HIMB OUTGOING G.H. BALAZS 1980 JULY-DEC. CORRESPONDENCE

Smead.

No 153L

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December 23, 1980

Dr. Doug DeMaster Leader, Coastal Marine Mammal Program National Marine Fisheries Service P. O. Box 271 La Jolla, California 92038

Dear Dogg:

I am writing this short letter to sincerely thank you for participating in the recent East Island clean-up project. The hard work and never-failing enthusiasm that you exhibited were an inspiration to our entire team.

Mahalo for your fine contribution.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 23, 1980

Mr. V. T. Hinds Assistant Director (Technical Fisheries Management Division) Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries P. O. Box 2298 Wellington, New Zesland

Dear Val:

A potentially serious fishing problem involving leatherback turtles in our region of the Pacific has recently come to my attention. As you are probably aware, for the past several years W. S. vessels have been seasonally trolling for albacore in waters north of Midway at approximately 41-44°N and 173°E - 175° W. Although the operators of these boats have regularly sighted Japanese vessels also fishing for albacore, a completely new fishing activity was observed during this past Buly and August. According to the captain of one U. S. vessel interviewed here in Honolulu, a multinational oriental fleet of 30-50 vessels has appeared in the area using drift gill nets to fish for squid. However, as might be expected, in addition to entangling squid bhese nets are catching and killing leatherbacks, perpoise, fur seals, and small albacore. According to the informant, only the squid are being retained; everything else is discarded. In the case of large animals such as leatherbacks, the entangled sections of net are simply cut out and set adrift. I was given several photographs of a rotting, entangled leatherback. The informant claims to have personally seen four other drifting leatherback carcasses wrapped up in squid gill net.

My reason for writing to you about this situation is to try to learn more about the squid gill net fishery, and the magnitude of impact on nontarget marine resources. In making inquiries to other sources, it was reported that the squid fishery off New Zealand is now in the process of converting from jigging to the use of gill nets. Is this actually taking place and, if so, to what extent are problems being encountered with turtles or other animals? Any details or data that you can pass on to me about this subject would be greatly appreciated.

I recently received several more sea turtle sighting reports from our cooperators at Raul. Hopefully the new supply of turtle badges and report

Mr. V. T. Hinds December 23, 1980 Page 2

forms that I mailed to you last month arrived safely.

I wish you best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balaza AAsistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr Wayne King December 23, 1980

Dr. Joseph R. Curray Geological Research Division Scripps Institution of Oceanography La Jolls, California 92093

Dear Dr. Curray:

I hope that you safely received the sea turtle movie film which I returned to you by "air mail special delivery" during the latter part of November. A U. S. Department of Commerce government mailing label was utilized, as allowed under my temporary employment affiliation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory. After you have had the opportunity to review the film and your field notes, I will be interested to learn of the exact locations and maximum depth of the turtles observed. In one of your earlier letters, you mentioned seeing "rather distinct tracks of turtles at approximately 180 m." I am sure that it would be worthwhile to compile the specifics for these observations for inclusion in our short publication.

Do you have any idea what data base was used by Landis when he reported turtles being seen at a depth of 290 m off Cape San Lucas? Do you know Landis, or where he can be contacted at the present time?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

December 23, 1980

Mr. John Thomas 100-11 Elgar Place Bronk, N. Y. 10475

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am sending you the enclosed material as a supplement to the proposal to issue postage stamps displaying four sea turtles of the United States. I understand from Mr. Mallek that the next meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will be held during late January. At that time, I hope that you will be able to formally discuss, and vote favorably, on the sea turtle stamp proposal.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB :md

December 23, 1980 Mrs. Mary Ann Owens P. O. Box 1164 -Brooklyn, N. Y. 11202 Dear Mrs. Owens: I am sending you the enclosed material as a supplement to the proposal to issue postage stamps displaying four sea turtles of the United States. I understand from Mr. Mallek that the next meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will be held during late January. At that time, I hope that you will be able to formally discuss, and mote favorably, on the sea turtle stamp proposal. Best wishes for the holidays. Sincerely, George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist GHB:md Enclosures

December 15, 1980

Ms. Laura Tangley 1702 S Street W.W. Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Laura:

First, my sincere applogies for not having responded in a timely manner to your request of 30 September relating to graduate school and program opportunities here at the University of Mhwaii. Both field work and paperwork obligations have kept me exceedingly busy since June and your letter was somehow misplaced, or displaced, in the shuffle. Each year, for the past eight years, I have spent most of June or more tagging greens at French Frigate Shoals. Upon return to Honolulu each year I never seem to catch up with all of my other commitments.

Based on the contents of your letter, it strikes me that you would have a bit of a difficult time "shifting gears" from an undergraduate degree in government, to a Master's program in biology, zoology, etc. But please understand that I am by no means an authority on this subject. I have no teaching responsibilities (other than "guest" appearances). All of my time is taken up with applied field research and endangered species conservation. My only thought is that for you to qualify for entering a Master's program in any of these disciplines, you would have to take all of the courses required for the B.A. (or B.S.) in this sort of field. Perhaps in the elapsed time since you wrote to me you have consulted other more prompt sources, and already have the answers. I would be interested in learning of your findings.

Our Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is indeed a part of the University of Hawaii. However, it is not equivalent to a "Department," and it is not a degree-awarding division. Some graduate students undertake their theses problems using our facilities, but their degrees are being pursued in University Departments, principally Zoology and Oceanography. The enclosed, but somewhat old, booklet provides further details.

Actually, I was very sorry to learn that you had left Defenders. I thought you were on the road to becoming a very effective "action" person in that organization. Perhaps there were problems that you didn't describe to me. I wish that you would become involved with another Washington-based conservation organization, and work in part on behalf of sea turtles.

December 10, 1980 Mr. & Mrs. Dupri Dudoit & Family P. O. Box 310 Kaunakakai, Molokai 96748 Dear Dudoit Family: It was a great pleasure having the opportunity to meet you and talk about sea turtles at Halawa. I want to thank you very much for the information that you gave me. As promised, I am sending you a copy of my color booklet entitled "Hawaii's Sea Birds, Turtles, and Seals." I have also enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Will you please write to me when the egg nest hatches at Halawa. This will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you again during my next visit to Moloksi. Sincerely's GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist GHB:ec Encls.

December 10, 1980 Mr. Hal Newsome P. O. Box 296 Kaunakakai, Molokai 96748 Dear Hal: I enjoyed meeting you on December 3rd and talking about sea turtles and seals at Halawa. The information that you provided is greatly appreciated. As promised, I am sending you a copy of my color booklet entitled "Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles, and Seels." I have also enclosed a selfaddressed, stampled envelops. If and when you observe any further turtle activity (i.e. hatchlings emerging from the nest), would you please write me a descriptive note. I look forward to seeing you again during my next visit to Molokai. Sincerely, GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist GHE c Encls.

December 9, 1980 Mr. J. Maigret Centre National de Recherches Oceanographiques et des Peches Republique Islamique de Mauritanie Dear Mr. Maigret: Thank you very much for your letter of 17 November 1980 concerning the issuance of postage stamps displaying sea turtles. As requested, I am pleased to send you the enclosed several drawings and photographs of the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), the loggerhead turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), and the leatherback turtle (Dermochelys coriaces). I hope that this material will meet your requirements. I welcome the opportunity to assist you in this project. Please feel free to contact me again if additional help is required. Best regards. Sincerely, GEORGE H. BALAZS Deputy Chairman IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group GHB: ec Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 26, 1980

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

Dear Col:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Mr. Glen Ulrich Marine Resources Department P. O. Box 12559 Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Glen:

Larry Ogren recently told me about a sea turtle (loggerhead?) photographed off South Carolina at a depth of 260 feet sometime during late 1978. He mentioned that you might have additional details. I am currently trying to pull together data on diving records for sea turtles. Any information that you can give me on the South Carolina case would be greatly appreciated.

I hope that your work is all going well.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ec

Margie L. Stinson 1553 Avocado Drive Vista, California 92083

Dear Ms. Stinson"

One of your "Sea Turtle Sighting" sheets has recently been forwarded to me, therefore I thought I would take this opportunity to establish communication with you concerning our mutual interests in sea turtles. The enclosed reprints describe some of my research activities here in the Hawaiian Islands and at other sites in the Pacific region. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate hearing of your own special interests and the findings thus far obtained. Is your work financially supported by the San Diego Herpetological Society? Are you currently working on an advanced degree?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Lauso Ioane P. O. Box 3317 Aos, Pago Pago American Samos 96799

Dear Miss Iosne:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Elora Fagasau P. O. Box 3751 Airport American Samoa 96799

Dear Mise Fagasau:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Mr. Sternberg:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 26, 1980

Dear

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Robert Truland

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

Dear Mr. Spinks:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

Dear Dr. Killingley:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

A proposal to enhance the protection of sea turtles in coastal waters of federally controlled lands in the Hawaiian Islands

by

George H. Balazs November 1980

Not all residents and visitors in the Hawaiian Islands are aware of the full protection that is legally afforded sea turtles under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. The absence of knowledge on this subject is known to account for the periodic harassment and killing of turtles in coastal waters, and the failure of individuals to report intentional violations to enforcement authorities when they are observed taking place. A need therefore exists to increase the public's awareness of the existing federal laws protecting sea turtles and the agencies responsible for their enforcement. Such action would result in the direct enhancement of sea turtle populations in the Hawaiian Islands.

An effective and relatively inexpensive method of accomplishing this objective would be to place appropriately worded, permanent signs of an educational nature at key locations along recreational beaches and other coastal areas. With funding and technical assistance from the National Marine Fisheries Service, this management oriented conservation project could be initiated on federally-controlled lands, such as at Bellows Air Force Station, Barbers Point Naval Air Station, Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, Barking Sands (Kauai), and Smugglers Cove (Kahoolawe). The federal agancies responsible for these areas would probably not be able to contribute any direct financial support, however, they could be expected to be receptive to such an idea and cooperate fully in the project's implementation.

At a later date, the National Marine Fisheries Service could explore the possibility of implementing a similar cooperative project for coastal areas controlled by the Hawaii state and county governments.

Mr. Charles A. Oravetz, Chief Marine Mammals and Endangered Species Branch National Marine Fisheries Service 9450 Koger Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Chuck:

Many thanks for your letter of November 12th which was waiting for me upon my recent return from field work in American Samoa and Rose Atoll. Again, literature of this nature relating to functions and activities of the SE Recovery Team is greatly appreciated. I was also pleased to receive the report on sea turtle - lobster trap interactions. A copy of this has been passed on to Gene Nitta, as it could prove useful in preparing some of his Section 7 reports for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

My mention of the Southeast Fisheries Center contracting to prepare a "conservation manual" is a direct result of information that Peter Pritchard gave us during his short stop-over in Honolulu in early August. It sounded as if this was something already underway under the supervision of Fred Berry. Perhaps I misunderstood Peter's comments.

The contract report for a "bibliography" that I requested had to do with biological information on the loggerhead (see my letter of 29 Oct.), not head-starting or early life history that you mentioned. It was my understanding that this was going to be something patterned after Dr. Hirth's FAO synopsis covering the green turtle.

I am sorry to keep presenting you with all of these questions, but there is one more item I have been wondering about. What was the fate of the document entitled "A plan for the recovery and management of sea turtles," authored primarily by Larry Ogren and Don Ekberg? This was a pretty good write-up, in my opinion. Did it ever get finalized and published as a NMFS report?

The critical question of the gloths staying open or closed in a comatose turtle really should be tackled. If a shrimp fisherman discovers that the resuscitation regs are not based on solid facts, it could be embarrassing.

Mr. Charles A. Oravets November 20, 1980 -2-I appreciate all of your help - look forward to meeting you in person one of these days. Sincerely, GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist GHB:ec

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

Dear Peter:

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

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

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

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

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

Elholms 825 Hayes Avenue Racine, Wisconsin 53405

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

Sincerely,

GHB:ec Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

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

Dear Val:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Terry:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Mr. Huang:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Rob:

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

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

I will be contacting you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 19, 1980

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

Dear Kim:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr

November 19, 1980

Forestry Suppliers, Inc. 205 West Rankin Street Post Office Box 8397 Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Dear Sirs:

This letter relates to my order of 10/23/80 for a tree caliper no. 59678 (your invoice number 050320-00, see attached copies).

The USP Blue Label "Rates" table (page 504) in your catalog 30 for 1980 lists a shipping charge to Hawaii of \$4.17. The caliper was well within the maximum size restriction specified under the table. However, while I was out of town, I understand that a representative of your company telephoned our Institute and told our fiscal officer, Mr. Samuel Chastain, that the caliper for some reason could not be shipped by USP Blue Label. This individual requested permission to ship the caliper by another means. No mention was made of any drastic change in the cost of shipping. Having now returned to the State, I find that you are charging me a total of \$70.70 for shipping. This is clearly an unacceptable price, considering the rate listed in your catalog, and the fact that the total shipping weight of the caliper was only 6 lbs.

I believe that your company owes me an explanation in this matter. I have requested that payment for this order be held up until I have heard from you.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

mk enclosures November 18, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Friberg:

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

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

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

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB : md

Movember 18, 1980

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

Dear Doug:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Bålags Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB : md

November 18, 1988

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

Dear Wally:

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

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

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

I hope that you can help me with this request.

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Enclosures

Novembar 18, 1980

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

Dear William:

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

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

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

November 5, 1980

National Park Service P. O. Box 279 Homestead, Florida 33030

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the 1967 report by R. W. Klukas entitled "Factors affecting nesting success of loggerhead turtles at Cape Sable, Everglades National Park" (File N1415).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George R. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB 1 md

October 31, 1980

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

Dear Itaru:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

WEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

ENET:ec

bcc: A. Sarr

W. King

K. Bjorndal

31. Jim Richardson University of Georgia Institute of Ecology Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Jim:

Please consider this an official letter of intent to purchase a new copy of your film Secret Return. As indicated in your letter of October 15th, the price will be somewhere between \$75 and \$85.

I greatly appreciated receiving a copy of your excellent newsletter for the Georgia stranding network. If possible, please add my name to the mailing list as a regular recipient.

The only update I can give you on my Inconel tag performance is that it has been uniformly perfect. I have yet to find even a single trace of corrosion after four years of use. This includes greens and hawksbills reared under captive conditions where the corrosion rate of Monel tags was even more rapid than it is in the wild. As I've pointed out a number of times in the past, the alloy specialist recommended Inconel 625 as the ultimate alloy for a sea turtle tag, and they certainly appear to be right.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

Mr. Bruce Bickley Information & Education Specialist Division of Conservation & Resource Enforcement 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Bickley:

As requested during our telephone conversation on September 30th, I am sending you photographs which show our three native Hewaiian sea turtles, the green turtle (Chelonia mydas), the hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata), and the leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea). Please feel free to use this material in the posters on sea turtles and other educational material which you have planned for distribution. These are excellent conservation ideas, and I appland your fine efforts. Photo credit for such purposes will not be necessary and, in fact, may not even be desirable. I would, however, appreciate being reimbursed for the \$8.00 in personal expenditures that were required to transpose my two color slides to black and white negatives suitable for your use (receipt enclosed).

I welcome the opportunity to assist you in the preparation of any narratives or captions that are needed to accompany the photographs. Please feel free to telephone ms at 946-2181 (NMTS Lab) on Honday, Wednesday and Friday, or 247-6631 (HIMB-Coconut Is.) on Tuesday and Thursday.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

Mr. Duke Schirmer Bio-Philately Librarian 431 North Barry Avenue Mamaroneck, N. Y. 10543

Dear Mr. Schirmer:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of October 12th. I greatly appreciate this fine assistance.

I will accept your offer to allow me to borrow volumes 22:1, 22:3 and 23:2. Enclosed is \$3.00, which I hope will be enough to cover the cost of first-class postage. I am already familiar with the information on turtles covered in volumes 20:3 and 28:3, so there will be no need for me to obtain this material. The volumes that you send me will of course be returned at my earliest opportunity.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB : md

Enclosure: \$3.00

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

Dear Dan:

It was good to meet with you in person and I certainly enjoyed learning about your various telemetry studies - all very interesting and informative.

As you suggested, I have contacted Jim Richardson about purchasing a copy of that excellent film, Silent Return. Hopefully this can be arranged without too much difficulty.

When available, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of your Reports to the Superintendent (NPS) covering telemetry studies conducted during 1980 with both adult and hatchling loggerheads.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

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

Dear Bob:

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

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

Best regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

bcc: N. Mrosovsky

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

Dear Kim:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Enclosures

Occober 29, 1980

Miss Lehua Ah Nee Box 288 Holualoa, Hawaii 96725

Dear Lehua:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

Ms. Patricia Chable Survival Service Commission IUCN 1196 Gland Switzerland

Dear Patricia:

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

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

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

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass Assistant Marine Biologist

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

Dear Chuck:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Charles Oravetz October 29, 1980 Page 2

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB : md

bcc: A. Carr

W. King

K. Bjorndal

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

Dear Mark:

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

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

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

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

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

Page 2

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

October 21, 1980 Dr. H. David Baldridge Mote Marine Laboratory 9501 Blind Pass Road Sarasota, Florida 33581 Dear Dr. Baldridge: I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your technical report entitled "Shark Attack Against Man" (October 1973). Thank you in advance for your assistance. Sincerely, GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist GHB: ec

Dr. David Creswell Welgro Feedmill Co., Ltd. 292/3-5 Ratchadapisek Rd. Tambol Chongnonsee, Ampur Yanawa Bangkok, Thailand

Dear David:

I'm not sure that I can properly answer your letter of October 8th. I'm not sure that anyone can, given the nebulous inquiry made by your potential client, Michael B. New. What species of "shrimp" does he want to feed? Fresh water or marine? What size ranges will be involved? What facilities will be used in their rearing? These are just a few of the questions that have been left unanswered in Mr. New's inquiry. "Annual requirement expected to grow to around 30,000 tons within 3-4 years" - I've heard such predictions before, and none of them have yet to become reality. Sorry for the skeptical attitude, but quite homestly, the letter you have received is hard for me to take seriously. I note that the return address is "c/o UNDP," not UNDP. Apparently he is acting as a private consultant in aquaculture, although this is difficult to determine with certainty from the letterhead.

I haven't been involved in aquaculture research for about four years now, but I try to keep up-to-date on current developments. I am not aware of any breakthoughs in crustacean feed formulation. The enclosed reprint is the last paper we published, and this deals with Macrobrachium. I hope it contains something that will be of value to you.

Coy Brooks was in town recently and I had the opportunity to talk to him by telephone. He appears to be getting along well.

Any possibility of you folks traveling through Hawaii during the next year or so?

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hind P. O. Box 1149 Kailus-Kons, Hawaii 96740

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hind:

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

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

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

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

Best wishes and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George E. Balazs Assistant Marine Biblogist

GHB:md

Enclosure

Mr. Charles A. Oravetz Chief, Marine Manmals and Endangered Species Branch National Marine Fisheries Service Duval Building 9450 Koger Boulevard St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dear Chuck:

I want to sincerely thank you for sending me copies of the previous minutes of the SE Recovery Team. This information was extremely helpful in bringing me up to date on current sea turtle events in your area of the country. As a consultant to the Team, and a member of the SSC Turtle Group, I of course feel a responsibility to be knowledgeable on these important conservation, management, and research subjects. Your continued assistance in this respect will be greatly appreciated.

While reading through the minutes of the last several meetings, I noted with interest that the membership of the Recovery Team (and its consultants) has to some extent changed since originally being constituted. When your time permits, would you please send me the current membership list.

The emergency regulations calling in part for modification of resuscitation procedures is certainly a step in the right direction. As you may know, Dr. Whittow and I Brought this subject to the attention of NMFS almost two years ago (see attached correspondence). I still feel that some basic physiological research is essential for hhis area. I am not certain if the glottis actually opens in a commatose turtle when its plastron or carapace is being pumped. From my experience, with a dead green turtle you are more apt to be forcing air in and out the esophagus, the path of least resistance. Perhaps a small tube should be inserted in the glottis to hold it in an open position.

Again, many thanks for sending me the various write-ups.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: A. Carr W. Kine

Mr. George Elmore R. R. 1, Box 102-A Koloa, Kauai 96756

Dear Mr. Elmore:

Recently I was going through my correspondence file, and your informative letter of January 1978 once again came to my attention. I wonder if you can tell me if turtles are still being regularly seen at the "turtle spot" in waters near your house at Paipu Beach?

For some time now I have been wanting to capture and tag turtles at a productive site on Kauai. Over the past two years, I have made several study visits to the Big Island and it is now time to focus attention on the turtles of Kauai. Would the site you have told me about be suitable and appropriate for two people (myself and my technician) to camp along the coastline and catch turtles for about one week? Are there many houses in the area? Are assaults a problem in the area? Any help that you can give me with these important questions would be greatly appreciated. After receiving your response, I would like to telephone you (742-1731?) if further clarification is necessary.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

Mr. A. J. Gibson Assistant Administrative Officer U. S. Naval Air Facility, Box 2 Fleet Post Office San Francisco 96614

Dear Mr. Gibson:

I am writing to thank you for sending me the Midway turtle tagging log, and providing me with up-to-date information on the status of the Koral Kings Dive Club. I greatly appreciate this assistance.

I will be writing directly to Koral Kings President Rick Solomon in the near future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

October 7, 1980

Mr. Charles A. Oravetz National Marine Fisheries Service Duval Building 9450 Koger Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Oravets:

When available, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any reports or minutes that result from the October 2-3 meeting in Atlanta concerning the reduction of mortalities to sea turtles. I would also like to have copies of the minutes for any SE Sea Turtle Recovery Team meetings held since November of 1979. As a consultant to the Team, I used to receive this material on a routine basis. Unfortunately, this has not taken place for some time now.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ec

bcc: Archie Carr Wayne King October 1, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

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

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Bkologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

September 25, 1980

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

Dear Mrs. Owens:

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

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

Again, thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ndd

September 25, 1980

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

Dear Wayne:

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

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

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

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

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist September 25, 1980

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

Dear Roderic:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 23, 1980

Dr. V. T. Hinds Assistant Director (Technical) Fisheries Management Division Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries P. O. Box 2298 Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Val:

I am writing to thank you for sending me the turtle sighting reports for Raoul. From the one notation made by Mr. Ogg, it would appear that a bay at the west end of the island is actually named Turtle Bay.

These turtle reports constitute solid information, where virtually no information currently exists. I hope that the personnel realize this fact, and that more reports will be forthcoming. Please let me know if I can promote cooperation by sending additional turtle badges, or through some other means.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

September 23, 1980

Environmental Research Projects 212 East Broadway (G1704) New York, N. Y. 10002

Dear Sirs:

The September 1978 issue of Naui News contained an article by Kevin Stevenson concerning tracking research of hawksbill turtles. If available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the final report for this project.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance with this request.

Sincarely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

3



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 22, 1980

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

Dear Col:

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

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

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

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

2) Implementation of Tagging Projects in the SPC Region - I really don't see why you consider this to be a problem. Please give me your view point in greater detail at your earliest convenience. I assume that the possible tagging projects you are referring to are the recommendations contained in the report on the SPC/
NMFS New Caledonia Workshop on Marine Turtles. As I indicated on the phone,
there are certainly no plans to force island territories to start tagging
projects. However, in a number of cases the interest and desire does exist
with local authorities and, in my opinion (and others), it would be exceedingly
valuable to have them tag their own turtles. However, I am only in favor of
such tagging being carried out with Inconel tags. As an example, one of the
administrators in the Tahitian Fisheries Department was in my office two weeks
ago expressing great interest in personally tagging turtles at Scilly Atoll.
Interest also exists in New Caledonia and, with some initial expatriot assistance,
turtles may soon be tagged at Huon and Surprise Islands. You said that conservation education should be conducted. I agree fully, but certainly at many
locations we need both education and thoughtful tagging. I have absolutely
no intention of handing out tags and pliers to every Tom, Dick and Harry that
comes along, if that is one of your fears.

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec Encl.

bcc: Archie Carr Wayne King GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist September 19, 1980

Mr. Jack B. Woody Endangered Species Coordinator Fish and Wildlife Service P. O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Jack:

I was sorry, and certainly surprised, to learn of the problems with the 1979 and 1980 Kemp's reports. The letter from D. Gicca indicated that the tracking component had been written up, but was awaiting release or approval from Mexico. Obviously this isn't the case. I'm sure that the material will eventually get to you - one thing about Peter is that he does have an impressive publication record. He is a really prolific writer. Have you seen the article he wrote on our September 1979 Oaxaca trip? I thought it was quite good, but apparently it never got published in GEO as planned.

Last February or March I wrote to Peter asking if he could arrange for me to make a 5-10 day visit to Rancho Nuevo. The objective would mostly have been to educate maself about the species, habitat and tagging project. At the time, I had a modest source of travel funds. Peter subsequently responded that it would be fairly easy to arrange, and that he would do it. Unfortunately, he didn't and I never heard from him again until this New Caledonian trip came up in mid-July. The reason I'm telling you this is because I would like you to keep my interest in mind for a possible visit next nesting season. I have money to cover all expenses, so that will not present any problem.

I really appreciated receiving the "living tag" progress report. John Hendrickson visited one of his daughters here in Hawaii last January, and at that time made preliminary negotiations with Richard Shomura (NMFS Honolulu lab Director) to be awarded a \$6000 contract to do some of this same work for one month. He originally wanted to start marking and releasing as many hatchlings as possible at French Frigate Shoals, but this didn't seem like a good idea to me without first doing extended studies in captivity. Anyway, John just arrived in town a few days ago and has started marking some hatchlings (approx. 150) that will be captive reared for at least one year at

Mr. Jack B. Woody September 19, 1980 Page 2

Sea Life Park. I understand that he has also done this work at the Cayman Turtle Farm, and with Kepp's ridleys at Galveston. Right now I don't have the details.

I understand that Antonio showed up in Miami for arraignment, but was not too happy about having to spend a few hours in determion prior to the hearing. I wonder if he will return to the U. S. for the trial? Just think, all of that smuggling was probably going on while we were bargaining with him in good faith as his guests in Mexico.

I talked with your associate, Sharon Worley, on the telephone the other day. Her best bet for a "sea turtle" contact in Ponape is certainly Mike McCoy. I see him here in Honolulu every few months, and write to him often. I'm sure he would be happy to interact with her. Also, I invited her to meet with me when she comes through Honolulu.

Larry Ogren is supposed to put an R&D contract (NMFS) out to bid during early October for the production of Inconel tags. National Band and Tag is planning to bid, but they still say it will be many months before actual large-scale production. I hope that some will be ready for your 1981 Rancho Nuevo season. You should consider using the 681 size; size 49 seems far too large for such a small turtle.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Bslazs Assistant Marine Biologist

September 15, 1980

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

Dear Milton:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Archie Carr

September 15, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Truland:

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

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

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

Bast regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

September 11, 1980

Mr. J. R. Haas National Band & Tag Company 721 York Street Newport, KY 41072

Dear Mr. Hass:

The tag inscription information supplied on the attached form should once again appear on the Incomel tags which you are currently producing. This should read:

WRITE HIMB UNIVERSITY HAWAII 96744

The numbers should be consecutive starting with 5051. I realize that this duplicates numbers that appeared on small Monel tags (sizes 1 and 3) made for me during May 1977. However, these small tags have only been used on captive turtles, thereby virtually eliminating the possibility for confusion.

I hope that this order is continuing to progress without difficulty. To avoid possible conflicts with other turtle researchers eager for Incomel tags, I would like to request that you do not mention this special order to others.

I look forward to hearing from you with respect to a possible delivery date.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

Dear Mr. Corbett:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: David B. Wingate

Dr. Robert Scott Executive Officer Survival Service Commission IUCN

Dear Bob:

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

Thank you for your help with this request.

Best Regards - Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ec

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

Dear Fern:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GRBtec

Enclosures

Senator Spark M. Matsumaga United States Sanate Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Matsunaga:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ec

Enclosure

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

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

Dear Mr. Hines:

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

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Ensign Dara Daugherty Wildlife Officer U. S. Naval Station Midway NAVFAC FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Ensign Daugherty:

As you may have heard, for some years now I have been conducting tagging investigations of green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago. In collaboration with the Koral Kings Diving Club, the study area of Midway has constituted an extremely important site for the tagging of juvenile turtles. During previous years, before stringent federal protection was granted to sea turtles under the Endangered Spacies Act, I regularly supplied tags to Koral Kings' members for use on turtles during recreational diving.

My last personal contact with members of Koral Kings was during March of this year, when I visited Midway for three days. During a recent short study visit via Coast Guard aircraft on August 26-28, I made inquiries about the status of Koral Kings and the future visbility of the club considering the great reduction of Navy personnel that is supposed to take place during coming months. Unfortunately, I was not able to locate anyone affiliated with the club. Furthermore, a visit to the facility suggested that not much activity is currently taking place.

My reason for writing to you at this time is to ask for information about the membership and status of Koral Kings. Is the club still in existence, and if so, who are the officers? My contacts earlier this year included Scott Gilliam, Tim Hahn, Wade Lyle and Rick Solomon. Are any of these gentlemen still stationed at Midway? One of my principal concerns is the "Turtle Tagging Log" that has been located at the Koral Kings' facility. This book contains valuable scientific information therefore, if the club is to be dissolved, I want to be sure that these records are preserved for future use.

I am writing to you about this matter because of your position as Wildlife Officer. However, if it would be more appropriate, please feel free to pass on this request for information to the Commanding Officer.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Jeremy:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

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

Dear Rob:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 29, 1980

Mr. James J. Yamashiro Etate Parks Administrator Division of State Parks P. O. Box 621 -Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Yamashiro:

I want to thank you for your informative letter of August 13th responding to my inquiry to Mr. Gorst about the inclusion of sea turtles in the Na Pali Coast Management Plan.

The fauna and Larine survey appendices which you sent were of considerable interest, in that the findings of these short-term studies provide further evidence of comparatively rich green turtle aggregations inhabiting waters of the Na Pali Coast. As a researcher of Hawaiisn sea turtles, it is my belief that this wildlife component, which is protected under both state and federal law, warrants immediate management concern as a part of the Na Pali plan. I was therefore somewhat sorry to see that the recommendation in the plan that dewls with turtles (page 25) is limited to providing advice to visitors about avoidance of harrassment only at such a time when it is found that turtles regularly use beach areas. Based on your recent surveys, as well as existing historical information on the area, it would certainly seem desirable to immediately implement procedures that inform visitors of the protected status of turtles, both on the beaches (nesting or basking) and in coastal waters where they commonly reside. This could be easily included in informational brochures, tour narratives, preconditions of permits, and posted signs that deal with other protected species, such as seabirds and koloa. I realize that on August 22nd the Na Pali plan was adopted by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. However, parhaps it would be possible to incorporate the management provision I have suggested as an amendment to the plan. It would be unfortunate if this had to be delayed for two full years when the plan is next scheduled for review.

I appreciate your offer to coordinate study visits that I would like to make along the Na Pali Coast with State Parks maintenance and enforcement trips. In this regard, I will be contacting Mr. Niitani in the near

Mr. James J. Yamashiro August 29, 1980 Page 2

future. Financial support for work of this nature will be provided through the National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory.

Again, thank you for your thorough reply.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

cc: Mr. George Wiitani Mr. Susumu Ono August 29, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Thomas:

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

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

Mr. John Thomas August 29, 1980 Page 2

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 25, 1980

Mrs. Mary Ann Owens Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee P. G. Box 1164 Brooklyn, N. Y. 11202

Dear Mrs. Owene:

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

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

Mrs. Mary Ann Owens August 25, 1980 Page 2

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Amsistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 25, 1980

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

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of August 15 and the data sheet providing results of analysis of the two turtle barnacles.

You are correct in assuming that the seasonal seawater temperature change, at least for the southeastern half of the Hawaiian chain, is about 30-40C. However, a greater range exists for the northwestern segment (Lisianski to Kure) with probably about a 60-70C change. Based on existing tag returns, adult Hawaiian green turtles migrate from both ends of the archipelago to the centrally located site of French Frigate Shoals for breeding purposes (where seawater temperature ranges 30-40C). I estimate that these migrant adults would normally remain in the Shoals for 2-4 months before returning to their resident foraging pastures. This reproductive voyage would be undertaken once every 2-5 (or more) years.

A possibly important but at the present time unanswered question is the rate of growth of the barnacle itself. I have no idea what their life span might be, but under certain captive conditions (turtles in suspended cages) C. testinaris can grow fairly fast - in the neighborhood of obtaining a 2 cm diameter in less than a year.

Dr. John Killingley Page 2 August 25, 1980

The Oahu barnacle was indeed removed during the early summer. This was taken from an immature green turtle that most likely had been living in the same 2-3 km coastal area for several years, probably since it arrived from its early life period (hatchling--35 cm) in the pelagic environment. The FFS barnacle was removed during November, as you determined, but I have no way of knowing how long it had been in the shoals. The situation at French Frigate Shoals with respect to adult turtles is complicated by the fact that both migrant breeders and individuals that seem to be resident to the area are present.

I have enclosed some additional Chelonibia that were obtained during recent months. Full details on the circumstances of their collection have been included. A second species of barnacle, Platylepas hexastylos, also regularly occurs on Hawaiian green turtles. However, it is considerably smaller (2-6 cm diameter) and clings mostly to the skin rather than the carapace or plastron. Could this be used for your analysis?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

mk enclosures August 21, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Kirschvink:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB 1 md

Enclosure

August 21, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Thomas:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balaza Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 21, 1980

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 20, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Davis:

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

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

Mr. Peter Davis Page 2 August 20, 1980

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

mk enclosures bcc: A. Carr

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

Dear Mr. Barrel:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Aggust 18, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Batky:

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistent Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

Dear Ancel:

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

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

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

I look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

Georga H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

August 13, 1980

Mr. Gerald Ludwig Assistant Refuge Manager U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service P. O. Box 50167 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Jerry:

I still haven't been able to get the original tagging information on three green turtles which I observed at Lisianski Island on October 3, 1978. Any assistance that you can offer would be greatly appreciated. The tag

T225 T226 T259

The inscription on these tags read "Bureau Wildlife, Kailus Hawaii".

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 12, 1980

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

August 12, 1980

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

Dear Nick:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Enclosure

August 12, 1980

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

Dear Dan:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your latter dated 17 July 1980 concerning my order for Incomel alloy 625 tags in size 681. I accept the conditions you have specified, but at the same time ask that costs be kept as low as possible in order to fulfill my obligations to the granting agencies. I am confident that you will do everything possible in this respect.

I want to once again thank you for all of your fine assistance and customer service in facilitating this second small order for Incomel turtle tags.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Dr. F. R. Fosberg Atoll Research Bulletin Swithsonian Institution Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Fosberg:

I am writing to ask if I can obtain a copy of Atoll Research Bulletin No. 171, The Natural Hisbory of Laysan Island, to give to Mr. Eric Schlemmer. As you may recall, as a young boy Mr. Schlemmer lived on Laysan during the early 1900's. During a recent telephone conversation with Mr. Schlemmer, who now lives here in Kaneohe, I was surprised to learn that he was not aware of the Atoll Research Bulletin publication. I promised him that I would make an effort to obtain a copy for his personal collection.

I am, of course, prepared to pay for whatever costs that are involved with this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balaza Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Ms. Patricia Chable IUCN/SSC Avenue du Mont Blanc CH 1196 Gland SWITZERLAND

Dear Patricia:

In response to your letter of 16 July 1980 concerning Dr. Mrosovsky's project proposal, I am certain that Dr. King transmitted our review to Bob Scott by telephone while I was in Gainesville last January visiting with Dr. Carr. Our opinion was that other investigators are currently daing similar work, funded by other agencies, therefore there was probably no need for IUCN to commit funds. I hope that you have also asked Dr. Carr for an additional review of this matter, in the event that my information or memory is not complete.

Dr. Mrosovsky's proposal was apparently first submitted in May of 1978. It is very unfortunate that such a lengthy time period was necessary for this to be resolved. Can you give me any insight as to why this was the case?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Mr. W. L. Davidson, Jr. General Manager Stamps Division U. S. Postal Service 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Washington, D. C. 20260

Dear Mr. Davidson:

You may recall that on 27 May 1980 you sent me the attached letter in response to my request for information on the proposal to issue postage stamps commemorating four species of marine turtles. As two months have now passed, I would be most appreciative if you would bring me up-to-date on the status of this proposal.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Encl.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

August 8, 1980

Commander Third Fleet Pearl Harbor, HI 96860

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request permission to visit Midway during the period 26 - 28 August 1980 in conjunction with U. S. Coast Guard C-130 flights enroute to the Kure Loran Station. The personnel covered in this request include myself (SSN 564-54-0156) and Mr. Alan Kam (SSN 575-50-8518), my research assistant. The purpose of our trip would be to conduct ongoing investigations of green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since 1974 I have visited the Midway Naval Station on a number of occasions for this research. I currently hold the Federal Fish and Wildlife Threatened Species Research Permit PRT 2-3593. The required DD 398 clearance forms are on file with the Commander, Third Fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

Tel. 247-6631 or 946-2181

GHB:ec

August 4, 1980

Mr. William Gorst Na Pali Coast Management Plan Division of State Parks P. O. Box 621 Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Mr. Gorst:

The attached Honolulu Star-Bulletin afticle of 12 July 1980 indicates that a draft of the Na Pali Coast Management Plan will be reviewed by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources at its meeting on 22 August. You will probably recall that I contacted you during early 1979 concerning my interests in sea turtles and their historical significance along the Na Pali Coast. Based on the available information, it seemed to me that a long-term management plan for this area would have to include an up-to-date assessment of sea turtle stocks, both nesting on land and foraging in the nearshore waters. I offered to contribute to such an investigation under the auspices of my MAC supported green turtle project, provided that some logistical support and assistance could be provided by your Division

I have not seen the draft management plan referred to in the newspaper article, therefore I would be interested to learn if sea turtles were given consideration. If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the appropriate sections of the plan.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Kenji Ego (Div. of Fish & Game) Susumu Ono (Bd. of Land & Naz. Res.)

More Time Needed to Study Plan

Howo lots Hetery 12 July 1900

Land Board Defers Action on Ma Pali

Kausi Correspondent

LHUE, Kausi - The state Board of Land and Natural Resources yesterday deferred action on the proposed Na Pali Coast management plan intil its Aug. 22 meeting. There were indications that the

sets camper capacity figures for each of the several valleys along the ment proposals for helicopter flights and hunting along the coast, might be substantially changed by August. Commissioners asked for more time to study the document, which draft plan, which drew fire at a pubic hearing last month over manage-

It also mandates what percentage of campers can be brought by boat by commercial boat and helicopter. and helicopter into each valley.

coast and designates the locations and times of year access is allowed

mato, who moved for deferral, asked that year-round helicopter access to Kauai Commissioner Takeo Yama-Kalalau be studied to allow entry by

hunters and fishermen.

UNDER THE proposed plan, heli-copter pick-ups and drop-offs of passengers would be allowed at Kalalau only from October to April, when seas are too rough for access by boat. The rest of the year commerboats.

Milolii would be allowed the most extensive belicopter access under round pickups and drop-offs. Milolli the proposed plan, including yearstops for helicopter passengers.

Yamamoto asked why no rest stops were allowed at Kalalau. State parks planner William Gorst said that the state "has been getting a lot of flack from the public about the noise there.

Under the currently used interim management plan, belicopter dropoffs and pick-ups are allowed yearround at Kalalau and Milolii for one hour each morning and one hour each afternoon.

the customer choose the mode of transportation.

Gorst said the plan recommends that hunting be confined to the valat Hanakoa, where he said rifle hunting would endanger hikers passley areas and away from the coast. it suggests bow and arrow hunting ing on the rugged 11-mile trail.

"For the rest of the valleys, it's basically hunting as usual," he said. "We're not changing anything."

State parks was given 12 to 18 months to finish a management plan or the coast before it is made a state park. The plan is due by Aug.

tack at last month's public hearing The draft plan also came under atfor not addressing future concerns and Haena State Park at the gateover the development of way to the coast.

STATE PARKS Administrator James Yemashiro said yesterday that the proposal meant only to adcerns" and that development proposals like Haena State Park will be dress "Immediate management contaken up when the Na Pall plan is reviewed in two years.

In other action, the board ap-proved a move to form a 15-member advisory committee to assist the state in formulating cultural programs for Kahana Valley State

and helicopters - and doesn't let them operate simultaneously nor let

Kalalau is generally the last stop for hikers on the coast and Gorst said last month that the plan tries to concentrate helicopter activity at points beyond the range of most

week with the three Kausi helicopter STATE OFFICIALS will meet next companies that fly over the scenic coast to negotiate fees the companies must pay for landing on the conservation district land.

Until two years ago, helicopters were free to land for rest stops and many points along the coast. State officials said that complaints from the public over noise prompted the passenger pick-ups and drop-offs at requirement for permits.

Red Johnson, owner of Papillon Helicopters Ltd., said the suggested landing fee of \$10 per landing 'is an extremely high price." Johnson said he expected to be assessed for camper pick-ups and drop-offs but not for rest stops

Johnson, who has flown over the coast since 1964, said he received his conservation district use permit last "We're very close to bringing this thing to a conclusion," he said, add-ing that he expects the plan presentin August to contain many JOHNSON SAID the plan divides commercial activites along the coast into two distinct segments — boats July 29, 1980

Dr. Donald W. Woodard Project Officer National Coastal Ecosystems Team NASA - Slidell Computer Complex 1010 Gause Blvd. Slidell, Louisiana 70458

Dear Dr. Woodard:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of the following reports on "Selected vertebrate endangered species of the seacoast of the United States":

FWS/OBS - 80/01.12 Leatherback Sea Turtle 80/01.13 Green Sea Turtle 11 11 80/01.20 California Least Tern ** 80/01.22 Hawksbill Turtle 11 80/01.26 Hawaiian Goose 11 80/01.30 Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle 11 - 11 80/01.35 West Indian Manatee m 11 80/01.39 American Alligator 11 80/01.47 American Crocodile 11 41 80/01.49 Laysan Duck

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 29, 1980

Ms. Anne B. Appleby 2406 Delphi Rd., SW Olympia, Washington 98502

Dear Anne:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of 14 June 1980. The information on sea turtle sightings was greatly appreciated. I have enclosed another map showing more of the Olowalu coastline which I hope you will mark and return for my files.

As requested, I am sending you a report on artificial reefs in Hawaii. You may also want to consult the following publications:

Randall, John E. 1963. An analysis of the fish populations of artificial and natural reefs in the Virgin Islands. Carib. J. Sci. 3(1), 31-47.

Stone, R. B. et al. 1979. A comparison of fish populations on an artificial and natural reef in the Florida Keys.

Marine Fisheries Review, September, 1-11.

Best regards, and I hope your work is going well.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: ec

Enclosures

July 28, 1980

The Honorable Spark Matsunaga United States Senate 362 Russell Building Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Matsunaga:

I want to thank you for your latter of 16 July 1980 which responded to my telegram of 4 May expressing concern about the grounded Greek cargo vessel at French Frigate Shoals. Hy telegram was sent at the height of this emergency when it was unclear to a number of interested biologists, such as myself, exactly what course of action would be followed. Also, communications between the responsible government agencies seemed to be in need of improvement, as described in the attached copied correspondence from State Land Boaré Chairman, Mr. Susumu Ono.

Substantial damage to green sea turtles, monk seals and other forms of wildlife could result from a major shipwreck at French Frigate Shoals or other Leeward Island units of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Some protective steps need to be taken at the Federal level to minimise such a possible occurrence involving foreign as well as U. S. vessels transiting Hawaiian waters. Any suggestions that you and your staff can offer in this matter would be most helpful.

Again, I appreciate your interest and assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHBrec

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Susumo Ono Dr. R. J. Shallenberger July 28, 1980

Dr. Nancy B. Thompson
Sea Turtle Data Base &
Population Modeling Project
Miami Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Center
Miami, Florida 33100

Dear Dr. Thompson:

Recently I had the opportunity to read your March 1980 report entitled "An Assessment of Turtle Population Analysis Data Needs" and I am writing to tell you that I found it to be both interesting and informative. As you may be aware, I am particularly interested in the growth rates of green turtles in the wild. Here in the Hawaiian Islands I have found that considerable variation in growth exists between resident foraging pastures, thereby reducing, if not eliminating, the usefulness of any size-age relationships. For your information, I have enclosed two reports covering various aspects of my work. I hope that you will send me copies of future papers that you author.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

July 23, 1980 Commanding Officer U. S. Naval Station Midway Islands FPO San Francisco 96614 Dear Sir: The purpose of this letter is to request permission to visit Midway during the periods 12-14 and 26-88 August 1980 in conjunction with U. S. Coast Guard C-130 flights enroute to the Kure Loran Station. The personnel covered in this request include myself (SSN 564-54-0156) and Mr. Alan Kaw (SSN 575-50-8518), my research assistant. The purpose of our trip would be to conduct ongoing investigations of green sea turtles (Chelonia mydae) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since 1974 I have visited the Midway Maval Station on a number of occasions for this research. I currently hold the Federal Fish and Wildlife Threatened Species ResearchPBurmit PRT 2-3593. The required DD 398 clearance forms are on file with the Commander, Third Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Sincerely, George H. Balaza Assistant Marine Biblogist Tel. (808) 247-6631 or 946-2181 GHB : md

July 23, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Faries:

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

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

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balezs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr

July 22, 1980

Mr. Beryl Kendall Box 17032 Via Mombasa KENYA

Dear Mr. Kendall:

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1980 expressing concern for the survival of sea turtles in Kenya and requesting information on my research program here in Hawaii. In response to the latter point, I have enclosed a recent paper which summarizes our knowledge of green turtles ghroughout the Hawaiian chain.

For information on the status of sea turtles in your area of the world, I strongly advise you to contact Dr. J. Frazier of the Office of Zoological Research, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20008. Dr. Frazier is an authority for this region and I feel certain that he will be most happy to correspond with you on the subject.

I would appreciate hearing of any conservation action or research that results from your efforts.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec cc: Dr. J. Frazier July 22, 1980

Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada Scripps Institution of Oceanography La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Dr. Bada:

I am writing to apologize for not being able to honor my earlier commitment to send you green turtle lens for recemination analyses. Due to circumstances beyond my control, the three specimens that I had planned to send you were thawed and refrozen. This, I assumed, rendered tham inadequate for your analytical procedures. If you are still interested in this possible aging technique for green turtles, I will try to salvage some fresh material during the course of my field activities over the next few months.

Again, I am sorry for my delay in notifying you of this problem.

Sincarely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 18, 1980

Murata Takashi Hamamatsu City Nakasawa-cho, 66-11 Shizuoka Prefecture JAPAN

Dear Murata Takashi:

I am writing to tell you that during June of 1980 I found a bottle on Gin Island at French Frigate Shoals (23°45'N, 166°10'W - Northwestern Hawmian Islands) that contained a letter that you wrote on December 18, 1972. Unfortunately, the letter is faded on one side and not entirely readable. A copy of the letter has been enclosed for your information.

Gin Island is a very small uninhabited sand island that is part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Monk seals and green sea turtles live in the area and often crawl out to rest on the beaches. In addition, seabirds lay their eggs and raise their young on the island.

I would be interested to learn the location of where the bottle was placed in the ocean. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

July 18, 1980

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

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for arranging the letter of endorsement to be sent to the Postmaster General. This represented a valuable contribution and I greatly appreciate your efforts. As soon as the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee makes their decision (probably during August), I will inform you of the outcome.

I may have previously mentioned to you that for a one-year period I will be affiliated with Richard Shomuma's NMFS laboratory to work on sea turtles. As we discussed, one of the very important tasks that needs to be accomplished is the assessment of the breeding colony at Rose Atoll during the peak months. Providing that the necessary funds are released, I know that Richard wants to write a small contract (approx. \$5000) to your office to carry out this work, with the possibility of having me join in to offer some technical advice. In reviewing my notes and literature file for Rose, it would appear that August and September are the peak months for nesting. At this point, I don't know if funds can be made available for a late August or September expedition. However, it would seem unfortunate to have to delay this apportant work for yet another year. At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate hearing your own thoughts on this subject so I can determine how best to proceed.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George E. Balaza Assistant Marine Bialogist

GHB Ymd

July 17, 1980

Dr. René Grandperrin Fisheries Adviser South Pacific Commission Post Box D 5 Noumea Cedex New Caledonia

Dear Rená:

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your letter of 12 June 1980, but I only returned a short time ago from turtle tagging studies at the isolated location of French Frigate Shoals in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I appreciated receiving the English translation of the "La Dunkarquoise" turtle report, and I want to once again thank you for all of your fine assistance in such matters. Your departure from SPC and New Caledonia will represent both a personal and professional loss to me -I am indeed sorry to see this take place. I do, however, want to wish you good fortune, success, and happiness in your new work assignment. Hopefully we will continue to correspond on matters of common interest. particular, I wall be sure to periodically keep you informed about the development of sea turtle activities here in the Pacific. As you may be aware, for the next year I will be affiliated with Richard Shomura's NAGPS laboratory to specifically work on Hawaiian and other Pacific sea turtle problems. I am enthusiastically looking forward to this assignment, which will allow me to retain ties with the University of Hawaii and therefore experience the "best of both worlds."

You asked about the production of a report on our December serial survey of New Caledonia. The answer is yes, I most certainly will be preparing such a document. It was Richard's desire that I undertake this responsibility (with all participants listed as co-authors) given the fact that his laboratory supplied funds for sircraft charter and that I would soon be affiliated with his research staff. I informed Peter Pritchard of this during our discussions on the flight back to Honolulu. Incidentally, I also impressed upon Peter my belief that the development of any cooperative French/American tagging project in New Caledonia should be initiated through Richard's laboratory. This is of course due to its presence here in the Pacific and stated interest in developing such cooperative sea turtle programs. I have delayed preparing the report on

Dr. René Grandperrin July 17, 1980 Page 2

our serial survey until all of the relevant information could be assembled. This now seems to have taken place with the receipt of the "La Dunkerquoise" report. I will also be incorporating and referencing Michel Petit's aerial observations (report recently received), information from Mr. Gigaroff's movie film, slides taken by "La Dunkerquoise" personnel, and, of course, your own excellent data for Ilot Konduyo.

The copied correspondence that you sent me relating to Peter Pritchard's request to you for assistance in conducting a tagging project all came as quite a great surprise. None of us here in Hawaii had any advance notice that he was going to do this. He has also just recently written to Richard asking for \$2500 to travel to New Caledonia for a few days to meet with you. Particularly in view of his unilateral action, it is highly unlikely that any funds will be provided through Richard's NMFS budget.

I have enclosed copies of correspondence relating to the translation of the Isle of Pines' bottle message. As you will read, the bottle appears to have floated all the way from the Marquesas after being set adrift during August of 1978.

Again, all the best in your new assignment.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB: md

Enclosures

July 17, 1980 Dr. D. E. Sergeant Research Scientist Biological Station 555 St. Pierre Blvd. Province of Quebec Canada H9X 3R4 Dear Dr. Sergeant: I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your 1978 article in Biological Conservation entitled "The recent status of Monachus monachus the Mediterranean monk seal." I have enclosed several publications on the Hawaiian monk seal that I thought you would find interesting. Sincerely, George H. Balans Assistant Marine Biologist GHB: md Encls.

July 17, 1980

To: Gloria Kechohou RCUH Purchasing

From: George H. Balazs

This is to confirm my telephone conversation with you on 4 July 1980 indicating that payment authorization for PO 4053019 should be increased from \$120.00 to \$160.00 (40 sample identifications at \$4 each, rather than 30 at \$4 each). This PO is written to Dr. Dennis Russell, and I request payment to be made at this time.

I also request that PO 4053017 for University telephone and postal charges be canceled at this time.

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

GHB : rad

July 15, 1980 Mr. Charles A. Oravets Fishery Administrator National Marine Fisheries Service 9450 Kogar Boulevard St. Petersburg, Florida 33702 Dear Mr. Oravets: When available, I would greatly appreciate receiving full information on the outcome of the "public scoping meeting" relating to sea turtles scheduled for 17 July 1980 in Atlanta, Georgia. I would imagine that official minutes or a public report will result from this important meeting. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance. Sincerely, GEORGE H. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist GHB: ec

July 15, 1980

Mr. Edward Mallek Member Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee 4999 Kahala Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Mr. Mallek:

My good friend and colleague, Dr. Leighton Taylor of the Waikiki Aquarium, has told me of your interest in the proposal to issue commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. As a researcher and conservationist of sea turtles, I have been a strong supporter of this timely idea. Over the past few months, enthusiastic letters of endorsement have been sent to the Postmaster General by numerous individuals and organizations throughout the United States. For your background information, I have made copies of some of the more interesting and informative letters that have come to my attention. I am hopeful that you will have the opportunity to read through this enclosed material before the proposal comes before your committee for appraisal. It is my understanding that the next meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee will take place during early August, and that the sea turtle proposal will wery likely be considered at that time. Based on a letter from the Postal Service dated 27 May 1980 (copy attached), Dr. Taylor and I were under the impression that the proposal was on the agenda for discussion at the June meeting.

In addition to constituting a part of the wildlife heritage of the coastal continental United States, sea turtles have historically been an integral part of Hawaiian and other native cultures in the Pacific region. This has encompassed such important and varied aspects as food sources, religion, art, folklore, medicine and the fashioning of useful implements such as fishhooks from the shell of the hawksbill turtle.

The current national and international interest in sea turtles makes it desirable for such a commemorative stamp topic, if approved, to be issued at the earliest possible time. I realise, however, that there are numerous constraints involved in the production and issuance of commemorative stamps.

If you have any additional questions concerning the merits of this stamp proposal, I would be most happy to talk to you by telephone (247-6631 or 395-6409) or meet with you in person at your convenience. I would also appreciate any advice that

Mr. Edward Mallek, Member Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

July 15, 1980 Page 2

you can give me on how to further enhance the possibilities of the proposal being adopted. Would it be appropriate and worthwhile for me to send similar dossiers of endorsement letters to other members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee?

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE E. BALAZS Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

July 14, 1980 Dr. Brian Groombridge Compiler, Red Data Book - Amphibia & Reptilia Species Conservation Monitoring Unit 219c Huntingdon Road Cambridge, England Dear Dr. Groombridge: Thank you very much for your letter of introduction dated 19 June 1980. I have only recently returned from field work at French Frigate Shoals, hence my delay in responding to your request for information. Professor Brongersma in particular should be able to answer your questions about sea turtles within waters of member states of the European Economic Community. Perhaps he did not receive your earlier inquiry, therefore, by copy of this letter I will notify him of your search for information. I would suggest, however, that you also write to him and renew your request. A list has been enclosed of the names and addresses of Marine Turtle Group members for the 1979/81 triennium. You will note that Dr. Archie Carr is our Group Chairman. I lock forward to meeting you in person in the not too distant future. Sincerely, George H. Balaza Assistant Marine Biologist GHB:md cc: Professor L. D. Brongersma Enclosure

July 14, 1980 Dr. Federico Achaval Museo Nacional de Historia Natural Casilla de Correo 399 Montevideo, URUGUAY Dear Dr. Achaval: I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of your following publications: Achaval, F. 1965. Hallazgo de Chelonia mydas mydas (Tortuga Verde) en el Uruguay. Rev. Oficial Club Ancap 108:27-28, 1-2 figs. Achaval, F. 1968. Presencia de la Tortuga Verde Chelonia mydas mydas en el Uruguay. Zohl. Platense 1(3):55-16. I have enclosed several of my own papers on sea turtles that I thought you would find interesting. Sincerely, George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist and Deputy Chairman IUCN7SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:md

Encls.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON EIGHT GREEN TURTLES EQUIPPED WITH TRANSMITTERS AT FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS DURING JUNE 1980

by

G. H. Balazs July 1980

Males

- 351 Originally tagged 31 July 1975 while basking on Whale-Skate. Recovered on 12 April 1976 while basking on Whale-Skate. Recovered on 25 September 1977 while basking on Whale-Skate (carapace and rectal temperatures recorded photographed while basking). Transmitter attached 8 June 1980 while basking on Whale-Skate.
- Originally tagged 3 May 1979 while basking on Trig (copulation injuries noted). Recovered 4 May 1979 while basking on Trig. Transmitter attached 9 June 1980 while basking on Whale-Skate.
- 361 & No previous records of tagging.

Females

- 450 Originally tagged 10 July 1970 while nesting on East. Recovered on 5 July 1974 while nesting on East. Transmitter attached 8 June 1980 while basking on Whale-Skate.
- 491 Originally tagged 19 June 1979 while basking on Whale-Skate. Recovered basking on Whale-Skate on 29 June 1979. Transmitter attached 9 June 1980 while basking on Whale-Skate.
- Originally tagged 22 March 1968 while basking on Southeast Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef. Transmitter attached 9 June 1980 while basking on Trig.
- 531 No previous record of tagging.

July 10, 1980 Dr. D. L. Stoneburner National Park Service Cooperative Research Unit Institute of Ecology University of Georgia Athens, Georgia 30602 Dear Dr. Stoneburner: Thank you for sending me a copy of your interesting and informative report on the satellite tracking of loggerhead turtles. On page two of the report you mention that only transmitter C "survived the curiousity" of individuals who encountered the turtles. I wonder if you would care to elaborate on this matter for me. Were the transmitters intentionally taken off the turtles? Any insight that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Sincerely, George H. Balaza Assistant Marine Biologist GHB:md

July 10, 1980

Mr. Derek Green
Principal Investigator
Galapagos Green Sea Turtle Program
Texas Memorial Museum
24th and Trinity
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

Many thanks for your letter of 2 June 1980 which I just had the opportunity to read upon my return from French Frigate Shoals. As requested, I am sending you a copy of my September 1979 report on Hawaiian Chelonia. In a separate letter, I am also forwarding copies of those pages relating to long-distance migrations. I hope this material will be helpful to your write-up. Please send me copies of your completed papers when they are available for distribution - I am anxious to learn of your detailed results. This should be an important contribution to our knowledge of Pacific sea turtles.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balaz Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB : md

Enclosures

July 10, 1980 Mr. Donald G. Donahoo, Chief Permit Branch Federal Wildlife Permit Office U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Washington, D. C. 20240 Dear Mr. Donahoo: Thank you for sending me a copy of the report "Summary of Sea Turtle Activity in Florida, 1979" (PRT 2-3456) which I requested in a letter dated 21 May 1980. Permit number PRT 2-3456 appears to be held by the Florida Department of Natural Resources, but their report states that it is a compilation of "reports" received from "permit holders, USFWS coastal refuge managers, and Florida State Park superintendents." I am consequently somewhat confused about the other "permit holders." Do sea turtle researchers in Florida need a permit from your office or do they only have to obtain a State permit from the Florida Department of Natural Resources? Any clarification that you can provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated. Sincerely, George H. Balazs Assistant Marine Biologist GHB: md

July 10, 1980

Mr. Susumo Ono Chairman and Member Board of Land and Natural Resources 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Ono:

I am writing to thank you for your comprehensive letter of 12 June 1980 which responded to my earlier inquiry about the vessel grounding and jettison of clay at French Frigate Shoals. I was indeed pleased to learn that legal action may still be pursued to hold the vessel's owners accountable. In view of the fact that some relationship has been found between outbreaks of ciguaters and physical reef damage, you may want to focus attention on the trench created when the vessel hit the reef. It is my understanding that this trench is far larger than the size mentioned in the 28 May Star-Bulletin article by Helen Altonn.

Again, thank you for providing me with insight and background information on this important case.

Sinceealy,

George E. Balaza Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

July 10, 1980

Mrs. H. S. Fitter
Fauna Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regent's Park
London NW1 4RY England

Dear Mrs. Fitter:

I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter of 3 June 1980, but I have just returned from five weeks of field work. Yes, of course, you dertainly do have my full permission to reprint the monk seal or any other photograph that I have taken. I hope that it constitutes a valuable contribution to Oryx.

I hope to see you at one of the forthcoming SSC meetings - I am especially interested in attending the India gathering, but travel funds have yet to be obtained.

Sincerely,

George H. Balaxs Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

July 10, 1980

Ms. Ila M. Loetscher P. O. Box 2049 South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Dear Ms. Loetscher:

Thank you very much for your interesting and informative letter concerning conservation efforts on behalf of sea turtles. With respect to your request for information on the turtle buttons, you will be pleased to learn that Chelonia Institute (P. O. Box 9174, Arlington, VA 22209) had these specially made for distribution at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation (Washington, D. C., 26-30 Nov. 1979). I am sure that this fine organization would be happy to provide you with full details on production and cost.

I would appreciate receiving additional information on your work at South Padre Island, as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

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

GHB: md

July 10, 1980

Mr. Richard A. Croft
State Fisheries Officer
Marine Resources Division
Ponape, Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

Dear Mr. Croft:

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 1980 which provided me with some valuable insight on sea turtle conservation problems in your area of the Pacific. In response to your request for assistance in obtaining financial support, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. Ernest Kosaka, Endangered Species Coordinator with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Kosaka may very well be able to give you guidance in such matters.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your programs progress.

Sincerely,

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

GHB: rad

cc: Mr. Ernest Kosaka