

16

1980-1981 HIMB PART 2 of 2
INCOMING LETTER OF
G. H. BALAZS

Hawksbill Turtle- *Eretmochelys imbricata*

The hawksbill is an inhabitant of coral reefs throughout the tropics. With its hawk-like beak it feeds on a variety of reef invertebrates and algae. International trade in "tortoiseshell", derived from this species, has contributed to a worldwide decline in population numbers.

El Carey es habitante de los arrecifes de coral en todas partes de las zonas tropicales. Con su boca de halcón, come una variedad de invertebrados marinos y también algas. El comercio internacional en la concha de esta especie ha producido una reducción mundial de las poblaciones.

Photograph by George H. Balazs
Namua Island, Western Samoa

Text by ~~Archie Garr~~

ANNE MEYLAN

Green Turtle- *Chelonia mydas*

Green turtles are unique among sea turtles in being mainly herbivorous. They make regular long-distance migrations of as much as a thousand miles or more between their nesting beaches and pastures of sea grasses or algae. For centuries, the species has been heavily exploited for its excellent meat, and many colonies have been destroyed.

La tortuga verde es una especie herbívora, que hace largas migraciones entre sus playas de anidación y sus pastos de plantas marinas. Hace siglos ha sido explotado por su excelente carne, y muchas poblaciones han sido completamente destruidas.

Photograph by George H. Balazs
French Frigate Shoals
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Flatback Turtle- *Chelonia depressa* Garman

The flatback turtle is endemic to the Australian continental shelf. This carnivorous turtle feeds extensively on crustaceans in shallow turbid coastal waters. Low density nesting is widespread on the sandy beaches throughout tropical Australia. Crab Island in north Queensland is the most important of the several large rookeries for the species. The breeding female is intermediate in size to breeding hawksbill and loggerhead turtles. She averages three clutches of about 50 billiard-ball sized eggs per season.

This common north Australian turtle is relatively free from natural predation in its major rookeries. Subsistence level collecting of the adults and eggs by indigenous people occurs in some areas. The flatback is considered to be a secure species at present. However, the high frequency of incidental capture of flatbacks in some trawling grounds could pose future problems.

Photographs by Colin J. Limpus
Crab Island, Queensland, Australia

Leatherback Turtle- *Dermochelys coriacea*

Reaching a weight of up to 1300 pounds (about 600 kg), the leatherback turtle is the world's largest and most distinctive

sea turtle species. Although generally rare, important nesting grounds for this spectacular animal are now known in Malaysia, French Guiana, Mexico and elsewhere.

Llegando a pesar hasta 1300 libras (como 600 kilogramos), la laúd o tinglada es la mas grande y mas distintiva de las tortugas marinas. Aunque son generalmente raras, zonas de anidación importantes para este animal espectacular ahora son roconocidas en Malaysia, Mejico, La Guiana Francesa, y en otros lugares.

Photograph by Peter C.H. Pritchard
French Guiana

Green Turtle- *Chelonia mydas*

Monk Seal- *Monachus schauinslandi*

Hawaiian green turtle and monk seal sleeping on one of the small uninhabited islands at French Frigate Shoals in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Both of these native animals have experienced population declines from exploitation, but they are now protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the State of Hawaii.

Photograph by George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Published by G.H. Balazs
and
Hawaiian Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 2835
Honolulu, Hawaii 96803

Flatback Turtle

Chelonia depressa Garman

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This common north Australian turtle is relatively free from natural predation in its major rookeries. Subsistence level collecting of the adults and eggs by indigenous people occurs in some areas. The flatback is considered to be a secure species at present. However the high frequency of incidental capture of flatbacks in some trawling grounds could pose future problems.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Animal Behaviour Research Group

Reader in
Animal Behaviour
D. J. McFarland, D.Phil.

South Parks Road
Oxford OX1 3PS

Telephone:
Oxford 56789

UK

8th May 81

Dear George.

Many thanks for the Schmidt xerox, very helpful.

Also the xeroxes of the letter re forming with Peter. I think it would be best however, if you could send people, in each case, the xeroxes of both sides of the correspondence. My feeling in a preliminary way is that the IUCN group should keep more open minded about the forming issue, but I would like to see what Peter said to you about it. Apparently he lost his own copy of the letter he sent you, or two maybe, but suggested I get a copy from you. Anyway I expect we will hear from you if anything on the group's part is imminent....without any meeting in sight it hardly can be?

I always send out reprints to anyone who requests them, and people can get information they want by scanning the MEN lists...I know it has been slightly slow in appearing ^{this year} but usually it had a good record on that score.

I trust Linda is recovered by now. Please give her my wishes

regards,

Vidley

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Dear George:

I hope this fits Christian.
I thought I should start
indoctrinating him at a
young, impressionable age.
Maybe we can get Peter P.
to include ~~in~~ him in the
Gainesville clique that he
complains of.

Larry has sent me a copy
of Hendrickson's living tag
report (Oct. 1980). I assume
you've seen it. Let me
know if you haven't.

Best regards,

Karen



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR,
ASCENSION ISLAND,
SOUTH ATLANTIC.

3 June 1981

Mr George H Balass
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
PO Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe
Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr Balass,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May: it was kind of you to write.

Yes, it is true that I have cancelled a proposed stamp issue featuring our turtles. Unfortunately the artwork was poor and the pictures unattractive. And now our stamp programme is decided for the next two years. Perhaps we may try again for a turtle issue in 1984 when it will be reassuring to know that your Group will be available and willing to give advice.

Yours sincerely,

(B E PAUNCEFORT)

WOONGARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO BE ADDRESSED TO
"THE CLERK"

BAROLIN STREET,
BUNDABERG, 4670

DB:RS
9th June, 1981 .

Your Ref: AC/1w

Mr. Archie Carr,
Graduate Reserach Professor Chairman,
Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
International Union for the Conservation
of Nature,
University of Florida,
Department of Zoology,
223 Bartram Hall,
GAINESVILLE. 32611..

Dear Mr. Carr,

We thank-you for your letter of May 18th, 1981 regarding
development near the beach of Mon Repos.

We advise that the Council has refused the rezoning
application but recently the applicant has appealed
to the Local Government Court against this decision.

Yours faithfully,

Denis Byrnes
Denis Byrnes,
Shire Clerk.

9 June 81

Dear George,

Thank you for the last two letters I received from you. I hadn't heard about the Ascension turtle issue maybe not coming out. That's a shame. What is the problem? I'm glad you wrote your letter to Painesford, but how did you learn about it?

Thanks for the news on Garnett. He did good work on Cousin. I'll let you know when I have questions for him. Right now, I don't.

I really realize that my past few letters have been mildly morbid, and I appreciate your words of encouragement. I found Seychelles rather a difficult place to adapt to in some ways, and during my first two months out here I felt rather lukewarm about the place. However, I am happy to say that I now truly love it, and am thoroughly enjoying my work, and am not at all concerned anymore about whether the job will do my "future" good. Right now I am thoroughly enjoying myself, and think it really is, in fact, a damn good job. The Seychellois are outwardly friendly, but actually difficult to really get to be "friends" with. However, I now can say that I have lots of friends. My Creole is getting much better, which helps alot. I'm now sharing a house with four ^{Park} rangers. In the begining this was a bit of a pain, but now I wouldn't want it any other way.

I just got back from a trip to the Southern Islands -- Aldabra, Assumption, Cosmoledo, Astound, Farquhar and Providence. It was an extremely enlightening and interesting

Trip for me. I honestly came to Seychelles with an open mind about the situation re-turtles. This trip ~~was~~ however, quite called my opinions. The turtles (green) comprise but a fraction of the original population, and there is a very strong ^{NEGATIVE} correlation ^{FAST} between the relative amount of human habitation ^{AT EACH ISLAND.} and the numbers of turtles now nesting. It was so glaringly obvious that I was sort of shocked. Unfortunately, there are strong pressures within the government to exploit natural resources to the fullest. They just lifted ~~the~~ all restrictions on the collection of bird eggs (i.e. Sooty terns) -- a delicacy that the Seychellois are fanatically fond of. (They can easily consume a dozen as one sitting per person.) There is also talk of ^{removing} ~~opening~~ the bars against taking of green turtles and tortoises on Aldabra -- most unfortunate! I will do my best to encourage them to act properly, but it is a very delicate sort of situation. Politics is a very heavy scene here, and although I am trying to remain as apolitical as possible, as you know, it is very difficult to separate conservation from politics, especially in a country where ^{HERE} the thought of the taste of green turtle or bird eggs arouses the most extreme sort of human emotions.

I am in the interesting position of having access to the very highest of government officials. I can't remember if I already told you, but when I visited Coetivy Island I met the president. The island is a weekend retreat for him and we completely overlapped in our visit on this occasion. I was able to talk to him on four separate occasions. Apparently I made a favorable impression on him because he made a point of telling me to visit him in Mahé, and even gave me his private phone number. I am also friendly with ^{the} Minister of Agriculture

who is the next man down in this arena. The Minister ^{also} told me ^{twice} that I made a good impression on the President. The President, by the way is not all that accessible, so I feel very fortunate to be in this position. (Actually, I ^{was} pretty shaken up by my visit to Cocting.) ~~From~~ We have, unfortunately, some very basic differences of opinion about the definition and value of "conservation". All I can hope ^{for} is that I can use my advantage ^{TO ENABLE ME} to present to him, in as rational and logical a manner as possible, my arguments in favor of as complete protection as possible. If they are rejected, I'm not going to lose sleep over it. It's their country. I plan to enjoy my two years here, while at the same time do what I can. I won't let myself get as emotionally involved in the issue as I did regarding Ascension. There are two completely different sets of socio-economic factors ~~are~~ operating in the two places.

There was a rather interesting conference here about a month ago on Aquaculture. Representatives ~~of~~ came from Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius and Comoros Is. Among the "stars" were people from the "Reunion Turtle Ranch." Sounded to me, from what they said, and from what a couple of pretty sharp (surprisingly so) fisher people who had been there said, that the place is pretty questionable. Apparently, a lot of lies (Mariculture Ltd type) had been circulated. For example, at one point they were claiming a 1:1 ratio of food intake to turtle biomass! I was invited to go out to Tromelin in November. All I have to do is pay my way to Reunion and everything else would be gratis. Sounds quite ^{is} irrefutable, but I'm not sure if I can take the time off from my project here. We'll see. I am overworked but

enjoying it thoroughly. I've been hoping to come to the States for a visit after about a year but I'm not sure when. It will be hard to take much time off. I hate to miss pieces of the season here. Since things are going so well, also, I am really in no rush to leave.

Well, I'd probably better sign off. I'm sorry this letter is marginally illiterate (lots of redundancies, etc). If you could ferret a copy to pass on to G'ville I would be grateful. I'm not sure if I always cover the same points when I write to the two places.

Take care —

Fondlest regards,

Jean

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

16 May 1981

George Balazs
NMFS
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

Dear George:

I just got your letter today. I was very sorry to hear about Linda's surgery, but happy that all is well now. Alan's mother had two ectopic pregnancies, which is why Alan is an only child. That is very rare. Having one is not supposed to mean that you are predisposed to have another, I don't mean to scare you. As you say, you never know what the day may bring. I'm glad you were at home to help her through.

I'm glad you agreed on Frazier's proposal. I wonder who Jungius sent copies of the proposal to. I've been out of the office, busy with my new job over at another lab, so I don't know whether Dr. Carr has responded or not. His trip to Papua New Guinea is up in the air; they're having trouble with visas, for some governmental (PNG government) reasons that aren't clear.

Thanks so much for the new stamp! I really like it also, but it's not my favorite. I like the Dominica and Grenada stamps you sent me better. The Maldives one is too much like a photo. It is certainly an improvement over the earlier Maldivian stamps that look like crosses between serpents and turtles and lizards. You are really being very generous in your contributions to my collection. I appreciate it very much.

I found a note to myself buried in my drawer today to send you Hillestad's address. It is:

Southeastern Wildlife Service
113 Hoyt Street
Athens, Georgia 30601

Good luck. He's even worse as a correspondent than Jim Richardson. I don't know how he can stay in business as a consultant/impact statement person and be such a poor correspondent. Maybe he's a lot better when there is money at the other end. Sorry for the delay in sending this to you.

Thanks for the franked envelopes--they're a help to our Department's over-extended postage budget.

Apparently Stoneburner's work has gotten a lot of circulation in Georgia. Some bee people up there told ^{me} they had read about it in several places. They said the articles presented it as ^{if} ~~the~~ the lost-year mystery were solved. That of course is not necessarily Stoneburner's fault; we all know how the press can twist things. I'm glad to see Derek is finally publishing his work. And I think your note to all the Group members about sending reprints is a good one. I have been negligent in that regard. Not all of the members are on my reprint mailing list. I'm going to correct that today.

I hope all continues well with you and your family.

Best regards,

Karen

FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON REGENT'S PARK LONDON NW1 4RY Tel 01-586 0872

Cables: Faunassoc LondonNW1

President Professor Lord Zuckerman OM, KCB, DSc, FRS
Chairman of Council Sir Peter Scott, CBE, DSC

Honorary Secretary R S R Fitter
Editor of Oryx Mrs M S Fitter

11.5.81

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

Dear George

Many thanks for your letter of March 26 - I hasten to say that it arrived mid-April! - and the enclosures, which I am very glad indeed to see. I have done a par on Tern for the next Oryx - which means September I'm afraid.

A copy of Richard Moore's sea turtle report has gone off to you. I hope it arrives safely. Re the World Heritage List, I'm a bit vague too, but Jeff McNeeley, Executive Officer of the National Parks Commission at IUCN, Gland CH-1196, Switzerland, should be able to help. Certainly worth exploring for French Frigate Shoals I should think.

I look forward to receiving the piece on 'the truly horrible new fishery' north of Midway. If you've got anything really cheerful to report it would balance things up a bit!

All good wishes & many thanks
Yours
Gavin

Vice-Presidents Syed W Ameer Ali CIE, ICS (Retd.) Prof J G Baer (Switzerland) Felipe Benavides OBE (Peru)
Col Mervyn Cowie CBE, ED Sir Frank Fraser Darling DSc, FRSE The Lord Hurcomb GCB, KBE
Sir Julian Huxley FRS Capt C R S Pitman CBE, DSO, MC Sir Landsborough Thomson CB, DSc

MASPC

Send Synopsis
6/25/81



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT
CHAPEL HILL

Institute of Marine Sciences

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Post Office Drawer 809
Morehead City, North Carolina 28557

May 29, 1981

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

Dear George:

Thanks for your 20 May 1981 letter re the continued progress of commemorative sea turtle stamps; this is great. Let me add a little item that may help you with your push in getting the stamps. In August 1980 I was able to get a sea turtle sanctuary established for a stretch of North Carolina coastline - an area where our heaviest nesting occurs. This is regulation .0114 of the 1981 North Carolina Marine Fisheries laws. After we correct a slight surveying error in listing on p. 7 the sanctuary will appear on all navigation charts and will be so listed by Geologic Survey and National Ocean Survey departments. The idea of a sanctuary could be built into the stamp design, no need to be specific as to state.

With best regards,

Frank J. Schwartz
Professor of Zoology

FJS/bbb

Enclosure

Western Australian Marine Research Laboratories
Box 20, P.O. NORTH BEACH, Western Australia, 6020.

Dr. G.H. Balazs,
Southwest Fisheries Center,
Honolulu Laboratory,
P.O. Box 3830,
HONOLULU, Hawaii 96812.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter, our field staff estimate that 3-4 turtles per week are caught by 37 trawlers currently operating in Shark Bay, W.A. Often, it appears as though the same turtles are repeatedly caught. Yes! I was aware that the capture of turtles in other trawls is not a common event.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID HEALD
Scallop and Shark Research

April 23, 1981

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION
AEROGRAMME



TO DR. GEORGE H. BALAZS,
SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER,
HONOLULU LABORATORY,
P.O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU,
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION HAWAII 96812

Fold flaps before moistening gum, for maximum adhesion, press down for a few seconds. If anything is enclosed or any tape or sticker attached, the form must bear the appropriate postage for an air mail letter.

MR. D. HEALD,
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE RESEARCH LABORATORIES
P.O. BOX 20,
NORTH BEACH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA,
AUSTRALIA
Postcode 6020

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS



BEREA COLLEGE

Berea, Kentucky 40404

Department of Psychology

June 6, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Balzas:

I would be most grateful if you would provide me with a copy of your "Synopsis of biological data on the green turtle...", your "Loggerhead turtle recovered from a tiger shark ..." and any other available papers on sea turtles from 1979 forward.

I am in the process of preparing a monograph on loggerheads and feel that these would be most useful to me.

Thank you so very much.

Sincerely yours,

Marilla Davis

Marilla Davis
Assistant Professor

*sent
6/26/81*

Dr.

G.H. Balazs
Hawaii Inst. Mar. Biol.
Univ. of Hawaii
Kaneohe, HI 96744
USA

D. Margaritoulis
Menandrou 4
Kifissia
Athens
GREECE

6 May 1981

Dear Sir,

I would be very grateful if you could send me a copy of the following papers of yours which seem to be of particular interest to our investigations and which, unfortunately, it is impossible to find in Greece:

1. BALAZS, G.H. (1976). Green turtle migrations in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Biol. Conserv. 9(2):125-40.
2. BALAZS, G.H. & NOZOE, M. (1978). Preliminary report on the hawksbill turtle in Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. 1973 report of the Japanese Tortoise Shell Assoc.
3. BALAZS, G.H. (1979). Synopsis of biological data on marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands. Draft report, National Marine Fisheries Service.
4. BALAZS, G.H. (1979). An additional strategy for possibly preventing the extinction of Kemp's ridley. Marine Turtle Newsletter, No 12:3-4.

Looking forward to hear from you, I remain

yours truly

D. Margaritoulis

*Recd
6/26/81*

INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES MARINAS DE PUNTA DE BETIN
"INVEMAR"

Dirección: INVEMAR Apartado Aéreo 1016
Santa Marta - Colombia S. A.

Teléfono 54-10

Santa Marta, June 12, 1981

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
USA

I'm sorry. We can not help you because Dr. R. Kaufmann does not work in this Institute. He was here three or four years ago.

Now you could write him to:

JUSTUS LIEBIG UNIVERSITÄT GISSEN
D. 6300
Republic Federal of Germany.

In the following Institute, it publishes "CALDASIA", where is that item :

INSTITUTO DE CIENCIAS NATURALES
UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA
Apartado Aéreo 7495
Bogotá, D. E.-Colombia

Sincerely,

Luz Fabiola Castiblanco S.
LUZ FABIOLA CASTIBLANCO S.

Librarian

Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas
de Punta de Betín
BIBLIOTECA

c.c. Director
File



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY

ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602

TELEPHONE 404-542-2968

23 April 1980

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

Dear George:

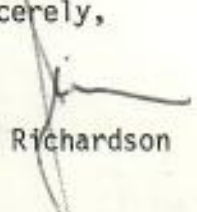
I have an idea which I would like to pass on to you. My dentist, Dr. Barry Simmons DDS, travels regularly to the South Pacific as part of a small foundation he has started, called Dental International. It is a method for him to spend several months a year away from the office (recreation or mind release) while establishing and running dental clinics around the world. He is now focussing all his future efforts in the South Pacific.

Barry is a super likeable guy, industrious, unmarried, 43, who leaves an excellent first impression on the people he meets. As a medical professional he is welcomed wherever he goes. On my suggestion, he has become very interested in involvement with sea turtle conservation efforts, on a volunteer basis. I think he could be an invaluable asset as a contact man and data collector for your Pacific turtle program. I also think that volunteers of this calibre are worth their weight in gold for far flung projects such as yours.

Barry will be heading for Raratonga around 4 July, with plans to visit many of the outer islands of the Cook Island group. He will gather information (you supply the questions) if requested. Let me know or call him yourself ((404)-546-1715) some evening after 9:00pm EST. He would love to talk with you.

Address -

Sincerely,


Jim Richardson

- Island maps
- Base questions from Tokelau inquiry
- Buttons
- ID sheets (photos)



Republic of the Philippines
Ministry of Natural Resources

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008

P.O. Box No. 623, Manila

Tel. Nos. 96-54-98 96-54-28

Felicidad Selda-Matillano
Coral Reef Research Project
Bureau of Fisheries and
Aquatic Resources
Real Street, Intramuros,
Metro Manila
Philippines
11 May, 1981

Aut
5/21/81

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

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Received the copy of your article, Field Methods for Sampling the Dietary Components of Green Turtles, Chelonia mydas and would like to thank you for it.

Just came from Cuyo, Palawan where we surveyed a possible site for our turtle study. We were able to have one at Halog Island, an uninhabited place and very ideal for such study. Hopefully, we will start our operation this August, the peak month of turtle nesting.

Once again, i would like to request for a copy of your article, Synopsis of biological data on green turtle in the Hawaiian Islands. I appreciate if you could send me other literatures regarding marine turtle studies.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Felicidad S. Matillano
Felicidad S. Matillano

31.3.81

George, I get the feeling that you are not getting my mail.

I have written 12.11.80 + 13.3.81 did you get those ~~two~~ letters?

Anyway - swift reply coming up Andrew Wright is in Kawang at the moment. I have just spoken to him + he says he's just sent your letter off to you.

Anyway in case this gets there first

- 1) Both turtles dead - green lauded - leatherback cut loose (chrowned)
- 2) They were actually hooked, the

Leait was Japanese pardine

3) Deatherback cut loose

Green frozen & taken back to Japan
for tanning -

4) no stomach contents seen

5) Photo of green taken - he's looking
for it, thinks its been misplaced at HQ.

6) Crewmembers say catch at least 1 or
2/trip.

Anyhow would appreciate a copy of his
letter for our file - also to follow up
on that green turtle being taken to
Japan. I've just finished a proposal

totally

to have the leatherback protected here
in P.N.G. Have got the go-ahead from
the Dept to start a huge PA programme
to let everyone know. Sent a copy to
Archie. Any interesting PA material you
may have on leatherbacks would be
greatly appreciated here.

Just got my copy of "The Worldwide
Distribution of Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches" - looks
good eh? Also got an interesting report
from WWF Indonesia. "Pilot Survey
of Exploitation of Dugong & Sea Turtles in
the Aru Islands" Have you seen this?
If you didn't get my last letter

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
225 BARTRAM HALL
804-392-1107

21 May 1981

Dear George -

Just got your letter
in time to give this
to Wayne - no trouble
at all. Alan is in his
oral prelims right now -
it will be a great relief
to have them over.

Thanks a lot for the
picture of you, Linda
& Christian - it has joined
our "rogues gallery" on
the wall. Hope all continues
well w/ Linda. Please don't

mention this never to
anyone - I've been telling
everyone else I can't reex
the papers because of
Smithsonian Press. Sever-
al people have seriously
asked me to reex the
entire volume! Even after
I've told them it's 1400
pages! Sorry for the
messy writing - I'm
rushing.

Best regard,
Karen

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

May 18, 1981

Shire Clerk
Woondara Shire Council
Barolin Street
Bundaberg, Australia

Dear Sir:

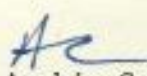
I have had word that the Shire Council has received a petition for a permit that would allow development along the beach at Mon Repos. I am writing to express alarm at this prospect and to urge the Council to give the most careful consideration to the probable deleterious effects of the proposed development on the famous Mon Repos sea turtle rookery. The nesting ground there is the largest on the mainland of Eastern Australia, and the population of the loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) breeding there is larger than any other on the Pacific Coast of your country. The shore also is visited by the southernmost nesting contingent of the unique flatback turtle.

Over and above its importance as a refuge for endangered species of marine turtles, the population there has been the object of protracted systematic study by scientists of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Information being gathered there is of great importance to our understanding of the ecology of marine turtles, not only augmenting natural science but also reinforcing the basis for successful management and conservation of sea turtles in other parts of the world.

Besides the direct yield to science and conservation, the Mon Repos turtle project, under a program of disciplined visitation by tourists and local people, has generated public good will for the whole field of wildlife maintenance in Australia, and if the colony is carefully protected this valuable contribution can be expected to continue. There can be no doubt whatsoever that, if the building permits being solicited are granted, the resulting artificial illumination on the foreshore will impair nesting, both by repelling the nest-bound adults and by disrupting the seaward travel of hatchlings across the beach.

I beg you, therefore, to stand firm against any persuasion in your assessment of the petition that has reached you.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr, Graduate Research Professor
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
International Union for the Conservation
of Nature

AC/iw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

June 11, 1981

Dr. H. R. Bustard
Chief Technical Adviser
Crocodile Breeding and Management
Project
Central Crocodile Breeding and
Management Training Institute
19-4-319, Lake Dale, Rajendranagar Road
Hyderabad-500 264, A.P.
India

Dear Bob:

I regret the delay in my answer to your previous letter. I just returned from a trip to Papua New Guinea, and that was preceded by three other journeys.

As to the first of your questions--that concerning official IUCN policy on turtle farming--I believe that is a firm withholding of endorsement, with exceptions. Nobody seems to be actively opposing farms, but then there was never much of that. The fuss was mostly caused by the dogged, single-track insistence of turtle farmers that their virtues and good deeds deserved, and must be given, the endorsement of sea turtle conservationists. We all wasted vast amounts of time resisting that preposterous demand. I remain convinced that there should be no international traffic in depleted or vulnerable species, and that farming feeds international traffic by generating and extending markets. Why then should I endorse farming for international trade?

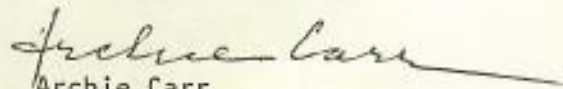
Our trip to Papua New Guinea involved a National Academy of Science panel of eight people sent to assess the potential for good, evil, or both, of the crocodile and bird-butterfly farming that is going on apace out there.

As to the status of your erstwhile membership on the Marine Turtle Group, all memberships were terminated at the time of the World Conference. A new slate was selected, for terms of three years. A new group will then go in. There is no reason why you would not be considered then. You probably have noticed, however, that concern over turtles, and research by very competent people, have been burgeoning these last few years. Unless the idea of universal membership is embraced, choosing a small number from that new multitude is not going to be easy.

Meanwhile, I hear you have had notable successes with gavials. Felicitations.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

AC/1jw



Instituto Nacional de Pesca

Letamendi 102 y la Ría
Casilla (P. O. Box): 8918
Cables: INSNAPEB
Teléfono Conmutador:
40157 - 401776 - 401779
GUAYAQUIL - ECUADOR

GUAYAQUIL : 25 MAYO 1981

OFICIO: 810301

George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Biology
Coconut Island, Kamohe,
USA.

Dear Sir:

I am present working as an researcher at the National Fisheries Institute in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

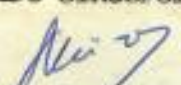
From the middle of last year I replaced Dr. Derek - Green as the person responsible for all marine turtle research in ecuadorian waters.

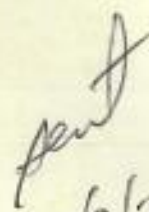
This included the continuation of the sea turtle study started in the Galápagos Islands in 1975.

Having heard about the Marine Turtle Symposium in the Caribbean, I will try to assist it. Do you will go to the Symposium? .

I should be most grateful if you would send me all the available publications of you to the Instituto Nacional de Pesca address, if these are expenses on the photocopying or others you should charge to me.
Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,


Mario Hurtado G.
INVESTIGADOR I.N.P.
TURTLE PROGRAM


6/22/81

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DR BRYAN ROTHWELL

CJP:LK.

3rd June, 1981.

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

Dear George,

Thanks for your letter dated 29 April 1981. With the present price of reprints I don't see my way clear to automatically send them to all persons on the Group. This is especially so as more journals are cutting out free reprints and I have no funds available for their purchase in my present employment. My reprint request lists for recent papers show less than 10% of the Group actually wanting them.

I am perfectly happy to put your name on my permanent list if you so wish. In this regard find enclosed my "egg rolling" paper.

I do not have available for distribution (nor am I likely to) my 2 papers that appeared in:

Management of Turtle Resources
Research Monograph 1
James Cook University of North Qld (1980).

If you want a copy of the whole issue, I suggest you write to:

Publications Officer,
Dept. Tropical Veterinary Science,
James Cook University of North Q'ld.,
Townsville, Qld. Australia. 4810.

I will not bother to apologize for the misprints that occur in those papers, as they were completely beyond my control.

Regards,

John Pimentel

THE COASTAL SOCIETY



3426 N. Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 [703-527-2678]

June 10, 1981

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

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I appreciated your letter informing me of the status of the proposal to issue commemorative stamps portraying four species of sea turtles.

I am no longer with the Center for Natural Areas. As I would like to keep up with the status of the proposal, my current and future addresses are as follows:

(until August): 8809 Bradford Rd
Silver Spring, MD 20901

(after August): Institute for Marine Studies, HA-35
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

I am currently working for The Coastal Society, an international, non-profit professional society working on coastal zone issues. I am enclosing a brochure which describes the goals of the Society, for your information. If you would be interested in writing a short notice of your efforts for the issuance of the commemorative stamps, I will include it in our next Bulletin, which will be coming out around the first of July.

Once again, I appreciate being kept up-to-date on the proposal and if there is anything else I can do to help, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George W. Robertson".

George W. Robertson
Chairperson, Membership Committee

Encl.

cond
B. blis

Seal Rescue Fund



A project of The Center for Environmental Education • 1925 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D. C. 20006

June 1, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Balazs,

Thank you very much for sending us the photograph of the green sea turtle and monk seal. It is wonderful.

I expect to be able to use the photo in the first issue of The Seal Report with a story on the monk seal. The newsletter is scheduled to be mailed on July 23 and 24 and will be reaching well over 50,000 individuals. Though I cannot guarantee the picture will be used due to space limitations, I will certainly do my best to make room for it. I really want everyone to see it! You will, of course, receive full credit.

Should you have further questions or suggestions for The Seal Report, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Our deadline is fast approaching.

I look forward to hearing from you. Best of luck in your work.

Sincerely,

Jann Teeple-Hewes
Editor
The Seal Report

JTH:lh

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

1 May 1981

George Balazs
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear George:

First of all, thank you, thank you, thank you for the beautiful turtle stamps from Dominica, Redonda, Grenada and Cayman Islands. I love them. They really perk up my collection. I have enclosed a copy of a letter from Ascension Island. Could you send me a list of your turtle stamps, by Scott number or whatever, so that I know whether to send for two when I send off for the Ascension stamps, for example.

Thanks for the clipping showing you and your colleagues clearing off East Island. It's really a good, but unfortunately rare, feeling to be able to do something so directly good for turtles and conservation. Keep up the good work! Also, thanks for the info about the male ridley being sent to Miami. That's great news, and one thing off my list of things to do. Hope there is success. I worry that with a day-time nester, the people will be a problem. After reading Truland's letter to Cornelius, I'm sorry that I advised you to be cautious. You should have told Truland to shove it. He is not only ignorant, but sounds like a perfect ass. You have a lot better ways to spend your time than trying to work with a nincompoop (sp?) like him.

I agree with you about the dive advertisement and catching green turtles. I can't believe it really does any harm to the turtles, except to teach them to be more wary of people, and that is probably a good thing. Unless, of course, it gets to be too high a level of harassment, I wouldn't say anything either.

That was an interesting letter from Wright. At one or two turtles per trip, we may be talking about a lot of turtles. I'm really glad you're staying on top of this thing. If I can do any more to help, please let me know. When are the regulations up for revision? I hope Perry Thompson has more data for you.

I thought your letter to Peter Pritchard was perfect. I wish I could write letters like that.

The letter from Zeiller left me uncertain about the success of Hendrickson's work. Were the successful grafts on ridleys all on animals past hatchling age? The tag would be helpful if this were the case, but not nearly as helpful if it were successful with hatchlings.

Thanks also for the xerox of algae farming off Florida. This is particularly interesting to me now, because the 3-year postdoc that is probably going to come through for me here is funded by the Gas Research Institute to work on predicting quality of biomass sources for methane production. I'll be working with grasses (terrestrial) first, but later move into algae and perhaps seagrasses. I know this sounds far afield from my interests, but I will mainly be working with rumen fermentations, as a model of methane fermenters and working with how ruminants digest some forages better than others and why. Anyway, I need to start keeping my eyes open for these types of algae papers. Mort sounds rather down in her letter to you, but she does that quite a bit. I mean she changes her moods quite rapidly from very happy to rather depressed. Dr Carr got a long, long letter from her yesterday, but I haven't seen it yet. No one here, including Wayne, knows anything about the Frazier trip to Seychelles. I can't imagine who is funding him, unless it is Smithsonian money to also do some collecting for them. He's so strange, I hope it doesn't get messy for her.

George Balazs
1 May 1981
page 2

I am also a little concerned about what she will do for a job after this (she mentioned that in the letter to you). As you know, WWF/IUCN has a bad habit of leaving people dangling. As in the case with Perran, they don't feel any responsibility for people in Jeanne's position after the project is up. I guess they really can't. Keep your ears open for possibilities for her that would start in about a year and a half. With soft money going softer, this isn't the best of times.

We have all loved the ridley film you sent. About half the department has seen it now. Dr. Carr wants to get it copied if that is all right. He tried to call you several times, but you were away. If this letter gets to you before his call does, could you let us know if that would be okay? We weren't sure what sort of understanding you had with the Scripps man.

I have also enclosed a copy of a proposal from Frazier that Dr. Carr received from Jungius. We aren't clear whether Jungius sent it out to every member of the group, or just to Dr. Carr. Have you received a copy from him? Wayne hasn't. We here (including Wayne) are all in agreement that there is no way the few marine turtle dollars available should be spent to support Frazier and his computer jock to work up Jack's old data. The Conference papers and Jack's recent papers have undoubtedly skimmed the cream off his work, and it is a very bad precedent to set to support projects of this sort. We should support new, active projects. Dr. Carr is rather hesitant to chop it though, because Jack is so strange and feels so paranoid. He thinks the turtle people are really out to get him. We just feel that he should try to get a job and work on his data then, like everyone else has to. It seems the height of conceit to expect to be supported so you can write up your data. I do feel, however, that Jack was probably not treated fairly by WWF/IUCN to start with. They should have given him a straight "no" when he applied before, rather than giving him their chicken run-around with maybe we'll fund you, when I don't think they had any such intention. They should not have had any intention, after the review Dr. Carr and Wayne gave it. We should reply to this without too much more delay, and I hope you feel that you can give it your fair appraisal. I suppose I shouldn't have prejudiced you against it before you saw it. Sorry. But I believe we have discussed this problem before.

Dr. Carr got bitten by a snake (non-poisonous) on his nose and cheek on his field trip yesterday. It is a particularly fast snake, so to catch it to show the class, he ran after it and threw his body prone upon it. He had developed this technique many years ago. He misjudged slightly, though, and when he landed, there was still 1.5 feet of snake in front of him, so the snake turned around and bit him. He had perfect presence of mind throughout, according to him, so he did not pull back (which would have ripped him badly), but let the snake hang there until it released him of its own accord. Never a dull minute around here, George. Doesn't it make you miss us all? What's the final word, if any, on the Philippines trip? I hope you and your family are well. Have you taught Christian to tag turtles yet?

Best regards,

Karen

Karen Bjorndal

*Thanks again for the stamps
The set of reprints from Br J. Kemp given to us was
equally bad, so I've asked Wayne's secretary
to try again.*



GOVERNMENT OF AMERICAN SAMOA
PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799
OFFICE OF MARINE RESOURCES

In reply refer to:

May 11, 1981

George H. Balazs
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear George:


Thank you very much for your letter. Sorry about the delay in reply regarding the new fishing vessel. I have nothing much to say about this boat. All I know is that the new vessel will be departing Seattle, WA, sometime in early June. It may take 6 weeks in delivering it.

About 3 weeks ago, our Deputy Director, Mr. Leroy Ledoux and myself released a green female turtle from the Rainmaker Hotel from your friend Tony Brown. He understood the conservation Rule, so we didn't have a hard time with him, but the Green turtle it is from Alepata's Hatchery. It had a notch at the left end side of the tail, the Corapace lg. 880-cm and the wd-640 cm.

The local diver found the turtle and sold it to the Hotel for \$60.00 so we have it free and we released it anyway.

Thank you for the picture, it was very nice. Looking forward on our next Rose Island trip.

With best regards,


WILLIAM D. PEDRO
Fishery Biologist III

24.4.81

Dear Mr. Balazs

I have recently learned that in the 1929 volume of the Marine turtle news journal appears an article by you dealing with the food and care of baby sea turtles, which may be of great help to me in my effort to compile information on the turtles of Israel and their husbandry.

Unfortunately, this publication does not exist in any Israeli library I know about.

Therefore, I would be most thankful if you could send me a copy of this article, and any others on close subjects.

I would be even more grateful if you could send me any future articles dealing with reptiles.

yours thankfully

God Perry

P.O. Box 351

Petach-Tikva 49102

Israel

Israel
Radio
+ tax stamp

?

Syd sent
5/15/81

USA

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 4346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Mr. G.H. Balazs



BY AIRMAIL
AÉROGRAMME
פיקטורי
פיקטורי



an aérogramme containing any enclosure will be sent by surface.
un aérogramme contenant un objet quelconque sera transmis par voie de surface.
אם לפרק האגראמה יצור כל ציוד יישלח בדואר רגיל.

code H402

return place Pofack-Tel Aviv, Israel

sender Gold Party

address P.O. Box 357

return

Handwritten note in a circle: "2. Pofack-Tel Aviv"



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

5/14/81

To George

From: Larry

These are duplicate or discarded journals from our library. You probably have access to them at your library. However, I am sending them to you in case you don't have them at hand.

I kept the ones on Caribbean reefs; Jeanne Mortimer was sent the ones on the Seychelles.

You're right about that Ocean's article — too much misinformation. I agree it needs to be corrected in a friendly tone. Maybe I or somebody in the Region can see to the task

TRANSMITTAL FORM CD-32A (10-67)
PRESCRIBED BY DAO 214-2

U.S.G.P.O. 1979-0-685-010/1207

Best regards



file

May 11, 1981

Richard Fitter
Fauna & Flora Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regent Park
London NW1 4RY
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear Mr. Fitter:

Wayne King has asked me to comment to you on several articles that appeared in the British Herpetological Society Bulletin, No. 2, 1980, concerning Cayman Turtle Farm. In addition to the articles he sent me (by Brongersma; Hughes; Johnson; Pickett and Townson; and the Marine Turtle Newsletter), I have also had brought to my attention articles by Townson and Pickett and Townson that appear to be from another issue of the same periodical. The one characteristic that all these articles share in common is a serious misunderstanding of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ("CITES") and the history of the actions taken by the United States under its Endangered Species Act to control trade in green sea turtles.

First, several of these articles imply that CITES has a much longer reach than it in fact does. The only trade regulated by CITES is international trade; that is, commercial activities within a country are completely outside the ambit of CITES. Thus, if a country wanted to encourage the establishment of turtle farms so as to provide a source of protein or other products for its own people, CITES would not stand in the way of that. Pickett and Townson's statement that "recent developments . . . may have far reaching consequences . . . for the principles of the breeding of any wild animal for any purpose in captivity" (emphasis added) is therefore a gross exaggeration for two reasons. First, if

MAY 13 1981

Richard Fitter
May 11, 1981
Page Two

the purpose is to supply products to domestic markets (e.g., the Malaysian enterprise cited in the editorial from the Marine Turtle Newsletter) nothing in CITES will hinder that. Second, nothing in CITES limits captive breeding or even international commercialization for any animal species other than those whose conservation status has been recognized as most imminently endangered and placed on the CITES Appendix I.

Second, there is also implicit in several of these articles the erroneous view that if an animal specimen has been "bred in captivity" (however that is defined) CITES permits it to be freely traded in international commerce without restriction. In fact, CITES requires that before international trade in any captive bred specimens of Appendix I species may be permitted, it must first be determined that such trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. That is, answering the question whether or not a particular specimen was in fact bred in captivity is really just the start of the inquiry, not the end. The remainder of the inquiry required by CITES focuses on the effect of that trade on the species as a whole, including the question whether such trade will stimulate a demand for the species which has an adverse effect upon its survival. Though Mr. Townson finds unconvincing the argument that trade in farmed turtle products is likely to stimulate demand, the United States concluded, after a comprehensive investigation in which Cayman Turtle Farm participated, that such detrimental stimulation was likely. Cayman Turtle Farm then challenged that conclusion in a United States court and the court held that the evidence accumulated was more than ample to support the U.S. view. Though Cayman Turtle Farm appealed the court decision to a higher court, their appeal was limited to other issues and abandoned this fundamental claim.

A third recurring erroneous view, stated most bluntly in Mr. Johnson's article, is that the definition of "bred in captivity" adopted by the parties to CITES was the product of some vendetta or conspiracy aimed at Cayman Turtle Farm. In particular, the requirement in that definition that a breeding operation show itself capable of reliably producing at least two generations in captivity is attacked. In fact, as the numerous affidavits referred to by Mr. Johnson demonstrate, the bred in captivity provision of CITES was never intended to be a loophole authorizing continued removal of Appendix I animals from the wild. Yet, unless a breeding program is shown to be capable of producing more than a single generation in captivity, that program will necessarily be dependent upon

Richard Fitter
May 11, 1981
Page Three

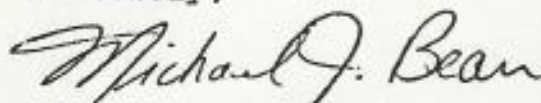
further removals from the wild in perpetuity. This fact was sufficiently obvious to the CITES parties when the definition was agreed upon that not a one of them cast a vote against it. Even Great Britain, which was always solicitous of the Farm's interest, had a major hand in crafting the definition.

The concern the CITES parties had about not sanctioning international commercial trade in Appendix I species where such trade is in fact dependent upon wild populations is well illustrated by the example of Cayman Turtle Farm itself. Essentially all of the products marketed by the Farm today come from one of two sources: turtles either hatched from eggs taken from natural nesting beaches or born to wild-caught turtles that have mated in captivity. Though the Farm has succeeded in having wild-caught adult turtles mate and produce offspring in captivity, it has had very little success in getting captive-raised turtles (i.e., those hatched on the Farm from eggs laid in the wild) to produce viable offspring. The first egg-laying by captive raised turtles occurred in 1975. Only 199 hatchlings resulted. In 1976 and 1977, only 51 and 24 such hatchlings were produced. By 1978, substantially more hatchlings were being produced by captive raised turtles, but few of those hatchlings survived. In fact, more than 85 percent of the Farm's total hatchling production in 1978 were dead by the middle of the next year. As a result, only about 150 of the hatchlings born to captive raised turtles in 1978 proved viable. In 1979, survival of hatchlings improved but hatchling production by captive raised turtles fell by half. The result was that fewer than 350 of the hatchlings born to captive raised turtles in 1979 were still alive by the middle of the next year. Comparable statistics for the 1980 hatch are not yet available.

The above figures take on significance when compared to the Farm's annual slaughter requirements of over 13,000 turtles. Even assuming that all the hatchlings alive one year after their hatching continue to survive until slaughter age of three or four, it is clear that the Farm still depends, and will continue to depend for the foreseeable future, on the production by wild caught adult turtles for more than 97 percent of its slaughter needs.

I hope these comments will be of use to you. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to ask for it.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bean
Chairman, Wildlife Program

MJB/ry
cc Wayne King

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



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

May 13, 1981

Mr. Lucas Chin
Curator
Muzium Sarawak
Jalan Tun JH openg
Kuching
Sarawak, East Malaysia

Dear Lucas:

In his 13 April 1980 letter to you, George Balazs raised a very interesting question, namely how can a moratorium on the harvesting of eggs from Sarawak's Turtle Islands be achieved? Isn't there some way this can be accomplished?

As you undoubtedly know, Sabah was able to discontinue the commercial harvesting of eggs on its turtle islands off the coast of Sandakan, and turned the islands into a turtle sanctuary. Since that initial end to the commercial harvest, the islands have become the Turtle Islands National Park. I don't know the step by step details of how it was accomplished, but I do know that the head of the Sabah government decided that the turtle resource had a greater importance to the citizens of Sabah than it did to the local Moslem groups that were conducting the harvest. If it were timed just right and put in the right cultural and political context, wouldn't it be possible to put an end to the commercial harvest in Sarawak? The 50 years or so of records that are available clearly document egg harvest as being the primary cause of the decline in the Sarawak green turtle populations. The drowning of turtles in offshore trawls is simply adding a further devastating factor to the threat posed by the egg exploitation. Most places in the world that allow a harvest of sea turtle eggs limit the take to approximately 50 percent or less of the total number of eggs laid. Even these amounts may be excessive. Yet, unless I am mistaken the Sarawak hatching and release program has never exceeded one or two percent of the total eggs laid in any one year. Clearly the population cannot recover from such a complete removal of its reproductive effort. As the populations continue to decline, fewer revenues will be produced for the local Moslem charities, so it ought to be possible to either buy out the lease holders or get the government to establish a moratorium on the taking of eggs.

I would appreciate your thoughts on the feasibility of curtailing the egg harvest in Sarawak.

Sincerely,

Wayne King

WK:ss

bcc: Archie Carr
George Balazs
George Stanley de Silva

Dr. J. Kuhlmann 28.04.1981
Museum für Naturkunde
Paläontologische Abteilung
104 Berlin, Invalidenstraße 43

Knochenfisch
Lates gracilis Agassiz aus der Klären
Tertiär-Zeit (Eozän) - Fundort Monte Bolca
(Nörd-Italien)

Dear Dr. Balass,
very many thanks indeed for
the three nice photos with the
birds and the seal and the
interesting paper on Sea Turtle
Conservation Problems. I think
all will be a good help for my
book, but the last word has
the editor. Please have a little
patience up to the beginning
of 1982. Hurry, hurry, again and
best wishes, very sincerely yours
JK

JK

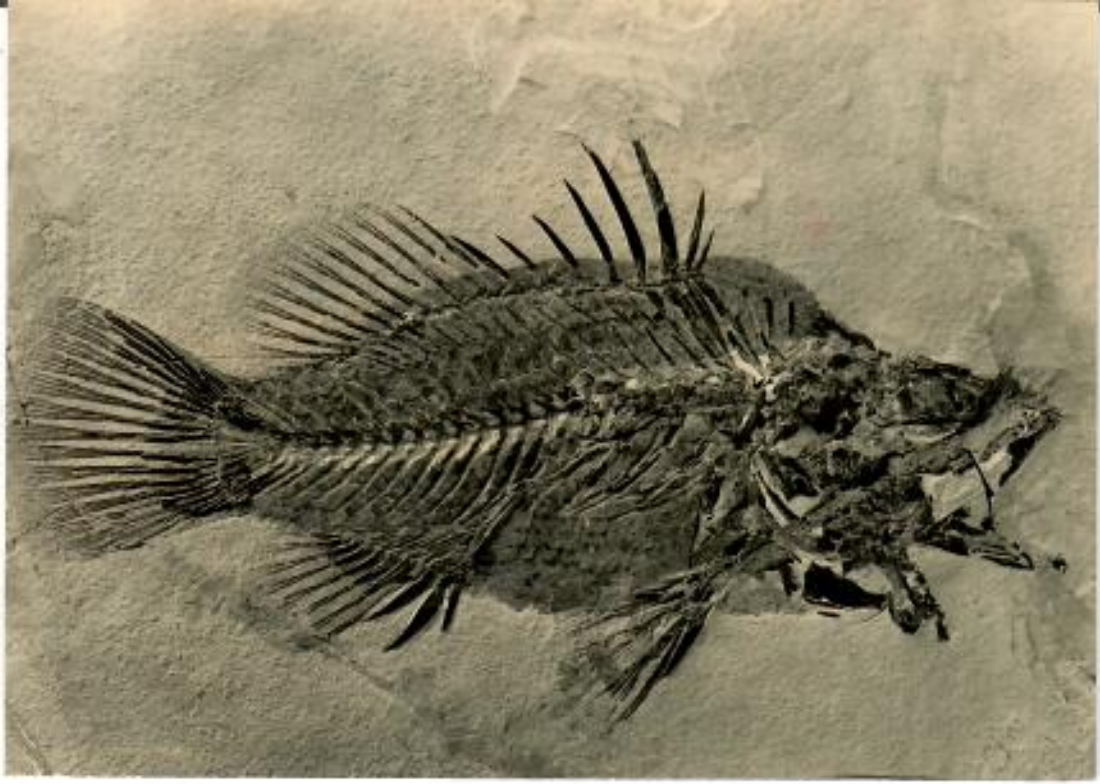


To

Dr. J. H. Balass
Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
U.S.A.

V 11 50 A 1; B 88775

01 13 00 304 K



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

1 April 1981

George Balazs
National Marine Fisheries Service
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

Dear George:

I received your letter of 27 March yesterday. Thanks for all the information. I will try to respond to all of your queries. Peter Scott resigned some time last year (I think). Wayne was to succeed him, but the ruling (mentioned on the memo you sent me) that there can be no more than 2 Commission Chairmen from any one country was brought up. Wayne would have been the third American, so Lucas replaced Sir Peter instead. Dr. Carr knows him a bit and was pleased with the choice. Not that he was happy Wayne didn't get it, but Lucas was a good second person. Wayne is still "second in command" and will probably move in later if other Americans quit and Lucas wants to step down.

Wayne has the British J. of Herp. that Pritchard referred to. He says he is going to send you copies as well as give us copies. If you don't receive any, let me know.

I liked your letter to Truland very much. I thought you handled the situation well. That was certainly a strange letter that Truland sent you. I'll be interested to see his response.

Thanks for the copy of Peter's letter. I get tired of trying to figure out all the angles he's playing. I mentioned to Wayne that you had heard (I didn't mention Peter's letter, as requested) that Cayman Turtle Farm was going to try again because of Reagan's pro-business policies. I asked him if FWS would be able to fight it successfully again. He said he was worried because that agency is being dismantled so quickly (dismantled from our point of view in terms of good people). Anne said that Jacobson (the vet) had told her that they had already killed off about half of their breeding stock. They might have a hard time continuing their closed system if they've done that. I'm afraid he does have a point about re-evaluating our stand in light of SSC's decisions. Of course, that would only be necessary if CTF changes course from the display-research route they're now on.

I think I'll leave the Sarawak grant to you. Right now things look promising for a three-year postdoc here. I might hear by next week; keep your fingers crossed for me. It's fiber digestion work--just along my interests.

Dr. Carr, Anne, Peter and I are going to a Ross Witham organized turtle meeting tomorrow in Jacksonville. Should be duller than dust, but we feel we should put in an appearance. Fight the Pritchard clique idea and all that. We're only going for the second of a three day meeting.

Thanks for the kind words about me to Nancy Hammond. She seems like a very pleasant woman. I've only spoken with her over the phone, but she is always so nice. Thanks also for the shark attack reprint. I think it is rather morbid, though. I wouldn't call counting up the number of amputated limbs "fun." George, please think of a better term to express your interest in the subject. I do agree, however, that weaning away Audubon Clubs from pure birding is a worthwhile endeavor. I'm going to carry Limpus' "Bright lights and sea turtle nesting are incompatible" card to the turtle meetings tomorrow. Try to stir up some interest in a similar poster for Florida. We certainly need one.

George Balazs
1 April 1981
page 2

Speaking of posters, the Mexican one I sent you was mailed to us folded, so I can't help you from here. Jack Woody sent them to us, so you might try him. I certainly enjoyed the copy of Clifton's report that you sent. We are not distributing it.

It is now the 3rd of April. Yesterday's turtle meetings could not possibly have been any duller. But at least we went and put in an appearance. I have enclosed a new letter to Doyle Gates. I only kept the tissue carbon--no letterhead, so I just re-typed the letter. By now you have received the copy Larry sent you of his letter concerning setting up kempri breeding stocks in various aquaria. We had all let this slide after our earlier discussions because of the Cayman Turtle Farm efforts. How do you feel about trying to accomplish this? Do you know if the Hawaii sea life park is still interested? I could try to get Dr. Carr to call the N.Y. aquarium and ask them to transfer their male ridley to Miami seaquarium where they have at least 2 female adult kempri and a nesting beach where they have had successful nesting (both green and loggerhead, I think). They have also been one of the main depositories of the kempri who were too sickly or chewed up to be released by Galveston Lab; they would hold them over for another year. Perhaps a first step would be to ask the Zoo & Aquarium Assoc. to request all their members to report what ridleys they have (or perhaps what sea turtles, just for more information). We would have to include an identification key, particularly for distinguishing kempri and olivacea. Regardless of whether we try to set up breeding stocks, we should collect the data on how many kempri are in captivity in the States. We could then contact those with good beach facilities and ask them how many kempri they could take, and contact those with kempri and ask if they would be willing to give or loan those kempri to aquaria with beach facilities; possibly in trade for young ridleys if any hatch. I know the last thing you need is another project to work on; I know I don't need another. But if we could share the work it might not be too bad. It should be done. I could ask Wayne how to contact the Aquarium Assoc. and draft a letter for Dr. Carr to send them. We would also have to ask who has (or perhaps would be willing to build) beach facilities. I'll wait until I hear from you to start on this. Perhaps you think we should wait until we see how CTF handles their ridleys.

Now on to stamps. The day I received the Samoa stamp you sent, I mailed a quick thank you note--I hope you got it. I like the stamps very much. The Cuba stamp is SG 1533 (Stanley Gibbons = SG). It looks to me like a green turtle, no identification is on the stamp. It is in a series of marine organisms "caja de submarina" or something like that. Others are barracuda, shark, octopus, etc. The store where I bought it had only that one set, but they specialize in Cuban stamps and he said they are always getting more stamps. The stamp man there is very nice, but speaks very little English. Make your letter simple. The name is Liberty Antiques and Coins, or something like that. I'll get the address from Alan's parents next time we talk to them. I will also send you a xerox copy as soon as our xerox is fixed. Any word on the U.S. stamp series? I got a Nicaragua ridley stamp in the mail a few days ago. It was overprinted with the Olympic symbol and "Participan in Olympia 1980" or something like that and with "1979 ano de revolucion" again, poorly recalled from my memory. Have they overprinted those stamps from the beginning? That was the first of that series I've seen. The Olympic symbol is right over one ridley's head and really spoils its appearance. Thanks for the news on the Pakistan stamp. That was a good idea you had to circulate that request. Have you heard that Ascension is issuing a sea turtle series sometime this year? Mort helped them pick the scenes to depict. I've written to them about how to get on their list; I'll let you know what they say about when it is due out. That's about all for now. Hope all is well with you and your family.

Best regards,

Karen

Meeting
date?

*

5/14/81



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Geophysics
2525 Correa Road • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 4, 1981

Dr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I enjoyed very much your picture of the Leeward Islands which was printed in the Dillingham calendar. For me the photos have a value other than aesthetic. I do paleomagnetic work at the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics. Last year I talked with Dr. Barbara Keating and Dr. Chuck Helsley (the director of HIG) about the feasibility of drilling oriented paleomagnetic samples from some of the Leeward Islands. These oriented cores would allow us to infer the islands' (and hence the Pacific Plate's) northward drift since its formation. They thought that the idea was a good one since none of us could think of anyone else who has done this for these islands. The Leeward islands have been age-dated from rock samples, but no oriented cores have been taken.

Nihoa and Necker islands appear to be particularly suitable for this since they are large and have a number of dense dikes running through their basalt. Gardner Island also has a few dikes, but getting on it will obviously be a problem.

To obtain an oriented core, a person has to climb onto the island with a drill made from a chain saw. This person drills the hole and then puts a sun compass on the hole to obtain its orientation. Back in the lab, these cores have their magnetization vectors measured; from these we infer the position of the island relative to the magnetic poles at its time of origin.

I am writing you because you obviously know these islands well. We need to know how to get there and how to get permission to get on the islands. We can't get the KANA KEOKI to go out there (not at \$5500 per day) and we were wondering if the Department of Fisheries ever goes out to these islands and whether or not we can hitch a ride. We would also prefer to have someone who knows those islands well, for our own safety, and someone who can advise us on how we can best keep from damaging the islands' fragile ecosystems.

If you can be of help, please let me know; I would like to get together with you and talk over our venture.

Thanks,

William W. Sager

WWS:lk1

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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the florida
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gainesville
32611
904/392-1721

April 20, 1981

Dr. Robert Scott
Executive Secretary/SSC
IUCN
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH 1196
Gland
Switzerland

Dear Bob:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of a few days ago.

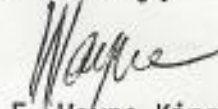
Time is too short to permit a May meeting with Philippine officials to discuss sea turtle conservation in that nation. To reach the high level official who can translate rhetoric into action, we will need at least a three to four month lead time. So why don't we aim for early October? Nobody is happy about yet another delay in getting this effort underway, but October has several things which argue in its favor. The IUCN General Assembly runs from 11-22 October in New Zealand. It might be possible for the Director General, Lee Talbot, to swing through the Philippines on his way to Christchurch. If the DG were to visit the Philippines, we should have little trouble arranging meetings with President Marcos or other suitable Philippine decision makers. Lee could handle all of the diplomatic negotiations, and either Archie Carr or George Balazs could go along to stand at Lee's elbow and whisper sea turtle facts in his ear from time to time. I believe using the combination of a ranking official within IUCN together with a sea turtle specialist will produce far greater results than if a single individual meets with the Philippine government.

Would you approach Lee to see if he both has the time and is amenable to the idea. If the answer is no to either of those, maybe we can get Sir Peter or Gren Lucas to play the diplomatic role.

Incidentally, please ask the Secretariat staff not to send telexes for me to the University of Florida Health Center Library. The Health Center is very protective of their telex services and they complain

vociferously anytime that a message is received for another part of the university. If it is urgent that I be reached, it is simpler to send a telex to World Wildlife Fund in Washington and have Nicole Duplaix or one of their staff members pass the message on to me by telephone.

Sincerely,



F. Wayne King
Director

FWK:ss

cc: Archie Carr
George Balazs

Référence/Reference: Sa/3/2
CWL/jp/1

Mr. Edgardo D. Gomez, Ph.D.
Director & Professor of Marine
Biology
Marine Sciences Center
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City 3004
Philippines

14 April 1981

Dear Ed,

This is a follow-up to our discussion in your office last December on the subject of turtle conservation in the turtle islands of the Sulu Seas.

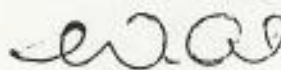
On my return to Gland, I passed your recommendations to Bob Scott, the Executive Officer of SSC, who has since discussed this matter with turtle experts in the Commission.

I have been informed that either Mr. Archie Carr or George Balazs would be visiting Manila either in mid-April or early June to pave the way to get the conservation action moving. I would be most grateful if you could do your best to facilitate the visit of our representative.

I shall inform you when I have the date and other details of his arrival in Manila.

Personal regards.

Yours sincerely,



Chew Wee-Lek
Regional Officer for Asia,
Australasia and Pacific

cc: ~~W~~King
R. Scott

APR 22 1981

Note to WK and RS: I am taking this action in the absence of Bob Scott, who is on duty travel.

Référence/Reference: Sa/3/2
CWL/jp/1

Mr. Jesus B. Alvarez
Assistant Director
Bureau of Forest Development
Department of Natural Resources
Diliman
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines

14 April 1981

Dear Jes,

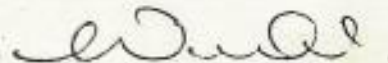
I am writing as a follow-up to our discussion on the conservation of turtles in the turtle islands of the Sulu Seas.

Upon my return to Gland, I passed your recommendations to Bob Scott, the Executive Officer of SSC, who has since discussed this matter with turtle experts in the Commission.

I have been informed that either Mr. Archie Carr or George Balazs would be visiting Manila either in mid-April or early June to pave the way to get the conservation action moving. I would be most grateful if you could do your best to facilitate the visit of our representative. Particularly important is for you to arrange for our representative to meet the Honorable J. Antonio Aguenza, the Deputy Minister and the Chairman of the Task Force Pawikan Council.

As soon as I receive details of the arrival of our representative in Manila, I shall let you know.

Yours sincerely,



Chew Wee-Lek
Regional Officer for Asia,
Australasia and Pacific

cc: W. King
R. Scott

TURTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

BOX 788, SANDAKAN, SABAH, MALAYSIA.
CABLES "NATAPARK", SANDAKAN. TEL. 2188

Your Ref:-

Our Ref:- EGNPRO/11/3/49

Date: 5th May, 1981

Dr. P. Wayne King,
Director,
The Florida State Museum,
University of Florida,
Museum Road,
Gainesville 32611
Florida,
United States of America.



Dear Wayne,

Sarawak Turtle Problem

Many thanks for your letter of 1st April, 1981 regarding the problem in Sarawak. I am in complete agreement with your suggestion and will leave the matter in the very capable hands of our good friend George.

I have dropped a hint in certain circles that it is necessary for me to consult a marine biologist regarding some problems and for this purpose funds are needed to bring one out here for a short period. I have George in view. Anyway, let us wait and see.

I do hope that something works out in the Philippines in the near future.

With all good wishes:

Yours sincerely,


G. S. de Silva

c.c. Dr. Archie Carr
Mr. George Balazs



Mr. George Balazs,

Asst. Marine Biologist, Hawaii Institute of Marine

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

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: EAST COAST NATIONAL PARKS REGIONAL OFFICE
Turtle Islands National Parks

P. O. Box No: 768, Sandakan,

Sabah, East Malaysia



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

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FAUNA & FLORA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Hon. Secretary David Jones
Hon. Editor of Oryx Mrs M. S. Fitter
Executive Secretary John A. Burton

RSRF/vgb/02a(Marine Turtles)

30th April, 1981

Prof A Carr,
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group Chairman,
Caribbean Conservation Corporation,
Dept of Zoology,
College of Arts and Sciences,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, FLA 32601, U.S.A.

Dear Archie,

You will have received a letter from David Ehrenfeld dated 13 April, sent to me.

What, in your opinion should we do with this information? Do you think it is an item which should be discussed by the Steering Committee at the next SSC meeting in Gland or would you prefer to circulate the members of the Marine Turtle Group independently?

I hope you will be able to come to Gland and look forward to talking with you then.

Yours ever,

RF

copies: Dr F W King
Dr G Balazs

16 Idlewild Road
Levittown, PA 19057
April 29, 1981

sent
5/14/81

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

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I have been searching for some time for a copy of your report, "Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands" (1979), and have only now obtained your mailing address.

I would very much like to obtain a copy of this publication for my reference library and if it's still available, I'll be most grateful to receive one at your earliest convenience.

In addition, copies of any additional separates or publications you can supply will make welcome and useful complements to my library.

Thank you very much and I'll look forward to your reply with greatest anticipation.

Sincerely,

Joe Dinardo
Joseph R. Dinardo

/dld

PARKS AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL VISITOR CENTER
50 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N. E.,
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

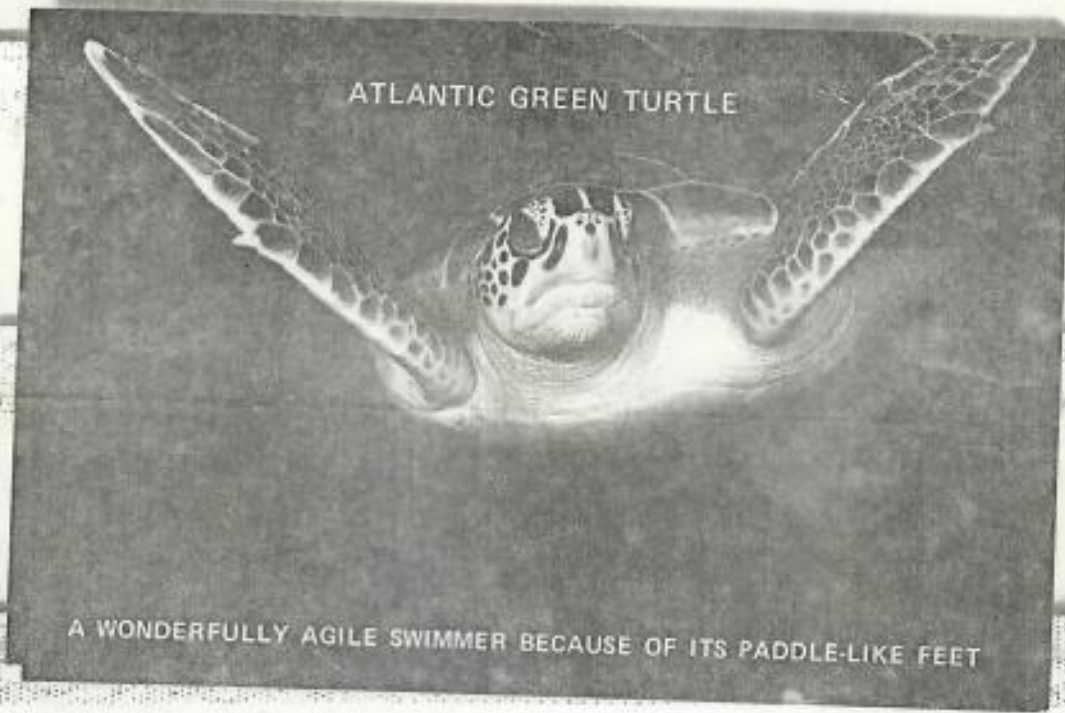
2 April 1981

Dear Laura -

I am sending you \$3.00
to cover the cost of
16 green turtle post cards
($16 \times .15¢ = 2.40 + 55¢ \text{ postage}$).

Thank you very much
for your help in this
matter.

Sincerely,
George H. Balazs



early May 1981

Aloha George -

Just noticed several small notes in turtles and thought of you! Sorry the Xeroxing is so poor - Woolworth's best! Hope your work is going well! Aloha to Linda!

Karen Klein
PS Dennis Rich's new business!



George,
Thanks for the turtle newspaper cutting.
I can see the problem in having over-zealous inter-island representatives in the Audubon Soc. You are right in asking Max to clear things up with Honolulu. If she doesn't then she is speaking as a private individual.
Hope to see you before you go to Lanai.

TUESDAY
7 April 81

Dear George:

Thanks much for sending me copies of your papers + also the paper by Frazer. The paper by Frazer was very interesting to me, in that I was surprised to learn just how little time he spent in the granitic Seychelles -- a total of about one month. I'd been feeling somewhat guilty about taking the job here, when maybe Jack would be better qualified than me. It was enlightening to learn that he has had so little experience anywhere but ^{on} Aldabra. I've learned that he is coming ^{OUT} ~~back~~ to Cousin Is. during the 1981 season. I'm a bit apprehensive about this cause I'm not sure what he has in mind to do. Do you know anything?

Things here are going OK. Some days I love it, some days I hate it. When I can work I love it, but there is a lot of waiting involved. This of course, is to be expected when one is trying to try travel extensively in a third-world country as diffuse ^{DISPERSED} as Seychelles. It's hard to do "science" out here, because I travel so much. I've sort of resigned myself to doing almost

purely a "survey". Similar to the West Atlantic Survey. I like it here though. I like the sea, and I'm getting to see lots of sea. Money is a problem here. Food is high, high, high!! I really don't have any other expenses besides that, though, (and ^{MISC.} purely personal ones) -- but I find that just food is eating up my budget (no pun intended!).

What do you think, -- do you suppose that if I am able to do a reasonably good job of a survey, but am unable to do much original research, that * I will be able to get any sort of decent job afterwards?

I hope all is well in the Pacific. Thanks again for the papers. I guess the main thing I'll be able to do here is to look at gut samples + reproduction tracks. I hope to get some tag returns too.

Say hello to the Gainesville crowd for me + please tell Dr. Bane to write to me. Tell him I'm feeling insecure.

Love,

Team



April 29, 1981

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

When Dr. Hendrickson passes through your Lab he can explain about the agency sponsoring the graft experiments. Frankly, I have no idea. He just utilized Seaquarium facilities and the Kemp's Ridleys we have reared for Fred Berry. Perhaps Fred can shed light on the subject as well.

An adult male Ridley is on breeding loan from the New England Aquarium, Boston, Mass. to Seaquarium. The enclosed photodocuments at least display his breeding efforts. Some time in May we will move the females from the large Reef Tank, in which the picture was taken, back to the Lost Islands area wherein we have a nesting beach. Loggerheads have bred in this area, nested, and we have hatched the eggs. However, they have been moved in order to devote that beach to the other endangered species of sea turtles. Time will tell.

You might care to touch base with Dr. Ed Shallenberger at Sea Life Park. I seem to recall his having presented a paper at an A.A.Z.P.A. meeting on successful nesting and hatching of Green sea turtles at the park.

We did receive your report and thanks very much. The work here has not been set in any form of report or paper. Perhaps that, too, will come in time but we want to see how the Ridleys, Greens and Hawksbills fare first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Warren Zeiller".

Warren Zeiller
Vice President &
General Manager

cc: Fred Berry, N.O.A.A.





April 29, 1981

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

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Sincerely,

Warren Zeiller
Vice President &
General Manager

cc: Fred Berry, N.O.A.A.





DEPARTMENT OF LANDS, SURVEYS AND ENVIRONMENT

WILDLIFE DIVISION

TELEPHONE:

P.O. BOX 2585
KONEDOBU,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

Dr George Balazs,
South West Fisheries Centre,
Honolulu Laboratory,
P.O. Box 3830,
HONOLULU
HAWAII. 96812

Date: 15.4.81
Our Reference: IUCN/MTSG
Action Officer:
Designation:
Your Reference:
Date:

Dear George,

Thanks for both your letters. I have spoken to Andrew Wright about the leatherbacks nesting in New Ireland. He can't tell me anymore. The eggs he's referring to, he thinks, are green turtle eggs, not leatherbacks ones.

I know nesting of leatherbacks is reported from South East New Ireland, but in P.N.G., there are such small numbers and huge distances of coastline involved, one would have to be very lucky indeed to be on the spot at the same time as a leatherback!

Did I tell you that I had put in a proposal to have the leatherback declared totally protected in P.N.G. - the reaction so far has been great - I'm just waiting on the Minister's official approval before launching into a P.A. programme.

My book 'Turtles Men & Magic' is almost ready. Saw the final proof today - it looks terrific. It will probably be another month before its ready for distribution. I'll send you a copy as soon as it is.

I see Peter Pritchard has included our aerial survey data into his paper for the Conference !! Did he ever get his trip to New Caledonia funded by IUCN? Did you go along?

Sorry to hear about your budget cuts, your progress report looks pretty impressive though. I take it this means jobs are pretty scarce in Hawaii. Do you think its worth my while writing to Richard Shomura? Actually I've been thinking a lot about working on dolphins too. Who knows what will happen in the future?



8 April 1981

Faren Bjorndal
Post-doctoral Research Associate
Department of Zoology
University of Florida
Gainesville 32611
United States of America

Dear Miss Bjorndal,

Thank you for your letter of 26 March.

The Postmaster can send you the two stamps you want if you will let him have US \$1.00.

The idea of an issue devoted to turtles has been dropped for the time being.

Yours sincerely,

The two stamps
are the 12 P stamp
showing green turtle
caught by Cook's crew in the
Captain Cook voyage series
and the 25 P stamp depicting
a green turtle standing on and
looks like a book end celebrating
the 25th anniversary of the
Queen's coronation. Do you
have them? Too bad about
the new series. Jeanne had
worked w/ them + they had
some nice pictures picked out.
I use this address:
Ascension Island Post Office
~~Ascension Island~~
% P.O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

(B E PAUNCEFORT)
Administrator

Chelonia Institute



April 2, 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

In reply to your letter of March 21, 1981, I too regret that we have come so far only to find that we have a basic disagreement on what constitutes acceptable subjects for a series of sea turtle postcards. While I concur in each of the criteria outlined in your form letter of November 26, I really do feel that these cards would have a much higher acceptance and greater spontaneous distribution if the turtles were attractively portrayed.

If the reason for not considering swimming turtles is, as you suggest in your letter, because there were none to be considered, then I would like to pursue this a bit further. Last week I attended a lecture given by Stephen Cornelius at the World Wildlife Fund wherein he presented a number of very handsome slides taken on the beaches and off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. He is willing to provide me with duplicates and has suggested additional sources. Unless our project is controlled by some critical date of which I am ignorant, I would like to pursue this tack a bit further.

In the meantime I am returning all of the duplicate slides which you had sent and thank you for returning my slide and Jack Frazier's postcard.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv
enc.

Chelonia Institute



April 2, 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

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In the meantime I am returning all of the duplicate slides which you had sent and thank you for returning my slide and Jack Frazier's postcard.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv
enc.

Chelonia Institute



March 10, 1981

Dear Mr. Balazs:

In speaking with Jack Frazier about the attached postcard I have learned that this is his only copy. In view of this he would appreciate it if, once you have finished with it, you could return it to him. In the meantime I am attempting to secure additional copies and if I manage I will let you know that there is no need to return the enclosed.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gail Viton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gail Viton
Assistant to the Director



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 15, 1980

Mr. Robert Truland
Chelonia Institute
P. O. Box 9174
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Mr. Truland:

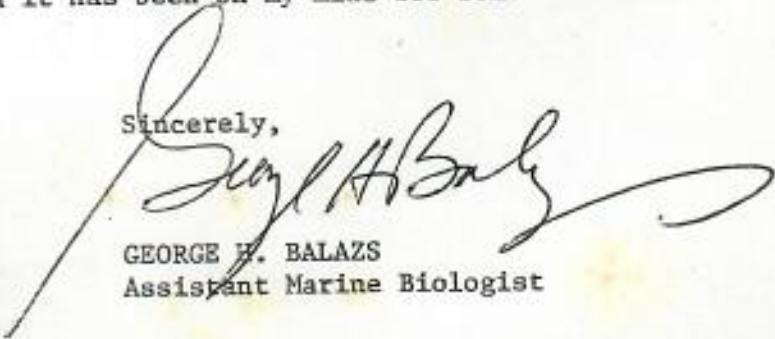
I am writing this letter to suggest a small project for your organization that could serve to promote the conservation of sea turtles. My suggestion is that you produce a series of color picture postcards which display attractive views of the seven species of sea turtles. I believe that such a series would receive wide circulation for use as important educational tools by numerous research and conservation groups around the world. As you may be aware, several postcards showing sea turtles have already been produced (see enclosures). However, a definitive set showing each species, along with an informative caption, does not currently exist. Furthermore, the few postcards that do exist are widely scattered and not easy to obtain.

I would not imagine that the production cost for such a project to be excessive. In fact, modest profits may even be possible through the bulk resale of such postcards to other organizations. With respect to the high quality photographs that would be required, I am certain that a number of workers would be more than pleased to make their material available at no cost.

I would like to hear your thoughts on this idea. Thus far I have not mentioned it to anyone else, although it has been on my mind for some time now.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

Chelonia Institute



March 10, 1981

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

Dear George:

This will ensure that I have received from you all correspondence, draft sample contract, and as of this date your letter with photograph of the flatback attached which admittedly is a very fine picture of a beached turtle but, as you know by now, not much to my liking as a portrayal of a sea turtle in situ. I have the feeling we are about to produce a series of equestrian postcards with the horses all photographed in a swimming pool. I am attaching a copy of a card which Jack Frazier sent me which I find more acceptable inasmuch as the turtles are evidently hatchlings and one expects to find hatchlings making their way across a beach. Jack also has a very excellent postcard of a hawksbill swimming in a brilliant aqua sea with the fore flippers arched against the water. If I can obtain a duplicate copy I will send this along as well.

If there is no specific requirement for these photographs to be of turtles on terra firma, and if there is no specific urgency with regard to the publication date, then I would like to volunteer to attempt finding, procuring or commissioning photographs of turtles in more characteristic postures. Please let me have your frank thoughts and feelings which perhaps I may have already received prior to your having this, and please trust that I am as anxious as you are to see this project expeditiously completed.

Sincere regards,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

Robert W. Truand
Director

RWT:fs

encl. P.O. Box 9174 Arlington, Virginia 22209 U.S.A. (703) 524-4900

Chelonia Institute



February 27, 1981

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

Dear George:

I regret that this response to your January 26, 1981 letter is somewhat delayed. I seem to have mislaid some of what I was hoping to send you (specifically an ad for tourism in Malaysia depicting a very handsome nesting leatherback and several more sea turtle photos), but I will, in the interest of time, abort the search and just make this response to the slides which you forwarded to me. Let me first of all state that this project is a product of your initiative and there is no question of our support regardless of how you will handle its execution. That much understood, I am not overly enthusiastic about the slides. My problem is that I perceive sea turtles as very graceful animals winging their way through a watery environment to which they are well adapted. Although nesting is one of the more critical and even fascinating activities of the female of the species to portray this is to show her to worst advantage when she is the most awkward, distressed and vulnerable. If for some reason it is desirable to show a beached turtle, then I feel it should be rather more of an action shot, with sand flying or eggs dropping, or some such. I am afraid that your slides appear disturbingly similar to some of my own shots of strandings on South Carolina beaches.

I am enclosing a duplicate of a slide which I received a year or so ago from Barbara Tapper at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. This is of a young green turtle taken off the coast of Mexico which I find rather appealing. I am enclosing also the picture of a hawksbill which appeared in the summer 1980 "Whale Report." This is not an ideal photograph from the standpoint of showing the animal moving through the water, but it has very good definition and I suspect that the Center for Environmental Education may have other shots from which to choose. Lastly, I am enclosing a page from the spring 1981 gift catalogue from the Whale Fund. The turtle illustration on the cover of the sea turtle coloring book conveys nicely the spirit of the animal in its (somewhat idealized) environment. Would you be opposed to artists' renderings should really good photographs

Chelonia Institute



Mr. George H. Balazs
February 27, 1981
Page Two

prove unobtainable ?

I have spoken briefly to Jack Frazier and understand his concerns with regard to Third World countries who could really use these post cards on a gratis basis and I think that I accept his argument that some of the relatively well healed conservation organizations in the States could well afford to pay for the cards, although I don't think that this would ever happen. Perhaps we could think about making the cards available at no charge to legitimate scientific research organizations and to Third World countries, but market them through something like the Whale Fund gift catalogue for private consumption. Do you know anything about the marketing of commercial post cards ? I think that it would be highly desirable if these cards did appear at airport newsstands, resort hotels, etc. to strengthen the perception of tourists that sea turtles are both beautiful and endangered and that they should, therefore, think twice before ordering a bowl of soup or purchasing some shell products.

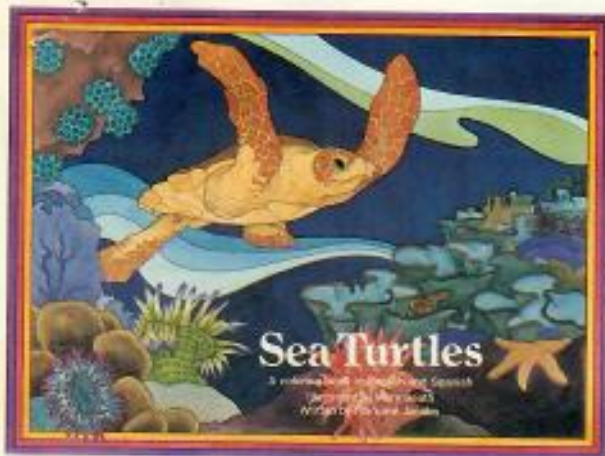
I will continue to scout around for slides of turtles swimming, but will understand if you wish to proceed with the type of material already in hand.

Sincere regards,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

Robert W. Truland
Director

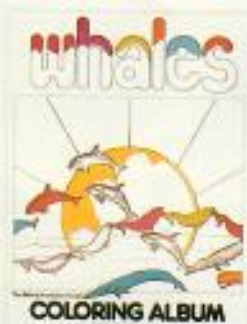
RWT:ts
encl.



Our own coloring book featuring 15 exquisite drawings of sea turtles shown in their natural settings of sea grasses and corals. The artist is Mary Beath and the bilingual text in English and Spanish is by the renowned children's writer Francine Jacobs. 32 pages, 9" x 12"

Sea Turtle Coloring Book,
#5165,
\$3.95 (.75)

2



Crayon whale gives your young artist good storage and a good subject. Unfinished hardwood, sits sturdily on a shelf, with 16 Crayolas.

Crayon Whale, #1615, \$6.50
(.75)

WPF's Color Album offers 12 whales to color plus educational notes and activities. Folder with 22 individual sheets, each 11" x 14". Bilingual English-Spanish text.

WPF Color Album, #1601,
\$4.00 (.50)

"Save the Whales" set pairs a plastic inch/cm ruler with a chubby ballpoint pen.

Ruler-Pen Set, #1365,
\$2.00 (.35)



Friendly Flo, the inflatable whale, is a mini-version of the world-famous whale protection symbol. Great as a pool toy or pool house decoration. Patch kit included.

Inflatable Flo, #3615, \$6.00
(1.00)

🐋 *Whale clothes rack is just child-sized. A cheerful chum to foster neatness. 1 1/2" select unfinished hardwood with 2" bright red pegs. 14" x 5".*

Clothes Rack, #2078, \$10.00 (1.00)



Wooden whale box protects small treasures—rings, earrings, or a child's special things. Charming keepsake for a little friend. Soft-gloss mahogany finish. 7 1/2" x 3" x 2 1/2".

Whale Box, #2027, \$13.50 (1.00)

Rainbow whale puzzle is decorative and bright. 11 pieces span the full color spectrum in a 6" x 9" block. Child-safe paints.

Rainbow Puzzle, #2237, \$11.95 (.75)



Flying Flukes Discus is sturdy plastic. Features our breaching whale symbol on colorful blue. 9" diameter.

Flying Flukes Discus, #1505, \$2.50 (.50)

Stacking sea puzzle features five marine creatures to teach a youngster. Smooth-finished basswood shapes a fish, sea horse, dolphin, octopus, and whale. Child-safe colors. 5" square block.

Stacking Puzzle, #2236, \$10.95 (1.00)



The softest, cuddliest baby seal you'd ever want to hold. Handmade with a washable surface. 15 1/2" x 12 1/2". This "softy" is looking to make some youngster happy.

Stuffed Baby Seal, #8427, \$17.95 (1.00)

🐋 Remember the whales in winter with our "Save the Whales" hat in washable acrylic knit. One size fits children to adults.

Winter Hat, #4255, \$7.95 (.75)



SEA TURTLE CONFERENCE SPARKS CEE PROGRAM

Sea turtles were once so numerous around the Cayman Islands that colonial navigators maintained they could find the islands in the densest fog simply by following the sound made by the swimming turtles. Now, after relatively few years of commercial exploitation, sea turtles are going the way of other overexploited wildlife populations such as whales.

Very few populations of sea turtles remain undiminished; the majority are depleted and six of the seven species are endangered. The most endangered of these is the Kemp's or Atlantic ridley. One day in 1947 some 40,000 females came ashore to nest at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico, as they have since time immemorial. In 1980, only 500 nesting female turtles were counted.

Recognizing the serious situation of the sea turtle, the Center for Environmental Education co-sponsored "A World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation" in Washington, DC in November, 1979. Sea turtle authorities from around the world presented more than 60 papers at the conference and took part in discussions which led to a Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy paper.

This paper cites a number of interacting factors which will determine the fate of sea turtles. One of the clearest threats is international trade in sea turtle products, which includes meat, soup, souvenirs, jewelry and leather goods. In some cases, coastal peoples in developing countries who have hunted turtles in the past for food have turned to hunting to supply luxury markets in a number of developed nations in Europe and Asia, thereby removing a significant source of food from the local peoples.

The Center for Environmental Education has initiated the Sea Turtle Rescue Fund which is aimed at reducing threats to the continued existence of major



The endangered hawksbill sea turtle.

sea turtle populations. A number of projects are in various stages, including the identification and protection of nesting habitats within the United States and abroad and research on ways to reduce the number of turtles killed in shrimp trawler nets.

The time of the turtle is short. Considerable effort will be needed if we are to avert the extinction of these wonderful reptiles which have inhabited Earth for over 100 million years. Write: Sea Turtle Rescue Fund, 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 206, Washington, DC 20006.

FUR SEAL SOLUTION SOUGHT BY SRF

The Seal Rescue Fund, a project of the Center for Environmental Education, is continuing the fight to find a feasible solution to the problems arising from the fur seal harvest in the Pribilof Islands. Seal Rescue Fund supporters have sent over 100,000 letters to both the White House and congressional offices calling for an end to the killing of seals.

Still, approximately 28,000 fur seals were killed during the annual fur seal harvest in the Pribilof Islands during June and July. The 28,000 carcasses go unused except for about 500 of them which are used as a subsistence food source for the Aleuts. This was the harvest limit agreed upon by the four participating countries during spring negotiating sessions in Moscow on the Interim Convention on the Conservation of North Pacific Fur Seals. (The U.S., Japan, U.S.S.R. and Canada are the countries participating in the Interim Convention.)

The House of Representatives and the Senate have originated bills that would end the convention and the resulting harvest. However, both the House bill (H.R. 5033) and the Senate bill (S.2619) have met with strong political opposition. If these bills are unsuccessful at ending the Convention, the Senate will most likely consent to a four year renewal of the renegotiated Interim Convention. Concentrated efforts are being made by the Seal Rescue Fund to influence the conditions under which renewal may occur.

The Seal Rescue Fund is concomitantly funding a *Study of the Social, Cultural and Economic Aspects of Pribilof Island Aleut Communities and their Involvement with Marine Resources*. This study is being done by the Center for Coastal Marine Studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

The study is designed to assess the potential benefits and problems that might result from new occupational and industrial alternatives available to the Pribilof people. The Pribilof Aleuts have been dependent on sealing for centuries and there exists the potential for dramatic economic, social, and cultural effects on the Aleut people from the curtailment of this activity.

For more information write: Seal Rescue Fund, 1925 K Street, NW, Suite 206, Washington, DC 20006; 202/466-4996.



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

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

November 20, 1980

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

Dear Rob:

I just returned from field studies in Samoa and was delighted to read your letter of November 4th indicating preliminary financial support for color postcards of sea turtles. As you mentioned, our first critical step is to obtain the high quality color slides of the seven species. Within the next few days, I will be sending out letters to key individuals requesting contributions for the project. Photo credit can be provided, and I feel confident that we will be able to obtain the necessary material. When the time comes, we can jointly make the final selection, as well as prepare the appropriate captions.

I am in full agreement with the various points and conditions set forth in your letter. However, with respect to your question about the "7 times in magnitude" of 6500 cards for \$390, it is my understanding that the rates are set for each photographic view published. In other words, if we produced 45,500 cards (7 x 6500) of the same photo, we would get a reduced rate. However, we want to do 6500 each of 7 different views, so the rate is \$390 per 6500. I should point out that the company I contacted has a minimum order of 6500 cards, in the event that you are wondering where the 6500 figure came from. Nevertheless, for comparison purposes, I will be contacting two additional companies to see what might be available from other sources.

I will be contacting you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Chelonia Institute



January 19, 1981

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

Dear George:

How cruel ! sending your beautiful photographs of the Leeward Islands at this time of year.

Perhaps if you could furnish me with a list of individuals whom you contacted for sea turtle photos I might know of a likely prospect not on the list. I have recently seen some slides of Peter Pritchard's taken in Mexico and wondered if our postcards might include some action shots, i.e. a diver making contact underwater with a turtle, hatchlings being released, etc. Alternatively, if you feel that these should be fairly clean portraits of each species perhaps these would best be taken at an aquarium? I recently visited the aquarium on Bermuda and they have some frisky young Chelonia mydas who appear anxious for a little publicity.

Thank you for the Dillingham calendar . . . more seductive than anything produced by Playboy.

Sincere regards,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters 'RWB' in a stylized, cursive font.

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv

Chelonia Institute



November 4, 1980

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

Dear George:

First of all I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter of September 15, 1980, however I was out of the country for a month recently. I like the idea of a series of postcards displaying each of the seven (7) species of sea turtles sufficiently to state that the projected \$2,800.00 expenditure should not be a problem. A few comments:

- a) If the minimum order of 6500 can be placed for \$390.00, would not the rate be somewhat less for an order seven (7) times in magnitude?
- b) I would want to review the standard order form used by the card firm and perhaps cover it with our own purchase order stipulating conditions for proofs, quality standards and cost overruns.
- c) I have had poor luck in turning up good color photographs for our projects and would not wish to proceed with the postcard project until first class images could be obtained.
- d) The cards could be made available at our cost to a group such as the Center for Environmental Education which, under the Whale Fund, has a catalogue and could market sets of them. Other groups perhaps would have them contributed where we judged that their free distribution would aid the cause of awareness and conservation.

Chelonia Institute

Mr. George H. Balazs
November 4, 1980
Page 2.

Please accept this as a preliminary commitment of the required funds.
Further information would be appreciated as it develops.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE



Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv



National Zoological Park-Smithsonian Institution-Washington, D.C. 20008

January 2, 1981

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

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of 26 November about post cards. I think the idea is good but am unclear about a number of points:

- 1) How will the cards be distributed? Will they be sold? Who will reap the profits?
- 2) Why do you specifically want copulating turtles and not, say, nesting, feeding, sleeping, etc.?
- 3) What is the size of the proposed cards?
It would be possible to do "double-sized cards" (say 4" x 6") and have a hatchling with an adult on opposite sides of the card.
- 4) Who will print the cards?
I am sure you know that there are excellent color printers in the Far East that have very competitive prices.
- 5) Do you know that a poster on sea turtles is planned for release this spring?
- 6) How long do you intend to keep the slides? Those of us (just me?) who are freelance have to survive on little bits and pieces like our photographs. I have had local conservation organizations tie up slides for months - even lose some - after helping them out in a pinch, and I find this not very helpful toward my continued existence.
- 7) Why are you so hurried to start?
Can't you take an extra few weeks to solicit ideas? What are we trying to do and how best could we do it?

I DO want to help, but need more information.

All the best for 1981,

Jack
Jack Frazier

Frazier, DZR, Holt House

National Zoological Park
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20008

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Page 2 of 2

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Chelonia Institute



March 20, 1981

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

Dear Mr. Balazs:

I am sorry that I asked you for duplicate copy of your publication but it is appreciated. Thank you very much.

I am following the progress of the postcard project and look forward to seeing the finished project.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

A handwritten signature in teal ink that reads "Gail Viton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gail Viton
Assistant to the Director

/gv

Chelonia Institute



March 19, 1981

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

Dear George:

Enclosed please find a copy of the postcard apparently misidentified in previous correspondence as a Hawksbill (sort of looks like a Hawksbill, doesn't it?). This really was the type of turtle portrait I had thought we were aiming at. Is it that you feel such shots would be tough to come by? Please advise.

Best regards,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

RB

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv
enc.

Chelonia Institute



April 3, 1981

Mr. Stephen E. Corneilius
R. R. 3
P. O. Box 216
Mountain View, Missouri 65548


Dear Steve:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 1981. The information on tags will be useful in answering future inquiries.

I would like to repeat how much I enjoyed your lecture. It was highly informative as well as visually stimulating.

At the moment our postcard project with George Balazs is bogged down for want of high quality portrayals of sea turtles. George has assembled slides of each of the seven species which are representative of a mature adult and these would certainly be useful for the purpose of identification but we were hoping to have pictures which were sufficiently attractive to encourage their use in fairly wide distribution. A number of yours, I believe, meet all the criteria but I accept that those in the hands of the Natural History Museum are of even better quality and will therefore await their return. We would certainly be delighted to pay the cost for reproducing slides and we could even consider any other fees which you customarily make for the use of your materials, if any. This is not intended to be a commercial project although it is possible that the cards could be marketed commercially, in which case any profits would be put toward other sea turtle projects. I will look forward to hearing from you in the future and wish you well with your endeavors in the meantime.

Sincerely,
CHELONIA INSTITUTE


Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv

cc: George Balazs



Copy sent
4/11/81
Asking if letter
was received

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

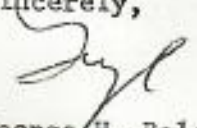
Dear Rob:

I have just returned to Honolulu from Kauai and had the opportunity to read your letter of April 2nd. Yes, by all means, I think you should pursue the various photographic materials that you described. I would be delighted if you could come up with something that we both agree to be appropriate and attractive. If nothing works out within say six weeks, then I will go ahead and search for other sources of funding for the photo package that I now have in hand. This seems like a satisfactory and mutually beneficial compromise.

In my last letter, I inquired about the possibility of your providing funds to produce some of the post cards from my photo package at this time. Specifically, I would like to suggest that we use Colin Limpus' flatback and Peter Pritchard's leatherback. These are two species that will be impossible, or at least nearly impossible, to find photos displaying them underwater or swimming. I am sure that you will agree that there is no reason why all of the post cards have to be produced at the same time. In fact, doing these two species now will help to give us some insight for producing the other five.

Thank you for returning the duplicated slides.

Sincerely,


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

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

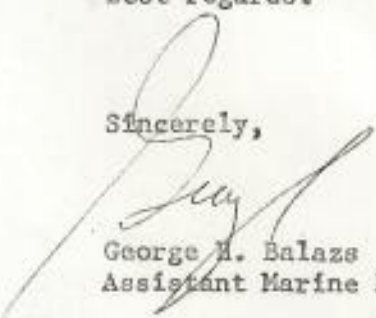
publication of the remainder of the package. Whatever your decision, I believe that you should feel free to produce any post cards that you see fit, either on your own or working with others.

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



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

February 28, 1981

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

Dear Rob:

I am now in a position to recommend that we take immediate action on the production of sea turtle post cards. While in Samoa, I was able to photograph nesting hawksbills to my great satisfaction. In addition, Peter Writchard has contributed use of his excellent leatherback photo that appeared in his encyclopedia book. Six species are now covered by quality color slides; the seventh species, the flatback, is still lacking. I recommend that we proceed with the six, and add the flatback at a later date when one of my pending sources (C. Limpus, J. Parmenter, or H. Cogger) contribute the necessary slides. If they wait too long, I'll go to Australia myself and photograph one!

During late January, before leaving for Western Samoa, I wrote to you by Special Delivery letter and enclosed duplicates of the contributed slides I had chosen at that time. I hope that this material was safely received, and that you were sufficiently impressed with the composition and photographic quality.

After considering and comparing the factors of cost, quantity, quality, and reliability, I have decided to recommend placing our post card order through the firm of World Wide Distributors Ltd (1132 Auahi St. Honolulu 96814). Their publication source would be Dexter Press in New York. I have discussed this order at length with the managing officer, Cloughton Pang. He has answered all questions to my satisfaction. At my request, he has prepared a draft sample contract which I believe covers the salient points (copy enclosed). A sample of the size and quality of the post card I am proposing has also been enclosed. The weight of the paper and the thickness of the clear glaze coating are important factors. I do not like the scalloped edge, and therefore have asked for a straight cut. This can be produced with no problem, and will actually result in a card slightly larger than the one enclosed. Five printed lines can appear on the back for our descriptive caption. It would be very nice if our captions could appear in Spanish and French, as well as English. I intend to make additional inquiries to Mr. Pang to see if we can't somehow arrange for 15 lines (3 languages x 5 lines of caption).

The cards come packed 50 to a cellophane packet, 1000 in a box (each about the size of a shoe box). The 10% "overrun" factor is apparently a standard practice; this means that we will very likely end up with about 7000 cards of each species. As I mentioned in an earlier letter, 6500 is the "minimum order" quantity. Other companies that I contacted had even higher minimum orders. If our order is placed in the next week or two, the cards will be delivered by the end of May.

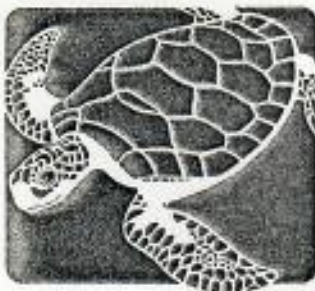
I hope to hear your thoughts on all of this in the very near future. I will send you a duplicate of the hawkbill slide in the next few days.

Aloha!
George H. Balazs

George H. Balazs

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Chelonia Institute



April 2, 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P. O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

In reply to your letter of March 21, 1981, I too regret that we have come so far only to find that we have a basic disagreement on what constitutes acceptable subjects for a series of sea turtle postcards. While I concur in each of the criteria outlined in your form letter of November 26, I really do feel that these cards would have a much higher acceptance and greater spontaneous distribution if the turtles were attractively portrayed.

If the reason for not considering swimming turtles is, as you suggest in your letter, because there were none to be considered, then I would like to pursue this a bit further. Last week I attended a lecture given by Stephen Cornelius at the World Wildlife Fund wherein he presented a number of very handsome slides taken on the beaches and off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. He is willing to provide me with duplicates and has suggested additional sources. Unless our project is controlled by some critical date of which I am ignorant, I would like to pursue this tack a bit further.

In the meantime I am returning all of the duplicate slides which you had sent and thank you for returning my slide and Jack Frazier's postcard.

Sincerely,

CHELONIA INSTITUTE

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:gv
enc.



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


Dear Rob:

I have just returned to Honolulu from Kauai and had the opportunity to read your letter of April 2nd. Yes, by all means, I think you should pursue the various photographic materials that you described. I would be delighted if you could come up with something that we both agree to be appropriate and attractive. If nothing works out within say six weeks, then I will go ahead and search for other sources of funding for the photo package that I now have in hand. This seems like a satisfactory and mutually beneficial compromise.

In my last letter, I inquired about the possibility of your providing funds to produce some of the post cards from my photo package at this time. Specifically, I would like to suggest that we use Colin Limpus' flatback and Peter Pritchard's leatherback. These are two species that will be impossible, or at least nearly impossible, to find photos displaying them underwater or swimming. I am sure that you will agree that there is no reason why all of the post cards have to be produced at the same time. In fact, doing these two species now will help to give us some insight for producing the other five.

Thank you for returning the duplicated slides.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

March 16, 1981.

Mr. MIKE MAKKOI,
Department of Resources and Development,
Marine Resources Division,
Ponape,
Eastern Caroline Islands 96940,
Federated States of Micronesia.

Dear Mr. Makkoï;

We thank you for your kind hospitality extended to us during our sudden visit to your country.

By your kind assistance, we have finalized the result in more than we have expected, and we sincerely express our hearty thanks to your kind support for our project plan of tortoise breeding in your country.

With this result we have brought back from your country, our Government are now studying the next step, and we hope we can inform you thier further decision possibly within a few months.

We will, of course, give you our further information as soon as our Government may issue such further desicion, and we hope we can also have your further continuous cooperation, which may surely to contribute for our mutual friendship relation.

Praising the Independence of your country, and wishing you a everlasting and prosperous progress of your country, we remain,

Yours very truly,

TOKYO METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT.
Yoji, KURATA. Director.(Leader)
TOKYO TORTOISE SHELL ASSOCIATION.
Goro, OSAWA. President(Sub-Leader)

倉田洋二

Ohsawa Building,
37-15, 3-chome, Sendagi, Bunkyo-ku,
Tokyo 113, Japan.

仁得松政



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
TEXAS MEMORIAL MUSEUM
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78705

2400 Trinity
Area Code: 512 471-1604

3 April 1981

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

Dear George,

Greetings from Texas. Enclosed is a copy of my manuscript on "International migrations of Galapagos green turtles". I would be most grateful if you could review it and send me your comments. Only abstract, acknowledgements and literature cited are missing. I am also sending a copy to John Hendrickson for review. As soon as I receive both your comments I will submit the paper (now long overdue) for publication, probably to Copeia. I would prefer that you return the manuscript (comments may be written in margins etc.) so that I can send you a copy of the revised version.

I will be in Austin for at least a year; I don't intend leaving until my 5 year's worth of Galapagos data are analyzed and published. I am pretty sure that I acknowledged receipt of a copy of your synopsis but I don't appear to have a copy of that letter on file. So if I didn't thank you for sending it, please accept my profoundest apologies and my belated thanks.

I am looking forward to seeing my results in print and once they are between the two of us we should have a pretty good picture of the east Pacific green.

Hope all is going well.

Cheers,

Derek

Derek Green

George

Thanks for the copy of
the letter from Ernie Kosaka.
It just proves that if



you persevere you
will accomplish
something - especially
if the law is on

your side! But it doesn't
settle the burning question
- which is the biggest
shambles? The Federal Agencies,
the State, the University or
the military!

Aloha
Gaussey



University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Department of Zoology, Biological Sciences Building, 401-792-2372

18 December 1980

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

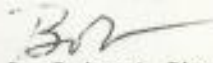
Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter and report!

Leatherbacks, apparently get tangled in lobster trap lines or fish traps occasionally in New England. Most of the Maine reports involve lobster pot tangles while most of the dead, wash-ups in Southern New England are associated with a near-by fish trap (pound net). We have observed some animals towing the ropes and floats of lobster pots. Lazell (1976; This Broken Archipelago. Quadrangle Press) describes five leatherbacks with entangled flippers and details how they get tangled (p. 191).

I hope this information is useful.

Sincerely,


C. Robert Shoop
Professor of Zoology

CRS/cal



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA NATURE ET DE SES RESSOURCES

Survival Service Commission - Commission du service de sauvegarde

SPECIES CONSERVATION MONITORING UNIT - CENTRE DE SURVEILLANCE DE CONSERVATION DES ESPECES

Conservation Monitoring Centre

27 March 1981

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

Dear Mr Balazs,

I am now concentrating on the marine turtles, in my task of revising the IUCN Red Data Book for herps.

I'm writing to ask if you could kindly spare some time to assist with Hawaii/Pacific species. You have already sent a copy of your recent report on Green Turtle to this Unit, and I will be able to extract abundant data from this, but do you have any information on Hawksbill or Leatherback in Hawaii?

Further, I wonder if you could send manuscript copies of your 'Growth Rates' and 'Central Pacific' papers given at the Washington Symposium (I don't suppose you yet have reprints from the forthcoming volume).

I have enclosed a couple of drafts from the revised RDB, to show you the new format. Also enclosed are copies of the old RDB sheets, I would be most grateful for any comments you have on these.

I hope you will have some time to spare for this enquiry, and I look forward to hearing from you. Any assistance you can provide will be very welcome indeed!

Yours sincerely,

Brian Groombridge

Dr Brian Groombridge
Compiler
Amphibia and Reptilia
Red Data Book

Need to send
"Growth" paper

Enc.

219 (c) Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom Tel: 0223 77314 Cables: Redbook Cambridge UK

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Library
100 Brook Hill Drive
West Nyack, NY 10994-2133
Tel: (914) 339-3900

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April 13, 1981

Mr. Richard Fitter
Fauna and Flora Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regents Park
London NW1 4RY
England

Dear Mr. Fitter:

Wayne King has asked me to comment on recent articles by Brongersma, Hughes, Johnson, and Mrosovsky in support of turtle farming. Before doing so, let me state that I have never accepted money, research support, travel expenses, or other favors from the turtle "farming" industry, although I have had opportunities to do so from time to time. If other "unbiased" scientists were asked to make a similar statement, perhaps we would have less confusion on this issue.

My remarks can be brief, for there is little that is new in these articles. Turtle farming is a luxury industry which is expensive to maintain. It will be even more expensive to maintain if they ever become completely independent of wild populations - a claim that they have ritually made but never proven. If the industry is to make a profit (up to now they have been supported by wandering millionaires), it must cultivate a worldwide market for high-priced turtle products. Wild turtles, which are supplied full-grown at no cost by Mother Nature, and which are inexpensive to capture and process, will always be cheaper than farm-raised products. Because many of these products can be retailed where they are caught, near the resort hotels, bootlegging of wild-caught turtles will inevitably flourish as a by-product of turtle farming. Under these circumstances, enforcement of conservation laws is impossible. Who is to know whether a particular restaurant, which has bought 200 pounds of turtle meat from a legitimate farm and which has the papers to prove it, has not also bought 500 pounds of meat under the table from a local fisherman, at half or one-fourth the price?

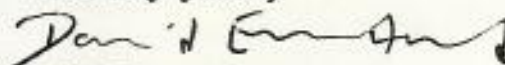
Worse yet, how are beleaguered customs inspectors, plagued by a thousand regulations, to distinguish between legitimate farm-raised products and wild products that are certified as farm-raised? I do not imply that Caribbean Turtle Farm is laundering wild-caught products. But what is to stop a government official in, let us say, Ecuador from certifying a shipment of turtle meat as "farm-raised"? There is no way to keep up with this kind of fraud.

I have followed this industry from the beginning -- indeed I am partly responsible for it, having introduced the man who started it all to his first

sea turtles. I have watched the industry go in and out of bankruptcy -- a bankruptcy caused by ignoring the warnings of conservationists, and not caused by the conservationists, as has been charged. I have watched while the industry put forth a stream of misleading and fraudulent claims to a conservation status, and watched while the claims were retracted. I have watched them fail to demonstrate their merits to the United States federal judiciary, and I have watched them fail to demonstrate their merits to assembled scientists. I have watched them slander Archie Carr, the world's leading sea turtle conservationist, and I have watched them send libelous letters about me to the president of my university. Above all, I have watched them promote the sale of turtle meat, the sale of turtle shell, the sale of turtle soup, the sale of turtle leather, the sale of turtle oil, the sale of stuffed turtles, and the sale of baby turtles embedded in plastic. It is a sleazy and reprehensible operation from start to finish, and this is turtle farming at its best. Think what it will be like in places that don't have ready access to German millions and British and American scientists.

The points that I have raised in this letter concerning the impact of turtle "farming" on traffic in turtle products have never been addressed by the proponents of the industry. Instead they concentrate on other issues: how many eggs they "produced" this year, how many baby turtles they released, how much scientific research they supported, how much more money they might have made if only wicked scientists like Carr and Ehrenfeld would keep their mouths shut. But trade is the issue they must answer -- we have said it to them for more than a decade -- and trade is the issue they will not and cannot discuss.

Sincerely yours,



David Ehrenfeld
Professor of Biology

cc: Dr. F. W. King
Dr. A. Carr
Dr. G. Balazs ✓

Turtle eggs cost him 359 days

By MICHAEL KRANISH
Herald Staff Writer

FORT PIERCE — Some say eating sea turtle eggs will add luster to your sex life. Others insist they are merely an eccentric delicacy, like caviar.

Sonny Kelson, 33, of Riviera Beach won't be able to test either theory for the next 359 days — that's his sentence for stealing 680 of the ping pong ball-type white eggs last June from the beach here.

State officials say it is the stiffest sentence imposed for the misdemeanor, barely short of the one-year maximum.

"Just two weeks ago, I got probation for a guy on an attempted murder charge," said Kelson's defense attorney, Lorenzo Williams of Fort Pierce. "This is really outrageous. He didn't affect a human life, so this is damn hard to understand."

But St. Lucie County Judge William Tye, who imposed the sentence Tuesday, says the penalty has

everything to do with life. "Turtles are people, too. That's 680 turtle lives he took. That's a heck of a lot of turtles. This was a malicious, deliberate offense."

The sea turtle, according to federal and state officials, is so endangered that it will become extinct if strict measures aren't imposed.

Assistant State Attorney Phil Yacucci says there is a "thriving" black market for sea turtle eggs in South Florida. "There are a lot of lower class restaurants and bars which sell them. You can get about \$1.50 each for them."

It is illegal to knowingly disturb a sea turtle nest, to steal or even possess an egg.

Many bar patrons apparently will beer with an illegal egg chaser because they believe the eggs work as an aphrodisiac, according to Sgt. Tom Bishop of the Florida Marine Patrol. "It's an old belief and it's not true."

Kelson was convicted Monday

largely because his accomplice, Wayne Alston, implicated both men. Deputy John Tucker said he caught the pair with two pillowcases of the eggs. Alston pleaded guilty and was sentenced earlier to six months in prison.

Kelson, who has a record of 15 misdemeanors, was shocked at his sentence because four years ago he was convicted on an identical charge in Martin County and received a \$115 fine.

"Obviously, the Martin County fine wasn't effective," Judge Tye said. "You've got to realize this is a second offense."

According to the Department of Natural Resources, 167 persons were arrested in 1980 for violations connected with sea turtles and their eggs. But, according to Maj. Cliff Willis, Kelson's fine is the stiffest imposed.

How many
light years away
from Hawaii
justice is this?

How does he know?

Maybe Sea Grant will support
a study - by you - on

"Aphrodisiacal Qualities of
Sea Turtle Ova - a comparative
Study"

Think of the equalitarian potential



CENTER FOR COASTAL MARINE STUDIES
DIVISION OF NATURAL SCIENCES
APPLIED SCIENCES BUILDING

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

15 April, 1981

Dear George,

I'm sorry I took so long to get this paper to you, but we only recently completed the final manuscript. I hope it is of use to you.

I just remembered that you observed some elephant seals in the French Ingate Shoals. Burney and I would be greatly interested in your sightings. Would you mind sending us some information on the elephant seals sighted, such as age, sex, tags & date of sighting. We'd appreciate it very much.

I hope your sea turtle work is going well. If you are ever in Northern California, you're more than welcome to visit. We'll take you for a tour of Año Nuevo Island, where you can see all sorts of seals and seabirds.

Very Truly Yours,

Marianne



18/2/4

OFIHA O NA MEA TAU TOKELAU
Office for Tokelau Affairs

10 March 1981

Dr George H Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P O Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe
Hawaii, 96744
United States of America

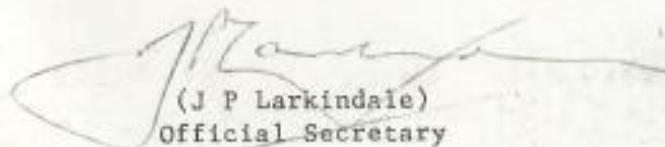
Dear Dr Balazs,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February proposing a combination scientific fact finding and sea turtle education visit to Tokelau in September or October this year. The proposition is an attractive one to us as we have become increasingly concerned about the future of the turtle in Tokelau.

However, before I can agree to the visit I must consult various people, including the village councils on the three islands. My recommendation to them will be to welcome your visit, but the final decision to permit visitors to their islands necessarily rests with these councils. I will let you know as soon as possible what their reaction is.

I have also noted that you would prefer to visit Tokelau in October. At present our shipping schedule is very uncertain and I can give you no indication of likely sailing dates. I will advise you as soon as I have some idea of possible departure dates, but this may not be possible for some months yet.

Yours sincerely,



(J P Larkindale)
Official Secretary

JPL:mnc



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
SEFC, Panama City Laboratory
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, FL 32407

April 10, 1981

F/SEC5:LHO:rb

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

Dear George:

Thank you for your timely response to my letter; I will try to respond in a similar manner in the future. Are you still affiliated with the NMFS Honolulu Laboratory under an IPA contract--if so, is that the address you prefer I use? I hope your association with the laboratory enables you to continue to participate in the Cromwell cruises to the northwest turtle islands. I suspect the NMFS research funding may be meager. You are probably asked to consult with the staff from time to time, which may prove beneficial to you later.

Enclosed is a "flyer" on the Southeast Region's plans to conduct a sea turtle symposium. Hopefully, by the end of this year's turtle season, key Caribbean countries will have conducted surveys and prepared national reports for the symposium to be held in Costa Rica in July 1982. At first, responses to requests for each country to identify a national representative and researcher were few. Interest has picked up greatly these past few months, however, and positive responses to participate are being received. The technical manual on research methodology, identification and conservation/management practices is still being compiled. Peter Pritchard is the senior author. Peter Bacon is the editor, and several of us are listed as contributors. I will send you a copy as soon as a draft is completed. It is almost finished except for the addition of a section on aerial surveys, re-drawing various sketches, and the final typing.

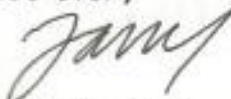
I think your selection of photographs (slides) of the turtles for the postcard series is excellent. The criteria for the selection is understandably difficult. A compromise has to be made in order to select a single picture for each species that will both inspire and educate. My only comments are that the sand on the carapace of the nesting turtles obscures the diagnostic scute pattern and diminishes the educational value somewhat (especially the loggerhead and hawksbill), and the leatherback appears to be crawling on the beach during the day--not a normal behavior. The latter choice contradicts your original request for pictures of adults nesting naturally.

I do not know what the current technological transfer plans for the excluder trawl are for the NMFS. Carr has spoken for the conservation community (to NMFS)--you may want to express your interest to help stimulate gear changeover for your area by writing Mr. Wilber Seidel directly (same address as John Watson).



I will continue my efforts to obtain inconel tags. Somehow we must encourage tag manufacturers to tool up on their own to produce a corrosion resistant flipper tag. I agree with you--we have an acceptable design; producing it out of the proper alloy is the problem. This is especially important now that researchers like yourself are getting multiple recaptures at sea with concurrent and vital growth data, so critical to determining age at maturity for wild populations. I understand your pessimism concerning this matter. Perhaps our (NMFS) tagging needs will provide the market stimulation necessary to initiate the changeover from monel to inconel. I will keep you informed if we make any progress.

Best ever,



Larry H. Ogren
Fishery Biologist (Research)

Enclosures (2)

Sea turtle populations in the Western Central Atlantic are becoming an increased interest to national and international institutions with responsibilities for resource management and conservation. This Symposium (WATS) is designed to advance knowledge of these populations by developing a consensus among the countries of the region concerning the biological status of the species present.

WATS will endeavor to include information from and participation by every country in the region. Recognizing that a statistical and scientific basis for reasonable assessment and prudent management does not exist for most species over most of their ranges and also noting the complex international aspects of such requirements, WATS will have the following principal objectives:

1. To assemble and validate a data base for each indigenous species of sea turtle by:
 - a. conducting aerial and nesting beach surveys in 1981,
 - b. compiling available population and socio-economic data by late 1981, and
 - c. completion of the National Report by each country before 1982.
2. To develop a report on the status of the stocks.
3. To review management and conservation options.
4. To identify and prioritize research requirements.
5. To encourage the advancement of international scientific cooperation on sea turtle populations.

A WATS Steering Committee has been formed to define goals, direct preparatory efforts, and compile, edit, and publish the results.

The Committee has developed a format for National Reports on sea turtles. The Committee will edit and summarize the assembled data, translate to English and Spanish, and distribute this report to national delegates who will participate.

A Technical Team will also assist in the surveys and in preparing the National Reports (where requested) and will develop:

1. Biological synopses
2. Socio-economic synopses that will be presented and reviewed at WATS.

At the Symposium, delegates will discuss and review the National Reports and summaries for purposes of clarifying, correcting or amending. The consensus reached will then provide the basis for identifying requirements to implement WATS recommendations.

Participation in WATS is by invitation. Although the Proceedings will be open to the public, discussions will be limited to the participants except for an afternoon of open statement and debate prior to the development of final recommendations.

Support of your country's participation in WATS is earnestly solicited. Any data your country can provide will improve our presently inadequate knowledge of these valuable animals.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission
Association
for the Caribbean & Adjacent Region
IOCARIBE

For further information
contact:

Dr. Robert R. Lankford
Regional Secretary

IOCARIBE

% UNDP

Apartado 4540

San Jose, Costa Rica

Cable: IOCARIBE, San Jose

Telephone: 24-92-94

or

Mr. Frederick H. Berry

Secretary to the WATS

National Marine Fisheries

Service

75 Virginia Beach Drive

Miami, FL 33149

Telephone: 305-361-4276

WESTERN ATLANTIC

TURTLE

SYMPOSIUM

(English / Spanish)

July 19 - 23, 1982

San Jose, Costa Rica

Supported by MECAFC



4/21/81

To: George
Larry

From:

I agree with you, Ms. Coleman's article suffered from want of a good reviewer, and is dated. Why don't you write a letter to the editor of OCEANS. You are very good at that. However, Ms. Coleman did flay the turtle eating crowd down in the Keys. I tried to stimulate a response from our PR department in the Regional Office (see enclosures). Just going by your marginal marks on the article, let me make the following comments:



-2-

To: Felicia was a former employer of the NMFS, albeit a temporary observer on the excluder trawl project.

From:

As you suspected, she is not completely correct about the illegality of keeping turtles on deck for rehabilitation purposes (however, "endangered" species must not be taken under any circumstances—therefore turtles are dumped, usually, immediately).

A joint state-federal massed boarding operation took place off SC-Ga last year. Some agents may have been over-zealous. However, they were technically correct in requiring all "endangered" species be tossed overboard immediately.



-3-

To : Some fishermen are apparently sincere and will attempt to revive turtles. Others don't do anything; and still others butcher them or cut off limbs & heads (apparently).

From: The 300 stranded turtles in Virginia (Chesapeake Bay) may include individuals that had become entangled in the lead net of the fish pound-net, where they become "jilled", then drown, and finally rot loose and float ashore.

• Obviously, no scientific information exists that trawler-induced mortality does not contribute to the decline of sea turtle populations. The



-4-

bigger question would be what is the effect of this mortality on the population's. There is

From: an abundance of subjective opinion on this subject. More basic is what % of the strandings are trawl-related & what is the total mortality. And even more basic is the question of the "Smoking gun," or do trawls really drown turtles? There sits biologists of another kind of "Conservative" demeanor" — those who mostly hail from Missouri — they want proof that it is not a parasite or other disease, factor killing ^{the turtles}

However, the deductive logic ought can usually predict when and where



-5-

sea turtles will start washing
To: up on beaches by observing
the deployment of the tracking
From: fleet along the coast.

• Apparently Felicia was not on board to see the final TED design take shape, but left after the summer season ended. Her comments on the old device are therefore very misleading. She should have checked this important fact out first.

• The article ends on a rather vague appeal that can't be argued but is difficult to rally around.

Restover
Jamy

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1981

NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE
Pensacola City Laboratory
Pensacola City, Florida

Dr. Archie Carr
Florida State Museum
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32601

5 February 1981

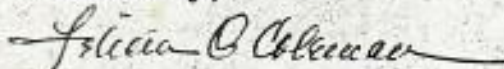
Dear Dr. Carr:

I worked for NMFS this past fall monitoring incidental turtle catch by shrimp trawlers off Rockville, South Carolina. Co-operation from the shrimpers was noteworthy and their interest in helping save marine turtles sincere. They have asked me to inform them of any research done as it pertains to turtles.

A number of South Carolina shrimpers have been fishing off Key West since the season closed here. They were appalled to find Florida fishermen still butchering turtles. They immediately contacted me. The fishermen they met were apparently unaware of the consequences of their actions. I was told that they were also oblivious of impending restrictions and regulations which may be imposed on them. I find it rather hard to believe that they do not keep abreast of issues affecting them so directly. Nonetheless, I appeal to you to help me find out if the Florida Shrimper's Association (or whatever organization is involved) informs the fishermen of these things. South Carolina fishermen would like to start some form of alliance between the shrimpers and the Marine Resource divisions of the southeastern states.

Any suggestions you could offer would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Felicia C. Coleman
25 Legare Street
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SEFC, Panama City Laboratory
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March 26, 1981

F/SEC5:LH0:rb

TO: F/SECx4 - Herb Kumpf
THRU: F/SEC5 - Eugene Nakamura
FROM: F/SEC5 - Larry Ogren
SUBJ: Incidental catch problems with constituents

From time to time this office receives information regarding violations of the Endangered Species Act. Clearly these are matters for our law enforcement division and in the past, the informant has been referred to either state or federal law enforcement agencies. However, the evidence is usually hearsay and after the fact, and there are simply not enough agents available to respond to all the complaints. For example, last week we were asked to clarify the prohibitions against the taking and killing of sea turtles listed as "endangered" or "threatened." A member of a northwest Florida Chamber of Commerce had been informed that local fishermen were killing and consuming "threatened" species of sea turtles, because they believed the law prohibiting these actions only pertained to those turtles listed as "endangered." Another similar situation apparently exists in the Florida Keys (see enclosed correspondence). Similar violations are reported to occur regularly in other gulf coast counties of north Florida.

Perhaps more attention should be paid to this problem by other NMFS and state offices if it is as widespread as it appears to be. In the past, and for other states, cooperation by the fishermen was sought from industry representatives and organized fishing groups. This approach was suggested for Florida and Texas (see enclosed letters). Additional efforts towards educating the public and seeking assistance from the fishing industry might help the situation rather than depend solely upon punitive actions and sanctions against violators. My suggestion is to forward this information to the Regional Office for appropriate action.

Enclosures

cc:
F/SECx4 - F. Berry

Such as
signs posted
at key
locations

F/SEC5:LH0gren:3/26/81

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DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
225 BARTRAM HALL
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March 20, 1981

Ms. Felicia C. Coleman
25 Legare Street
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Dear Ms. Coleman:

Please excuse the delay in my reply to your letter of February 15. I have circulated word of the disturbing violations of the laws protecting sea turtles in Florida waters, and also of your wish to generate an alliance among shrimpers and fisheries agencies. Your letter to me has been copied and sent to selected offices and I'll let you know what comes of this. I'm confident it will yield some helpful results.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:ljw