

15

1980-

1981

HIMB INCOMING  
LETTERS FOR G.H. BALAZS - PART 1 OF 2

# STICHTING NATUURBEHOUD SURINAME (STINASU)

FOUNDATION FOR NATURE PRESERVATION IN SURINAME

Paramaribo, 12 May, 1980

P.O.B. 436 PARAMARIBO  
Tel. 75845

Uw kenmerk  
Your reference

Ons kenmerk  
Our reference

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawaii @ Manoa  
P.O. Box 1346  
Coconut Island, Kaneohe  
Hawaii 96744, U.S.A.

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of April 21, 1980 regarding the use of sea turtles on stamps.

I think it is a very good suggestion. As a matter of fact, the idea is so brilliant, I'm surprised I didn't think about it myself!

STINASU

natuur  
behoud

I have instructed our information and education department to draw up a proposal and then submit the package with great fanfare to the Surinam equivalent of the Postmaster General. If need be I'll push as hard as I can for it, but my policy is to let each department do its own thing with a minimum of interference. We have a fair amount of talent in that group and I have full confidence that they will be able to convince the postal service of the worth of the stamps.

natuur  
educatie

It will take some time, of course, but once I have more concrete information I'll let you know how things are going; and should we get a stamp series, I'll mail you some. You realize that this infers that I'll be suggesting stamps of very low denominations!

natuur  
reizen

All is well in Suriname. Nicholas is coming end May to compare sex in coolbox hatchlings vs natural hatchlings. Joop has retired, and I have inherited his job. He and I are still very much involved in study of the Brazil turtle populations. Our second trip report is in the making. He's already briefed Archie, when in Fla. last month.

STINASU

Keep me posted on the latest turtle happenings.

Best Regards,

Henry A. Reichart  
Director, STINASU



**KONA VILLAGE® RESORT**



*P.O. Box 1299 / Kaupulehu, Kona, Hawaii 98740 / Phone (808) 825-5555 / Cable: 'Coconut'*

March 31, 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, HI 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

I received your letter concerning your interest in researching the Hawaiian Turtles here at the village. We'd be pleased to have you and your associate conduct your research operation here at Kona Village Resort approximately 3 to 4 days.

I would prefer that the guest did not participate in the diving with you but we would welcome your lecturing to our guests. This past week we had a film and lecture on the humpback whales here at the village. It was very well attended and many questions asked.

Please let us know when you would like to come to the village.

Sincerely,

Fred Duerr  
Vice President and  
General Manager

FD:en



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD  
P. O. BOX 50187  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RWR

15 APR 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs  
992-A Awaawaanoa Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Geroge:

I was pleased to receive your letter regarding the book you plan to publish on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I am sure it will be an important contribution and prove to be a very worthwhile educational tool. I appreciate your willingness to have us share in the review of the manuscript. I'll be talking to you more about your schedule and to determine how we can help.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Shallenberger, Ph.D.  
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist  
Refuges and Wildlife Resources



*Save Energy and You Serve America!*

To: Marine Turtle Specialist Group Members

From: Archie Carr, Chairman

Re: Request for comments on draft sheet for IUCN Red Data Book account of *Lepidochelys kempi*.

The enclosed preliminary account was sent here by Dr. Brian Groombridge, of the Species Conservation Monitoring Unit, with a request for criticism and suggestions by members of the Marine Turtle Group. This is an important and difficult assignment that Brian has been given, and I hope you will examine the material carefully, and suggest any changes that you consider necessary or helpful. Your comments can be made directly on the text. Because there is an early deadline for publication of the volume we are hoping that your comments will reach our Gainesville office within 2-3 weeks of receipt for incorporation in the critique.

Brian will be sending the data sheets for the other species in the near future, and these will also go to you for review.



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

A Sea Grant College  
Spalding Hall 252 B • 2540 Maile Way  
Telephone (808) 948-8191 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822 / Cable Address: UNIHAW

Marine Advisory Program  
2349 Kalaniana'ole Avenue  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
(808) 935-3830

April 9, 1981

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

Dear George,

Thanks for your publication on shark attacks and the information on east Hawaii boat harbor sites. We are aware of the A.C.E.'s plans and are keeping abreast with all new developments. To date, the public meetings and hearings have been quite productive. I'm attending as many as I can.

By calling the ACTION office in Washington D.C., 1-800-424-9704, you could ask for the Reconnection editor Piotr Kostrzewski and see if he could put an "ad" in the Former Volunteer Notes page requesting Gene Feldman or colleagues of his who know his whereabouts to contact you. Or you could write or call this office to obtain the information you need:

Former Volunteer Services  
ACTION, Room M-903  
806 Connecticut Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20525

*A/14/81*  
*ext. 230*  
*letter sent to Sally H. Stinchson P-310*

Call toll free 1-800-424-8580 extension 76 or 84

I hope this information is of help to you. (Reconnection is the newsletter of former Peace Corps and Vista volunteers and is "more or less" a monthly publication.)

When will you be back in Hilo? Come and see my rainbow trout fry and Coca Cola cooler hatchery!

Aloha,

Howard A. Takata  
East Hawaii Agent

Dr. G.H. Balazs  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Fisheries Center  
Honolulu Laboratory  
P.O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
USA

Athens, 1st April, 1981

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 20th 1981 and for the enclosed documents which I found very helpful indeed.

Concerning my project, unfortunately, the 1980 report is in Greek and I don't think it would be very helpful. For your information, during the 1980 nesting season, preliminary observations were made on the nesting behaviour of Caretta caretta. At the same time environmental parameters such as nest temperature were monitored and the habitat was described.

During the 1981 nesting season a tagging programme is to be initiated. Record sheets will be completed for each turtle tagged including information such as : tag number, date of tagging, curved length and breadth of carapace, weight, symbiotic organisms, injuries, number of eggs laid....

At the same time the following abiotic data will be recorded: temperature of water and sand, salinity, humidity, chemical and physical composition of sand... Lastly, observations will be made on hatchlings reared in semi-natural conditions.

The results of this year's work should be available by next November when I will be very glad to send them to you.

Best Regards,

Penny Marinos

Penny Marinos  
National Council for Physical  
Planning and the Environment  
Secretariat  
Ministry of Coordination  
Zalokosta 1, Athens  
GREECE

PM/nd



George Balazs:

Please call Jane Boyer

residence phone 262-6060 or

at work 261-6798 (from 8 to 2 p.m.)

She needs info on green turtle for her 12-year-old son  
who is writing a term paper. 6th grade

4/7/81 1630  
llh Greory  
Boyer

305  
KUKUKAMA  
St.

96734



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 8 1981

Dr. George H. Balazs  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
University of Hawaii  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Dr. Balazs:

I would appreciate receiving reprints of the following papers that you have authored:

Balazs, G. H. 1976. Green turtle migrations in the Hawaiian Archipelago. *Biol. Conserv.* 9:125-140.

Balazs, G. H. 1979. Growth, food sources and migrations of immature Hawaiian Chelonia. *Marine Turtle Newsletter* IUCN/SSC No. 10:1-3.

Balazs, G. H. 1973. Status of marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands. *Elepaio, J. Haw. Aud. Soc.* 33, 127-130.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael T. Masnik".

Michael T. Masnik, Ph.D.  
Senior Fisheries Biologist  
Environmental Engineering Branch  
Division of Engineering



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

SE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

April 6, 1981

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

Dear George:

Enclosed is information I'm sure you'll find interesting. Please honor the red ink on the cover--even in discussions with your peers, as well as the author. This is not the "official" report for the project, but rather an informational paper to help selected people understand what goes on--no more than half-a-dozen individuals have seen it.

I am pleased that McVey is going to use some of your tags--it should prove interesting. You are aware, of course, that the Galveston Lab is on the chopping block--no funding for FY 1982. I am waiting for NMFS to come fourth with options to handle the ridleys. They did tell me they would take this coming season's hatch (up to 2,000), but neither I nor NMFS knew, at that time, what would be done after September 30.

Everything is go for Rancho Nuevo this season. Our crew crosses the border on the 15th. We do have an aircraft which will be used primarily to do some standardized surveys for NMFS along the Mexican coast, and also to check our own nesting area for poachers, crawls, distribution, etc. We are not planning anything new this season, but will concentrate on improving present techniques to hopefully increase hatching and survival. We will be experimentally using some plastic tags--same ones we used this past year in Costa Rica on olives (I've sent you a copy of Costa Rican report under separate cover).

Peter is, for all practical purposes, out of the Rancho Nuevo project. I could not depend on him to the degree necessary to carry out a field operation, nor to supply the required reports. I'm afraid his involvement in the Mexican green turtle project (with Kim Clifton) is also coming to an end for some of the same reasons. I like and respect Peter, but he's got himself spread too thin wheeling and dealing to adequately administer and oversee a substantial field project that operates for 4 to 6 months each year in a foreign country--that's my personal opinion.

With the new administration in Disneyland East, it appears we (FWS) are in for some hard times--people, funds, and projects. Don't know yet what it will mean for the various turtle projects, but the initial signs aren't encouraging.

Keep the faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized, looped shape that resembles a cursive letter 'J' or 'S'.

Enclosures

Balazs

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
Coconut Island, Kaneohe, Hawaii

MEMORANDUM

*Handwritten:* Kuttman  
Copy to  
Ernie R.  
Etepaio

AGENDA

STAFF MEETING

*Handwritten:* #1713

Monday, April 13, 1981

9:00 a.m.

*Handwritten:* eHerman -jed Hirada  
PERSONNEL MATTERS

- a. Status of faculty positions
- b. Recommended appointment of <sup>Graduate</sup> RA's
- c. Appointment of affiliate researchers

*Handwritten:* decided:  
full time position - Navy  
whittens  
Paul - 1  
Ross - 1  
2 candidates  
Kandyawada  
RKK Juric

STATUS OF BUDGET

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDING RESEARCH

STATUS OF WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONS GOING TO SEA ON RESEARCH VESSELS

MERIT AWARDS FOR HIMB STAFF

OTHER BUSINESS

*Handwritten:* (for student & non-UH employees)

*Handwritten:* develop system of recognition  
- Cash award  
- travel for meeting

*Handwritten:* Steve's position  
1-2 years whatever  
look at soft  
money positions  
withing  
HIMB

→ FIRE ALARM

*Large handwritten:* MAE budget cuts

April 6, 1981

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

Dear Bob:

Rather than have me visit the Philippines to break the logjam that is holding up the creation of the turtle park between that nation and Sabah, Malaysia, I suggest we send Archie Carr or George Balazs.

Archie will be participating in the same Papua New Guinea (PNG) workshop on ranching of wildlife as I will be in late May, so he can swing through the Philippines as easily as I can. Unlike me, however, Archie does not have to attend the SSC Steering Committee meeting/PPAG/Council meetings in Gland in early June. This is not meant to imply that he has nothing to do, but only that he might be able to visit the Philippines after the PNG workshop as easily as before that meeting, while I can only go before PNG. Since either one of us would have to fly to the Philippines on the way to or from PNG, the cost of the trip would be the same. Archie is a superb diplomat and negotiator in behalf of marine turtles -- and he is Archie Carr!

If it should prove impossible for Archie to make the trip to the Philippines, George Balazs can do it. George is willing to make the trip, but only in the event that Archie is not able to do so. Living in Hawaii, George is already "halfway" to the Philippines. The cost of his trip would be less than for either Archie or me. Both Archie and I think George would do an excellent job in meeting with Philippine officials and negotiating the establishment of the turtle park and other elements of the Philippine programme agreed at the Washington, D.C., turtle conference.

Archie, George, and I are in the midst of deciding who will actually make the trip. We will have word for you by sometime later this week. In the meantime, has the Director General or some other suitable individual in the Secretariat contacted President Marcos or other high level officials about the pending visit by a representative of IUCN? We need to have all the contacts made and appointments arranged by the time one of us arrives in the islands. I believe you were going to seek guidance from Tony

Parkinson or somebody similar in the Philippines. Have you had a response yet? Time is short for a meeting in mid-May or early June.

Economy airfares from Gainesville to Manila and return are \$1,165\*. From Hawaii to Manila and return airfares are \$746. Plus hotels and meals for five to seven days might add an additional \$400 to \$500 to the total.

\*After May 31 the fares are \$1,396.

Sincerely,

F. Wayne King  
Director

FWK:ss

cc: A. Carr  
G. Balazs ✓



MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Scott

From: Bernardo ~~Montelli~~

Cc: H. Jungius

Ref: R/20

Subject: IOCARIBE Meeting on Turtles,  
June 1982

Date: 12 March 1981

During the UNEP/ECLA meeting in Managua, the Delegate from IOCARIBE, Mr. Robert Lankford, informed the participants about a meeting being organized by his Commission on Caribbean Turtles.

Apparently, invitations have already been sent as well as requests for national reports.

*Copy to Arlene Carr  
George Daley  
Nicole Duglax*  
APR 10 1981





UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
GEORGETOWN, S. C. 29440

BELLE W. BARUCH

Marine Field Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1630  
(803) 546-3623

March 31, 1981

George H. Balazs  
NMFS-Southwest Fisheries Center  
Honolulu Laboratory  
PO Box 3830  
Honolulu, HI 96812

Dear George,

Thank you for the copy of your Green Turtle Data Synopsis, and the accompanying letter. I was unaware of your success with Inconel when our manuscript was written (May 1979). Delays in publication prevented the inclusion of more current information on tag loss, as well as other topics. We're looking for a journal with quicker turnaround time for publication of our aerial paper. If you have a more thorough accounting of your success with Inconel in published form, I'd appreciate having a copy.

I have forwarded your reprint request to Steve Stancyk on the Columbia campus. He's answering requests for all our papers, as his position and address are somewhat more secure than my own. Speaking of soft money (was I?), our recent proposal to investigate pesticides and petroleum hydrocarbons in South Carolina loggerheads was turned down by Sea Grant. We obtained interesting preliminary results from tissue and egg samples collected last summer, and are pursuing funding for a more thorough study in 1982. Do you know of any NMFS office or branch interested in sponsoring research of this type? If you think there is promise, let me know - I will send you some information soon to be submitted as a journal note.

One last note - in your Synopsis report, speculations of food sources of Chelonia <35cm are interesting. We observed 6 individual greens in that size class last summer. One was drowned in an illegal gill net and his gut was literally packed with a single species of benthic red algae, Gracilaria foliosa. Two of the other four were seen to attack live mudminnows which were being used as fish bait (on a hook) at a high marsh site.

Although six sightings are hardly significant, especially in light of the sixty-odd Caretta sightings, I suspect that high-salinity coastal ecosystems such as our North Inlet probably constitute important developmental habitat for immature

George H. Balazs  
March 31, 1981

Page 2

chelonians. Stoneburner's results with Caretta hatchlings in Georgia, although quite isolated, tend to support this. Frank Schwartz used to see small greens in Pamlico Sound, N.C. regularly. Does Hawaii have similar habitats for protected development of immatures?

As usual, lots of questions. Again, thank you for your report and compliments, and my apologies for not mentioning your Inconel successes in our paper.

Kind regards,



O. Rhett Talbert, Jr.  
Research Specialist

ORT/ahg

5 Feb 81

THURS

Dear George —

I'm sorry to have been such a miserable correspondent during the past few months. I have been horrendously busy. I'm leaving in four days, but I would much prefer to leave in four months. I'm looking forward to working in Seychelles, but am really rushed in getting ready to go. I still have to put all my worldly possessions into storage, and I am horrified at how much junk I have accumulated during the past 8 years in graduate school.

Thank you for the card. Where did you ever find such a neat card? We all enjoyed it. (i.e. the Bon-Voyage card with the turtles).

Enclosed you will find a copy of my dissertation. I plan to publish it as four separate papers, but I'm afraid that won't be for awhile. I'm not sure how much I'll be able to work on it in Seychelles.

My address there is:

% Dept. of Agriculture + Land Use  
P.O. Box 54  
Port Victoria  
MAHE  
REP. OF SEYCHELLES

Sidney Holt invited me to spend a few days at Cambridge in England on my way out to Seychelles. He will tell me what he knows about their politics, etc.

Apparently he's been dealing with them quite a bit regarding Whale Conservation.

Take care --

Best regards

Teann

FISHERIES  
SERVICE  
MAR 30 10 17 AM '81  
HONOLULU LABORATORY

HC  
SFC  
FMT  
CMB

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH WORKSHOP  
1-3 April 1981

Jacksonville Museum of Arts and Sciences  
1025 Gulf Life Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207  
AC 904 396-7062

Sponsored by the Florida Department of Natural Resources

The Sea Turtle Research Workshop is an opportunity to discuss and review on-going research and management problems. No formal paper presentations are planned; the format will be workshop/discussion focused on selected agenda items. Several subjects are being developed around sea turtle biology, life history, and management.

Please submit subjects of particular interest so an effective review can be organized. Address your proposed agenda items to:

Mr. Ross Witham  
FDNR Stuart Field Station  
P. O. Box 941  
Jensen Beach, FL 33457  
AC 305 334-1667

Enclosed is a list of preliminary items being considered for the agenda. Submit your proposed additions to Mr. Witham as soon as possible so they may be included.

If you plan to attend, confirm your Sea Turtle Research Workshop reservation by contacting:

Ms. Vi Stewart  
FDNR Marine Research Laboratory  
100 Eighth Avenue S.E.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
AC 813 896-8626

A list of motels near the Museum is attached. Please direct your request for accomodations to the motel of your choice.

No organized social functions are planned. Meals will be on your own.

We hope to see you 1-3 April 1981 at the  
SEA TURTLE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Preliminary agenda items, Sea Turtle Research Workshop, 1-3 April 1981  
Jacksonville, Florida

1. State and federal laws; local and municipal coordination and cooperation.
2. Assessment of environmental contaminants in stranded marine turtles (pesticides, petroleum, heavy metals, etc.).
3. Salvage/collection of marine turtles, including techniques, depositories, and priorities.
4. Determination of habitat use, seasonal movements and at-sea distribution of marine turtles.
5. Priorities for assessment of population levels and reproductive success; role of tagging; regional tagging data base.
6. Survey of nesting beaches; accuracy of aerial surveys; calibration of periodic sampling.
7. Human impact on nesting beaches; public education program.
8. Standardized data reporting.
9. Effect of cold; cold-stunned turtles of 1981 - procedures, inter-agency response, success.
10. Nest protection: methods, probable threats.
11. Beach renourishment, beach cleaning, ATV usage, entrapment.

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH WORKSHOP, 1-3 April 1981, Jacksonville, Florida

Jacksonville area hotels/motels:

Travelodge

926 Gulf Life Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207 904 396-2121  
Across the street from the museum. Rooms \$20.00 plus tax.

Ramada Inn

6237 Arlington Expressway  
Jacksonville, FL 32000 904 725-5093  
About 5 miles away; city bus available. Rooms \$30 to \$38.00 plus tax.

Days Inn

I-95 and University Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32000 904 733-3890  
About 5 miles from museum; city bus available. Rooms \$21.88 to \$25.88 plus tax.

Arlington Scottish Inn Motel

747 Arlington Road N.  
Jacksonville, FL 32000 904 725-9600  
About 5 miles from museum; city bus available. Rooms \$19.00 to 22.00 plus tax.

Best Western, I-95 South

5221 W. University Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32000 904 737-1690  
About 5 miles from museum; city bus available. Rooms \$30 to 34.00 plus tax.

Holiday Motor Inn

8016 Arlington Expressway  
Jacksonville, FL 32000 904 725-3343  
About 5 miles from museum; city bus available. Rooms \$22 to 26 plus tax.

Hilton Hotel

565 Main Street 904 398-3561

Sheraton at St. John's Place

Holiday Inn City Center

315 Julia 904 396-6000

(Hilton, Sheraton at St. John's Place, and Holiday Inn City Center are all very close to the museum, but all cost from about \$52.00 to 68.00 a room.)



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

21 Mar '81

Dear George,  
Many thanks for sending me the  
postcards — much appreciated —

re MTN editorials — I have ~~not~~  
~~gone~~ the full circle with no editorials.

There have been issues before with no editorials,  
and other early ones with very short ones. The  
sad fact is that people can't bear to see anything  
in print with which they disagree, and so they

pace on the most trivial things, like claiming editorials are too long etc. There have been plenty of very short ones, and an issue with no editorials long before issue No 13.

While I appreciate cuttings for newspapers, I would much prefer to be kept informed on other things —

What is the turtle group planning about future meetings?

What kind of funding is available for WWF — or other sources?

What activities, if any, are the turtle group undertaking.

What are the dates of meetings or talks — eg —

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

SSC, or Fish & Wildlife - , Galveston  
project etc - is - what is on the  
horizon for the future -

Will be a winner,

(Vidua)

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Memo  
Zoology (ABRE)  
Oxford  
U.K

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

The 'APSLEY' Air Letter  
A Dickinson Robinson Group Product  
Form approved by the Post Office (United Kingdom) No. 1.

SECOND FOLD HERE

BY AIRMAIL  
AIR LETTER  
PAR AVION  
AEROGRAMME

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
OXFORD, ENGLAND, U.K.



ZOOLOGY 07

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

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

Research Group

George,

Thank you for the article on monk seals from 'Elepaio.

Enclosed please find a copy of our biological opinion on Tern Island, as you requested. You will note that the opinion itself addresses only green sea turtles as they are nesting or basking on land. The FWS is only authorized to provide opinions on sea turtles while they are on land. We cannot issue an opinion (in the legal, Section 7 consultation sense) on turtles when in the sea or on monk seals. The NMFS has jurisdiction over these animals (turtles at sea + monk seals) and thus must write the opinion. The FWS consulted with NMFS and they provided an opinion on monk seals + sea turtles (copy attached). It seems like a confusing way to do business, but if legalities were simple, there would be no need for lawyers.

I hope that clears up the confusion. Monk seals were definitely considered, but NMFS had to provide the biological opinion.

Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,  
Jack Edmundson



Colin J. Limpus

Home: P.O. Box 189  
Aitkenvale  
Townsville, 4814  
Australia  
Telephone 73-2674

Business: National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Pallarenda  
Townsville, 4810  
Australia  
Telephone 74-1411

30 March 1981

Dear George,


Sorry about delays in finding the slide you asked for. Find attached 3 slide for you to choose from.

Attached is a suggested caption.  
(P.S. I'm flat out on croc. studies for the present)

Re Bob Bustard. I'm trying to sink Bob's reputation through the actual papers I'm writing by showing the inaccuracy of his data — rather than by a more overt action. ~~Be~~ bear with me please.

Hendrickson leaves Aust. soon with some skeletal *C. depressa* material & preserved hatchlings — all legal. — no live to my knowledge.

Regards for now.

Col  


April 1, 1981

G. S. de Silva  
The Park Warden  
Turtle Island National Park  
P. O. Box 768  
Sandakan, Sabah  
East Malaysia

Dear Stanley:

I certainly agree with both you and George Balazs that the major factor contributing to the decline of Sarawak's sea turtles is not their capture and/or drowning by Malaysian trawlers as suggested in Lucas Chin's letter to me. It quite obviously is from the over exploitation of the eggs starting back in the 30's. Trawlers weren't operating in Sarawak waters back in those days, even though they are adding to the problem today. Lucas is intelligent and knows what the major problem is. He has just seized on the trawling as an excuse. I think you're absolutely correct that the time is right for the Turtles Board of Management to attempt to impose a moratorium on the harvest of eggs. It was done in Sabah, and can obviously be done in Sarawak if the authorities wish to act in behalf of conservation. Lucas is a potential ally but we will have to give him a great deal of support if we are to achieve our conservation objective. I would suggest that George open a dialogue with Lucas by suggesting that regardless of what has caused the decline, the population is now so low that any further take of eggs will threaten its continued existence and inquire about the possibility of imposing a moratorium. As you are well aware the funds from the sale of the eggs benefit the local Moslem charities, so the government will have to either compensate the charities or will have to decide that the national interest overrides these local considerations. In any event if George will open the dialogue, then Archie and I can follow with supporting letters. Once the dialogue is established we can ask that he get in touch with you to find out how the Sabah government put an end to the egg harvest on its turtle islands. In order to overcome provincial politics, I suspect it's best if the initial inquiries come from international sources rather than directly from you, "a next door neighbor."

Sincerely,

F. Wayne King  
Director

FWK:ss

cc: Archie Carr  
George Balazs ✓

# MUZIUM SARAWAK

Telefon: 24232 Pejabat Muzium 24231 Penyelenggara

Surat Kita: MU/523/D/(43) Surat Tuan:

14th March, 1981.

Dr. George H. Balazs,  
Assistant Marine Biologist and Deputy  
Chairman,  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group,  
University of Hawaii at Manoa,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box 1346,  
Coconut Island,  
Kaneohe,  
Hawaii 96744.  
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

Thank you for your letter dated January 27, 1981 and thank you for your interest in our turtle problems.

Below is information on the trawling activities as provided by the Marine Fisheries Department:

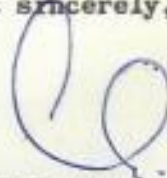
23 trawlers operate between Tanjong Datu and Santubong where the turtle islands are situated; 114 operate between Santubong and Samarahan and another 23 further east. All these trawlers go for prawns and operate throughout the year. They are all Malaysian registered fishing vessels.

Legally fishing vessels are not supposed to operate within the half neautical mile limit from the islands but there is no way we can stop them from doing so. Dead turtles are regularly seen (floating) around the islands.

Would it be possible for you to get a grant to come and study our turtles?

Aloha.

Yours sincerely,



(LUCAS CHIN)  
Curator,  
Sarawak Museum.

c.c. Chairman, Turtles Board.

LC/jl





## CROCODILE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

( A Project of the Government of India with assistance from United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations )



CENTRAL CROCODILE BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING INSTITUTE

19-4-319, Lake Dale, Rajendranagar Road  
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Tel: 48220  
48251

Gram: MAKARA

IND/74/046/

5 March 1981

Prof. Archie Carr  
Dept. of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville  
Florida 32601  
USA

Dear Archie,

I was surprised to read in the Marine Turtle Newsletter No.17 which reached me yesterday that I am no longer listed as a Member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. This is the first intimation I have had of this and I would be interested to learn from you how this has come about.

I retain my sea turtle interest, undiminished and at the present time very active on sea turtle work. I assume that this <sup>is</sup> is a clerical error. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. H.R. Bustard)  
Chief Technical Adviser

**NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD**

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INQUIRIES  
NAVRAE

OUR REFERENCE  
ONS VERWYSING G.6/2

Please address all communications to the Director  
Geliewe alle briefwisseling aan die Direkteur te rig

5 January 1981

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

Dear George,

Thank you for your letter which I found awaiting my return from leave. Your idea is a good one, in fact our organisation may be doing the same thing shortly as our souvenir expert feels that some postcards with sea turtles (loggerheads and leatherbacks) would be useful in our holiday areas near the turtle beaches.

Enclosed please find a few slides which I hope may be of use in your selection and I apologise for the late delivery but hope that they arrive in time.

As regards the idea of a stamp issue so far results have been very promising with our local World Wildlife Fund branch (the Southern Africa Nature Foundation) taking a highly enthusiastic interest in the idea. Hopefully the concept may reach fruition in 1981 or 1982. I'll keep you informed.

By the time you get this the Festive Season will have passed and 1981 well on its way but I nevertheless take the opportunity of expressing the hope that you had an enjoyable time over Christmas and that 1981 will be a successful year for you and for our turtles.

Yours sincerely,

  
~~for~~ DIRECTOR

GRH/bwt



ELISABETH HAMMER  
116 OAKDALE DRIVE  
ROCHESTER, NY. 14618

Dear Mr. Balazs,

I wanted to write and thank you for all the help and information you gave me for my project on the Endangered Species in Hawaii. I enjoyed reading through your book entitled "Hawaii's Seabirds, turtles and Seals. It had beautiful photography. That book was one of my valuable resources.

Thankyou also for taking time out of your daily schedule. The University I am sure is very



busy. Thanks again for  
everything. I really appreciate  
it very much.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth  
Hammer

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BARKER, George H

Bibliography of Kaula Island, Hawaiian Archipelago.  
Kaneohe, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, 1979.

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1/29/81*

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*Alison Grant*

Alison M. Grant,  
Head of Acquisitions

19 January 1981

Dear George,

I would appreciate a reprint of your recent paper:

Field methods for sampling the dietary components of green turtles. Herp. Rev. 11, 5-6.

Sincerely,

Steve Cornelius  
P.O. Box 132  
Willow Springs, MO 65793

*sent  
1/29/81  
+SYN*



Gordon Congdon  
Tarutao National Park  
Pak Bara, Satun  
Thailand

Dr. Archie Carr  
Dept. of Zoology  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Dr. Carr,

December 15, 1980

My colleague, Josh Ginsberg, has evidently kept you informed about our work here. Let me update you a bit and pose a couple of questions.

So far, only about 25 nestings have occurred on the four principle beaches we are monitoring. So far we have tagged Greens and Pacific Ridleys; the Hawkbills reportedly come later. On Leathery washed ashore dead. Another Leathery got caught in a trawl net and bore a tag with the number 18 on it. One of the Greens we tagged nested at least three, and probably four times in a two month period. Obviously 25 nestings represents a dismally small number of turtles. Let us hope things pick up in the months to come.

Providing that more turtles come, at least enough to warrant future conservation measures, what is the best way to proceed? Is turtle rearing to the age of 6 months or a year helpful? Is there any evidence that turtles so raised live, breed, and return to nest normally? Turtle behaviour seems so programmed, I have my doubts about artificial rearing. On Phuket Island to the north of here, turtles raised to the ed age of 3 months and then released have trouble orienting. They do not all rush to the sea like natural hatchlings, but rather, scramble every which way. (Pacific Ridley) Will these turtles find their way back to nest? At Phuket, no natural hatching is occurring. All the eggs are collected; most are sold in the market, and a small percentage is hatched and raised at the Marine Biology Station there. This practice seems foolhardy unless it can be proved that reared turtles live and reproduce normally. Do you not think that some natural hatching should be allowed?

Back to my point. Suppose we get about 10,000 to 20,000 eggs on Tarutao a year, or maybe even less. What should we do? With a population on the verge of extinction do we rear the turtles or allow them to hatch naturally? Tarutao is unusual in that we can insure that the eggs will not be disturbed. Trawling activity is heavy here. It is not hard to figure that the death of one mature female in a net is more damaging to a population than the loss of many many hatchlings. Is natural reproduction sufficient to balance losses to trawlers? In other words, if we see that every nest is undisturbed and that the eggs hatch, will this suffice to restore the population? I know that you could better answer my questions if I had more data about population sizes. I will hopefully have <sup>more</sup> data in the few months, but in the meantime would very much appreciate your suggestions about what directions we should take here. I am afraid that well-intentioned, but misinformed turtle work in the past has done more harm than good.

You probably <sup>hear</sup> of such stories, but for the record's sake, old timers here say that thirty years ago so many turtles nested on Adang that it was impossible to dig up all the eggs to sell each day. Oh what I would give to see that again.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Congdon

SIND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Mr. G.H. Balazs,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,

P.O. Box. 1346,  
Hawaii, 96744  
USA

P.O. Box No: 3722  
Karachi (Pakistan)  
January 6, 1981.

Dear Sir,

We are working at Sind Wildlife Management Board on a Marine Turtle Conservation Project No: 1451 recently approved by IUCN/WWF for funding.

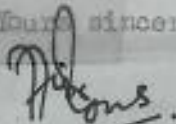
We have gone through the Marine Turtle Newsletter No: 16, December 1980 and are very keen to get the following publication listed in that newsletter.

1. Balazs, G.H. 1980. Field methods for sampling the dietary components of green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. *Herp. Rev.* 13, 5-6 (Temporary intubation of stomach).

We would be very thankful to you if you would find time to mail us this paper.

Thanks in advance.

Yours sincerely,



(MISS PERMIDA PIRBOUS)  
CO-INVESTIGATOR,  
MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT,  
SIND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD,  
P.O. BOX NO: 3722, KARACHI (PAKISTAN)

18/08/81  
J.M. Beaf

Mr. G. ...  
P.O. Box ...  
USA

to open cut here

Sender's name and address is—

Miss Farnia Piroos,  
Co-Investigator,  
Marine Turtle Conservation Project,  
Sindh Wildlife Management Board,  
P.O. Box No: 3722, Karachi (Pakistan).

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Mr. G.  
P.O. ...

Dear Steve,

November 3, 1980

Your turtle paper arrived here a few weeks ago; please excuse my delay in returning a letter. Things have been a bit hectic around here as Gordon and I have been setting up the project. So far, we've bought boats (with the help of Mr. Boonruang), hired the needed labor, and set up turtle stations at what we believe to be the 5 major nesting areas in the Park. Not bad for the first month. Now, as I cabled Gordon on finding out that WWF/UCN had given us funding, all we need is turtles.

Not that the beasts have totally failed us so far. To date, we have observed and tagged 3 Chelonia mydas. In addition we've found four nests, intact, but have been unable to identify the eggs. At least we know they are not the product of a leathery turtle (what Gordon has fondly nicknamed the Volkswagen of Sea Turtles--perhaps they're not quite that big, but almost). The chow talay, or sea gypsies, say that the main nesting time begins in December. If this is so, we're off to a good start.

I showed your paper to Mr. Boonruang. He doesn't have anything more to add (although I hope we will by the end of the year) but would like to know when he can show the paper to people over here. When I talked to you in the States, I remember your saying that what you were sending me was a draft and should not be cited. Hence, I have not done so. Both Gordon and I feel, however, that in addition to doing the turtle research in Tarutao, it is important that we try and raise "turtle consciousness" in people over here. I'm planning to make a trip to Phuket in the near future to see what they are up to and possibly coordinate our work a bit. In addition, I plan to go down to Penang and take a look around down there. From what I've read already, however, I'm afraid that unless pretty drastic action is taken in the near future (such as banning trade on turtle products, enforcing the laws already on the books, etc.) the turtle does not stand a chance of survival in Thailand.

The conservation ethic over here, as I'm sure you observed, is none too good. In fact, just recently, the turtles, dugongs, fish and dolphins of Tarutao were dealt another blow. The Minister of Agriculture (a bureaucrat with, I believe, little sense of anything resembling sustained yield) and a whole host of high powered Thai officials (the Governor of Satun, Mr. Pong, the President of the Satun Fishermen's association, to name just a few) flew in to Tarutao by helicopter a few weeks ago to discuss the fishing regulations around the park. The fishermen (or more accurately, the boat owners--all very wealthy men even by American standards) claim that they need to be able to fish right up to the shoreline if they are to make any profit. Rising fuel costs and the what-not. Mr. Boonruang, and members of the fisheries department claim (rightly, so, I believe), that the Andaman Sea is already over-fished and that relaxing the 3 kilometer no-fishing ban would be a grave mistake. Well, after an hour's discussion, the Minister got up and announced a compromise (my Thai is none too good, but I can't imagine that the Minister, in all his wisdom, could actually listen to the arguments and then immediately come up with a compromise). The compromise is that the fishermen can fish within one kilometer of the shore on the west side of Tarutao (the best fishing grounds I'm told) but the three km. limit holds elsewhere. Although the decision sets a bad precedent, if the limits are enforced things might not be too bad. Unfortunately, Mr. Boonruang does not have the boats, men or guns to do the job and the police are not quick to offer assistance.

Dr. Steve Humphrey of the Florida State Museum brought George - This is a letter. He gave us the names + addresses of officials we could write to over to us. He gave us the names + addresses of officials we could write to about this, but Dr. Carr feels the place has gone down the tubes already, so why bother. Give it some consideration and let me know if you want the officials' names.

So, that's the update on Tarutao. I was wondering, do you think you could send me a list of people with whom you spoke when writing your article on turtles? I'd like to do some more research on what's being done in Thailand, who's doing what, etc. By the end of the academic year, I hope to have written at least a draft of a plan for saving turtles over here. Over ambitious, probably. But can't get hurt trying. Also, Gordon and I are investigating restocking Crocs (*G. porosus*) here at Tarutao. You mention that Samutprakan interbreeds their stock? Do they have any pure bred animals lying about? If not, do you have any ideas where we might get the stock needed for reintroduction? I'm writing Robert Bustard in India to see if he has any ideas, but would be grateful for your suggestions. I hope you are well and Gainesville is sunny; I look forward to hearing from you, and thanks again for the articles.

*John*

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

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052

*[The following text is mirrored and appears to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It is largely illegible due to the mirroring and overlapping lines.]*



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



sent late Jan 1981

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

*Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs*

DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

BUREAU OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

P. O. BOX 1879  
FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX,  
VIRGIN ISLANDS 00840

January 9, 1980

NO. 86 ESTATE FRYDENHOJ  
ST. THOMAS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS 00801

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

Dear Dr. Balasz,

The Division of Fish and Wildlife in the U.S. Virgin Islands has recently initiated a five-year endangered species program in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As part of this program, biologists will undertake research and survey of three resident species of sea turtles: Chelonia mydas, Eretmochelys imbricata and Dermochelys coriacea. Factors to be addressed include population estimates, periodicity of breeding, and migratory patterns of both hatchlings and adults.

Due to the concentrated breeding effort of leatherback turtles on St. Croix (Sandy Point has been designated a critical habitat in this regard), much of the research will focus on that population. Tagging of females after egg deposition and hatchlings, if possible, will be emphasized. However, incidental tagging of adults of other species will also be performed.

I noticed that Carr et al, in their paper noted below, mentioned that no tags had as yet been developed that could be affixed to hatchlings and remain thus attached into adulthood. Do you know of new developments which might make this possible? Also, do cattle ear tags remain the most effective method for marking individual turtles?

I would appreciate any suggestions which you might have concerning our research. I am also interested in obtaining copies of your papers on sea turtles which are listed below, as they are impossible to come by in this part of the world.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Tundi Agardy*

Tundi Agardy  
Endangered Species Coordinator

Carr, A., M.H. Carr, and A.B. Meylan. 1978. The ecology and migrations of sea turtles, 7. The West Caribbean green turtle colony. Bulletin of the American Mus. of Nat. Hist. 162: Art. 1 New York

Balasz, G. 1973. Status of marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands. H. Inst. of Mar. Biol. Kaneohe: University of Hawaii

Balasz, G. 1976. Green turtle migrations in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Biol. Cons. 9, no. 2 pp125-140

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January 26, 1981

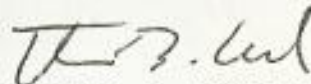
Ms. Francesca A. Mochien  
Box 83  
Colonia, Yap  
W.C.I. 96943

Dear Ms. Mochien:

In response to your request for information about sea turtles, which you made to Carol and me during our work session on Yap last summer, I enclose this material. Dr. George Balazs (who is the author of the bound report) kindly provided this material. He suggests further that you may wish to talk with Mike McCoy, Micronesian Maritime Authority, Box D, Kolonia, Ponape. Dr. Balazs is interested in your project and he would like to be kept informed for it may aid his research.

I hope this material helps you. Carol and I will be on Yap again this summer and we hope to see you then.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas B. McCord  
President

TBM:zc

Enclosure

xc: George H. Balazs ✓



Dear George,

22 Jan 1981

I just wanted to thank you for the East Island concrete-wrushing crew print. Looks great! Those were pleasant days, filled with hard work, good company and a beautiful setting.

Everything is going OK out here. Having a bit of bad weather presently. The Cromwell was here yesterday but it was so rough we could only get a portion of the Tem supplies/equipment on the island.

The "Keola" crew is here now also. Nice folks and very happy to be off little Gin. Quite an experience they all had.

I heard you had an article published in Aloha Magazine. Got any reprints?

Later,

John A.

P.S. Tell Bill G. that Ruth & I say hi and that we got the scat analysis gear also. Thanks and bye.

JB Andee  
POB 87  
Kilauea, HI  
96754

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
222 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

January 23, 1981

Sir Peter Scott, Chairman  
Species Survival Commission, IUCN  
Wildfowl Trust  
Slimbridge  
Gloucester GL2 7BT  
England

Dear Peter:

As you may already know, there is good news to report regarding the U.S. project to reduce the incidental take of sea turtles in shrimp trawls. You may recall that as a part of my report to the SSC at our Gainesville meeting, Milton Kaufmann (organizational representative to the SSC from Monitor International), told of the technological breakthrough in trawl-net modification that has been achieved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. He reported that the net modification shows great promise, not only to eliminate the incidental take of sea turtles, but also to reduce the waste of other marine life through by-catch mortality. In U.S. waters this by-catch may go as high as 1 billion pounds annually. Since the time of the SSC meeting, intensive operational testing of the turtle excluder device has continued. Results of the testing suggest that net modification may virtually eliminate both the incidental take of sea turtles and a large percentage of the by-catch of other marine life.

I believe you will agree that it is important for the IUCN to assist in disseminating the new technology when the time to do so arrives. This would be consistent with several of the recommended actions in the "Action Plan for the Conservation of Sea Turtles," as follows:

Sir Peter Scott  
January 23, 1981  
Page 2

Action No. 119: "Encourage international and national fisheries commissions to promulgate regulations requiring the use of gear which precludes the capture of sea turtles and mandating the closure of areas and seasons as appropriate to protect these marine reptiles."

Action No. 120: "The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. shrimp industry should be commended and encouraged to accelerate their development of a shrimp trawl that precludes the capture of sea turtles, and UNEP and FAO should make this fishing technique available to world fishing fleets, and states should require the use of the excluder nets in areas or seasons necessary to provide adequate sea turtle protection in a specific area."

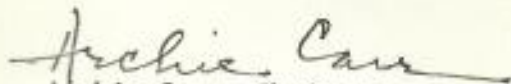
Action No. 121: "Encourage the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. shrimp industry to expand research on trawling gear that precludes capture of sea turtles to include types of trawls other than just those presently being investigated. This will increase the acceptability of the new trawls by fleets using other types of gear."

I don't know whether the draft of an IUCN letter to the President of the United States that was proposed by Milton Kaufmann at the Gainesville meeting has been sent. In any case, however, I hope you will consider sending President Reagan a letter based on the enclosed draft as soon as

Sir Peter Scott  
January 23, 1981  
Page 3

possible. Milton Kaufmann joins me in this recommendation.

With best wishes,

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

Archie Carr, Chairman  
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources extends its congratulations on your election to the Presidency. We wish you and your Administration well, and look forward to continuing to work with your Agencies, which are valued members of the IUCN. Meanwhile we are deeply grateful for the support that the United States has provided ever since the IUCN was founded.

If I may address a specific problem of species survival, I would like to commend the U.S. for its current efforts and plans to reduce the mortality of endangered and threatened sea turtles that results from incidental take in the trawl nets of shrimp fishermen in the southeastern U.S. Recent technological advances in trawl-net design by your NOAA gear specialists give promise of eliminating deaths of sea turtles from this cause. It is hoped that where mortality has been high U.S. shrimp trawlers will be required to use the excluder modification by the time the brown shrimp season starts this spring. In 1980 over 2,000 sea turtles washed up dead on the southeastern U.S. coast. Further, it is estimated by your NOAA scientists that 1 billion pounds of marine life may die each year in the shrimp trawl nets and are thrown back into the sea. Use of the excluder device by all U.S. shrimp boats would go far towards eliminating this unnecessary and wasteful damage to important marine ecosystems.

As the efficacy of the excluder gear is proved, by successful wide use, the IUCN would be pleased to work with the U.S. Government, UNEP and the FAO to insure the expeditious global technology transfer of this

President Ronald Reagan  
Page 2

significant U.S. development. Use of this gear modification by all the trawl fisheries of the world, where appropriate, would be an important step towards saving endangered and threatened species of turtles, as well as eliminating by-catch not used for food.

We also solicit the active support of the U.S. Government in implementing the "Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy," developed on principles enunciated at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, held at the State Department November 26-30, 1979, in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

# NMFS Says 'Excluder' Can Save Loggerheads From Shrimp Nets

By Reg Evans

Although the age of man is uncertain, the age of the turtle — that reptile that roamed the earth with the dinosaurs — has been placed at 175 million years.

After enduring for so many centuries, the turtle is now in jeopardy. Of the 44 species known today, many are on the endangered list, and extinction is possible for some.

The environmentalists were aware of the turtle's plight when they pushed for Congress' passage of the Endangered Species Act in 1973. It includes an all-out protection plan for turtles as well as for other endangered animals.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has made significant progress in providing

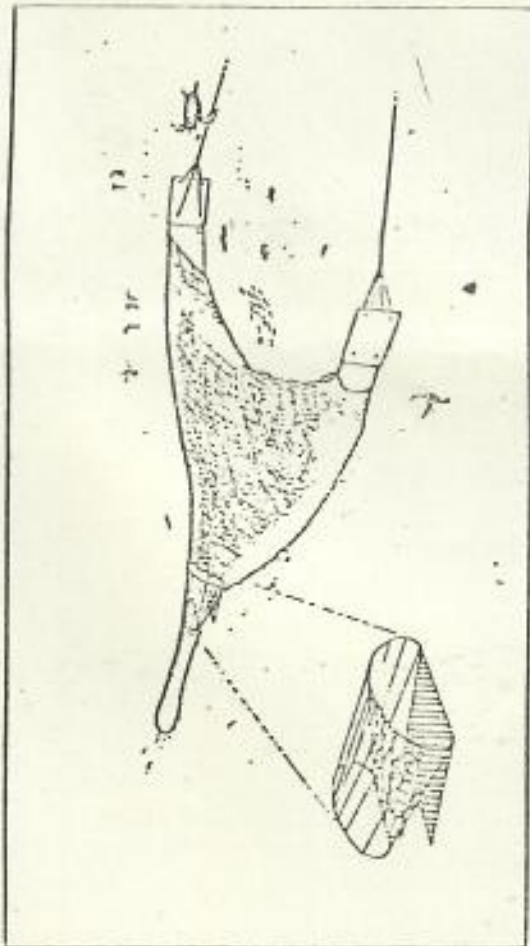
protection for sea turtles. John Watson, branch chief of harvesting for NMFS in Pascagoula, Miss., reports:

"For the past year we have been working on a device to prevent the drownings of sea turtles — mainly the endangered species — in those large fishing and shrimp nets of the commercial fishermen. After much effort and several design changes, we have achieved our goal. This device, called the Turtle Excluder, definitely works. It will be ready for commercial use by the first of the year."

Watson explains, "The loggerheads have little commercial value, but their numbers are being rapidly reduced by the fishing industry. The Excluder should change all that. The fishermen can catch their shrimp while any turtles or larger fish that enter the trawls can move on through without drowning."

The device is placed in the trawl at the intersection of the trawl body and the cod end. If a turtle enters the extension, strikes the bars, and water pressure and gravity force it toward a trap door that opens on hinges when sufficient pressure is exerted, thus allowing the turtle to pass out of the trawl.

Atlantic and Gulf coast shrimp fishermen are concerned that the turtle protection effort is allowing the government too much intervention in their industry. Regular meetings between the two factions have been held in order to reach a mutual understanding of the problem and how to solve it.



THIS TURTLE EXCLUDER, devised by NMFS, should allow fishermen to catch shrimp while turtles or any large fish that enter the trawl pass on through. The Excluder is placed in the trawl where the body and the cod end intersect. When a turtle enters the device, it strikes the angled bars and is forced down and out through a hinged trap door on the bottom.

Watson says, "The fishermen claim their nets will be burdened down with too much gear for successful trawling, causing a loss in their production. But our repeated tests with the Excluder prove this is not true. Our experiments have shown no loss of shrimp whatsoever."

He adds, "We hope the fishermen will voluntarily use the new device, and so far that seems to be their intent. They are cooperating in every way — in fact, they have already shown their willingness by agreeing to cut their trawling time in half. That is a tremendous step toward solving the problem."

Along with the trawling device, which is a major step to save the sea turtles, the government is appropriating funds to find other methods to save these ancient mariners. One possibility is to induce breeding at new locations where the turtles will be safe from man.

Marine biologists have reported that of the seven groups of sea turtles, the Kemp's ridley is the most endangered. These reports indicate that there are fewer than 1,000 females in the world today, partly because dealers have collected their eggs to sell as aphrodisiacs. Other species are killed for leather and jewelry, but the loggerhead is dying needlessly in the fishnets.

Cooperation in the turtle protection program is not worldwide. Mexico and Japan, large consumers of turtle products, have refused to ratify the agreement set forth by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species, and France and Italy completely ignore the provisions on turtles. Because turtles are global travelers, a cooperative effort by all countries is needed to protect them.

At the International Trade Conference, Nicaragua disclosed plans to build a marine sanctuary to feed the green sea turtle; Costa Rica, Indonesia and the Philippines are moving toward similar projects. An international committee has been formed and has already recommended a ban on turtle leather and eggs and on stuffed turtles. Meanwhile, NMFS is trying out new ideas to improve the nesting habits of certain species.

THE FLORIDA STATE MUSEUM  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



the florida  
state museum  
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gainesville  
32611  
904/392-1721

January 2, 1981

Lucas Chin  
Curator, Sarawak Muzium  
24232 Pejabat Muzium  
24231 Penyelenggara  
MU/523/D/(39)  
Sarawak, Malaysia

Dear Lucas:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of 4 December 1980 in which you express your concern over the status of the turtle population in Sarawak waters. Please rest assured that Sarawak was not overlooked during the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. It was very much included in the regional report given by George Stanley de Silva. I also reported on Sarawak in the paper I gave on the general worldwide decline of the green turtle.

We are behind schedule on getting the symposium volume published; the original publisher dropped his commitment when faced with possible bankruptcy resulting from factors totally unrelated to the symposium volume. In any event, the volume is now being published by the Smithsonian Institution and should be available during 1981. I will see to it that you get a copy. Also, by copy of this letter I am requesting that Dr. Karen Bjorndal, editor of the symposium volume and coordinator for the action program following the conference, send you a copy of the sea turtle conservation strategy that was produced at the conference.

I am also sending a copy of your letter to the Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group so that they may take note of your observations on the effects of trawlers operating around the Sarawak Turtle Islands. I'm sure you will hear from them.

I hope you, and the staff of the Sarawak Museum, great success in your many undertakings during the coming year.

Sincerely,

F. Wayne King  
Director

FWK:ss

cc: Archie Carr, George Balazs, Karen Bjorndal and G. S. de Silva



bps: It is important that you write to Lucas expressing concern for the Sarawak turtles and support for his efforts in their behalf. As you are well aware, Sarawak represents the longest continuously monitored rookery population in the world, and clearly documents what happens when commercial exploitation is allowed to occur. We desperately need to get Sarawak to eventually phase out the commercial exploitation of the turtle eggs. This will require that the government provide direct funding to the Turtles Board rather than relying on revenue from egg sales.

JALAN TUN HJ. OPENG, KUCHING, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

## MUZIUM SARAWAK

Talpon: 24232 Pejabat Muzium 24231 Penyelenggara

Surat Kita: MU/523/D/(39) Surat Tuan:

4th December, 1980.

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

Dear Wayne,

I have just been able to read your report on the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., from November 26 - 30, 1979 — the report only reached us recently, and wish to share the concerns as expressed in the Conference although Sarawak has been left out. I am now looking forward to read the papers published in the symposium volume — please kindly make sure a copy is sent to me.

2. I am sure you are, no doubt, aware that Sarawak has turtle nesting sites. The three islands, Talang-Talang Besar, Talang-Talang Kecil and Pulau Satang, off the north-west coast of Borneo come under the jurisdiction of the Turtles Board of Management of which I am the Executive Officer. Reports have also been received that the same species, Chelonia mydas, nest at Sematan Beaches on the Borneo coast about two miles opposite the Talang-Talang Besar and Kecil and Similajau Beaches, some 400 miles northeast of the islands.

3. The Turtles Board of Management is well aware of the drastic decline of the turtle population in the Sarawak waters as you can see in the attached table — the situation is quite alarming and if no concrete measures are taken, one zoologist predicts the species will be drastically depleted when the existing adults all die off in, say, 5 to 10 years' time. We believe the factors causing the decline are similar to those expressed in the Conference but I personally believe that one factor which is considered more detrimental

is/-...

is the destruction of the food supply by trawlers operating in and around the turtles islands in this part of the South China Sea. The Board has, thus, intensified its conservation programme by replanting more eggs within its financial limitations. The Board is self-supporting and operates on the revenue derived from the sale of eggs. Prior to 1975, an average of only 3,000 eggs were replanted annually. From 1976 to 1977, the number was increased to 13,000 annually and from 1978 to 1979, the number was again increased to 18,000 annually. From this year onwards, the number again was substantively increased to 43,000 each year. The results of our hatching under conditions as natural as possible is considered satisfactory as averagely 85% of the eggs replanted hatched. The young turtles are released into the sea a few days after hatching. The Board hopes to intensify further the conservation programme by approaching the Government and other bodies such as the World Wildlife Fund, for more financial assistance. The Board is also looking for an experienced marine biologist to study the causes on the decline of the turtle population in this part of the South China Sea and to put up recommendations (if any, we do not quite know) to the Board. The person we have in mind is Mr. Siow Kuan Tow of the Federal Marine Department, who is now serving in Trengganu, but being self-supporting with no surplus of fund, the Board is not in the position to pay for the services of such a person. Do you know of any other better qualified person who may be more suited for our purpose?

4. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Merry Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



(LUCAS CHIN)

Curator, Sarawak Museum.

Year	Number of Turtles	Number of eggs collected	Number of eggs replanted
1966	950	98,843	1,554
1967	4,671	478,622	1,203
1968	1,961	200,731	707
1969	4,978	516,581	2,252
1970	2,598	269,151	2,227
1971	1,918	194,289	180
1972	2,601	265,525	992
1973	3,155	323,734	8,533
1974	2,043	204,507	1,191
1975	2,008	203,140	991
1976	2,945	299,398	13,159
1977	1,567	158,790	13,134
1978	2,487	253,518	18,003
1979	2,062	211,472	18,100
1980 up to 30/11/ 1980	1,442	147,469	43,000

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

December 2, 1980

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

Dear George:

As you may have gathered from my not having contacted you earlier, I have decided to postpone the New Caledonia work until winter of 1981-1982. This stems in part from my only having received formal permission for the work in this morning's mail, but also my funding sources, although interested and sympathetic, are generally not able to react at such short notice. But I plan to make a serious effort to go next winter, and I sincerely hope that you will be able to participate in as much of the work as your schedule allows.

The Michoacan "black turtle" project is going well despite the usual difficulties and intense poaching pressure. Kim stage-managed the arrest of the biggest poacher recently, and had his truck confiscated, which should help somewhat. We have about 270,000 eggs in the hatcheries, and several hundred nests in a section of the beach that we have managed to keep poachers off -- and we just got a supplementary grant from WWF to allow us to purchase another 100,000 eggs -- if we can get them. We brought the plane back a few weeks ago, and did a survey of 600 miles of the Pacific coast while doing so. I was amazed at the amount of leatherback nesting activity in Guerrero and Oaxaca (and also in Michoacan) -- about half of the 600 mile coastline surveyed was moderate to good leatherback beach, with perhaps 1500 animals nesting each night on the entire stretch.

**FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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

Enclosed are reprints of two recent papers that may be of interest.

Best wishes to you, Linda, and Christian for Christmas.

Regards,



Peter C. H. Pritchard, Ph.D.  
Vice President

PCHP/nh

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND  
ARMIDALE, N.S.W. 2351  
AUSTRALIA

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

REF:

Department of Zoology,

15th January, 1981.

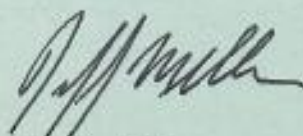
Dr. Geo. Balazs,  
University of Hawaii,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
PO Box 1346,  
Coconut Island. 96744  
Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I should like to request a copy of your recent paper entitled "Growth rates of immature Green Turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago". I further request copies of any of your other papers of which you still have reprints.

I shall reciprocate as soon as my work on the embryology of marine turtles is complete.

Yours sincerely,



J.D. Miller

*sent*  
*1/27/81*

AUSTRALIA 33c

DR. GEO. BALAZS,  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,  
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY,  
PO BOX 1346,  
COCONUT ISLAND. 96744  
KANEHOE, HAWAII.

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Mr. J.D. Miller,  
From Department of Zoology,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND  
ARMIDALE, N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA POSTCODE 2351

SECOND FOLD HERE

FIRST FOLD HERE

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST



January 21, 1981

Dr. Archie Carr  
Dept. of Zoology  
College of Arts & Sciences  
Univ. of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Archie:

To keep you up to date with the latest Sea Turtle exploitation, we have enclosed the Japan imports of tortoiseshell (Bekko), and the turtle skin and leather from January--September 1980. Ecuador appears to be slowing down its exports of ridley turtle skins, and through September, tortoiseshell imports are only a third of 1979's total imports.

In case you have not seen the latest Caribbean Conservation News, we have enclosed an article on the "Conservation of the hawksbill sea turtle in Grenada."

Best,

David Mack  
Assistant Director

encls.

cc: George Balazs







輸入品別国別表 IMPORTS OF COMMODITY BY COUNTRY

(9) Sep 69

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	当月 CURRENT MONTH		累計 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE		品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	当月 CURRENT MONTH		累計 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE						
	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE					
<p>42.02-119 ハンドバッグ(貴金属、これを張り若しくはめつきました金、銀、半貴石、真珠、さんご、そうけ又はべつこうを用いたもの)(課税価格が1個につき6,000円を超えるもの)(その他のもの)</p> <p>Handbags, combined or trimmed with precious metals, rolled precious metals, metals plated with precious metals, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko, more than 6,000 yen/piece in value for customs duty, n.e.s.</p>					<p>42.02-120 さいふ(貴金属、これを張り若しくはめつきました金、銀、半貴石、真珠、さんご、そうけ又はべつこうを用いたもの)(課税価格が1個につき6,000円を超えるもの)</p> <p>Wallets, combined or trimmed with precious metals, rolled precious metals, metals plated with precious metals, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko, more than 6,000 yen/piece in value for customs duty</p>					<p>42.02-212 ハンドバッグ(コンポジションレザー製のもののほか)</p> <p>Handbags of composition leather, n.e.s.</p>				
TAIWAN	DZ	-	-	3	288	SINGAPORE	DZ	-	-	0				
	KG	-	-	29			KG	-	-	0				
HONG KONG	DZ	35	4084	185	26376	INDONESIA	DZ	-	-	3				
	KG	188		510			KG	-	-	3				
U.KING	DZ	3	107	74	494	INDIA	DZ	-	-	26				
	KG	25		159			KG	-	-	6174				
FRANCE	DZ	268	59305	4129	625149	AFGHANISTAN	DZ	-	-	61				
	KG	1384		21811			KG	-	-	379				
FR GERM	DZ	2	441	312	67601	DENMARK	DZ	-	-	10				
	KG	11		1055			KG	-	-	66				
SPAIN	DZ	-	-	68	9158	U.KING	DZ	4	146	159				
	KG	-	-	201			KG	44	751					
ITALY	DZ	519	89765	4928	808244	BELGIUM	DZ	-	-	4				
	KG	2692		31611			KG	-	-	19				
AUSTRIA	DZ	-	-	6	11560	FRANCE	DZ	145	42994	4613				
	KG	-	-	29			KG	1954	23614					
USA	DZ	4	397	11	2848	FR GERM	DZ	8	2071	236				
	KG	40		145			KG	98	2853					
AUSTRAL	DZ	7	284	2	628	SWITZERLAND	DZ	-	-	2				
	KG	10		21			KG	-	-	11				
TOTAL	DZ	933	142838	8429	1596727	SPAIN	DZ	7	2361	219				
	KG	3770		56605			KG	57	219					
E.C.	DZ	492	138073	3145	1503186	ITALY	DZ	459	72286	6699				
	KG	4842		55540			KG	3031	41949					
<p>42.02-120 さいふ(貴金属、これを張り若しくはめつきました金、銀、半貴石、真珠、さんご、そうけ又はべつこうを用いたもの)(課税価格が1個につき6,000円を超えるもの)</p> <p>Wallets, combined or trimmed with precious metals, rolled precious metals, metals plated with precious metals, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko, more than 6,000 yen/piece in value for customs duty</p>					<p>42.02-212 ハンドバッグ(コンポジションレザー製のもののほか)</p> <p>Handbags of composition leather, n.e.s.</p>									
U.KING	DZ	3	439	98	12118	GUATEMALA	DZ	-	-	5				
	KG	8		119			KG	-	-	29				
FRANCE	DZ	32	4389	570	82298	PERU	DZ	-	-	7				
	KG	59		450			KG	-	-	14				
FR GERM	DZ	9	1714	121	26705	BRAZIL	DZ	-	-	0				
	KG	9		159			KG	-	-	9				
SPAIN	DZ	-	-	31	13389	MOROCCO	DZ	-	-	12				
	KG	-	-	122			KG	-	-	61				
ITALY	DZ	798	29256	4395	482659	TANZANIA	DZ	-	-	13				
	KG	482		6280			KG	-	-	100				
AUSTRIA	DZ	-	-	1	244	TOTAL	DZ	3211	152446	36606				
	KG	-	-	2			KG	11956	125642					
GREECE	DZ	-	-	2	182	E.C.	DZ	627	117897	11721				
	KG	-	-	7			KG	4167	67696					
USA	DZ	1	101	100	3256	<p>42.02-213 旅行用品及び化粧品入れ(革製又はコンポジションレザー製のもの)</p> <p>Travel goods and toilet-cases, of leather or composition leather</p>								
	KG	3		30		HONG KONG	DZ	31	3629	34				
MEXICO	DZ	-	-	4	435		KG	189	185					
	KG	-	-	5		FRANCE	DZ	5	1064	5				
TOTAL	DZ	333	33099	5383	625484		KG	30	36					
	KG	566		7693		ITALY	DZ	-	-	16				
E.C.	DZ	232	32368	5194	607978		KG	-	-	54				
	KG	563		7298		TOTAL	DZ	36	4993	48				
<p>42.02-120 さいふ(貴金属、これを張り若しくはめつきました金、銀、半貴石、真珠、さんご、そうけ又はべつこうを用いたもの)(課税価格が1個につき6,000円を超えるもの)</p> <p>Wallet-cases, combined or trimmed with precious metals, rolled precious metals, metals plated with precious metals, precious stones, semi-precious stones, pearls, coral, elephants' tusks or Bekko, more than 6,000 yen/piece in value for customs duty</p>					<p>42.02-213 旅行用品及び化粧品入れ(革製又はコンポジションレザー製のもの)</p> <p>Travel goods and toilet-cases, of leather or composition leather</p>									
U.KING	DZ	-	-	8	134	R.KOREA	DZ	-	-	652				
	KG	-	-	3			KG	-	-	897				
FRANCE	DZ	5	329	236	24772	CHINA	DZ	-	-	28				
	KG	20		1044			KG	-	-	1796				
SPAIN	DZ	-	-	28	3665	TAIWAN	DZ	-	-	310				
	KG	-	-	66			KG	-	-	958				
ITALY	DZ	15	1478	200	21856	HONG KONG	DZ	1831	8998	2861				
	KG	50		749			KG	3241	6879					
USA	DZ	-	-	7	6915	INDIA	DZ	-	-	195				
	KG	-	-	12			KG	-	-	1136				
MEXICO	DZ	-	-	3	315	SRI LANKA	DZ	4	223	4				
	KG	-	-	9			KG	51	61					
TOTAL	DZ	79	2607	474	61798	DENMARK	DZ	-	-	5				
	KG	99		1885			KG	-	-	50				
E.C.	DZ	20	2607	426	46761	U.KING	DZ	5	808	40				
	KG	59		1796			KG	62	566					
<p>42.02-211 ハンドバッグ(革製のもの)(その他のもの)</p> <p>Handbags of leather, n.e.s.</p>					<p>42.02-211 ハンドバッグ(革製のもの)(その他のもの)</p> <p>Handbags of leather, n.e.s.</p>									
R.KOREA	DZ	295	6286	7645	175620	FRANCE	DZ	162	15355	1274				
	KG	1440		25691			KG	589	8114					
TAIWAN	DZ	57	3296	1492	44783	FR GERM	DZ	9	3058	272				
	KG	561		7161			KG	135	6952					
HONG KONG	DZ	2611	17877	7439	62246	SPAIN	DZ	19	2234	318				
	KG	5325		14678			KG	88	1672					
THAILAND	DZ	-	-	8	1818	ITALY	DZ	159	14171	1470				
	KG	-	-	211			KG	759	11522					
						POLAND	DZ	-	-	7				
							KG	-	-	22				
						CANADA	DZ	-	-	0				
							KG	-	-	18				
						USA	DZ	17	398	35				
							KG	26	592					
						MEXICO	DZ	-	-	49				
							KG	-	-	279				
						COLUMBIA	DZ	-	-	117				



# Center for Environmental Education

1925 K Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202/466-4996

March 30, 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:

Sorry I missed you while I was in Honolulu. A week simply isn't long enough to accomplish everything.

Thank you for letting Bill know that we could use the photo of the green turtle and monk seal asleep. It will be used in an annual seal report which will focus on monk seals and their delicate situation. I feel that the plight of the monk seal is a perfect introduction for the public to the complexities involved in understanding marine ecosystems. Bill (Gilmartin) will also be working on this first issue of the Seal Report. It will be available to the public free of charge.

I would like an black and white glossy to use in this publication. A portion of the publication will be devoted to the proposed research projects that the Center is considering that will assess behaviors of both green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals in the North Western Islands.

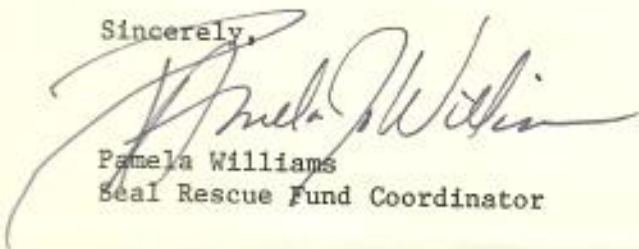
I spoke with Bill about other photos of monk seals as I did not want to use the ones that I have of the seal in captivity. Perhaps you have some suggestions about this?

I am writing well in advance of when we will be needing the photo. We would like to begin lay out in June and it will be printed during late August. Perhaps you could send us a duplicate if this time delay is a problem.

(2)

If you have any suggestions about materials or information that you would like to see in the Seal Report, please don't hesitate to contact me. I value your experience with these animals and their habitat, and would appreciate any suggestions that you may have.  
Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela Williams".

Pamela Williams  
Seal Rescue Fund Coordinator

PW:lh  
cc: Jim Sternberg  
William Gilmartin



SIND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

P.O. Box No: 3722  
Karachi ( Pakistan )

February 14, 1981.

Mr G. H. Balazs,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box No: 1346,  
Hawaii, 96744,  
U.S.A.

Dear Mr Balazs,

Many thanks for sending us your valuable publication titled " Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands" NOAA-TM-NMFS-SWFC-7

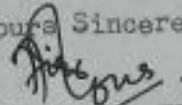
I am sure it will be very helpful for studying the Marine Turtles on our beaches. It provides a lot of information on statistical analysis of data and its interpretation in different ways.

It also gives us a long list of Bibliography including many publications of our interest also I am listing some of them if you would find time for mailing any of these, I would be very thankful to you and it would be a great pleasure for us.

1. Balazs, G. H (1976) Sea turtle Conservation 'Elepaio, 36, 7:79-85.
2. Boyer, D.R. (1965) Ecology of the basking habit in turtles. Ecology, 46:99-113.
3. Car, A. (1964) Transoceanic migrations of the green turtle. Bioscience, 14:49-52.
4. Grant, C. (1927) Note on sea turtles. Copeia, 164:69.
5. Hodge, P. (1976) Green sea turtle 'Elepaio, 36, 8:101.
6. Pritchard, P.C.H. and W.F. Greenhood (1968) The sun and the turtle. International Turtle and Tortoise Society Journal, 2:20-25, 34-35

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours Sincerely,



(MISS FERHIDA FIRDOUS)  
CO-INVESTIGATOR,

MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROJECT,  
SIND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD,  
KARACHI (PAKISTAN).

TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
POST OFFICE  
Karachi

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Sender's name and address:-

Miss Fehmida Firdous,  
Co-Investigator,  
Marine Turtle Conservation Project,  
Sind Wildlife Management Board,  
P.O. Box No: 3722,  
Karachi ( Pakistan ).

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**BY AIR MAIL**

**AEROGRAMME**

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED  
THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT  
BY ORDINARY MAIL.



Mr G. H. Balazs,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P.O. Box No: 1346, Hawaii, 96744,  
U. S. A.

22 FEB 81 ; SUNDAY

Dear George,

I hope you will excuse the fact that I have been such a miserable correspondent during the last few months. Things have been very busy, so I've let most everything slide except finishing my dissertation + packing for Seychelles.

I have been in Seychelles for almost a full week. I'm still getting used to the place, so I can't say that I have settled in really. It really is beautiful here! The people are very pleasant and I am looking forward to learning how to speak Creole so that I can talk to them. As it is now, they speak enough English in most cases that we can communicate, but I need to become fluent in Creole so that we can talk about turtles with ease. My mental state fluctuates several times during the day from that of complete euphoria over working in such a fascinating place with so many opportunities regarding turtles, to that of near despair over how difficult it will be to work out here. The plan is to survey the turtle populations on as many of the islands as possible, using a combination of techniques -- track counts, tagging, interviews. Also I must determine how many of the turtles are now being taken on each island, and I am supposed to win the confidence of the island managers to the extent that they will confide this information to me. Reportedly, there are mostly Hawksbills in the granitic Seychelles, + mostly greens in the outer islands. The hawkbill season is ending now, and the green season starts in a couple of months. My job is to visit a lot of islands. Visiting the granitic Seychelles will be relatively easy. I will have a Zodiac and two motors. I will probably be able to take ferries between the larger islands and then Zodiac out to the satellite islands. However, the outer islands will be a super-bitch. There is a boat that makes a circuit out there once every 3 months. Unfortunately, I would either have to stay on Aldabra for 3 hours or 3 months. Three months is OK if I wasn't supposed to be visiting the other islands at the same time. I'd be able to get some research done on Aldabra during a 3 month period, which would be nice. Any suggestions??

Now I'm finally getting to the reason why I am writing to you. Right now I am on the island of Anse. Anse is small 1 mile x 1/2 mile. It has 800 meters of nesting beach, on which about a dozen emergences are made by Hawksbills during the season. No tagging has been done here yet. What is most interesting about the place is the fact that it is surrounded by coral reefs that serve as the feeding ground for lots of Hawksbills. You can sit on cliffs at the top of the island and watch turtles surface at intervals. I feel more or less able to identify individuals as they surface, but I wouldn't want to base too much on my ability to recognize individuals from the cliffs using color markings of the carapace. Yesterday, I went diving off the nesting beach. I was only in water up to about 30 feet deep and travelled a distance of about 400 meters along

the shores, during that time I encountered 4 hawksbills, all juveniles. One I was able to watch as it fed for about 30 seconds (I was about 6 feet from it). The others were just swimming. It would seem that something could be done with these turtles. However, <sup>IN THE PAST</sup> I have suffered nothing but frustration trying to study turtles in the sea. I am writing to you to ask advice about this, since you have done a lot of work with juvenile turtles in the sea. My immediate problem is to count them, but I would also like to learn something about their habits. The people here do not set nets for turtles. They only harpoon them. Perhaps I could "jump" some. What about those little button tags? Annie had some. I thought they might be able to be used to I.D. individuals, if I could catch them. I don't have any paint out here.

Actually I hardly have anything but turtle tags. Any suggestions?? To estimate the size of the feeding population I have been thinking about running transects around the islands. I and maybe one or two more snorkelers could swim parallel to the shoreline about 25 meters apart. We could circle the entire island and count turtles as we go. If I am able to tag or otherwise mark the turtles, somehow, we could do sort of a mark-recapture study. In any case if I could make similar counts on several of the islands, I could at least get an idea what the relative numbers of turtles are on the feeding ground around the various islands. There is an archeological evidence that Florida is the feeding ground for the turtles that nest on Cousin Island, (7 miles from Florida of Garrett and Diamond farm); and also for lots of juveniles. Can you send me instructions on how to pump stomachs? Also, can you tell me what you think about my ideas for counting turtles? Do you have any better ideas?? I'd like to hear from you about this, cause you've probably had more experience with this sort of thing than any of us have in Caswell.

The food here is great! The coral formations are incredible - The weather is beautiful! I don't have a place to live yet, so I'm living out of a suitcase and traveling from island to island until the guys finish remodeling my house. I hope they finish soon. It would be nice to sort things out.

Could you copy this letter or send it off directly to Dr. Carr, Kase, + Annie? I haven't written to them yet and it costs almost U.S. \$1.00 to send a letter to the States from here. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Tom

P.S. Do you have any suggestions on how we can get more money for our project from I.U.C.N.? Our budget for 2 years, including my

BEACH HOUSE

Salary is \$38,400. The guy who wrote the proposal, Roger Wilson, was very much aware at the time he wrote the proposal that the budget was low and that my salary was especially low. Unfortunately, one of the idiots at I.U.C.N. in Merges told him to keep the budget below \$40,000. The right hand doesn't know what the left hand <sup>or Alan</sup> does!! What a bunch of jerks!! Roger is going up to Switzerland in March, and well try to see if there is anything that can be done to raise the money allocated. Any suggestions??

It looked for a while that I would be working alone on this project, since Roger wasn't sure if his contract would be renewed. When he met me at the airport he told me that he would indeed be here for another two years. At first I was a bit worried because I wasn't sure if we would share the same outlook on how to do things, or what should be the outcome of the project in terms of management. However, we sat down and talked for about eight hours during my first two days. I was relieved to see that we agreed very strongly on just about every point that we discussed relevant to conservation that was potentially controversial. I saw him breathe a big sigh of relief when I stated my position vis a vis turtle farming. By the way, George, could you send me all the information you have on the downfall of the Torres Strait turtle rearing project. I have several fisheries people here who should read about that. Farming and ranching keep rearing their ugly heads around here. Also anything relevant to the downfall of the Cayman turtle farms. Much appreciated. Another good

thing about Roger is the fact that he has been in Seychelles for 7 years and is familiar with the political machinery and what is and isn't feasible. In fact, the main problem I see with him is that he is 31 years old, unmarried (but with a girl friend) and unfortunately probably rated higher among about the 15-20 most attractive males I've ever met. I fear he will be a vexation to my spirit. Oh well -- such is life.

If you would pass this letter on to the Gainesville people I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you  
 J. J.

SEYCHELLES BEACH CREST HOUSE

JEANNE A. MORTINEC  
c/ DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
P.O. Box 54  
PORT VICTORIA, MAHE, SEYCHELLES

Cable: Casuarina  
Telephone: 76211

ANSE - AUX - PINS  
PO Box 388 Mahe Seychelles

(Propri. Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Monchoury)

# CASUARINA BEACH GUEST HOUSE

16 MARCH 1981  
U.S. News &  
World Report

# Something To Think About.



September 19th

Al Giddings/Ocean Films Ltd.

On a bright September day in the Pacific off Maui, Hawaii, Dr. Sylvia Earle prepared to walk the open ocean floor at a record depth.

As a marine biologist, Dr. Earle was fully aware of the risks involved. As a mother of three, she did not take them lightly. She knew that the pressure at that depth was over 30 times greater than normal. If her specially designed diving suit had cracked or developed a leak, Sylvia would have been crushed instantly.

But when her toe finally touched bottom at 1,250 feet, we all stood to gain. Sylvia had accomplished her goal. She also aided the advancement of science, which will benefit us all.

Dr. Sylvia Earle illustrates our belief that America gains most when individuals have great freedom to pursue personal goals without undue government interference. And although few of us would care to try what Sylvia did, we nonetheless expect to pursue our own goals with

equal freedom.

Yet, there are times when neither you nor we can expect such freedom in our daily lives. Not when someone decides the government should protect us from it.

Something to think about from the people at Getty.



Getty Oil Company • 3810 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010

# Center for Environmental Education

1925 K Street N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006 • 202/ 466-4996

March 26, 1981

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

Dear George:

I apologize for not following up on your Jan. 6, letter. I did receive it and the publications editor decided not to use it. Since then you have talked with Pamela Williams about the photo and we may apparently use it after all.

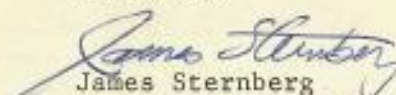
Thank you for your compliments on the map. I am quite pleased with it myself. I am curious to hear any comments you have on Peter's intro. There may be a future reprinting of the map and any comments on this printing will be taken into account for the next one.

I look forward to your "constructive" comments on the sea turtle hunts map. I hope to distribute a final version soon.

Hope you have managed to salvage most of your program from the budget cuts. As you may know, the cuts will affect certain U.S. turtle work.

Let me know if you are planning an trip to DC anytime soon. I look forward to meeting with you and Laura Tangley sends her best.

Sincerely,

  
James Sternberg  
Research Associate





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

March 25, 1981

TO: F/SECx4 - Herb Kumpf  
THRU: F/SEC5 - Eugene L. Nakamura *ELN*  
FROM: F/SEC5 - Larry Ogren *LHO*  
SUBJ: Proposal to implement a captive breeding program for Kemp's ridley sea turtle.

Because of the proposed FY 81-82 budget cut and reduction-in-force that will adversely effect the NMFS Kemp's ridley headstart project, other emergency actions should be considered along these lines to provide for the survival of this endangered species. Dr. Wayne King and George Balazs (see enclosed) have previously proposed that captive breeding populations be established throughout the United States. At Dr. King's request, I presented this information to the Sea Turtle Recovery Team last year. Although no action was taken at the time, this recovery action was one of the recommendations outlined in the Kemp's ridley stepdown plan (131. Establish captive breeding colonies). This recovery plan recommendation went on to state that this activity should be done with minimal withdrawal from wild populations. Therefore, it would seem appropriate to implement just such an action now if the NMFS does incur constraints in continuing the Kemp's ridley headstart project and captive reared specimens presently being held will have to be released to the wild. Government support required would apparently be minimal or at no cost, or at some level comensurate with a desire to be identified as an active participant in a worthy conservation effort such as this one.

cc:  
F/SECx4 - Fred Berry  
Wayne King  
George Balazs



George: Perhaps you'd like to help him out.



Makalo,

## University of Hawaii at Manoa

Ernie

Department of Zoology  
Edmondson Hall • 2538 The Mall  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

March 11, 1981

Dr. D. Kühlmann  
Museum für Naturkunde der  
Humboldt-Uni.  
Invalidenstr. 43  
104 Berlin, DDR

Dear Dr. Kühlmann:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 22, 1981. Please accept my apologies for not answering sooner.

Most of my color picture of marine animals, especially coral reef fishes, are 16mm movies. I do not have a good selection of 35mm transparencies. I will, however, look through those I do have and send you a selection. I do have some rather unique pictures of the coconut crab, Birgus latro. Perhaps you know the very fine papers in the 1930s by Harms.

There are a number of very fine photographers here. They are George Balaz, Arthur Reed, and Scott Johnson. I will give them a copy of your letter and this one. I feel confident that they will be willing to help you. I will ask other colleagues, Leslie Berger, Bob Kinzie, and Jed Hirota, if they have pictures of microorganisms, zooxanthellae, and plankton.

I wish you every success in your book.

Sincerely,

Ernst S. Reese  
Professor

ESR:ly

Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Uni, DDR 104 Berlin, Invalidenstr. 43

DER HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

Träger des Vaterländischen Verdienstordens in Gold

Dr. Ernst S. Reese  
 Department of Zoology  
 Hawaii Institute of Mar. Biol.  
 University of Hawaii  
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dr. D. Kuhlmann

104 Berlin  
Invalidenstr. 43

Ihre Zeichen

Ihre Nachricht vom

Unsere Nachricht vom

Haustruf

Unsere Zeichen

Datum

22.1.1981

Dear Dr. Reese,

as I know from various publications, you are a very good underwater photographer. I write a book just now on coral reefs and I am hopeful the manuscript is good and full of informations of the old and modern literature.

Together with a number of impressiv drawings I try to give in the book only colour-photographs for documentation and illustration, to make the world of coral reefs living also for people they do'nt dive, to awake them for the universal protection of the oceans, especially for the protection of the coral reefs, and to give new views and ideas also to the diving scientists and coral reef workers. For this colour-photo-plates I give the best of my own underwater colour slides but their thematic statement is of course to limited and also the number is only small.

As you know, we have some hard economic restrictions here. Therefore it is impossible to buy the other very needed colour slides from professional underwater photographers, and so I take the liberty to beg you heartily for your aid in this question and to ask you very polite for sending me some (also only one is helpful) of your best underwater colour-photographs in form of slides on corals and other sessile organisms, coral reef animals, such as Plathelminthes, Nematini, Polychaeta, Crustacea, Mollusca, Echinodermata, Fishes and others. It is wanted, that the quality of this slides is excellent, that under the different points of view the subject is most expressive, and that the size of the slides is not smaller than 24 x 36 mm better larger. Especially wanted are animals in action, such as moving, eating, cleaning, defending, reproduction activities, commensalism, Symbiosis and so on. Please do'nt forget the benthonic and planktonic microorganisms of the coral reefs and the zooxanthellae, as far as this is possible.

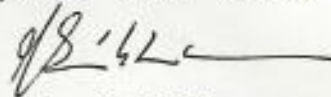
Certainly I am unable to pay you for the printed slides - very sorry - but it is guaranted, that you get a book, that your name is respected as the authors name, that you get the slides back in

a good condition as soon as possible and - most important - that you have done a good work with your help to make a good book for a better protection of the oceans and coral reefs.

Please give this information together with my polite request to all your friends and colleagues which can help.

Dear Dr. Reese, I trust you do'nt take amiss my desire and I am with my best wishes for 1981

yours ever truly

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Kühlmann', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr.D.Kühlmann

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

30 January 1981

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

Dear George:

Finally I sit down to write the letter I should have sent a few months ago. I'll try to make up in quality what I definitely lack in quantity. I know I have fallen from grace when you send everyone else a copy of your revised book and don't send one to me. I would cherish it always George, can you spare another copy? Jeanne is leaving in less than two weeks. She has the place in pandemonium--of the type only Jeanne can create. I'm really going to miss her when she's gone. We just got a very interesting tag return this morning. A 25 cm green was released off Surinam on 8 April 1977, one of the Cayman Turtle Farm releases. The tag was returned to us today from a University on the bulge of Brazil--41 cm. They sent a picture of them measuring the shell, and they measured it the way we do. Don't quote this anywhere or Reichart and Schulz will jump on me for mistreating their data, but I thought you'd be interested. Is there any news on the U.S. sea turtle stamps? Are you going to Delhi? I'm preparing an annotated list of the sea turtle Action Projects for Wayne to carry to Delhi. All he wants is a star by the ones completed, a check by the ones initiated, etc. Do you have any comments on progress made on any of the Action Projects that I might not know about, particularly in your region of the world? I'll send you a copy when I've completed it. I'm waiting for Anne to return from the Lesser Antilles for her input--she's been following hawksbill critical habitat listing, etc.

The big news is that the book has been shipped off to Smithsonian Press. At last! There were hassles up to the very end. The day after I sent off the book, I received Hillestad *et al.*'s manuscript for the first time. I had never even seen the title page. I quickly edited it and sent it off because it is the only paper on incidental catch in the book. They have one paragraph on longlines, I was going to xerox it for you, but our xerox is broken (as usual) this morning. Here is major point "Observers from the National Marine Fisheries Service presently are aboard Japanese longline fishing vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic. Fishing is conducted primarily for tuan with the incidental catch of various sharks and billfish. Although representing thousands of hours of fishing effort, few turtles have been captured by these vessels. Thus longline fishing efforts probably catch few turtles and cause minimal impact." While on this topic, please note the enclosed letter to Mr. Gates. I hope it is what you had in mind. I will let you know if I hear anything. The fishing vocabulary and all of the regulations are so confusing to me that I took half a day to write that very short letter. I was afraid of mis-using a term, and then Gates would be justified as writing me off as someone who didn't know what she was talking about and therefore he could ignore the letter. Sorry for all the run-on sentences in this letter, I'm typing this out of my head.

Before I forget, my phone number is (904)373-3986. We just moved in last

George Balazs  
30 January 1981  
page 2

week. We had been house-sitting for a couple of professors while I was in the final throes of getting the book in shape and applying for a post-doc at the National Zoo. The deadline was the same day, which was nerve-wracking. Also, since applying, I've decided I really don't want to do caged tortoise nutrition, so all that work was for nought. Oh well.

My water buffalo work is starting to look a little more promising (I had a little trouble with that word). At least I've found facilities--at the UF experimental station at Ona. The place is about as hick as its name; it's in south-central Florida. Yesterday I volunteered to oversee the sea turtle surveys in the Bahamas in preparation for the IOCARIBBE meetings in 1982. I know the fisheries people down there, and of course I love the place, so I'm excited about seeing more of the islands. Of course, I'm not sure exactly when I'm going to fit it into my schedule, but I'll worry about that later.

I have also enclosed copies of correspondence with dear Peter. I've misplaced my first letter to him--basically I said that I was surprised to see him cite me as saying in my marine turtle life tables talk at the Washington Conference that the Tort population was headed inexorably for extinction. This was in his paper in the American Zoologist. I told him that in that talk I very carefully pointed out the positive benefits of the protection granted by Costa Rica and Nicaragua for the benefit of the Nicaraguan representatives. As you can see he responded by telling me that he almost certainly hadn't heard my presentation. I don't understand how he thinks that should make me feel better about being misquoted. Hard to follow his reasoning sometimes. Anyway, I thought you'd be interested in his latest. I heard that he withdrew his South Pacific proposal to WWF, but I don't know why. I suppose you have heard, Annie just told me this last week, that all 1500 L. kemp hatchlings sent from Mexico to Cayman Turtle Farm died in transit. Probably left in the sun or something. It was in the NMFS report.

Thanks so much for sending the turtle-seal picture. I needed to send Smithsonian a caption, so I said it was a green turtle and monk seal basking on a beach in French Frigate Shoals. Is that the right location? I really do love that picture.

Smithsonian Press doesn't like to use titles like "Proceedings of..." in their series, because all the volumes in the series are proceedings. So I have changed the title of the book to "Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles." Any comments?

In all of my spare time, I have decided to collect turtle stamps. I only have a few so far: <sup>a</sup>the Malaysian leatherback, the Japan Taro stamp, the Indonesian hawksbill, the Bahamas hawksbill and I'm going to write for the Maldives stamps. I remember that you sent me a copy of a letter from the post master general of some country telling you that they had already issued a very pretty green turtle stamp, but I can't remember what country it was. Was it the Cayman Islands? Any advice you can offer will be most appreciated.

Everyone here is well. I'm just recovering from a mild flu that is going around here. I'm still feeling fuzzy-headed. Wish you were coming out here for another visit. We all miss you. I hope your wife and son are well.

Best regards,

*Cayman Island hawksbill,*  
Have you gotten pictures for Farin your post cards? The WWF/IOCN slide show has some nice shots, esp. of a leatherback.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

5 January 1981

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

Dear George:

I hope you enjoyed the Christmas holidays. Peter and I stayed in Gainesville, which was pretty dull, but it did give me a chance to do some catching up. A distracting element was a 31 December deadline on an annual WWF report. Finally got it in the mail, and am now getting around to badly neglected correspondence.

I didn't respond to you about the Bishop Museum problem, partly because it took forever for us to come around to any decision on it. Dr. Carr didn't want there to be any involvement on the part of the Marine Turtle Group. After much debate, we resolved to hand the problem over to Wayne, as an outside party. He has undoubtedly informed you by now of his action. (He said he didn't want there to be any written correspondence about it.) I'm not sure that his was the best resolution, but it was probably the course of least resistance. Have you heard any more about it?

Your letter about the squid fishery was rather distressing. What a destructive and senseless way to fish! Dr. Carr read your letter and is awaiting further word from you about the magnitude of the problem. He sent a copy of your letter to Larry Ogren, who really likes to be kept up to date on fishery issue issues as this.

Concerning slides for postcards, I really don't have any that are good enough. Your photos are far superior to the ones that I have. The Rose Atoll photos were great - they are enclosed. I hope to have some good hawksbill shots eventually, but right now the ones I have are mediocre. I asked Jeanne about it and she said she doesn't have any top rate ones either. Did you ever see the slides of Guillermo Cuellar (of FUDENA, Venezuela)? Dr. Carr brought them to the Conference. He has some very good slides of copulating greens. Let me know if you are interested in these, and I'll send you my duplicates to look over. We'd have to write Cuellar for permission, but I doubt if he would mind.

I have a standing order for a copy of So Excellent for you at a local bookstore that periodically stocks them. I'll send it as soon as one comes in.

Letters requesting support for the Puerto Rico Critical Habitat Proposal went to all U.S. members, G. Hughes, C. Limpus, and Jose Ottenwalder. We received copies of letters from Ottenwalder and Moll, and Karen, Dr. Carr and I also wrote in. I hope there were others for which we didn't receive copies. I'll send you carbons of the ones I have if you like.

Congratulations on your new role with Hawaiian Audubon. You must have an infinite amount of energy. How do you manage? *I don't*

You asked what I thought of Sternberg's atlas. I certainly agree with you that there are dangers in indicating a multitude of nesting localities. The last time I talked to Jim (about 2 or 3 weeks ago), he was convinced of the necessity of at least having major and minor designations, but he didn't know how to arrive at them. I explained to him the rationale we used for our West Atlantic Survey, i.e., not making cross-species comparisons, and ranking localities against the best existing rookery for that species. He said he would ponder that scheme. Unfortunately, he doesn't have the background to do the ranking. I'm anxious to see what he comes up with. At least he is aware of the problem. Pritchard apparently is on the Board of Directors for the Center, but I'm not sure how involved he is in their activities.

I loved your letter about your role as a non-consulted consultant for the Sea Turtle Recovery Team. Isn't that typical? Yes, Dr. Carr was involved with that - at least initially. He quietly slipped out between the cracks.

IUCN has taken a new tack. They have stopped sending proposals to AC to review. He didn't get the New Caledonia one, nor the one you mentioned for \$200,000 about safeguarding important endangered marine and coastal species. I guess it's time to write another letter to Scott.

I do know about Environmental Research Projects and Mel Goodwin. I was aware of his project through various grant proposals that came through AC's office. And this summer I met him on Montserrat at the annual Caribbean Conservation Association Meeting. He was very pleasant and offered to collect hawksbill digestive contents for me through fishermen in Carriacou. I was amazed when he came through with his offer - 3 complete digestive tracts of adult females. It was really a big favor to collect, pack and carry them on the plane with him. He's offered to get more next season. I am still not sure that I understand his position on the mariculture of turtles. When I was on Carriacou doing the West Atlantic Survey, I heard about his project through local people and got the impression that he was keen on developing a cottage industry there, in conjunction with their headstarting project (which receives WWF money). Talking to him on Montserrat, I didn't get that impression at all. He seemed genuinely interested in promoting sea turtle conservation for its own sake. I may be down that way this summer, and I will take the opportunity to visit his operation.

I haven't had a chance to talk to Jacobsen about the Galveston and Cayman disease problem. He's been out of the country for about two months on a trip around the world, and has only been back for 2 weeks. I'm sure he will tell me what is going on - he's a good friend of ours. He has cured our pet turtles, snakes, etc. Recently, he's been helping me with some histological work to sex some juvenile turtles I got from Montserrat. He has also been involved in necropsying stranded loggerheads. In case you didn't know, he also consults for the folks at Galveston about their ridley problems. He is quite neutral on turtle issues, as you may have guessed.

I'm running out of space so I guess I'll sign off. More later.

Regards,

*Anne*





EAST COAST NATIONAL PARKS REGIONAL OFFICE

## TAMAN NEGARA PULAU<sup>2</sup> PENYU

### TURTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

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

Your Ref:—

Our Ref:—

BNPRO/11/3/42

**CONFIDENTIAL**

22nd January, 1981

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

Dear Wayne,

#### Turtles - Sarawak

Many thanks for the copies of letters between you and Lucas Chin which puts me very much in the picture. In view of what has been stated by Lucas, it is expedient to mention that prior to writing the section on Sarawak he was consulted and that portion of the final draft dealing with "Sarawak affairs" was perused and commented on by him.

Apart from the various contributory causes adduced for the decline of marine turtles in Sarawakian territory, it is opined that the cumulative effect of systematic egg harvesting over a lengthy period of time is probably one of the principal causes for the present pathetic state of affairs. From the harvesting figures furnished it is abundantly clear that even in this enlightened age, the nesting beaches are being fully exploited for the sole benefit of Moslem charities. If, year after year WWF or another funding authority is to assist the Turtles Board of Management by providing funds to purchase eggs for conservation purposes, probably nothing will be done by the Sarawak Government to save the turtle. Undoubtedly the time is opportune for them to seriously pursue the possibility of adequately

(2)

compensating the charities involved with a reasonable cash grant or some other inducement and acquiring the "rights" on the islands. After acquisition, the islands should be converted into some sort of Turtle Sanctuary.

Admittedly, what has been suggested will certainly be a herculean task for Lucas, especially if he has to recommend to the Board its dissolution. However, if the Turtles Board of Management is well aware of the drastic decline of the turtle population in Sarawak, then it should take stringent conservation measures to conserve the species involved. To begin with, they could start by prohibiting the collection of turtle eggs for a period of say 3 years. Once established custom is breached, the moratorium could be extended.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,



G. S. de Silva.

c.c. Dr. Archie Carr,  
Chairman,  
Turtle Specialist Group,  
Department of Zoology,  
223 Bartram Hall,  
University of Florida,  
Gainesville 32611,  
U. S. A.

✓ c.c. Mr. George Balazs,  
Assistant Marine Biologist,  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology,  
P. O. Box 1346,  
Coconut Island,  
Kaneohe,  
Hawaii 96744.  
USA.



**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

March 25, 1981

F/SEC5:LH0:bbp

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

Dear George:

I received your note regarding the letter you received from Mr. Tundi Agardy, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Virgin Islands. He is correct in stating that the NMFS is supplying the tags for their project, however they are not made of inconel. I have sent them the modified #49 size (now called #19 by the National Band and Tag Co.) with the locking mechanism similar to the #681 size. My last conversation (this year) with Tom Haas confirmed that, contrary to Jim Haas' statement that inconel-625 is not available, they would be able to produce turtle tags from this "strategic" alloy. All they need to do is purchase an additional heavy-duty stamping press to work this very hard metal. It will cost \$40 - 50K, I believe he said, to "tool up". This cost, plus production and material costs, will determine the price of the tags. We did not have that kind of money budgeted in FY81 so we are back at square one. In our proposed budget for 1982, we could include a request from a bidder for "X" number of inconel tags of two sizes, not to exceed "Y" dollars. If we initiate such a proposal, other sea turtle researchers could then be asked to notify us as to their tagging needs (quantity and size of inconel tags). All this will have to be coordinated before the awarding of the contract. A large quantity of tags would reduce individual tag cost; if we could provide a projection of estimated tags needed for several seasons, further cost reduction incentives might be provided by the bidder. Let me know what you think. We will have to put something together soon for the June-July MM & ES Program budget proposal for FY82. You have put a lot time in this "project" already; with your help we could give it another try. At least we know now that inconel-625 is available.

Regarding the anatomy guide by Bill Rainey--we will publish it. Bill is going to include additional figures on the viscera of an adult leatherback, finish a narrative section, and possibly include an index. We hope to get high quality reproductions made from the black and white photos; without this detail the illustrated guide will not serve the purpose that was intended. We are thinking that a Technical Memorandum may be the appropriate NMFS publication series for this guide, if the figure reproductions meet our standards.



The technical manual for sea turtle research is being typed by the Center. We had hoped to have typed-xerox copies (w/color illustrations inserted) available for members of the western Atlantic survey and census symposium team this spring. We may be a little behind. Publication is slated for later this year.

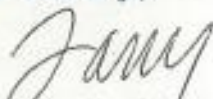
The postcard project sounds great. However, photos sans people or things are difficult to obtain around here. I have a few more "natural" appearing slides, e.g., nesting leatherbacks--but nothing like you and Colin have in your collections of reef shots in transparent, and of basking green turtles.

As you have already heard by now, the Pascagoula Lab's efforts to design an excluder trawl have been fruitful. In case you haven't received a copy of their latest design called "TED", I am sending you my last copy (they may have to print up more).

Your questions concerning incidental catch of sea turtles by the longline fishery in the western Atlantic could best be answered by Charles Roithmayr of the NMFS lab in Pascagoula, Mississippi. Henry Hildebrand provided them with a report on the status of sea turtles in Texas waters. He mentioned that swordfishermen catch leatherbacks in their longlines at the shelf break, primarily during the winter months. Some discussion of this is made in the SE Region Sea Turtle Recovery Plan. It is my understanding all consultants to the recovery team will be sent a draft copy of the plan for review and comments sometime this month. If you don't receive your copy, let Sally Hopkins or myself know, ok. There is an article on the Japanese longline fishery in the Gulf of Mexico in the October 1979 MFR that also mentions turtle captures.

Despite the austerity program and budget cuts, I believe it is still worthwhile to pursue the goal of getting a better tag; I can't help but think of all the man-hours spent catching, measuring and tagging a turtle and the frustration of having the tags corrode away before your eyes. If there is anything else you need to know from this side of the world, let me know. My response time may be slowed down by all the turtle work, but I'll try to get back to you.

Sincerely,



Larry H. Ogren  
Fishery Biologist (Research)

Enclosures (2)

cc:  
Fred Berry

P.O. Drawer 1207

39567

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

Avenue du Mont-Blanc  
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Télégrammes/Telegrams:  
IUCNATURE GLAND

Reference/Reference:

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION

Re: Election of SSC Chairman

Article VI, Paragraph 5 of the IUCN Statutes, with the corresponding paragraph in the Regulations, require that Commission Members be invited by circular letter to submit to the Council suggestions for persons to be nominated as Chairman of their Commission. Accordingly, SSC Members are invited to suggest candidates for the position of Chairman of the Species Survival Commission. All suggestions will be considered by the IUCN Council at its meeting in June 1981; the Council will make nominations for the Chairman to be elected by the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly (13-22 October 1981).

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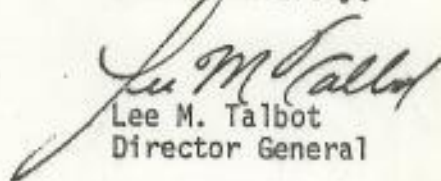
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We appreciate your attention to this important aspect of IUCN activities.

Yours sincerely,

  
Lee M. Talbot  
Director General

11 March 1981



Angie.

# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW  
20 FEBRUARY 1981

GIFT SHOP  
National Aquarium  
14th and Constitution Ave, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037

Handwritten calculations:  
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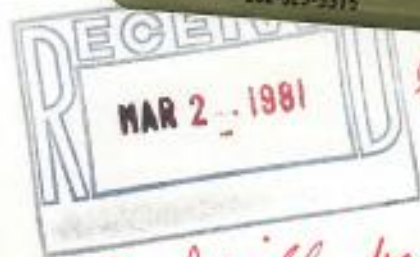
I am interested in obtaining 25 postcards showing the Green Turtle (copy attached) for use in conjunction with my research and conservation program of sea turtles. I would be most appreciative if you would inform me of the cost of this postcard, and if you would be willing to sell 25 to me through the mail.

Thank you for any help that you can provide in this matter,

Sincerely,  
George H. Balazs

Postcards are \$.15 each  
Please send check  
to

PARKS AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL VISITOR CENTER  
50 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. N.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002  
202-523-5315



plus  
\$.50  
postage  
+  
handling

I will be happy  
to mail them to you.  
Laura Allen

Laura  
please answer

Turtle Hatchery Project  
Lolojua Kleipata  
Lpia

Western Samoa.

21/3/81

Dear George and family

Tabafa.

I want give you big thank you. for all.  
Kindness and Hospitality for my family  
than you for my family photograph look like  
Palagi family Ha. ha. ha. I said than you.  
the family steel good. the Project Runing good.  
many baby turtle small in the project. one more  
I said good bye

Yours Sincerely

Patang Salau

# ALOHA<sup>®</sup>

The Magazine of Hawaii

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March 13, 1981

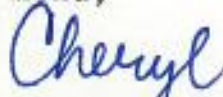
Mr. George Balazs  
992-A Awaawaanoa Place  
Honolulu 96825

Dear George:

I am forwarding a copy of a letter we received from one of our readers requesting more information on the Leeward Islands. He was impressed with your story and photos, and would like additional information.

Mahalo in advance for responding to his request.

Aloha,



Cheryl Cree  
Associate Editor

Attachment



455 Park Ave  
Kelowna B.C.  
Canada V1Y 5R3

ALOHA MAGAZINE  
P.O. BOX 3260  
HONOLULU, HI 96801

B. D.

Dear sir

I am interested in obtaining information and pictures on the Leeward Islands. I am particularly interested in Midway, Kure and the French Frigate Shoals. I bought your issue with the photo essay on the Leeward Island (Feb 1981) and wish there was more information and pictures.

I know there can't be much information available, but any information would be great. Also, if there is any information in previous issues, could it be possible to obtain back issues. If you have a catalog \* on back issues please send one. Thank You Very Much.

Yours sincerely,

*Alan Youngston*  
Alan Youngston

*sent  
3/29/81*

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Brit. J. MERR.

Hillestad  
paper title?



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

11 March 1981

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

Dear George:

I have enclosed a copy of Gates' response to my letter. In case he forgets, will you let me know when the draft FMP is ready for public review if you hear? Should we wait until then, or should I try to get people to write now and, if so to whom? Gates didn't include that information. It really looks like this long-liner situation requires watching. I hope you get some information from Wright. A reporting requirement seems a simple enough request, especially since it would only require tacking on a few more species to the marine mammal list. Let me know if there is any thing else I can do.

I am also sending a copy of the Progress Report I gave Wayne to carry to New Delhi. I hope I haven't already sent you a copy. I've been rather absent-minded lately. Any additions would be appreciated.

Not much is new on the home front. Reagan's cuts are severely threatening my buffalo project. I may retire to a honey bee business in the country. Alan and I had a great week on Miami Beach, enjoying the "nourished" beach there and being spoiled by his parents. I added to my sea turtle stamp collection down there: Ryukus hawksbill, Cuba green (?), Grenada hawksbill, Ascension Island little green sitting on a map of the island, and Cayman Island turtle crawl, two colors of the same small hawksbills on a beach under the King's head and a pale green stamp with a green turtle on the beach with a young Queen Elizabeth head. The last one is the only one I was able to find more than one of. I assume you have it, but if not, please let me know.

Thanks so much for the Indonesian leatherback. I really like it. Looking at that stamp and their Chelonia mydas (really hawksbill?) stamp, it's clear that their stamp artists haven't seen many live turtles.

Hope all is well with you and your family. All here send their regards.

Best wishes,

*Karen*

Karen Bjorndal

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

23 March 1981

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

Dear George:

Thanks for your last letter, sent special delivery. It arrived while I was up in Georgia for 4 days, I just returned this morning. I visited Sapelo and Skidaway islands, not for turtle work, but honey bees. There is a Sea Grant project up there looking at the effect of honey bees on seed set of dune and marsh plants, particularly sea oats on the dunes, for increasing dune and marsh stabilization. I only got stung twice in three days, pretty good. I had a good time, but now it's back to work.

I'm really sorry about the hassles with Truland. Some one who works as hard as you do really deserves better. I really know very little about Truland. I wasn't very impressed with him at the Conference, and now, with his money, he is being surrounded by "advisors" like Peter P. and Jack Frazier (apparently, from all the correspondence). He doesn't seem to realize that adult females come on shore to nest. He says he doesn't mind hatchlings on the beach, because "one expects to find hatchlings" there. Pretty strange. I think your point of having all turtles the same age is a good one. Also, more people see turtles on beaches than in the water. I can't believe he only brought this up now. Of course, since he is one of the few private sea turtle sponsors, it would be sensible not to antagonize him too much. And where else can you go for funding? Perhaps you should stress the equal age idea, and the fact that turtles are most often seen on the beach, but say if he feels strongly, you would agree to "re-open the search" with him doing the searching, and then you can both review the pictures and pick the best ones. There really doesn't seem to be a big rush on this project, but of course I understand that you want to finish it up and go onto other work. It's maddening when what should be a straight-forward project gets so intangled. --NewsBreak: I just this second heard that Dr. Carr was bitten by a pygmy rattler on Friday afternoon. Thank goodness it was a dry hole--there is no anti-venom for that species. One of our brilliant grad students left it in a margarine container in a paper bag (unlabeled) in the main office. A secretary opened it to see what it was, the snake jumped at her, she screamed, Dr. Carr came to help her and was bitten on the thumb. He is really pushing his luck, with the snake bite in Costa Rica and now this one. He has now come in and reports that he is perfectly well.

Thanks for the copy of the letter from Nancy Hammond. I wonder whether that was Peter's idea or their idea not to have him administering the grant. I don't know what is going to happen to the ridley project. I guess you've heard that the Galveston lab has been closed for budget reasons.

I like the pictures very much. I like the angled loggerhead better than the front view. I hope all of this gets straightened out. But when one half starts talking about horses in swimming pools, you can't help but wonder about the outcome.

*Hope all is well,  
Karen*

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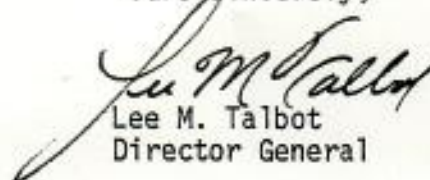
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Director General

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