displayed this species, but sadly the drawing is incorrect because six central scutes are present in the carapace rather than five.

Mr. Peter Davis
Page 2
August 20, 1980

In looking over my collection, I have found that Cayman Islands Scott Catalog numbers 145 (turtles in "crawl") and 286 (turtle farm) would be appropriate additions to your commercial fish and fishing collection. Perhaps you already have these stamps, but nevertheless I thought it would be worthwhile to point them out.

Please feel free to contact me if there is any way I can be of assistance to your work, or if you would like additional information about my collection of sea turtle stamps.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures
bcc: A. Carr

August 18, 1980

Mr. Bob Batky
Federal Wildlife Permit Office
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Batky:

I recently obtained a copy of the Fish and Wildlife Service circular entitled "Care and Maintenance Standards for Sea Turtles Held in Captivity." As there was no date on this bulletin, I would be appreciative if you would tell when these standards became effective. Also, will the standards apply to sea turtles held in captivity prior to the species listing of either threatened or endangered?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 18, 1980

Mr. Robert Barrel
Hawaii State Director
National Park Service
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Barrel:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me with information on the status of Kalaupapa during our telephone conversation on 6 August. I also appreciate the National Historical Preserve report which you subsequently sent by mail.

As I mentioned, when the time is appropriate I would like to conduct a short-term survey of sea turtles along the Kalaupapa coastline in cooperation with your office. I believe that such work would constitute a valuable contribution to our overall ecological knowledge of the area.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 18, 1980

Dr. Ancel M. Johnson
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Anchorage Field Station
4454 Business Park Blvd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ancel:

I want to thank you for sending me the copy of your report on monk seal tagging-resighting data. In my opinion, this constitutes a valuable contribution to the knowledge of Hawaiian monk seals. I hope that you are able to finalize it in the near future and give it the distribution that is certainly warranted. For some years now I have been fearful that all of this FWS tagging data would "fall by the wayside" and never be analyzed. It is good to see that you assumed responsibility and have admirably accomplished the task.

In reading through your report, I was intrigued by the unexplained problem of low resighting rates for tags applied in 1968. A possible answer might be the fact that, during at least a portion of Gene Kridler's tagging program, numbered vinyl plates 3-4 inches in length were affixed to the Monel tags. I don't know if this was carried out extensively during 1968, but I suspect that the "drag" set up while the seals were swimming would have significantly increased tag loss. You may want to check on this matter for further clarification. I imagine that Dave Olsen in Washington, D. C. would be an excellent source of information.

Your listing of a tag recovery at Nihoa helps to strengthen my conviction that this island, as well as Gardner Pinnacles (at least the small pinnacle with the rock shelf), should most definitely be included in any Critical Habitat designation. What are your own views on this position?

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 12, 1980

Dr. Nicholas Polunin
World Wildlife Fund
Jolan IR. H. Juanda, 9
P. O. Box 133
Bogor, INDONESIA

Dear Nick:

It was good to receive your letter of 22 July. I was pleased to learn that Indonesia has indeed recently issued a postage stamp displaying a sea turtle. In fact just last week Dr. Suwelo sent me the first-day cover that contained this particular leatherback stamp. The artistry is very well done. It will certainly be a positive step for conservation education if you are able to persuade the authorities to issue stamps showing additional species. I hope that your efforts are successful.

It is my understanding that steady and significant progress is being made with the Conference Proceeding. As you may know, Karen Bjordal took on the task of Post-Conference Coordinator. After a few months delay, it was resolved that Smithsonian Institution Press would publish the Proceedings. The edited manuscripts have been sent back to the authors and should be returned to Karen (in Gainesville, Florida) at the earliest possible time. I will be talking to Karen by telephone in the near future and will specifically ask her about your paper.

As they become available, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of your reports on Indonesian sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

September 4, 1980

Mr. Robert Hines
P. O. Box 1149
Kailua, Kona, HI 96740

Dear Mr. Hines:

As I mentioned to you in my letter of several months ago, I would very much like to visit Kiholo again for the purpose of tagging green turtles. May I have your permission to enter Kiholo for a three or four day period during last September or early October? Within the next week I will telephone your house and we can discuss this further.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 4, 1980

Commanding Officer
Detachment 1, 15th Air Base Wing
Bellows Air Force Station, HI 96853

Dear Sir:

I am writing to respectfully ask for a renewal of my permit to periodically tag green sea turtles at Bellows Air Force Station. A copy of my expired permit (8/79 - 8/80) has been enclosed for reference purpose. All of the methods of my study will remain the same, and I, of course, will continue to abide by all of the provisions and conditions that you set forth.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If there are any questions, please call me at 247-6631 or 946-2181.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

September 4, 1980

Dr. Fern Wood
Cayman Turtle Farm, Ltd.
P. O. Box 645
Cayman Islands, B. W. I.

Dear Fern:

In response to your request of 14 August, yes, of course, please feel free to reference my memo report of November 1976 dealing with green turtle breeding at Sea Life Park. I have enclosed a copy of this write-up to make certain we are referring to the same document. Rather than referencing this as a "personal communication," I would prefer that you specify "in litt." or "unpublished report", if in fact your journal will accept such designations. I am also sending you another report on this event that was prepared by a now former employee of Sea Life Park. Some of the data presented are at variance with my observations, but I am confident that my record keeping was accurate.

Peter Pritchard briefly passed through Honolulu a few weeks ago. During our visit, he mentioned that the farm's survival rate of captive hatched turtles at one year of age has recently increased from % to %. This was reported to be due to increasing the seawater temperature about °C over the previous level. Can you provide me with any further details of this latest finding?

When your paper is accepted for publication, I would appreciate receiving a preprint. Regards to Jim.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist and
IPA-NMFS, Honolulu Laboratory

GHB:ec

Enclosures

September 15, 1980

Mr. Milton M. Kaufman
19102 Rowan Way
Gaithersburg, MD 20760

Dear Milton:

I am writing to complement you on the action you have recently taken with respect to pressuring NOAA to do something about turtle mortalities from trawl nets (see attached). I wish you every success in this effort, and look forward to learning the details of NOAA's response. It is perhaps unfortunate that this request did not originate from the SE Recovery Team as a whole. However, I suspect that certain team members may be reluctant to formally criticize NOAA due to their close relationship with that organization.

Milton, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any minutes or other documents that have resulted from meetings of the SE Recovery Team since June 1979. Requests that I have sent to Sally Hopkins have unfortunately not been answered.

Best personal regards. I hope to see you in Delhi during early 1981 for the CITES and SSC meetings.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Archie Carr

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

September 8, 1980

Dr. Robert Scott
Executive Officer
Survival Service Commission

~~U.S.~~
Gland - Switzerland

Dear Bob:

It is my understanding that you have bound copies of our Conference Strategy in French, English and Spanish which are now available for distribution. At your earliest convenience, I would greatly appreciate receiving two original copies of each versions. Please use air mail postage, as surface mail from Switzerland to Hawaii takes two months or longer.

Thank you for your help with this request.

Best Regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 8, 1980

Mr. Sydney B. Corbett
Postmaster General
Hamilton 5-24 Bermuda

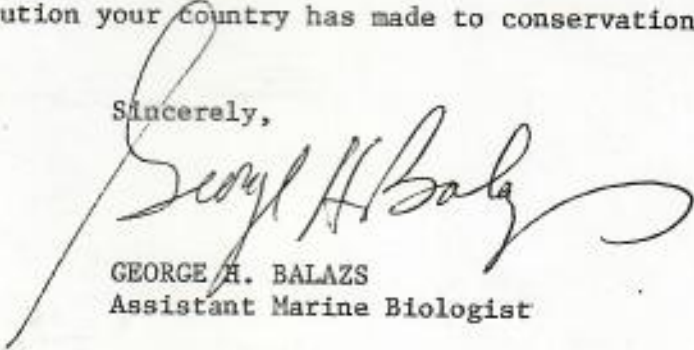
Dear Mr. Corbett:

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Our proposal to have the U. S. Postal Service issue a sea turtle stamp has received widespread endorsement both from the private sector and from within government. Although a final decision will not be made for a few more months, I am greatly encouraged by the progress thus far achieved. On the international level, I am happy to report that my letter writing activities have resulted in formal proposals for sea turtle stamps being submitted in Papua New Guinea, Suriname, Tokelau and Dominican Republic.

Thank you for the contribution your country has made to conservation of sea turtles.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: David B. Wingate

September 25, 1980

Mr. Roderic B. Mast
4150 East 60th #702
Davenport, Iowa 52807

Dear Roderic:

Many thanks for your letter of 3 September along with your current biographical information. This has been circulated to other Principal Investigators here at our laboratory. I am sorry to say that at the present time I do not have any position openings for either full or part-time employment. My budget is very limited and it is essential that I continue employment of those individuals who have in-depth experience for my specific task requirements. I will, however, certainly keep you in mind for any future opportunities.

You will be interested to learn that our stamp proposal has progressed considerably with respect to possible final approval by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. Over 200 people took the time to write letters of endorsement to the Postmaster General. When the final word has been received, I intend to notify all of these individuals of the outcome. This will surely occur within the next three months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812
April 20, 1981

Dr. Robert Shallenberger
Refuge Manager
Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 50167
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Rob:

Your mention the other day of Sheila and a Bishop Museum Archaeologist going to Necker this summer reminded me of the following. While on Necker I documented old ordnance both partially buried in the ground and resting on the surface. For example, a fully intact 500lb bomb sits precariously on the peak at the northeastern end of the island. According to EOD Navy people that I contacted, it could still conceivably go off. In other areas, particularly Flagpole Hill, the tail portions of presumably bombs and rockets are just visibly at the surface.

I want to once again call all of this to the attention of Fish and Wildlife Service so that proper measures can be instituted to protect visiting researchers and others. This hazard was formally pointed out in my 1977 report on Necker entitled "Ecological aspects of green turtles at Necker Island", as copy of which should be in your files. At an earlier date, the recording and reporting of bombs in the waters immediately surrounding Necker Island were carried out by myself, Skip Naftel and Leighton Taylor.

I hope that the present reiteration of this information will be useful to your management program for the Refuge.

Sincerely,

George Balazs
Fishery Biologist

cc Bill Gilmartin



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

April 16, 1981

Mr. Susumu Ono
Chairman and Member
Board of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Ono:

Thank you for your letter of April 3rd responding to my recent inquiry about the proposed deletion of Regulation 36. I was pleased to learn that State protection of the green sea turtle has been incorporated into a newly proposed Administrative Rule of Chapter 124, Title 13. I applaud your efforts in this action, and will certainly support you in any way that may be deemed appropriate.

With respect to my question about the possible lapse in State protection if the new Administrative Rule is not adopted concurrent with repeal of Regulation 36, I regret to say that I do not fully understand the answer provided in your letter. It was indicated that a problem of enforceability has been encountered with Regulation 36, therefore the issue is considered moot. The problem apparently relates to validity of permits (page 2, lines 8-10 of your letter—"Unfortunately, with only one case of an undersize turtle which does not clearly apply to whether permits are valid, the courts have ruled to the contrary."). However, the exact difficulties that have been encountered by your enforcement division are not clear to me. The capture of an "undersize" turtle (less than 36") would seem to be clearly illegal at this time under Regulation 36, regardless of whether federal law was in effect or not.

In view of the apparent prevailing uncertainties of the legal situation, I would like to recommend that you schedule the repeal of Regulation 36 to coincide with adoption of the Administration Rule. This would be in the best interests of the green sea turtle, and at the same time help facilitate an orderly and precise implementation of your administrative changes.

Again, I appreciate having the opportunity to correspond with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:lb



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812
15 April 1981

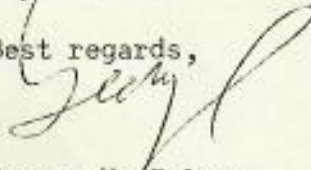
Mr. A.L. Phillip
Chief Fisheries Officer
Economic Development Department
P.O. Box 832; Fisheries Division
Apia, Western Samoa

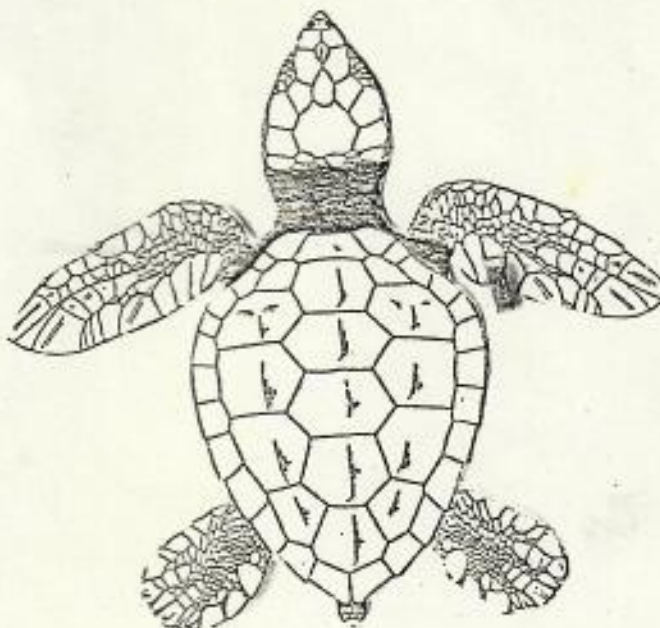
Dear Mr. Phillip:

Enclosed are 2000 small turtle tags for use on your hatchling hawksbills at Aleipata. I have also sent two applicator pliers in the event that one gets lost or misplaced. As I mentioned in my earlier letter, I recommend that the tags only be placed on the turtles just before they are released into the wild. A line drawing of a hatchling (sealed in plastic) has been enclosed so that Villamu can see where the tag should be attached. As illustrated, the tag should be put on so as to allow some room for growth of the turtle to take place. If the tag is put on too tight, the area of the flipper will soon become necrotic and the tag will fall off.

I will be very interested to learn of the results obtained from this tagging experiment.

Best regards,


George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist





University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

13 April 1981

Mr. George T. Hamamura
1812 California A
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

Dear Mr. Hamamura:

I want to once again thank you very much for the interesting and valuable information that you gave me on your recent tag recovery. As I mentioned during our telephone conversation, I am sending you a stamped envelope to return the tag. I have also enclosed a detailed map of Oahu's north shore, as well as some literature on sea turtles which you may find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mahalo -
George H. Balazs
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
5 April 1981

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


Dear Wayne:

I'm very honored that you would ask me to serve as an embassy for IUCN to lay the groundwork in the Philippines for the international sea turtle sanctuary. However, after thinking this over very carefully, in good conscience to both myself and the mission, I must decline the invitation. Without going into great detail here in writing, my basic reasons are as follows:

1. The mission should be carried out by a "senior statesperson" affiliated at one of the higher levels of SSC or IUCN. Yourself, Archie, or best of all, Lee Talbot. This is an important undertaking that requires an individual with long-time "status". The people in the Philippines are clearly expecting such a higher-level diplomat. This has been made very clear in letters from Stanley and Ed. To send someone of lesser fame (even if it would mean valuable training experience) would very likely be viewed with displeasure and disappointment.
2. Although I could squeeze out 5-7 days in May to make the trip, I simply don't feel that I would be able to do my very best in the mission. I'm over-extended as it is in my areas, especially for the next 4 months. In some respects, I enjoy the challenge and pressure of being overworked. But there is a limit, and I'm certain that it has now been reached. As an aside, did I ever tell you that I accepted presidency of the Hawaii Audubon Society for 1981?
3. Regardless of who is delegated to go to the Philippines, in my opinion May is not a good month. The Coral Reef Symposium will be held May 18-23, and from what I have heard it will really be a big event. While the Symposium setting and the establishment of a sanctuary certainly have interweaving characteristics, we are still at a very preliminary stage of negotiations. The mission to the Philippines should be carried out in a month either before or after the Symposium. Obviously only the latter is now possible.

In the last two days I've spoken at length by telephone with both Archie and Anne Meylan. I can assure you that it is not easy to turn down a trip to the Philippines, all expenses paid. But in the best interests of the mission, and my own well-being, its the only reasonable thing I can do.

Best regards - warm Aloha,


George Balazs



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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April 6, 1981

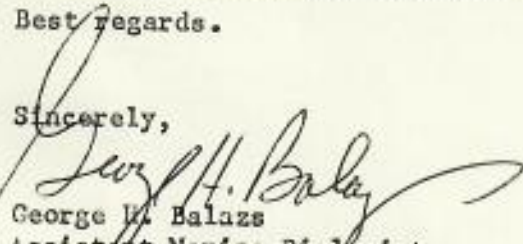
Mr. Andrew Hepburn, Manager
Kahala Hilton Hotel
5000 Kahala Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Hepburn:

I would like to arrange for an appointment to meet with you in person to discuss various educational and research aspects of the green sea turtles on display at your facility. I will be on the outer islands from April 7-10, and 20-25, but will be in Honolulu from April 13-18. I can meet with you at your convenience during this latter time period. If this would be suitable, please telephone my office at 247-6631 and leave a message with our secretary indicating your best date and time.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


George W. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
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Cable Address: UNIHAW
12 April 1981

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
Department of Zoology
(ABRS) S. Parks Rd.
University of Oxford
England OX1 3PS

Dear Nicholas:

I'm sorry if I somehow offended you by mentioning the absence of a Newsletter editorial in my last letter to you. That was certainly not my intention.

I'll try to do my best to answer the questions posed in your aerogram letter of March 21st.

1. The newspaper and magazine articles that I periodically send to you (and others) constitute a Group function on my part to keep members informed on timely matters directly involving sea turtle conservation and biology. The exchange of such information between members is one of the major objectives of the Group. I thought that we agreed on this point some time ago. All of the other members concur.
2. The convening of a Group meeting would be highly desirable, but I can tell you that there will be little chance for travel funds to be provided by IUCN/WWF. Each member will very likely have to obtain their own financial support. One of the preliminary locations being considered for a meeting is Australia (hosted by Col Limpus). Please be assured that you and all other members will be kept fully informed as this develops. Another possible site that I have suggested is Sarawak.
3. I am not certain "what kind of funding is available from WWF", as you asked. You should probably write directly to Bob Scott on this point. Please send me a copy of his response.
4. Group activities being undertaken include a) dissemination of information about sea turtle conservation and biology between Group members; b) maintenance of a communications network for crisis intervention; c) response to inquiries with authoritative information on sea turtle conservation and biology; d) aid in the implementation of the World Conference Action Plan; e) revise Red Book Data sheets.

As one of the Group members, do you have any suggestion or additions for this list?

5. I am not always the first to learn of the dates of future meetings. For instance, the Florida DNR held a sea turtle workshop April 1-3. My copy of the announcement was received on March 30. I would imagine that, as the editor of the newsletter, you receive notices of various meetings long before I do. For instance, as the co-leader of the SE US recovery team, Peter should be giving you dates for their meetings. It would be good if you would publish the various dates as they become available.

I hope that all of this helps. I have always tried to be cooperative with you.

Best regards,

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
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March 24, 1981

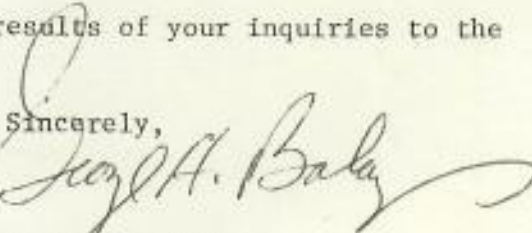
Mr. J. P. Larkindale
Official Secretary
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Mr. Larkindale:

Thank you for your encouraging letter of March 10th concerning my suggestion to undertake a sea turtle oriented visit to Tokelau. There should be no problem in working with a flexible vessel schedule, as air service between Hawaii and Samoa has generally been excellent. I can adjust my plans, as required, during the next several months.

I look forward to hearing the results of your inquiries to the village councils.

Sincerely,


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

GHB:md



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

March 31, 1981

F/SWC2:GHB

Mr. Allyn M. Lopez
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Mr. Lopez:


I just recently had the opportunity to read your informative article in Marine Fisheries Review concerning the Japanese longline fishery. I was especially interested in the observed capture of several sea turtles. As a researcher of Hawaiian and Pacific sea turtles, I would very much appreciate learning the following:

- 1) What were the species and approximate sizes of the turtles?
- 2) Were they caught on hooks, or entangled in lines?
- 3) Were they brought aboard alive or dead? Were they retained as part of the catch, or eaten by the crew?
- 4) What was the total Japanese longline fishing effort, by number of hooks, for each month of 1978? Has this same effort continued during subsequent years?
- 5) Is longline fishing by any other nation also occurring in the Gulf?
- 6) Has an FMP now been implemented for the Gulf longline fishery?
- 7) In the logs that vessels are required to keep, must the incidental catch of turtles be entered?
- 8) Are there any subsequent reports on this fishery that you can bring to my attention?

I realize that I have presented you with a lot of questions, but I do hope that you can take the time to respond as best as possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
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March 30, 1981

Captain Bobby G. Burns
Marine Safety Division
14th Coast Guard District
300 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

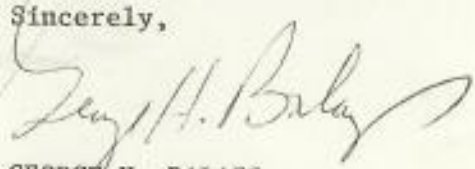
Dear Captain Burns:

As a researcher of green sea turtles, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the paper that you recently presented in Atlanta on the grounding of the Anangel Liberty at French Frigate Shoals.

I was very pleased to read in Harry Whitten's March 25th newspaper article that IMCO has accepted the Coast Guard's 50-mile transit limit in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Over the past two years, I have written several letters urging that this protective measure be instituted. Will this restriction now apply to all large vessels, or only those transporting cargo designated as "hazardous"?

With the expansion of fishing in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, an increased threat exists for vessel grounding and fuel spills. The difficulty of clean-up efforts by the Coast Guard in these remote areas should be clearly set forth in all Section 7 consultations undertaken for green turtles and monk seals by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 19, 1981

Ms. Nancy E. Hammond
Program Administrator
World Wildlife Fund - U.S.
1801 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

I want you to know that I appreciate your letter of March 9th which responded in full to my inquiry about sea turtle projects currently supported by WWF - U.S. Many thanks for taking the time to send me this important information along with the project reports. Be assured that the Clifton report will be held in confidence.

In 1979 I spent several days with Kim at Maruata Bay, I was equally impressed with his conservation motivation, understanding of Mexican culture and politics, and knowledge of sea turtles. He is one of a kind, and we are very fortunate to have him fighting on our team. I believe that it is indeed for the best that you directly administer the project with or for Kim. The interjection of additional layers of administration in a project of this sort, particularly when they are so distant, can only serve as a retardant. I suspect that Kim may be very pleased with this new arrangement. I am confident that he will meet the challenge.

I agree with you that it is bad news to learn that Smithsonian Press will not have the Proceedings out until early 1982. But I suppose that nothing can be done at this stage. I know for a fact that Karen Bjordal expended a tremendous amount of effort editing those papers in preparation for publication. The Conference (and WWF - U.S.) got their money's worth in hiring her.

As in the past, I am always willing to assist you in sea turtle matters as may be necessary.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
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Cable Address: UNIHAW

21 March 1981

Mr. Robert W. Truland, Director
Chelonia Institute
P.O. Box 9174
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Rob:

It was very disappointing and suprising to learn from your letters of February 27th and March 10th that you do not share my great enthusiasm for the sea turtle photographs that I have been able to assemble. I simply had no idea that you were heavily biased against photos of turtles nesting or returning to the sea. Sea turtles are indeed vulnerable while nesting, but I must vigorously disagree with your comments that it would be showing them at their worst. I have never thought of nesting turtles as being awkward or distressed.

In my opinion, it would certainly be valuable, although by no means absolutely essential, to have post cards of some of the species swimming gracefully underwater. The problem is that none of the scores of people that I wrote to submitted such material.

Given this basic difference in our philosophies on what constitutes quality material for the project, it may be worthwhile to summarize my original objectives and criteria, as outlined in my form letter of November 26th. The basic idea was to produce a set of color post cards displaying the seven species of sea turtles. It was felt that the distribution of these relatively low-cost cards would 1) foster conservation awareness, and 2) serve as a valuable supplement for the species identification of sea turtles for a wide range of potential users. The representative photo of each species was to be of an adult in order to standardize comparisons. It seemed to me that postcards showing, for instance, a juvenile green and an adult loggerhead would be of reduced value.

So where does all of this leave us? To be truthful, I'm just not sure. In spite of the commitment that you reiterated in your letter of February 27th, I would not feel right about accepting your financial support knowing that you are only luke warm on the package of photos. One suggestion might be that you support the production of only one or two cards using photos from my assemblage that are the closest to your preference. I could then seek funds elsewhere for

Mr. Robert W. Truland
Chelonia Institute
Page two

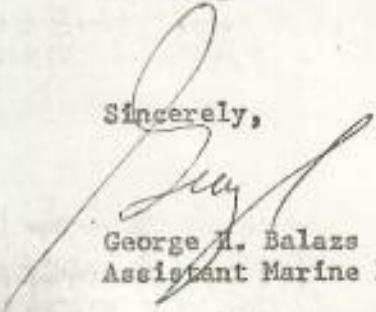
publication of the remainder of the package. Whatever your decision, I believe that you should feel free to produce any post cards that you see fit, either on your own or working with others.

I should mention that World Wide Distributors has informed me about a post card publisher in Australia that uses a laser process resulting in a sharper, richer image. The cost is the same, but the greater shipping distance causes an additional month delay. Still, the quality is such that I feel it would be well worth it. A representative card from this company (Colorscan) has been enclosed.

If you haven't done so already, please return all of the duplicate slides that I sent to you for review. Photocopies of 5 by 7" prints of the sea turtle package have been enclosed with this letter for your permanent files. As requested by your assistant, Gail Viton, I am returning Jack Frazier's post card and your slide of a juvenile green turtle.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist