

BALAZS 1980  
(Jan - JUNE)

HIMB OUTGOING LETTERS  
JANUARY - JUNE G.H. BALAZS

October 7, 1980

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

Dear Jim:

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

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

nk

June 5, 1980

Colonel B. R. Schlapak  
District Engineer  
U. S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Building 230, Fort Shafter  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Schlapak:

I am writing this letter as an addition to the testimony which I submitted on 27 May 1980 concerning the establishment of a "danger zone" for weapons firing off Mokapu Peninsula. It has recently been brought to my attention that a *Honolulu Advertiser* newspaper article of 21 May 1980 indicates that several firing ranges have been moved to facilitate establishment of a two square mile danger zone rather than the 24 square mile danger zone that was formerly proposed. I would be interested to learn if the movement or realignment of these firing ranges will result in mortality or additional disturbance to the breeding colony of Red-footed boobies (*Sula sula rubripes*) located directly on Mokapu Peninsula? Furthermore, will the flashing red warning beacons that are proposed for use at night constitute an adverse impact to the colony? What studies have been undertaken by the Marine Corps, or your office, to investigate these potentially serious problems? As I indicated in my earlier letter, seabirds are protected by State law and by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Permits to accidentally kill or unduly disturb seabirds in the vicinity of Mokapu Peninsula and Moku Manu Island may therefore be required from the governing authorities.

Thank you for your continuing consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

bcc: Tom Pettit

June 5, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Croft:

It is my understanding that you are currently trying to initiate action which will help conserve sea turtles in your area of the Pacific. Although these animals are mostly protected under provisions of the U. S. Endangered Species Act, I fully realize that enforcement can often be an extremely difficult and complicated problem. At this time I would simply like to commend you for your efforts on behalf of sea turtles, and offer you my assistance in whatever way that might be appropriate.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
bcc: Mike McCoy

June 4, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Curray:

Many thanks for your letter of 28 May 1980 concerning my earlier inquiry about photographs and movies of deep-diving sea turtles. I would indeed like to analyze some of this material with the aim of positively identifying the species involved. It appears unlikely that I will have the opportunity to travel through La Jolla during the next year or so. I therefore hope that you will give serious consideration to loaning me a few selected items on a short-term basis using the security of registered mail. Starting 6 June I will be at French Frigate Shoals tagging green turtles until approximately mid-July. If you are agreeable to my suggestion for such a loan, the photographic material could be mailed on 15 July and I will see to it that it is returned before the end of July. After all these years, it will be extremely interesting and important to find out what species was actually observed.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

June 4, 1980

Mr. Steve Christian  
Pitcairn Island  
South Pacific Ocean

Dear Mr. Christian:

Mr. Robert Gillett, Fisheries Research Scientist with the South Pacific Commission, has suggested that I write to you concerning my interests in sea turtles found in the vicinity of Pitcairn. It is my understanding that the people of your island only encounter turtles when they visit Oeno. I would like to learn what species of sea turtles are present, and if nesting (egg laying) takes place. Also, how many turtles would be seen during a visit? Are turtles found at this location during all months of the year? Has a tag ever been found on turtles that have been captured? Any information that you can provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

If I can be of any assistance to you here in Hawaii, please let me know.

Best regards. I look forward to hearing from you when your mail service permits.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures

June 4, 1980

Mr. Michel Petit  
O.R.S.T.O.M.  
B.P. A5  
Noumea-Cedex  
New Caledonia

Dear Michel:

This is just a short note to acknowledge receipt of your informative report on turtle sightings and your letter of 5 May 1980. I greatly appreciate the effort you have set forth in this matter - thank you very much. I will make certain that the report is properly referenced as you have indicated.

Starting on 6 June, I will be at French Frigate Shoals, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, tagging green turtles until approximately mid-July. Upon my return, I will try to locate someone here in Hawaii who is capable and interested in identifying the cetaceans in your aerial slides.

I look forward to learning about any additional sightings of sea turtles that you may record during the course of your research activities.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosure

June 3, 1980

Dr. Marie T. Dimond  
Professor of Biology  
Department of Biology  
Trinity College  
Washington, D. C. 20017

Dear Dr. Dimond:

Many thanks for your letter of 21 May. I was very pleased to learn of your letter of support to the Postmaster General regarding sea turtle stamps. This represents a valuable contribution to our campaign, and I want to sincerely thank you for your efforts. You may be interested to learn that endorsements have now been sent in by about 125 individuals from all across the nation. I am greatly encouraged by this response; hopefully the proposal will meet with success in the near future.

I am sorry to say that I cannot give you any recommendations of funding sources for your proposed temperature work, except for perhaps suggesting that you approach the National Marine Fisheries Service as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service. As you probably know, Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky has been involved in some of this research. Possibly you could collaborate with him to strengthen your efforts to obtain financial support.

I wish you luck and success in your research endeavors with sea turtles. Let us continue to stay in contact during the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosure



June 3, 1980

Mr. R. Klukas  
National Park Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
1895 Phoenix Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30349

Dear Mr. Klukas:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your report entitled "American crocodile recovery plan" by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 26 pp.

Sincerely,

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

mk

June 3, 1980

Dr. Henry A. Reichart  
Director, STINASU  
P. O. B. 436  
Paramaribo, Suriname

Dear Henry:

I was really pleased to receive your letter of 12 May and learn that you are forging ahead with a proposal for Suriname sea turtle stamps. As a stamp collector myself, I will indeed appreciate receiving copies of the issue, even if they are low denominations. You will be interested to learn that Sylvia Spring of Papua New Guinea also recently informed me that she has submitted a stamp proposal to her government. If you have a good contact in Brazil, I would appreciate the name and address so I can send one of my "stamp suggestion" letters to that country.

I have enclosed a few miscellaneous articles that I thought you would find interesting. If you have any recent reports or publications on your sea turtle activities, either in Suriname or Brazil, I would appreciate receiving copies. I was pleased to learn that Nicholas will be involved in a study visit at your facility. I hope that he has a successful stay.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

P.S. I will be at French Frigate Shoals from 6 June until about the third week of July. This is my eighth consecutive season at our Hawaiian Chelonia breeding site.

June 3, 1980

Mr. O. Rhett Talbert Jr.  
Research Associate  
Belle W. Baruch  
Marine Field Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1630  
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

Dear Rhett:

Thanks for your good letter of May 13. My note on stomach sampling of green turtles recently appeared in Herpetological Review, so I have enclosed a copy of this published version for your files.

The sampling technique is really quite simple, at least in the manner that it has been employed in my research program. Transparent tygon tubing works very well and it is my favorite, but certainly other pliable tubing can also be successfully incorporated. I do not "force" large quantities of water into the stomach, but rather gently introduce small or moderate quantities only to facilitate removal of algal and invertebrate particles. The contents are in no way "flushed out." Instead, a small sample is extracted by moderate suction. Under field conditions, this suction can be easily created orally, with the tube leading into a small Erlenmeyer vacuum flask. This of course prevents the researcher from getting a mouthful of stomach sample. I preserve the resulting liquid sample with 5-10% formalin for later identification. A screen would not be useful for my purposes because I retain the entire liquid sample containing the food particles. I want to once again point out that not every turtle that I capture can be successfully sampled. If the lubricated tube cannot be easily inserted after two attempts, I terminate operations rather than try to force the issue. Also, as previously mentioned, I have only carried out this technique with green turtles - I have no idea what will happen with other species, although I expect it can serve as a useful tool. In your own sampling program, I hope you don't overlook the value of also examining fecal material.

Mr. O. Rhett Talbert Jr.  
Page 2  
June 3, 1980

In the case of loggerheads, I am sure you will find a lot of indigestible particles from invertebrates passing through in the feces. Some positive identifications could surely be made from these items. Although I have not yet attempted this myself, perhaps you can devise some method of extracting a sample of feces without having to hold the turtle in captivity and wait for normal passage. Such sampling would appear to be a relatively easy undertaking. As a closing statement on this entire subject, I want you to know that I consider all of the methods used in my program to be accessible public information. If it would be useful, please feel free to Xerox this letter and distribute it to your other colleagues. One of my goals is to foster more research on immature turtles in the sea. The continued tagging of females at breeding sites by itself cannot give us answers to the critical management questions that are being asked. This is especially true when nearly everyone now in the business is using tags that have a shorter life than the turtles.

You asked if you could be of further help with the commemorative stamp effort, and the answer is yes. In the next few days, would you please find at least two people who will write short letters of support to Postmaster General Bolger. It would be best if these individuals would write as private citizens, and not affiliates of institutions. I know that you can accomplish this and I appreciate the extra effort. By the way, you will be interested to learn that the Governor of your state recently wrote a fine endorsement letter (copy enclosed).

Starting June 6 I will be in the field continuously for about six weeks. My mail will be forwarded about once a week, but it will be difficult for me to respond in a timely manner.

Best regards and good luck with your work.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures

June 2, 1980

Mr. Christer S. Friberg  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Northern Group  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
Penrhyn, Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of April 30, which I received during the third week of May. I really appreciate the details you provided on the marse and turtle fishing at Penrhyn. Don Brandon, a New Zealander living on Rarotonga, previously supplied me with some information for Penrhyn, but your details are certainly more up to date.

As requested, I have located a copy of our University brochure for prospective students from other countries. I am also sending you the 1979-1981 General Information Bulletin which provides more detailed information on all aspects of the University. My position with this Institute (see pages 10 and 238) only involves research activities, specifically sea turtles at the present time. I therefore unfortunately cannot be of any great assistance in helping you enter as a student. I would say, however, that you should also investigate the study opportunities available at the University of the South Pacific in Suva. I suspect that the tuition and living costs would be lower in Fiji than they are here in Hawaii. In any event, I wish you success in your efforts and I will help you to whatever extent possible.

If possible, can you send me a picture of yourself, wearing the "turtle badge," taken with some of your Penrhyn employees or friends? I know that this is an unusual request, but the organization that gave me the badges (Chalonia Institute of Washington, D. C.) has asked me to gather such photos of people on Pacific islands. I hope you don't mind. If you need an extra roll of film, please let me know and I will send one down to you.

Someday I hope to be able to visit Penrhyn for a firsthand study of the turtles.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures

May 29, 1980

To: Marine Affairs Coordinator  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1501  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: George H. Balazs

Subject: Request for no-cost extension of my MAC funded RCUH project 4053  
(Survey and Assessment of the Hawaiian green turtle)

The administration of this project is scheduled to be terminated by RCUH at the end of June, 1980. Field activities will require me to be at French Frigate Shoals from early June until approximately mid-July. In order to bring the project's budgetary matters to an orderly conclusion, I am hereby respectfully requesting a no-cost extension of the project until at least the end of July, but ideally until mid-August. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which I hope will meet with your approval.

GHB:md

cc: Gilbert Oshima, RCUH

May 29, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Stoneburner:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of the following reports which were recently listed by the Federal Wildlife Permit Office.

Satellite Telemetry of Interesting Movements of Loggerhead  
Sea Turtles on Cumberland Island National Seashore (7 pp)

Heavy Metal Concentration in Loggerhead Sea Turtle Eggs at  
Canaveral, Cumberland Island, Cape Lookout, and Cape  
Hatteras National Seashores (7 pp)

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 29, 1980

Messrs. J. R. & T. V. Haas  
National Band and Tag Company  
721 York Street  
Newport, Kentucky 41072

Dear Messrs. J. R. & T. V. Haas:

Recently I talked by telephone to Larry Ogren (NMFS - Panama City, Florida) and was informed that the Inconel tag contract would definitely be released in early October. This was indeed good news, but nevertheless, with the production time you have previously mentioned, I am afraid we will not have our finished product until at least early 1981. Gentlemen, I must confess that I am now starting to worry about the continuity of my ongoing tagging program. My deep concern is brought about by the fact that my Inconel tag supply has reached a low level and, in fact, cannot last through to the currently projected future delivery date. For me to return to Monel tags at this time, even for a short period, would be utterly disastrous in terms of statistical analyses of recovery data. I am therefore in serious need of a stop-gap measure that will see me through to the time when we can obtain our large orders of Inconel tags under the NMFS government contract. I would like to make a special plea to you in this matter. Using the \$800 that you have on deposit, can you make me a small order (say 500-600) of Inconel size 681 tags? Perhaps you have a small amount of the Inconel strip left over from the 1976 production batch. If not, perhaps one of us could persuade the supplier to release a small order of Inconel strip under these critical circumstances. Yours is the only company that I can turn to for assistance, and I sincerely hope that there is some way you can help me through this predicament.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md



May 29, 1980

Dr. E. H. Miller  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Downsview  
Ontario M3J 1P3 Canada

Dear Dr. Miller:

I am sorry to have taken so long to respond to your letter of 1 April 1980. Under the conditions you have consented to follow, I am happy to provide you with a duplicate of my green turtle/monk seal transparency. Hopefully, this will be valuable as a teaching aid in your program.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

May 28, 1980

Mr. Peter J. Rappa  
Hawaii Coastal Zone News  
Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program  
252 Spalding Hall

Dear Mr. Rappa:

Readers of your article on remote sensing (HCZ News, Feb. 1980) may be interested to learn that in June of 1978 I submitted a formal request to NASA for Landsat-3 imagery to be carried of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Interestingly enough, at that time no remote sensing coverage was available for this segment of our state. My request was subsequently approved and over the past two years images of the various island and reef areas have been periodically recorded. These data may now be obtained from EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57198.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

May 27, 1980

Mr. Robert Barrel  
Hawaii State Director  
National Park Service  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Box 50165  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Mr. Barrel:

I am writing this letter to obtain clarification on information presented in a Honolulu Star-Bulletin article of 21 May 1980 concerning the establishment of a U. S. preserve at Kalaupapa. A copy of this article has been enclosed for reference purposes. The article indicates that a bill currently before congress would allow "Kalaupapa patients" to "continue to have full rights to fish and use other resources in the preserve, even when federal fish and game laws would prohibit such rights." I would be interested to learn if these rights would encompass the taking of species currently protected under U. S. Endangered Species Act, such as hawksbill turtles, green turtles, and even monk seals. In addition, if I understand the rules correctly, residents of Kalaupapa and their guests were given exclusive fishing rights in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Would the guests of patients at Kalaupapa also be exempt from existing laws under provisions of the proposed reserve? At the present time I have no opinion on this proposed exemption due to my scarcity of information on marine resources along the Kalaupapa coastline. For instance, I do not know to what extent sea turtles occur in this area and what, if any, fishing pressures are currently exerted. I do know that turtles, probably hawksbills, have been recorded nesting at Moomomi and Halawa on Molokai, and that concentrations of green turtles of various sizes forage in the shallow reef flats along the island's southern coast. At the suggestion of Reverend David Kaupu, I have written to Kalaupapa resident Paul Harada for information on turtles, but thus far no response has been received. Perhaps your agency has obtained some information on turtles at Kalaupapa that you could pass on to me.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md  
cc: Ernest Kosaka,  
FWS

May 27, 1980

Dr. Marion Clarke, Coordinator  
Marine Advisory Program  
G022 McCarty Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Dr. Clarke:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving the following publications: Fish Facts for Florida Consumers - Oysters (MAPS-22), Conch (MAPS-23), Blue Crab (MAPS-12), Finfish (MAPS-13), Shrimp (MAPS-14) and Squid (MAPS-15).

I would also like to receive information on any Florida laws or regulations which restrict the use of gill nets. Are such nets legal for private and commercial use in all counties of Florida? Thank you in advance for any assistance that you can provide to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

Ms. Sally Hopkins  
Nongame & Endangered Species Section  
Wildlife & Marine Resources Department  
P. O. Box 12559  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Sally:

Many thanks for your letter of May 19th.

My reference to the tag "failing" the test was based on my opinion that no corrosion or deterioration should be acceptable in tags that we use on sea turtles. First, we should want our tags to be retained and readable for very long periods of time - ideally for the life of the turtle. Second, if tags are corroding, the resulting heavy metal components may be doing bad things to our turtles. In the case of your stainless steel carapace tag, corrosion was very apparent on the internal plate surfaces after only four months. At this rate, I can only imagine how extensive this would be after say four years, or 14 years, or 24 years (or longer?). As I have been preaching to anyone who will listen, the solution is to use a corrosion-resistant metal, such as Inconel. It's been working for me for almost four years now, and it should be successful for researchers in other areas.

I was delighted to learn of your discussion of the stamp proposal at the recovery team meeting. Also, your letter to the Postmaster General was excellent. You will be interested to learn that letters of endorsement have recently been sent by the Governors of North and South Carolina, as well as Terry Leitzel and Mr. Spinks (OES). However, by my estimation, more letters of support are needed and I would appreciate it if you would urge two of your colleagues or friends to write short letters. I mention "two" because this is a reasonable number that I know you can achieve with relatively little effort. Please ask them to send copies of their letters to me and I will credit them to your account!

I look forward to reading the minutes of the last two recovery team meetings.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

Mr. Paul Watson  
Sea Shepherd Fund  
P. O. Box 48446  
Vancouver, B. C.  
Canada V7X 1A2

Dear Paul:

Along with Dr. Carr, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for the interesting and important observations of sea turtles which you provided in your letter of March 23, 1980. Information of this nature which results from future expeditions will also certainly be most welcome. My only suggestion for enhancing data collection would be to include photographic records of the turtles that you observe. However, as you mentioned, this was indeed carried out, but circumstances beyond your control prevented you from returning with the film.

I was intrigued by the statement in your SEA SHEPHERD NEWS circular referring to plans for Sea Shepherd II as a marine mammal and marine reptile protection, conservation, and research vessel. I would be interested to learn what conservation activities, on behalf of sea turtles, you would envision being carried out.

I wish you continuing success with your worthy project.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

Mr. James Bartee  
Divison of Law Enforcement  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 50223  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Jim:

I am writing to express my apologies and regrets for the frustration you had to experience on Friday, May 23rd when you tried to contact me by telephone. The system that I had established for taking telephone messages when I am not in my office was unfortunately not followed on this occasion. Ironically, I was involved in loading supplies on the TOWNSEND CROMWELL, just a short distance from where the divers were reported to have found the turtle. Needless to say, I would like to have had the opportunity to examine and tag this specimen before it was returned to the wild.

Starting June 6th I will be at French Frigate Shoals for about one month. In addition to tagging and censusing nesting turtles, this season we will be conducting some radio-tracking studies of the movements of turtles during their 10 day to two week interesting intervals.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 27, 1980

Colonel Peter D. Stearns  
District Engineer  
U. S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu  
Building 230, Fort Shafter  
Hawaii 96858

Dear Colonel Stearns:

I have noted with interest and concern that the new proposal by the Marine Corps for a "danger zone" in waters off Mokuapu Peninsula continues to encompass Moku Manu Island. As you are probably aware, Moku Manu is an important and concentrated nesting site for numerous species of Hawaiian seabirds. The island has also been designated as a unit of the Hawaii State Seabird Sanctuary system. If the proposed danger zone will at times be hazardous to humans, one would also logically expect similar threats to confront seabirds nesting on the island and transiting the area to and from their feeding grounds. I would therefore like to know if it will be necessary for the Marine Corps to obtain permits from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to incidentally take and disturb seabirds before approval for this danger zone is granted by the Corps of Engineers. By copy of this letter, I am also asking the above mentioned agencies to look into this question. Along similar lines, it may also be prudent for the Corps of Engineers to investigate the possible occurrence of humpback whales in the proposed danger zone during certain times of the year. Permits or consultations may also be necessary under provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

I appreciate having the opportunity to offer comments on this proposal, and I look forward to your response to the questions I have raised.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Ernest Kosaka, USFWS  
Susumu Ono, DLNR  
Hawaii Audubon Society





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 27, 1980

Mr. William Bodde, Jr., Director  
Office of Pacific Island Affairs  
East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau  
2201 C Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Bodde:

As a researcher of marine turtles, I would like to make your office aware of my deep concern over the continuing interest by the U. S. State Department in storing nuclear wastes from Japan on a small Pacific island such as Palmyra Atoll. Marine turtles are known to nest on sand beaches and live in coastal waters of many islands throughout the Pacific. During certain stages of their life history, these turtles undertake lengthy migrations that often transcend international boundaries. Native peoples throughout Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia consider turtles as an esteemed food source, thereby resulting in their capture and consumption whenever circumstances permit. In the case of Palmyra, green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) are known to occur within the lagoon, but information on long-distance movements, breeding sites, food sources and other basic biological aspects are virtually unknown at the present time. Furthermore, as you may already be aware, all species of marine turtles occurring at areas under U. S. jurisdiction are listed and protected by our Endangered Species Act. Section 7 of this Act requires Federal agencies to insure that their activities or programs are not likely to jeopardize listed species. Any proposals for nuclear waste storage at Palmyra will therefore have to give careful and comprehensive consideration to the potential impacts on marine turtles.

I appreciate having the opportunity to bring this important matter to your attention. When the information becomes available, I would like to be notified of the State Department's specific plans for evaluating possible storage sites in the Pacific.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

cc: Hawaii Congressional Delegation  
South Pacific Commission  
Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

May 27, 1980

Mr. Maurice M. Matsuzaki, Director  
Division of Conservation & Resource Enforcement  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Matsuzaki:

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 1980 which helped to answer my question about DLNR's current enforcement policy with respect to Regulation 36. I certainly appreciate your assistance in this matter, however, there is one additional point that is in need of clarification. In your letter, you mentioned that the Fisheries Division may amend Regulation 36, as recommended by the Attorney General's office. I wonder if you can tell me what specific amendments are being proposed? Since this question may possibly be best answered by Mr. Ego, please feel free to forward this letter to his office should you feel it is appropriate.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 27, 1980

Mr. Susumu Ono, Director  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Ono:

I am writing this letter to request up-to-date information on the course of action you are currently following with respect to the physical damage and dumping of clay cargo from the Greek vessel at French Frigate Shoals. Honolulu newspaper articles of 8 May 1980 reported that the State of Hawaii was considering legal action against the ship's owners. Are you still pursuing the possibility of such litigation? I would also be interested to learn why the Department of Land and Natural Resources did not voice strong objection when the Navy and Coast Guard first proposed to dump this clay. Was this a unilateral decision by the military agencies that was made without the State's input or guidance? It would seem to me that the diesel fuel represented the greatest threat to the environment, and that every effort should have been immediately made to transfer this substance to another vessel.

I would appreciate any insight that you are able to give me into this important case. I do not know what effects this clay could have on the migratory breeding aggregation of green turtles, but I will certainly be watching the situation closely during my forthcoming study visit to the area.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Michael Bean

May 27, 1980

Mr. Michael R. Sherwood  
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc.  
311 California Street, Suite 311  
San Francisco, California 94104

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

During 1978 you expressed considerable interest in the Kaula bombing controversy through correspondence with my good friend Gary (Skip) Naftel of the Easy Rider fishing corporation. To my knowledge, the last letter that you sent to Skip was dated June 8, 1978, and dealt with the less-than-satisfactory response you had received from Assistant U. S. Attorney Bill Eggers. Mr. Eggers suggested that you "wait awhile" to see how the situation evolved.

I do not know if you are still interested in this case, or if any action has been taken by your organization during the last two years. However, I am taking this opportunity to send you some recent correspondence and articles which I thought you would find interesting. I would greatly appreciate hearing your thoughts on this matter when your time permits.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

May 22, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

After giving careful consideration to your request that I serve as an advisor for your newsletter, I have decided not to accept the invitation. Based on your letter of 6 May along with the addendum, it is clear that our perception of what has occurred over the past year differs tremendously. At this point, I do not have the energy or time to repeat all of the points brought out at the King - Scott - Mrosovsky - Carr - Balazs November meeting in Washington, D. C. However, I do want you to know that my basic reasons for turning down your offer are 1) your acceptance of financial support from commercial sea turtle interests; 2) the transformation of what was supposed to have been a Group Newsletter into what is now your newsletter; and 3) the absence of cooperation and goodwill which you have exhibited over the months by not allowing reasonable and justifiable access to the newsletter mailing list.

There is certainly no reason that I cannot provide you with advice on various matters on an informal basis. The title "Editorial Advisor," and the use of my name in your heading, are not essential to occasionally giving you my opinion, when it is called for. Also, as I indicated in an earlier letter, I will continue to regularly send you sea turtle items of interest that come to my attention.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
cc: A. Carr  
P. Fritchard

May 21, 1980

Dr. Donald G. Donahoo  
Chief, Permit Branch  
Federal Wildlife Permit Office  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Dr. Donahoo:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the report "Summary of Sea Turtle Activity in Florida, 1979" by Charles Futch (Permit Number PRT 2-3456). Thank you in advance for your kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 21, 1980

Mr. Charles Futch  
Assistant Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Marine Sciences and Technology  
Florida Department of Natural Resources  
Crown Building  
202 Blount Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Mr. Futch:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your PRT 2-3456 permit report entitled "Summary of Sea Turtle Activity in Florida, 1979" (23 pp). Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 21, 1980

The Honorable George Smith  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Local Government  
P. O. Box N3028  
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Minister Smith:

I was extremely pleased to learn that the Bahamas has recently become a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Your nation's action in this respect is truly commendable. As a researcher and conservationist of sea turtles, it is also good to know that your hawksbill turtles will be relieved of the exploitative pressures for foreign commercial trade.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

bcc: Karen Bjorndal



May 20, 1980

Mr. S. Moala  
Office of Tokelau Affairs  
P. O. Box 865  
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Mr. Moala:

Many thanks for your letter of 5 May 1980. I am sorry to say that it would not be possible for financial assistance to be provided for the issuance of Tokelau stamps displaying sea turtles. However, I feel certain that you would find such stamps to be extremely popular, with numerous overseas sales resulting. Our conservation group would certainly make every effort to publicize their issuance. As you will note from the attached, Western Samoa issued a \$2 Green Turtle stamp in 1973. You may want to communicate with the Apia stamp office to obtain additional information. In my opinion, the artistry on their stamp was excellent.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

May 20, 1980

Ms. Cynthia H. H. Thielsen  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii  
Suite 1100, 1164 Bishop Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Cynthia:

Thank you for your letter of May 13, 1980 along with the Navy EOD memo of November 7, 1978 listing the sighting of 13 green turtles at Kahoolawe during September of 1978. These observations were of course included in my preliminary sea turtle report of November 1978 which was sent to you at your request over a year ago. The recording of turtles by EOD personnel took place as a result of a request that I formally made to Commander Gage.

Your letter seems to imply that I have somehow not been responsive or helpful to your requests for assistance and information. My records certainly show that this has not been the case. While I did have to cancel plans to visit Kahoolawe with your group, this was almost entirely due to the fact that you failed to provide me with full information (boat charter fee) when first making the invitation.

As I mentioned to you during a telephone conversation in February, to my knowledge the only other individuals in Hawaii with scientific expertise of sea turtles are Mr. Ron Walker (Division of Fish & Game), Mr. Ernest Kosaka (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service) and Mr. John Naughton (National Marine Fisheries Service).

I wish you continuing success in your field surveys at Kahoolawe.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Emmett Aluli, M.D.

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Perran:

I am sorry to have to tell you that the Cayman Turtle Farm ad which you sent me a few weeks ago was not from a "1980" tourist magazine, as penciled in the lower right hand corner. I distributed this to several individuals and Mike Beñ subsequently responded with a question as to the accuracy of the date. On closer examination, I discovered that page 8 (back side of the Farm ad) contained a car rental ad that was only good until "April of 1979." Needless to say, I wish that one of us would have noted this fact sooner.

This case emphasized the need for careful documentation of all reference sources, particularly those of a controversial nature. Please be assured that I know you were acting in good faith, and that all of us occasionally make such errors.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 15, 1980

Mr. James R. Bain  
Biologist  
Office of Ecological Services  
The Florida State Museum  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Mr. Bain:

As requested in your letter of May 6th, I am sending you a xerox copy of the Polunin and Sumartha paper presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. I have also enclosed correspondence on our proposal to the Postmaster General for the issuance of stamps displaying sea turtles. I hope that you and some of your associates will write in short letters of support. Wayne King submitted an excellent letter of endorsement several weeks ago.

I wish you success in your project.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 14, 1980

Mr. Jay Kobelin  
8 King Arthurs Court  
St. James, New York 11780

Dear Mr. Kobelin:

I certainly want to thank you for your interesting and informative letter of 19 March which responded to my inquiry about sea turtles and other marine life at Kingman Reef. The illustrative photo of your small island "home" for three days was also greatly appreciated. I hope that you have recovered fully from your accident, and are now enjoying the very best of health.

A point that I failed to ask in my earlier letter is if permission had to be obtained from the U. S. Navy in order for your group to visit Kingman Reef. Many of the nautical charts that I have seen show Kingman as a "restricted area" under the jurisdiction of the Navy. If this is indeed still the case, it would be helpful for me to know what procedures must be followed to obtain entry to the area.

Once again, many thanks for all your fine help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 14, 1980

Mr. Henry Okamoto  
Division of Fish and Game  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Henry:

Your Symposium progress report on studies in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands provides useful and interesting information. I was especially interested in the collection of 101 species of macro-algae from the various nearshore areas. I wonder if it would be possible to obtain the complete draft report listing the names and locations of these algal species? This information has considerable potential for complementing my research of green turtles in the Leeward Islands.

Thank you in advance for whatever assistance you are able to provide to this request.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

May 14, 1980

Mr. Gordon C. Morison  
Assistant Postmaster General  
Customer Services Department  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20260

Dear Mr. Morison:

I am writing this letter to request information on the membership and meeting schedule of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee. On 10 April 1980 I sent you a similar letter of inquiry, but unfortunately the only response received was a form letter that did not provide answers to my questions. I hope that this present letter will be brought to your personal attention.

Specifically, I would like to know the names of the members currently serving on the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, and the dates that meetings will be held during the coming months to determine subjects for commemorative stamps. Are these meetings held in Washington, D. C., or at other locations in the United States? My interest at this time is in the marine conservation proposal which seeks to have four species of United States sea turtles displayed on commemorative stamps. I fully endorse this suggestion and therefore would like to know when the Advisory Committee will consider the topic.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 14, 1980

Mr. David Mack  
Assistant Director  
WRAFFIC (USA)  
1601 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear David:

Karen Bjornal recently sent me copies of three U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service declarations for sea turtle skins imported from Mexico but claimed to originate in the Cayman Islands. It is my understanding that these copies were recently supplied by your office. Each form states that a Certificate of Origin from the Cayman Islands was attached, but unfortunately these Certificates were not included with the copies that Karen received. Do you have copies of this material and, if so, could you provide me with duplicates? Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

I wonder if you were ever able to identify the product "Bekko" which we discussed in earlier correspondence?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



May 12, 1980

M. Harve Gigaroff  
Office de la Recherche Scientifique  
et Technique Outre-Mer  
B P A5  
Noumea, NEW CALEDONIA

Dear M. Gigaroff:

Under separate cover, I am returning by air mail postage the movie film taken at Ouvea which you very kindly loaned to me for review. This was an exceptionally interesting documentation of one female and two male green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) engaged in "courtship" activity. The males are shown to be quite aggressive, while the female is totally resistant to their advances. Actual copulation is not shown in the film, and I am wondering if the turtles were eventually ever seen joined together in a true mating position. From your film, we now know for sure that green turtles breed at the islets near Ouvea. We are also able to say something of their seasonality. These basic facts alone are very important, therefore I want to sincerely thank you for making this film available.

Please give Michel Petit my best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Showura  
Rene Grandperrin

May 8, 1980

Dr. Edgardo Gomez  
Marine Sciences Center  
University of the Philippines  
Diliman, Quezon City 3004  
PHILIPPINES

Dear Ed:

Rick Grigg recently mentioned the Coral Reef Symposium that will be hosted by your Center sometime next year. I wonder if you have given any consideration to incorporating a workshop on Western Pacific sea turtles into this meeting? Perhaps this would not be feasible, but nevertheless I thought it would be worth suggesting.

I understand that a letter of encouragement on the pending Turtle Islands sanctuary has finally been sent to the Philippines from Dr. Munroe of IUCN. Better late than never - I hope some positive results can now be obtained.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 7, 1980

Dr. Judith Mittag  
Am Bonnehof 30  
D-4000 Dusseldorf 30  
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear Dr. Mittag:

As an addition to my letter of inquiry dated 14 April 1980, I would like to bring to your attention the attached advertisement from a Cayman tourist magazine.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

May 7, 1980

Dr. J. R. Hendrickson  
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
College of Liberal Arts  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter of 17 April. After writing to you on 25 February I did have the opportunity to look over the proposal material which you sent to Mr. Showara.

The mention of "proper safeguards" in my earlier letter simply referred to my belief that any new marking procedure for hatchlings should be thoroughly tested under captive, controlled conditions before marking takes place in the wild. This would be particularly applicable for French Frigate Shoals where we only have 100 - 250 females nesting each season, considerably less than some of the earlier estimates. The problems that have now shown up with artificial incubation techniques after all these years have strengthened my opinion that conservatism must be exercised in all new manipulative techniques.

I hope that by now you have had the opportunity to write to the Postmaster General endorsing Dr. Carr's sea turtle stamp proposal. It is indeed encouraging to see the support that has developed for this idea across the country.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 7, 1980

Dr. Archie Carr  
Graduate Research Professor  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Archie:

Monday, May 5th, wasn't one of my better days. A few minutes after opening a letter from Wayne containing a newspaper article on Earl Lippoldt's sea turtle permit problems, Mr. Lippoldt telephoned me from Padre Island. It was a difficult conversation, to say the least. I have never met Mr. Lippoldt in person, but he did send me some information on his project a few months ago. The bottom line of his telephone call was that he wanted me to tell Washington that he should be allowed to transplant ridley nests. He felt that they would listen to me because of my position as "second in command" of the Turtle Group. I told him that I was your assistant. Furthermore, I had to explain to him several times over, diplomatically but firmly, that I wasn't about to comment to Washington, one way or the other, unless I felt justified and motivated to do so based on factual written information available to me for review. He said that he had found and transplanted four nests during five years of looking. He believes that the Rancho Nuevo project is copied after his own work, and that the "Turtle Lady" of Padre Island gets all the publicity. Our telephone conversation ended on a crisp but nevertheless partially cordial tone. I had the feeling that he thought I was also part of some organized scheme devised by Washington.

I'll write to you again when I have a better day to describe.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Peter Pritchard

May 7, 1980

Mr. John Rudge  
Wildlife Advisory Branch  
Natural Conservancy Council  
19/20 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8P7  
ENGLAND

Dear John:

I thought you would want to have the  
enclosed two items brought to your attention.

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 7, 1980

Drs. W. R. Lowell & W. F. Flanigan  
Biomedical Branch  
Naval Ocean Systems Center  
San Diego, California 92152

Dear Drs. Lowell & Flanigan:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any reports or publications that resulted from your laboratory studies with 13 Hawaiian green turtles between 1975 and their unfortunate demise in 1978. Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 7, 1980

Mr. Duke Wellington  
Gaspro Inc.  
3990C Rica Street  
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Wellington:

Jan TenBruggencate of The Honolulu Advertiser suggested that you might be able to provide me with some historical information on the occurrence of green turtles laying eggs on Kauai, specifically on beaches along the Na Pali Coast. Have you ever seen turtles nesting, or talked to anyone who has observed such activity? If so, I would greatly appreciate learning of the details. Any information that you can provide on this subject would be received with great interest.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



May 6, 1980

Ms. Carla H. Kishinami  
Curatorial Assistant  
Vertebrate Zoology/Herpetology  
Bernice P. Bishop Museum  
P. O. Box 19000-A  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Dear Carla:

I was sorry to hear of your illness and injury, but hope that you are now feeling much better. Please remember that friends of sea turtles need to stay in good health!

Yes, certainly, you have my permission to use the olive ridley specimen if we are fortunate enough to have the exhibit go into a traveling phase. When you have finalized these plans with Dave Kemble, I would be interested to learn if the exhibit will travel as currently displayed, or altered into some other form. Information on the institutions, cities, and approximate dates of exhibition would also be good to know.

At last count, I am aware of about 80 letters of support being sent to the Postmaster General from all across the United States. Your efforts on behalf of this small conservation campaign are certainly appreciated and represent a valuable contribution. Many thanks - I hope we are successful.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 6, 1980

TO: Jack Davidson, Director  
Sea Grant College Program

FROM: George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist, HIMS

After meeting with Gilbert Oshima at RCUH on 2 May, I would like to ask for your approval of a no-cost extension until 31 June for my Sea Grant project 2068. As you are aware, this is the final year for my Sea Grant project and most activities are now in their concluding phase. Nevertheless, field activities have always been more productive during the summer months and I would like to take advantage of several opportunities that have not been possible during year 12 until now. I should also note that the MAC component of my project will not expire until 31 June. The no-cost extension will therefore allow me to terminate both funding segments at the same time, and hopefully in a more orderly and complete manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

GHB:ec



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 6, 1980

Admiral David Lauth  
Fourteenth Coast Guard District  
300 Ala Moana, Rm. 9153  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Admiral Lauth:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the Greek shipwreck situation currently taking place at French Frigate Shoals, the most important unit of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The effects of 19,000 tons of clay cargo and 150,000 gallons of diesel fuel on the marine and terrestrial breeding habitat of our Hawaiian green turtle population are potentially far reaching. I want to comment you for your action to date in this matter, and urge you to continue to take all steps necessary to reduce the likelihood of an environmental disaster. In any decision making process, I hope that the monetary value of this foreign vessel and its cargo will in no way take priority over the integrity of the Refuge and its various wildlife and fisheries components. If our worst fears are indeed realized and the ship starts to break up, I am confident that you will respond quickly with a vigorous containment and clean-up campaign.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Kenji Ego  
Doyle Gates  
Dale Coggeshall

May 6, 1980

Mr. O. Rhett Talbert, Jr.  
Research Associate  
Belle W. Baruch Marine Field Laboratory  
P. O. Box 1630  
Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

Dear Rhett:

Many thanks for sending off your letter of support to the Postmaster General Bolger. I am very pleased with the endorsements thus far received. About half of the approximately 100 people contacted have taken the time to write a letter. I will keep everyone informed if and when the proposal progresses. In the meantime, a few more letters from your friends and colleagues would certainly be valuable.

Concerning the "Kam-Balazs" survey report, I hope you will understand that I would rather not start duplicating this manuscript and letting it be circulated. It was a student project, and nearly all of the results have been, or soon will be, incorporated into other documents suitable for distribution. Your name has been added to this circulation list.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 6, 1980

Editor, The Islander  
c/o Bendix - EIR  
Ascension Island  
P. O. Box 4608  
Patrick Air Force Base  
Florida 32925

Dear Editor:

A friend recently sent me a copy of the article on nesting turtles by Mr. Kendall which appeared in the 21 March issue of The Islander. As a researcher of sea turtles here in the Pacific, I want to endorse the conservation points which Mr. Kendall has described, and compliment him for his concern and efforts to inform the residents of your island about this important matter. The beaches of Ascension are indeed vital to the perpetuation of this unique and world-famous population of green turtles. Although it is understandable that small amounts of beach sand must be removed for human needs, it is essential that this be carried out in a highly selective manner. Sound judgement must also be exercised in the use of artificial lights near beaches, with ideally the most critical locations remaining totally free from this known source of disturbance and disorientation.

Many of us are aware of the fine conservation policy toward sea turtles that exists at Ascension. The people of your island most certainly have a right to be proud of this record.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
bcc: Jeanne Mortimer

May 6, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Killingley:

As agreed, I am sending you a "look-see" sample of six barnacles (*Chelonibia testudinaria*) collected from Hawaiian green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Specimen number one was removed from an adult female at our breeding site of French Frigate Shoals. The remaining specimens (No. 2-6) were collected from immature turtles at inshore foraging pastures here at Oahu. I look forward to hearing from you after you have had the opportunity to analyze this material. I hope that something exciting can be obtained.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 5, 1980

Mr. Kelley Dobbs  
Greenpeace Hawaii  
913 Halekauwila Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Dobbs:

On June 20, 1979, Doak Cox of the U.H. Environmental Center sent me a copy of your letter of 10 May 1979 to Commander Alfred Utara. In this correspondence you brought up the potential problem tanker oil spills in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Did Commander Utara ever respond to your inquiry? If an answer was received, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

May 5, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Curray:

You will probably recall that during late 1975 and early 1976 we exchanged letters concerning movie film of sea turtles taken from Cousteau's diving saucer. You indicated that the film or photographs were in your files, but that time was not available for you to locate the material. You graciously offered to let me look through your files if I would be visiting La Jolla, but unfortunately such a trip has not materialized. I wonder if you ever had the opportunity to locate these photographs, or if circumstances would allow you to do so at the present time? This could be an exceptionally valuable documentation of diving records and foraging behavior of sea turtles. In a brief note, Landis (Under Sea Technology, Dec. 1965) states that these were green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), but it would be good to know if this was indeed an accurate identification. The sizes of the turtles involved would also be of considerable interest.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec



May 5, 1980

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

Dear Rene:

Your good letter of 3 April 1980 just arrived a few days ago. I have not yet had the opportunity to see about translating the mysterious bottled note, however, in a day or two I will take it to the Pacific Languages Department on our main University campus. I will also make an inquiry at Oceanic Institute. This should all prove to be very interesting.

The report of our marine turtle workshop also arrived, and I am pleased to see that it turned out well. If possible, I would certainly appreciate receiving 5-10 extra copies. There is one point that perhaps I should call to your attention, although it is really not that significant of a matter. Working Paper 12 (in the Appendix List of Documents) was actually my report "Marine Turtles of U. S. Territories in the Central Pacific Ocean" (see attached cover page). My paper "Growth Rates of Immature Green Turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago" was presented at the Washington Conference and, for the Workshop, it constituted one of the Information Papers. Again, this is no great problem, but I did want to make you aware of the matter.

I will be returning the movie film in the next few days. It turned out to be some spectacular footage of two males trying to copulate with a female in very shallow water close to shore. They are all green turtles.

Best regards to you and Jim.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
cc: Richard Showura

May 1, 1980

Ms. Sally R. Hopkins  
Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources  
P. O. Box 12559  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Sally:

Today I inspected your experimental stainless steel carapace tag after it was suspended in Kaneohe Bay (at 23-26°C) for only four months. I am sorry to report that it failed the test. The tag is being returned for your own examination. As previously described, the tag was affixed to a piece of plywood to approximate conditions on a turtle. Most of the corrosion is located on the internal surfaces, presumably due to anaerobic conditions. The problems that most researchers have encountered with Monel tags have also involved corrosion at sites either inside of or in direct contact with the turtle. In contrast, my Inconel tags have fortunately shown no corrosion. The piercing site on the turtle's flipper heals completely (like a pierced ear) and does not have the festering scabby appearance common with Monel tags.

Sally, I wonder if you have had the opportunity to write to the Postmaster General in support of the commemorative stamp proposal? Hopefully you will see fit to do this on Southeast Recovery Team stationary to provide greater impact. I am, of course, assuming that you endorse this idea - which has really turned into a vote-getting campaign. In my opinion, there is a lot of potential here for making the public more aware of sea turtle conservation problems and the need to fund management-oriented research. If your views somehow differ, I do hope you will write to me on the subject. My latest count places the number supporting letters thus far sent to the Postmaster General at about 80. We need more if the proposal is to be favorably received when the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee meets sometime in the next few months. Your vigorous support will be extremely valuable.

Ms. Sally R. Hopkins  
Page 2  
May 1, 1980

I am also wondering if any Recovery Team meetings have been held since the Washington Conference? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the minutes.

I would be happy to test any other tags which you may be considering at the present time.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

April 30, 1980

Mr. Dale Coggeshall  
Pacific Islands Administrator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Dale:

One of the points that I considered mentioning during our recent symposium, but for reasons of appropriateness decided to postpone until the present time, deals with the Fish and Wildlife Service's contribution to the green turtle research program under the Tripartite Cooperative Agreement. As you know, an outline of my research project constitutes Appendix J of the Tripartite document. In the Tripartite narrative, under Responsibilities of the Signatories, it was agreed that all parties have an interest in the green turtle and therefore would provide support for the necessary research of this wildlife component. During the first half of the Tripartite study, financial backing for this work has been equally derived from the State of Hawaii (MAC Office and University of Hawaii) and the NOAA Sea Grant College Program. For the second half of the study, principal support is anticipated, if not assured, from the Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service.

I realize that the Fish and Wildlife Service has experienced some internal difficulties in obtaining proper funding for seabird research, and that consequently financial assistance for the research of sea turtles has been in abeyance. I should, however, point out that over the past three years I have periodically made appeals for partial support in discussions with Palmer Sekora, Brent Giesentanner, and you. At this point, it is probably unrealistic to expect funds earmarked for turtles to be forthcoming from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Nevertheless, I hope it will be possible during the remaining portion of the study for some assistance to be offered. One contribution might be logistical support on chartered aircraft and vessels scheduled by your agency for future use in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Another possible form of assistance could be the facilitation of a short-term investigation of sea turtles at the Johnston Atoll Refuge. This was one of the priority items mentioned in my symposium paper due to the possibility of the site being used by Hawaiian *Chelonia* as a migratory stepping stone. I would, of course, be pleased to discuss other possible and appropriate forms of assistance with you at your convenience.

Mr. Dale Coggeshall  
Pacific Islands Administrator

April 30, 1980  
Page 2

I appreciate having the opportunity to bring this matter to your attention.  
I also applaud and endorse your continuing stand to retain the Hawaiian  
Islands National Wildlife Refuge as a refuge for wildlife.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 30, 1980

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your document entitled "Report of a Workshop on Stock Assessment and Incidental Take of Marine Mammals." Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 30, 1980

Ms. Cynthia Thielen  
Staff Attorney  
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii  
Suite 1100, 1164 Bishop Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Cynthia:

As requested during your telephone inquiry of 29 April 1980, I am sending you a copy of my comments to the U. S. Navy relating to sections on sea turtles in the Kahoolawe EIS. Based on a letter from Captain Profflet dated 24 April 1980, I expect to have additional discussions on this topic with Navy personnel when my schedule permits. Please note that I have no desire for publicity to result from this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

bcc: Captain Profflet  
Doyle Gates, NMFS

April 28, 1980

Dr. Humberto Chavez  
Instituto Politecnico Nacional  
Centro Interdisciplinario  
de Ciencias Marinas  
La Paz, B.C.S.  
Mexico

Dear Dr. Chavez:

I want to thank you for your kind consideration in sending me copies of the most important papers relating to sea turtles in Baja California. This is very much appreciated.

For your information, I have enclosed a recent paper dealing with my research of Hawaiian green turtles. I am also sending you correspondence relating to the possible issuance of a commemorative stamp in Mexico which portrays sea turtles. I hope that you will give serious consideration to submitting such a proposal to your proper government authorities.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures



April 28, 1980

Captain L. T. Profilat  
Kahoolawe Project Officer  
United States Pacific Fleet  
Commander Third Fleet  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear Captain Profilat:

Thank you for your good letter of 24 April 1980 which acknowledged and responded to my earlier correspondence of 14 March 1980. I should like to emphasize once again that all of the inaccuracies and out of context statements relating to sea turtles which appear in the Kahoolawe EIS could have been avoided if I would have been allowed to review this section of the document prior to publication (see my correspondence of 8/10/79 and U.S. Navy response of 8/15/79).

I wish you sincere best regards and aloha in your new assignment.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 28, 1980

Dr. William Aron, Director  
Office of Marine Mammals & Endangered Species  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dr. Aron:

The purpose of this letter is to submit testimony relating to the NMFS/NOAA Draft Environmental Impact Statement entitled "Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Hawaiian Monk Seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands." My comments will be limited to the two areas which I feel are of greatest importance at the present time.

#### Absence of a Specific Proposal

In view of the document's title and objective, it is surprising to find that a *complete specific proposal* for the designation of Critical Habitat has not been offered. Instead, three choices (10 fathom, 20 fathom, 3 nautical miles) have been set forth for the public's consideration and selection. Which of these three choices constitute the recommendation of NMFS/NOAA biologists, based on their comprehensive examination of the best available data? It is reasonable to assume that some conclusion was indeed reached in this matter, but unfortunately it is not clearly presented in the document. The closest statement to a recommendation seems to appear in the Summary on page 3, which reads:

"Essential habitat requirements for the Hawaiian monk seal, based on the best available information, have been identified to include pupping and hauling beaches, shallow, reef-protected lagoon waters adjacent to these beaches, and the deeper inner reef waters, lagoon waters and all other surrounding water areas to a depth of 10-20 fathoms (my emphasis)."

Dr. William Aron  
Page 2  
April 28, 1980

Are NMFS/NOAA biologists consequently recommending 10 fathoms, 20 fathoms, some value between these two depths, or possibly the three nautical mile option which is mentioned elsewhere? Some conclusion needs to be reached in the document in that, unlike NMFS/NOAA biologists, the majority of the public does not have access to all the available literature and data on the Hawaiian monk seal.

#### Nihoa and Gardner Pinnacles

Under Habitat Requirements on page 52, the document states that "Existing data clearly indicate that the beach areas utilized by the Hawaiian monk seal for hauling out and pupping are critical to the well being of the species." On page 18, under Proposed Action, it is stated that "This proposed Critical Habitat designation would include beach areas currently utilized by the monk seal for hauling out and pupping on the islands and atolls." Furthermore, "Beach areas refer to all sand beaches, including vegetation immediately behind these beaches, as well as limestone and lava beaches utilized by monk seals as haul-out grounds and pupping areas." In view of these statements, and considering the best available data, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands of Gardner Pinnacles (25° 00'N, 167° 55'W) and Nihoa (23° 06'N, 161° 58'W) should also be logically included in the proposed designation of Critical Habitat. I have compiled some of the significant data on monk seals at these two locations for your consideration.

#### Gardner Pinnacles (3 acres)

In *Atoll Research Bulletin* No. 163, Roger Clapp (1972) states that

"The only mammal occurring on Gardner is the Hawaiian Monk Seal which was first noted in 1826 in Hiram Pualding (1831:191). These seals were not seen there again for over 130 years. This absence of records probably stems from a paucity of observations of the Pinnacles rather than an absence of seals since these mammals have been seen quite regularly during recent visits to the islands.

On the first POBSP survey (16 June 1963) the field party saw two seals sunning themselves on the smaller of the two islands. On 16 September 1966, Kridler's field party saw five seals, four resting on the smaller island, another swimming nearby. Six were seen on the second POBSP survey (26 May 1967), again on the smaller island. These seals were hauled out on a ledge about 2 feet above the water surface which was reached by riding the swells. On 1 June 1969 Olsen saw six hauled up on the small island. No evidence that breeding occurs on the island has been found."

Dr. William Aron  
Page 3  
April 28, 1980

Rick Coleman (1977) observed six seals hauled out at a rock ledge at Gardner Pinnacles on 10 July 1977, and four seals hauled out on 10 August 1977. One of the seals in this latter group had been originally tagged as a pup at Whale-Skate Island, French Frigate Shoals, 120 miles to the southeast.

Based on Table 1 (summary of censuses) presented in the Critical Habitat proposal, it is apparent that the scarcity of monk seal records for Gardner Pinnacles is due to the delation of this site from most research expeditions. Gardner Pinnacles is the only haul-out grounds for monk seals for 120 miles to the northwest of French Frigate Shoals, and 205 miles to the southeast of Laysan Island. The habitat must therefore certainly be considered critical to the well being of the species.

#### Nihoa (156 acres)

Nihoa has a small white sand beach (Derby's Landing) and several rock ledges along the coastline. On 17 August 1977, Naftel and Balazs (unpublished data) observed eight seals hauled out at this location. On 13 July 1978, Cliff Fiscus *et al.* (1978) counted four seals on Nihoa. On 23 May 1979, Mark Rauzon (1979) recorded 12 seals at Nihoa, including a large pup that was seen nursing and swimming with its mother at Derby's Landing. Nihoa is the only haul-out grounds for monk seals for 150 miles to the east of Necker Island, and 130 miles to the northwest of Niihau and Kauai. Particularly in view of documented pupping, the habitat of Nihoa must certainly be considered critical to the well being of the species.

I appreciate having the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

Dr. William Aron  
Page 3  
April 28, 1980

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I appreciate having the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

Dr. William Aron  
Page 4  
April 28, 1980

#### References

- Clapp, R. B. 1972. The natural history of Gardner Pinnacles, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. *Atoll Research Bulletin* 163, 1-25.
- Coleman, R. 1977. Narrative report, NOAA vessel *Townsend Cromwell*, 7/4/77-8/17/77. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Honolulu, manuscript report, 10 pp.
- Fiscus, C., Johnson, A. M. and K. W. Kenyon. 1978. Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) survey of the Northwestern (Leeward) Hawaiian Islands. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, processed report, 27 pp.
- Rauzon, M. J. 1979. Survey of Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*), Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, 9-25 May 1979. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Lab, Anchorage, manuscript report, 10 pp.

April 24, 1980

Mr. Doyle Gates  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Honolulu Laboratory  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Doyle:

Mike McCoy of the Micronesian Maritime Authority recently told me about the accidental capture of an immature olive ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea) on a longline set in the area between Truk and PNG by the Japanese research vessel SHOYO MARU. The MMA fishing agreement currently has no provisions requiring the reporting of turtles caught on longlines. However, Mike thought that this might be included in next year's negotiations. I wonder if you can tell me if such provisions exist in the U. S. billfish regulations that recently went into effect for waters around Guam and the Northern Marianas? If so, I would very much like to obtain copies of such accidental capture reports as they become available.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 24, 1980

Mr. Mike A. McCoy  
Executive Director  
Micronesian Maritime Authority  
P. O. Box D; Kolonia, Pohnpei  
Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

Dear Mike:

Your letter of support to the Postmaster General was excellent! Your closing comments gave me a good laugh, and really helped make my day.

Yes, certainly, I'll provide you with some tags for your visit to Satawal and points beyond. Incidentally, I have some evidence to suggest that novel return addresses on tags (e.g., "Hawaii" in Micronesia) promote higher and faster returns when the turtles are captured. Far greater interest seems to be stimulated with a "foreign" address. You should have seen the excitement created when one of Archie Carr's Florida tags was recovered in 1976 by Coast Guard personnel at Kure Atoll. Great speculation took place on the route followed by the turtle - through the Panama Canal, or around Cape Horn. Of course, everyone was very disappointed to learn that the turtle had actually only been tagged at Kure (in 1964) with tags on loan from Archie.

Your report of a turtle being accidentally caught on a longline is certainly interesting, as well as potentially important. I have taken the initiative to send copies of this information back to Archie and Peter, as I am sure they will be interested in this record. Unless I'm missing something in looking at your pictures, the turtle is definitely a young olive ridley, perhaps 15-18 inches in shell length. Ridelays of this size usually aren't seen anywhere. We can talk more about this when you come over to our house for dinner, but at this point I am wondering what size hook the turtle got caught on, and if the hook was actually in the mouth or snagged in a flipper. It would indeed be good to get a turtle reporting requirement in your fishing agreement. This might include such things as photograph, shell size and preserved stomach contents of the turtle (if dead when caught). I'm going to ask



Mr. Mike A. McCoy  
April 24, 1980  
Page 2

Doyle Gates about the Guam and Northern Marianas U. S. billfish regulations. As you said, this may not be a large problem - but it won't hurt to find out all we can, particularly with the waters being under our (and your) control.

Looking forward to seeing you during early May.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 24, 1980

Mr. Arnold L. Howard  
P. O. Box 4  
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Arnold:

Thank you for your letter of March 22 along with the copy of Ka'u Herald. I have followed your suggestion and sent some descriptive material to Mr. Schuster on my work with sea turtles. Hopefully he will write something for his column in the Tribune Herald. I told him about the importance of reporting tags, and also that the turtles are protected.

Last month I was able to visit South Kohala for 5 days to tag turtles. We got 13, but none of them had old tags. Last week Wednesday I was in Hilo for one night to give a lecture on the Leeward Hawaiian Islands. It was very enjoyable. Mr. and Mrs. Doty from Pahala were there. Mr. Doty has a key to road gate leading to Kamehame. Next time it will be easy if we want to drive down.

During all of June I will be at French Frigate Shoals for the nesting season. Along with scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service, we will be putting small radio-transmitters on several turtles following their movements within the Shoals. The transmitters have a maximum range of about 50 miles.

Best regards to the both of you, and good fishing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 23, 1980

Mr. Hans Weishaupt  
General Manager  
Kahala Hilton Hotel  
5000 Kahala Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Mr. Weishaupt:

I was, of course, disappointed to read your letter of April 9, 1980 denying my request to measure the Kahala Hilton's five Green Turtles once or twice a year so record growth rates in captivity. As I previously described, both Sea Life Park and the Waikiki Aquarium have willingly cooperated with the University of Hawaii in such a program since 1973. I must confess that I was especially surprised by your letter, in that during my telephone conversation on March 14th with your Public Relations Manager, Ms. Kay Ahearn, I sensed a genuine interest in this research as well as some wild enthusiasm.

Most institutions and businesses now recognize that the holding of endangered wildlife in captivity for extended periods carries with it some responsibility for the enhancement of the species, either through conservation education, captive breeding, or management-oriented research. The Green Turtles at the Kahala Hilton have considerable potential for contributing to all three of these areas. I hope that at some point in the future the Hilton chain will take steps to allow at least part of this potential to be realized.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Taylor, Waikiki Aquarium  
Dr. Shallenberger, Sea Life Park

April 23, 1980

Ms. Laurie Hillyard  
6023 Old Olympic Hwy, SW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Ms. Hillyard:

Your letter of March 31, 1980 to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Publications Office has been forwarded to me due to my research activities with sea turtles. As requested, I am sending you copies of several publications relating to this work. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 22, 1980

Dr. Walter Dudley  
Department of Oceanography  
and Geology  
University of Hawaii at Hilo  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Walt:

This is just a brief letter to kindly thank you and Kamila for the hospitality and assistance displayed during my recent visit to Hilo. Your aloha is greatly appreciated.

As promised, I am sending you a prepublication copy of the paper I will be presenting at the 24-25 April symposium on the Leeward Islands. I have also enclosed some additional turtle sighting report forms for distribution to all interested parties. Hopefully I will be able to get over to the Big Island for additional field work in the not too distant future.

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

April 22, 1980

LtJg Daniel Whiting  
LORSTA KURE  
FPO San Francisco, CA 96619

Dear Daniel:

Many thanks for your good letter of 29 March and the informative turtle sighting reports which you enclosed. This information is greatly appreciated and, hopefully, you will continue to record such observations. I was also interested to learn about some of your past activities and educational opportunities. Your optimism about living at Kure is also good to hear, and I feel confident that you will indeed prosper from experiences at this location. I feel very fortunate to be able to travel regularly to the various islands of our Hawaiian chain.

I would be pleased to have you visit our laboratory facility here in Kaneohe Bay and discuss further aspects of my research of sea turtles. I welcome any assistance that you can give me during your time at Kure. Hopefully this letter will reach you before you arrive in Honolulu. My office telephone number is 247-6631. If I happen to be out when you call, our secretary will take a message.

Best regards - hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

April 22, 1980

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (MBPC)  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the draft environmental assessment of proposed amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as offered in the 8 April 1980 Region One News Release.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 22, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of April 7th asking me to serve as an editorial advisor for your newsletter. I appreciate being selected for this invitation. There are, of course, a number of aspects which I must carefully consider before arriving at a final decision. Along these lines, it would be helpful for me to know who else has already been asked, or will be asked in the foreseeable future, to serve in a similar capacity? It seems reasonable to want to know who one's associates will be in such a role. Also, it would be useful to know if you plan to accept or reject Archie's invitation for reappointment as a member of the IUCN/SSC Turtle Group? Perhaps you have already responded in this matter, but the information has not yet been passed on to me.

Incidentally, if I had been one of your earlier advisors, I would have asked you to print the names of those individuals who were present at the Oviedo-Mittag meeting, but did not agree to sign the resulting document. I realize that this probably only involved two or three individuals, but nevertheless it would have been a more accurate portrayal of what actually transpired. Would you have agreed with me in this case?

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Peter Pritchard



April 22, 1980

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

Dear Col:

Many thanks for your overdue letter of 10.3.79, which for some reason I just received a few days ago. Are you sure that you didn't back-date it? Seriously though, I understand your heavy field research commitments, and appreciate your correspondence-interaction when your time permits, both as a Turtle Group member and a friend. I will communicate by telephose with Archie about the various points you raised concerning action as a Group member. Please remember that I am still learning the IUCN and SSC policy myself, but perhaps can set some new directions along the way. Nicholas is no longer setting policy. In fact, to my knowledge, he has not yet even accepted the renewal of membership offered by Archie.

May I have your thoughts on the unresolved question, of the Newsletter mailing list (see attached). Should I continue to press Nicholas for a copy, or just give up on the whole matter? It was, after all, an IUCN/SSC Turtle Group supported newsletter that was brought into being by a lot of our combined efforts. Of course, Nicholas was the prime mover, but he got a lot of help along the way. Do you have any opinions one way or the other on the fact that it is now a Mittag supported newsletter?

I was pleased to learn of your involvement in a training project for personnel from the Solomons. We had Peter Vaughan (PCV) and Nick Stone in attendance at the Noumea workshop. I still wish you could have been there, as it would have represented a significant contribution.

Will you take action on the postage stamp suggestion for Australia?

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
Encl.

April 18, 1980

Mr. Byron Ayoso  
Kona Village Resort  
P. O. Box 1299  
Kaupolehu, HI 96740

Dear Mr. Ayoso:

Many thanks for sending me your turtle sighting report form of April 1, 1980. I am particularly interested in learning the locations of large (3-4') turtles such as you described. Your glass bottom boat certainly provides you with an excellent observation platform, and I would greatly appreciate hearing from you should you continue to see turtles at this 60 foot ledge.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

April 16, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Hines:

I thought you might like to have the enclosed photo of me releasing one of the turtles that was tagged at Kiholo during my recent visit. This was really a successful trip, and I hope you will give me permission to return again for several days during this coming August or September. For most of June and July I will be at French Frigate Shoals, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, tagging turtles when they come up on the beaches to nest.

While at Kiholo, I had the pleasure of meeting your caretakers, Peter and Lei. They were very helpful in telling me about the occurrence of turtles at Kiholo during previous years, and of the changes that were inflicted by the 1961 tidal wave.

I look forward to meeting you during my next visit to Kona. I will be in Hilo on Wednesday, April 16th, to give a lecture on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but unfortunately I will not be able to stop in Kona.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

April 15, 1980

Dr. Chua Tack Hing  
Zoology Department  
Universiti Malaya  
Lembah Pantai  
Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Dear Dr. Chua Tock Hing:

Thank you very much for taking the time to send me the Malaysian leatherback postage stamp. Your kind assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

I was pleased to learn that you and Professor Furtado are currently analyzing the nesting records for Malaysia. I look forward to receiving a copy of your paper or report at the earliest opportunity.

As requested, I am sending you a symposium paper which summarizes my sea turtle research through 1979.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosure

April 14, 1980

Project Screening Co-ordinator  
IUCN-WWF Joint Project Operations  
Avenue du Mont Blanc  
1196 Gland  
Switzerland

Dear Ms. Chable:

This is in response to your memorandum of 26 March 1980 requesting my comments on the "Turtle Conservation Project (Cyprus)" submitted by A. Demetropoulos. You indicated that the enclosed proposal was a "revised" version which was resubmitted following Dr. Jungin's letter of 19 February 1980. Unfortunately, it is my opinion that this proposal will need substantial further revision, including far more detail, before it can be given any serious consideration. I call your attention to at least the following points.

- Page 1 - The whole project seems to be centered around 3000 hatchlings per year, which by calculation would result from only 10-15 females nesting per year (15 females X 100 eggs X 3 nestings per season X 70-80% eggs to hatchlings).
- Page 3 - The last sentence under section C is not supported by existing information.
- Page 5 - A copy of the "preliminary report on the experience of the last two years" needs to be submitted and made available to reviewers (such as myself) for evaluation.
- Page 5 - References need to be provided - nothing now appears under this heading.
- Page 5 - No specific literature is cited in the text - it should be.
- Page 5 - The Principal Investigator should list the names, dates and titles of final reports in which he served as Principal Investigator "in several UNEP MED-POL projects."

Project Screening Co-ordinator  
April 14, 1980  
Page 2

Page 6 - Methods need to be spelled out or the "work plan" submitted along with the proposal.

Page 7 - The budget needs to be spelled out in detail. What are the expendable supplies? A listing of \$4,000 for "miscellaneous" is totally unacceptable, in my opinion. Furthermore, the \$3,500 for "publication costs" is still in the budget in spite of the statement made in Dr. Jungius' letter. Also, two thermistors at \$1,000 each? Why are they necessary?

In your memo, you mentioned that the proposal, or work, "has now become an urgent matter." I am uncertain where this urgency exists, considering that the project is currently supported by Government.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the important matter of expending our limited conservation funds for sea turtles. I look forward to meeting you in person in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Drs A. Carr and W. King

April 14, 1980

Mr. John Gage  
332 Awini Way  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Dear John:

Please accept my apologies for taking so long to respond to your letter of 20 March 1980. I certainly appreciate the Cayman Turtle Farm booklet which you obtained for me. Several months have now passed since we talked on the telephone, and I had erroneously assumed that you had forgotten about this request. Nevertheless, I certainly want to thank you very much at this time.

My research project on sea turtles is currently in a transition stage, in that starting in June I will be assigned for one year to the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Essentially my ~~same~~ research activities will continue, but there will undoubtedly be an adjustment period.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed circular for a symposium on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that will be held 24-25 April. The "invitational" and "sign-up" periods have long passed, but possibly you could still make some arrangement to attend by talking to the responsible parties.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHG:md

Enclosure

April 14, 1980

Dr. Judith Mittag  
Am Bonneshof 30  
D-4000  
Dusseldorf 30  
F. R. Germany

Dear Dr. Mittag:

At the Washington sea turtle conference you expressed a sincere desire to operate the Cayman Turtle Farm in a strictly professional manner, therefore I thought you would be interested in the attached letter which appeared in the Miami Herald on 2 February 1980. Apparently no effort is being made by sales personnel at the Farm's gift shop to inform U. S. citizens that items purchased cannot legally be taken into the United States. I realize that such notification, either verbal or through a posted sign, would lessen the shop's sales. Nevertheless, it would seem to me that the Farm has an obligation both to its paying visitors, as well as the Cayman Government which depends heavily on tourism, to inform gift shop customers of the current laws in effect. I hope that you will agree with me on this point, and take some action to rectify the situation.

As you may be aware, following the Washington conference Mr. Irving Naylor wrote and circulated some very critical and, in my opinion, illogical letters about certain participants of the conference. From the contents of Mr. Naylor's letters, it is unclear to me if he continues to own some share of the Cayman Turtle Farm. When your time permits, I would be most appreciative if you would clarify this point for me.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



April 14, 1980

Mr. Jack Downs  
Special Agent  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1692  
500 N. E. Multnomah Street  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Mr. Downs:

It is my understanding that you are the agent in charge of the pending case against the Navy relating to the destruction and harassment of seabirds from bobbing practice at Kaula Rock. There has been very little information available on this matter since it was first brought to our attention through newspaper articles a few months ago. I therefore wonder if it would be possible for you to provide me with some current information on this case. My interest is derived from the fact that I visited Kaula for two days last year as a guest of the Navy. As a result of this visit, along with considerable background reading that I have conducted, it is my opinion that such an important seabird rookery should not be bobbed.

Thank you in advance for whatever assistance you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

Mr. Paul Harada  
Kalaupapa Settlement  
Molokai

Dear Mr. Harada:

The Reverend David Kaupu has suggested that I correspond with you concerning my interests in the occurrence of sea turtles along the Kalaupapa coastline. For some years now I have been studying the biology of Hawaiian sea turtles, but unfortunately I have no information for your area. Are turtles very abundant? Has nesting ever been recorded? How many different species have you seen, and are you aware of what food sources they utilize? Any information that you can provide me along these lines would be very much appreciated.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

Ms. Anne Appleby  
2406 Delphi Road, SW  
Olympia, Washington 98502

Dear Anne:

It was nice to meet you during your one-day visit to Kiholo Bay.

As promised, I am sending you several of my sea turtle sighting report forms, as well as a xeroxed map of the Maui coastline. It would be helpful to me if you would mark the location of your diving surveys and, to the best of your memory, provide some of the details on your observations of turtles. Also, when available, I would be interested in receiving a copy of the report that results from your group's work.

Many thanks for your help in these matters. I look forward to seeing you again if your travel should bring you back to Hawaii.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 14, 1980

Regional Director  
Southwest Region  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
300 S. Ferry Street  
Terminal Island, California 90731

Dear Sir:

As offered in your document entitled "Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for the Hawaiian Monk Seal in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands," I would appreciate receiving copies of the following items.

1. HINWR/Coast Guard Regulations for Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals (page 25)
2. NMFS, Southwest Region Monk Seal Management Plan (page 25)
3. U. S. Coast Guard Policies Regarding Monk Seals on Green Island, Kure Atoll (page 26)
4. Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Regulations for the Monk Seal, Section 188.55 (page 26)

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

King-Seeley Thermos Company  
Sales Division  
Thermos Avenue  
Norwich, Connecticut 06360

Dear Sirs:

Since 1973 I have regularly been using your Prairie Schooner tent (no. 8113) and Pop-tent (no. 8102/28) during the course of my field research on green sea turtles. I have been extremely pleased with these products. Nevertheless, normal wear has taken place, as would certainly be expected after nearly seven years of service. I would like to purchase new tents of the same models for use in field studies planned for the very near future. Unfortunately, to the best of my knowledge, there is currently no distributor in Hawaii for these products. Please inform me at your earliest opportunity if I can make these purchases directly from your factory, or perhaps a dependable West coast distributor, and have them shipped by air freight to Hawaii. Your prompt assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

Mr. Maurice Matsusaki, Director  
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Matsusaki:

I am writing to obtain further clarification on the current policy with respect to the enforcement of Regulation 36 (protection of green turtles). In a recent response from Mr. Jim Koenig of the Division of Fish and Game, it was his understanding that the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement is no longer exercising any enforcement authority in this matter. I wonder if this is indeed the case. At your earliest convenience, I would greatly appreciate hearing of your present directives and policies for Regulation 36. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am often asked questions concerning such enforcement policies here in Hawaii. It is therefore important that I have up-to-date and factual information.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

Mr. Robert Gillett  
Fisheries Research Scientist  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex  
New Caledonia

Dear Robert:

Many thanks for your interesting letter of 24 March, which was sent care of Richard Showara's laboratory. I appreciate the information that you obtained concerning turtles at Oeno Island. I am wondering now if nesting ever takes place at this site, or it is used exclusively as a foraging area. Nevertheless, your information is totally new to those of us compiling details about sea turtles in the Pacific. Oeno has never been mentioned in a publication. I will take your good advice and write directly to Steve Christian for more details. As I mentioned to you, some months ago I wrote to Pitcairn's head school teacher asking about turtles. No response has been received, but perhaps the letter is still in transit.

I want to thank you once again for all of the fine and friendly help that you gave me during my visit to New Caledonia. I greatly appreciated this hospitality. It is always very nice when someone, such as yourself, provides guidance upon arrival in a new land.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

Mr. Donald G. Donahoo  
Federal Wildlife Permit Office  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Donahoo:

The enclosed document dealing with the basking ecology of the Hawaiian green turtle is being submitted to your office as a supplement to the results of our sea turtle research which were sent on 27 March 1980.

The following reports dealing with work conducted under our Threatened Species Permit PRT 2-3593 through 1979 should now be on file in your office.

1. Balass, G. H. 1979. Synopsis of biological data on the green turtle in the Hawaiian Islands. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, No. 79-ARA-02422, 180 pp.
2. Balass, G. H. 1979. Growth rates of immature green turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago. *Proceedings of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation*, in press, 24 pp.
3. Balass, G. H. 1979. Status of sea turtles in the Central Pacific Ocean. *Proceedings of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation*, in press, 32 pp.
4. Whittow, G. C. and G. H. Balass. 1979. The thermal ecology of basking green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). *National Geographic Society Research Reports*, in press, 17 pp.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
cc: Dr. G. C. Whittow



April 10, 1980

Mr. Gordon C. Morison  
Assistant Postmaster General  
Customer Services Department  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, D. C. 20260

Dear Mr. Morison:

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposal recently submitted by Dr. Archie Carr of the University of Florida nominating four species of U. S. sea turtles as subjects for a commemorative stamp issue. I want you to know that I fully support this suggested topic, and would like to do everything possible to make the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee aware of its merits. Consequently, I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with the names and addresses of the members of this committee. Also, I wonder if you could tell me how often the committee meets, and approximately when an appraisal will be made. I realize that once a topic has been approved there is often a two to three year preparation before actual issuance.

Thank you in advance for whatever assistance you are able to provide in these matters.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr

April 8, 1980

Dr. Dennis Ruseel  
Miller Science Learning Center  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle, Washington 98119

Dear Dennis:

Thank you for your note and the results for the GB-500 samples.

Concerning your comment about GB-533, I want to tell you that these specimens were collected from Waimanalo Bay, close to shore at the Bellows Air Force Station. I believe that I mentioned some time ago that this is one of my main study areas for capturing and tagging small (35-65 cm) green turtles. Of the list that you provided, are any of the algae exotics besides *A. spirofera* and *H. muciformis*? Let me know if you want to work this information into a publication, or use it in some other form. I am sure that I will be agreeable to any suggestion you may have.

In a few weeks I'll be going over my funding situation for the last time this fiscal year. I may be able to squeeze out one more Purchase Order for algae identification. I hope this will be all right with you. If so, I won't be sending you the samples (GB-700's) for awhile because they haven't been collected yet.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
Encl.

P.S. Have you seen the enclosed?

April 1, 1980

Mr. Jan TenBruggencate  
Advertiser Kauai Bureau  
Box 524  
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. TenBruggencate:

I enjoyed reading your informative article on the Na Pali coast which appeared in the March 31st issue of the Advertiser. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I was especially interested in the reference to green sea turtles formerly coming up on the beaches to lay eggs. I wonder if you would be willing to provide me with the name and address of the person or persons that related this important information to you. I would like to talk with them further to obtain details. Any assistance that you can provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I have enclosed a color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, sea turtles and monk seals that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

## PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

March 31, 1980

Task Order No. 173

### HAWAIIAN GREEN SEA TURTLE MANAGEMENT STUDY

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: George H. Balazs

OPERATING AGENCY: Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

FUNDING: MAC 1978-80 - \$29,237  
UH Sea Grant College Program 1979-80 - \$21,853  
IUCN/WWF/NYZS/UH-ORA/NMFS (International Scientific Meetings)  
1979-80 - \$4,200

MAC FUND EXPENDED TO DATE: \$23,560

#### I. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this study is to develop basic biological and ecological information relevant to the wise, long-term management and conservation of the unique Hawaiian green turtle population. Specific objectives include: 1) locating and censusing aggregations of turtles in their nearshore feeding pastures; 2) ascertaining productivity and population trends at the sole colonial breeding site of French Frigate Shoals; 3) determining the developmental migrations of immature turtles; 4) gaining information on natural growth rates and ages at sexual maturity; 5) determining the food sources used by each size category; and 6) determining the factors that limit the population. Life history information of this nature will be of direct use and benefit to the State of Hawaii in developing compatible programs of fisheries

resource utilization, particularly in waters of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The 1978 designation of all U. S. populations of sea turtles as either "threatened" or "endangered" increases the need to gather this management-oriented information.

## II. METHODS

Intensive land based and underwater field studies are periodically conducted at locations throughout both the major and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Research activities are focuses on population sampling through live capture and tagging as well as direct observations of feeding, basking and breeding activities. In addition, an extensive network of informants comprised of the general public and cooperating military agencies has been organized to gather information on the whereabouts and activities of turtles.

## III. RESULTS

A. A series of lengthy and comprehensive field studies has provided basic life history data on turtle aggregations occurring at Necker, French Frigate Shoals, Laysan, Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes Reef, Midway, Kure, Oahu, Lanai and Hawaii.

B. The mean natural growth rates of immature turtles have been determined as follows: Necker - .14 cm per month; French Frigate Shoals - .08 cm per month; Lisianski - .13 cm per month; Midway - .09 cm per month; Kure - .08 cm per month; Oahu - .20 cm per month; Hawaii - .44 cm per month.

C. Comprehensive food studies involving samplings of stomach contents have identified the following major dietary components: Necker - *Caulerpa racemosa*; French Frigate Shoals - *Codium arabicum*, *Codium phasmaticum*, *Codium edule*, *Caulerpa racemosa*, *Ulva fasciata*, *Turbinaria ornata*, *Spyridia filamentosa*; Lisianski - *Caulerpa racemosa*, *Turbinaria ornata*; Midway - *Codium edule*; Oahu -

*Codium arabicum*, *Codium phasmaticum*, *Ulva fasciata*, *Ulva reticulata*, *Pterocladia capillacea*, *Amansia glomerata*, *Ahnfeltia concinna*; Lanai - *Amansia glomerata*, *Acanthophora spicifera*; *Sargassum polyphyllum*; Hawaii - *Pterocladia capillacea*.

D. The projected number of years to sexual maturity for 35 cm turtles newly recruited to resident pastures are as follows: Necker - 34 years; French Frigate Shoals - 59 years; Lisianski - 37 years; Midway - 53 years; Kure - 59 years; Oahu - 24 years; Hawaii - 11 years.

E. Monitoring of the breeding assemblage at French Frigate Shoals has indicated that approximately 180 adult females were present during the 1979 reproductive season.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

##### A. Significant Events and Accomplishments

1. Two papers resulting from this research program were presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C. during November 1979 ("Growth rates of immature green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands" and "Status of sea turtles in the Central Pacific Ocean"). Both of these papers will be published in the Conference Proceedings.

2. Two other papers resulting from this research program were presented at the joint SPC/NMFS workshop on sea turtles held in Noumea, New Caledonia during December 1979 ("Status of marine turtles in U. S. territories of the Central Pacific Ocean" and "Synopsis of biological data on green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands").

3. The Principal Investigator was appointed Deputy Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

4. A sea turtle research and management program for Hawaii and the Pacific region is being developed in collaboration with the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

B. Setbacks or Problems Encountered

No setbacks or problems are being encountered at the present time.

C. Project Schedule

Research being conducted under Task Order No. 173 (1978-80) is on schedule, with significant contributions being made to our knowledge of the biology and ecology of the Hawaiian green turtle population (i.e. see attached correspondence from Dr. F. W. King).

V. SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

A. Conclusions Based on Research Performed

Research results and conclusions to date are contained in the numerous publications and reports that have been authored by the Principal Investigator and regularly forwarded to the Marine Affairs Coordinator.

B. Expected Completion of Project

The project is on schedule and the completion date remains June 1980.

C. Pertinent Comments

Support of this project by the MAC office had made it possible to develop within the State of Hawaii an authoritative source of information on sea turtles. This will benefit both Hawaiian sea turtles, and turtle populations throughout the Pacific region.

March 31, 1980

Mr. Diderot Gicca  
2727 S W 60th Place  
Gainesville, Florida 32608

Dear Mr. Gicca:

Angie McGehee recently told me that you were in charge of the interesting tracking studies conducted at Rancho Nuevo during the 1979 breeding season. During the forthcoming season at French Frigate Shoals, we plan to carry out some tracking work on green turtles using equipment supplied by Telonics of Mesa, Arizona. If available, I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any reports covering your research activities. We are at a preliminary stage in our project and any written information that you can provide would be very useful.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



March 31, 1980

Mr. Erik Kiviat  
Smithtown Road  
Fishkill, New York 12524

Dear Erik:

Many thanks for your letter of March 18. I was glad to hear that you were able to attend the Washington conference, but sorry that I did not have the opportunity to meet in person. I am uncertain just when the Proceedings will be published, therefore I have enclosed a copy of my paper on growth rates of Hawaiian Chelonia. The nylon netting used in my tangle nets is bought here in Honolulu at Kida Fishing Supply (212 Kaman Place - 96818). It is relatively inexpensive, although I have not made a purchase for a year or so now.

I am currently trying to have the National Band and Tag Company produce more orders of Inconel 625 tags. This alloy has solved all of my corrosion problems. They are projecting a cost of approximately \$600-800 per 1,000 tags. This is still a bargain, in my opinion. I was disappointed to see the general lack of interest in Inconel by those in attendance at the tag workshop. A lot of people seem to be happy living and working with corroding Monel tags. I wonder how they ever hope to draw any meaningful conclusions from their research. And as you indicated, are they possibly poisoning their animals with heavy metals?

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 31, 1980

Mr. Peter Vaughan  
Turtle Project Manager  
Fisheries Division  
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your letter of February 16 and the review of the McElroy-Alexander report. These items only arrived a few days ago. Your written evaluation appears to have been conducted in a careful, concise and accurate manner, and I would like to commend you for your efforts. I hope that you will also send a copy to Rene Grandperrin.

I am sorry to say that I do not have a current address for Andy McKeoun. Please let me know if you are successful in corresponding with him through other sources.

Our effort to have the National Band and Tag Company of Newport, Kentucky (J. R. Haas, owner and manager) produce more Inconel tags has experienced a setback due to a 5-10 month delay in obtaining Inconel strip from the supplier. Also, the cost may now be \$600-800 per 1,000 tags. Nevertheless, I will buy these tags at any price because, at least for our Hawaiian situation, I would be wasting my time putting Monel tags on turtles. As you heard at our Workshop, corrosion rates in Monel differ considerably from population to population. If you have any of your recovered tags on file, I would be interested in looking them over for a comparison with other tags I have seen. If I remember correctly, at one time Andrew used a "stainless steel" tag purchased in either Australia or New Zealand. The samples he sent me deteriorated fairly quickly when I suspended them in the bay near our laboratory.

The very slow growth rate measured in your wild juvenile green turtle is certainly consistent with the finding made at many of our foraging pastures.

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

Sincerely,

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

March 31, 1980

Dr. Phyllis Cahn  
National Science Foundation  
1800 G. Street  
Washington, D. C. 20550

Dear Dr. Cahn:

You may recall that we briefly met in Washington last November during the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. Although several months have now passed, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with copies of the two invitational papers that I presented at this gathering. My growth studies of immature green turtles in foraging pastures throughout the Hawaiian chain hold considerable potential for providing important life history and management-oriented information. In addition, since 1973 I have been tagging adult females as well as males at our Hawaiian breeding colony of French Frigate Shoals. Since late 1976 I have only used tags made of Inconel 625, an alloy that has shown absolutely no corrosion on sea turtles in the saltwater environment. Nearly all other researchers of sea turtles use tags made of Monel, an alloy that frequently corrodes and is lost under such conditions.

If you would be interested in receiving additional details of the results of my research to date, I would be pleased to send you a copy of a recent contract report prepared for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

March 31, 1980

Dr. Dean Holt  
National Science Foundation  
1800 G Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20550

Dear Dr. Holt:

My colleague and friend, Dr. Steve Smith, thought that you might have had the opportunity to attend the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D. C. during November of last year. Steve also mentioned that you expressed an interest in my research activities with the Hawaiian green turtle. I am not certain if you were actually able to attend the conference, but nevertheless I would like to take this opportunity to send you copies of the two invitational papers which I presented. My growth studies of immature turtles in foraging pastures throughout the Hawaiian chain hold considerable potential for providing important life history and management-oriented information. In addition, since 1973 I have been tagging adult females as well as males at our Hawaiian breeding colony of French Frigate Shoals. Since late 1976 I have only used tags made of Inconel 625, an alloy that has shown absolutely no deterioration. Nearly all other researchers of sea turtles use Monel, an alloy that frequently undergoes serious corrosion under such conditions.

If you would like to receive further details of the results of my research to date, I would be happy to send you a copy of a recent contract report prepared for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

March 31, 1980

Mr. Eugene Nitta  
Endangered Species Specialist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dear Gene:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your agency's  
draft critical habitat proposal for the Hawaiian monk seal.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
bcc: Dr. Causey Whittow

March 28, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of February 14. I was indeed sorry to learn of your recent decision to sever ties with IUCN/SSC and produce a separate newsletter with support from the commercial sea turtle sector. I can't help but feel that such a financial arrangement will eventually be damaging to our conservation efforts. However, please be assured that for the time being I will continue to provide you with articles and information that come to my attention. Communication along these lines needs to be maintained between all parties on a two-way basis, and you can count on my participation.

The question of the IUCN/SSC Newsletter mailing list, or rather your reluctance to make this list available to other members of the Turtle Group, represents another unfortunate situation. In your letter you asked "What do you want to use it for?", yet as long ago as my letter of August 6, 1979 I explained that, as Deputy Chairman, I thought I could help promote sea turtle conservation through periodic separate mailings to Newsletter recipients. This was certainly not meant to compete with the Newsletter, but rather complement and strengthen the comradeship that all sea turtle researchers and conservationists seem to share. Now that you have decided to produce a separate newsletter, the mailing list would also be helpful in reconstituting the IUCN/SSC publication. I hope that you will reconsider your position in this matter.

One way that money could be saved on a newsletter production would be to reduce the print by 40-60% using a reduction photocopy machine. Only the original would need to be reduced prior to offset printing. Such a procedure would undoubtedly help to economize on both paper and postage.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

Enclosures

cc: Peter Fritchard  
Archie Carr

March 28, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of February 14. I was indeed sorry to learn of your recent decision to sever ties with IUCN/SSC and produce a separate newsletter with support from the commercial sea turtle sector. I can't help but feel that such a financial arrangement will eventually be damaging to our conservation efforts. However, please be assured that for the time being I will continue to provide you with articles and information that come to my attention. Communication along these lines needs to be maintained between all parties on a two-way basis, and you can count on my participation.

The question of the IUCN/SSC Newsletter mailing list, or rather your reluctance to make this list available to other members of the Turtle Group, represents another unfortunate situation. In your letter you asked "What do you want to use it for?", yet as long ago as my letter of August 6, 1979 I explained that, as Deputy Chairman, I thought I could help promote sea turtle conservation through periodic separate mailings to Newsletter recipients. This was certainly not meant to compete with the Newsletter, but rather complement and strengthen the comradeship that all sea turtle researchers and conservationists seem to share. Now that you have decided to produce a separate newsletter, the mailing list would also be helpful in reconstituting the IUCN/SSC publication. I hope that you will reconsider your position in this matter.

One way that money could be saved on a newsletter production would be to reduce the print by 40-60% using a reduction photocopy machine. Only the original would need to be reduced prior to offset printing. Such a procedure would undoubtedly help to economize on both paper and postage.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
Enclosures  
cc: Peter Fritchard  
Archie Carr

March 28, 1980

Ms. Jean Bradfish  
Associate Editor  
SEA FRONTIERS  
3979 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Virginia Key, Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Ms. Bradfish:

As requested in your letter to Dr. Whittow dated 14 March 1980, I am sending you a brief bibliography and photograph for use in the author's section of your magazine. I have also enclosed the signed card granting permission to make duplicate copies of my slides for reference purposes.

I wonder if you can tell us approximately when our article will be scheduled for publication.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



March 28, 1980

Mr. Ernest Kosaka  
Endangered Species Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Ernie:

As requested during yesterday's telephone conversation, I am sending you a copy of our original permit application to conduct research on Hawaiian Chelonia. I have also enclosed copies of the two papers which I presented at the Washington conference as well as a report to the National Geographic Society covering your thermal investigations of basking behavior. You should already have a copy of my September 1979 report entitled "Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in Hawaiian Islands" (180 pp, prepared for NMFS).

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 27, 1980

Reverend D. K. Kaupu  
The Kamehameha Schools  
Kapalama Heights  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Dear Reverend Kaupu:

I was pleased to read in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin editorial of March 17th that efforts are currently underway to protect the historical and environmental aspects of Kalaupapa. This is certainly a worthwhile endeavor, and I wish you full success.

As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I would like to obtain information on the occurrence of these marine animals along the Kalaupapa coastline. I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with the names and addresses of individuals that might be interested in providing me with such information. I will be most appreciative of whatever assistance you are able to provide in this matter.

I have enclosed a small color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, sea turtles and seals that I hope you'll enjoy.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosure

March 27, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

Several weeks have now passed since I last heard from you concerning our efforts to produce additional Inconel 625 alloy tags. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate learning of the current status of this important matter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

cc: Larry Ogren

March 27, 1980

Mr. Donald G. Donahoo  
Chief, Permit Branch  
Federal Wildlife Permit Office  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Donahoo:

In compliance with Condition 12 of sea turtle permit PRT 2-3593, I have enclosed three reports which provide detailed results of our Hawaiian research program through 1979.

Sincerely,

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

nk

March 27, 1980

Dr. Peter F. Major  
Assistant Scientific Program Director  
1625 Eye Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Pete:

Many thanks for your note of March 17th concerning my request for reports on the Hawaiian monk seal. It was indeed a pleasant surprise to hear from you, and to learn of your position with the MMC. The Commission met in Honolulu a few years ago, and perhaps you will have the opportunity to return to Hawaii for a visit in the not too distant future.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 27, 1980

Mr. David Munro, Director General  
IUCN  
Avenue du Mont Blanc  
CH-1196 Gland  
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. Munro:

I hope that you have been able to take some action on Dr. Archie Carr's written request of 11 March 1980 concerning IUCN's role in the establishment of a Sabah-Philippine Green Turtle Sanctuary. This undertaking has tremendous potential for sea turtle conservation in the Sulu Sea, and certainly it would be unfortunate if we lose the existing opportunity. Stanley de Silva of Sabah has visited with me here in Honolulu on three occasions during the past six years and I can attest to the effort and dedication that he has devoted to laying the groundwork for this international project.

I wish you success in your timely action on behalf of this important project.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: G. Stanley de Silva  
Archie Carr  
Wayne King  
Robert Scott

March 17, 1980

Mr. Mark Gentle  
S.P.C.  
Beche-de-Mer Consultant  
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mark:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop, and hopefully we will have the opportunity to work together again in the not too distant future. Since returning to Honolulu from Noumea I was able to make one short trip to Florida to meet with Dr. Carr and other sea turtle researchers. Currently I am "gearing-up" for this summer's breeding season at French Frigate Shoals in our Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. With financial support from Richard Shomura's agency, we are planning to conduct radio tracking studies of both males and females within the interesting habitat. This should prove to be an informative and enjoyable exercise —providing that our small transmitters stay attached, and our study animals are not eliminated by tiger sharks.

Although we were not able to talk in great detail about your project, I am indeed interested in beche-de-mer and the economic potential of expansion that may exist for some Pacific Islands. As your reports and various results become available, I would certainly appreciate receiving copies. If there is any way that I can help you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Leslie Fullard-Leo  
46-090-1325 Puulena  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Fullard-Leo:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in obtaining biological information on the occurrence of sea turtles at Palmyra. Very little is known about the turtles that inhabit this remote area of the Central Pacific. As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles for the past several years, I am currently interested in expanding my studies to encompass other locations. The first step would of course be to establish correspondence with individuals who presently reside at Palmyra or have detailed knowledge of the area. I would be most appreciative if you would assist me in this matter by providing me with the names and mailing addresses of appropriate residents at Palmyra, or perhaps even telling me of your own knowledge of sea turtles at Palmyra.

I was very pleased to recently read in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin that storage of nuclear wastes will not be allowed on Pacific islands.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure



March 17, 1980

Mr. Don Brandon  
Box 72  
Rarotonga  
Cook Islands

Dear Don:

It has been nearly two years now since we last corresponded, and recently I have been wondering if you are still in the Cook Islands and perhaps in some way still involved with the Fisheries Department. As you may have heard, SPC and the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service held a workshop on sea turtles in Noumea during mid-December. In my opinion this turned out to be very successful (see attached news article). Unfortunately, a representative from the Cook Islands was not able to attend. We did, however, have two gentlemen from French Polynesia who provided valuable information for their area of the Pacific.

When your time permits, I would enjoy hearing from you. If you are not in the Cook Islands at this time, I am hoping that this letter will be forwarded to your new address.

I have been in contact with a Christer Friberg of the Fisheries Department located at Penhryn. He is involved in a UNDP skipjack and baitfish resource survey for the area. Nevertheless, he has expressed some interest in gathering information on turtles.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1980

Mr. Paul Vodden  
Assistant Wildlife Officer  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
The Causeway  
Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG  
England

Dear Mr. Vodden:

Thank you very much for your letter of 26 February 1980 and the excellent booklet entitled "The Tortoise Trade." In response to your request for suggestions, I would recommend that you distribute this publication to as many governmental and conservation agencies as possible and appropriate. Widespread dissemination of the results contained in your investigative report is an essential step in obtaining the protective laws which certainly seem to be needed. I hope that you are successful in your efforts.

I wonder if your Society has produced any reports or conducted investigations on the suffering or mistreatment of sea turtles during the course of commercial activities? Has this point ever been examined with respect to the sea turtle farms located on Grand Cayman Island? Any information that you can provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

March 17, 1980

Mr. Christer S. Friberg  
Principal Fisheries Officer  
Northern Group  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
P. O. Box 96, Penrhyn  
Cook Islands

Dear Mr. Friberg:

I appreciated your letter of 16 February 1980 which described some of your research activities at Penrhyn and provided information on sea turtles of the atoll. The delay in your correspondence is of course understandable considering the lengthy interval in mail service which you mentioned.

As requested, I am sending you a copy of one of the papers (Tuvalu) presented at the SPC/NMFS Noumea workshop. I will make sure that you receive the final report covering the meeting. This document will probably be directly sent to you by Dr. Rene Grandperrin, Fisheries Adviser with the South Pacific Commission.

For your use, I am also sending several line drawing identification cards of sea turtles, as well as sections from the book "Ethnology of Tongareva" (by P. H. Buck, 1932) which cover ceremonial use of turtles and fishing techniques. The islets of Hangarei and Motunga are mentioned in this narrative, but I have not been able to locate them on existing maps. Perhaps you could provide some current information on this important subject.

I would be glad to help you in whatever way possible if you decide to enter into studies at the University of Hawaii. The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology is not a degree awarding facility as such, but rather a research division of the University of Hawaii. Your formal area of study in marine biology would therefore have to be pursued either through the Department of Zoology or the Department of Oceanography.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your work and mail service permit.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md  
Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Dr. J. S. Killingley  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
La Jolla, California 92093

Dear Dr. Killingley:

Your interesting and informative article in SCIENCE which suggests that Oxygen-18 variations in turtle barnacles may be useful as a tracking technique has prompted me to write to you to explore the possibilities of collaborative research. For several years I have been conducting tagging studies of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the Hawaiian chain aimed at determining migratory patterns, growth rates and reproductive characteristics. Two papers have been enclosed to provide you with some background information on this work. The turtle barnacles *Chelonibia testudinaria* and *Platylaspas hexastyles* have been encountered at fairly regular intervals, and I currently have a small assortment on file here at our laboratory. Additional specimens could be easily collected on a regular basis. Would you be interested in analyzing some of this material? If so, please contact me at your earliest convenience and I will mail off an assortment.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Jeff Immel  
U. S. Naval Station  
Midway Islands  
FPO San Francisco 96614

Dear Mr. Immel:

It was a pleasure to meet you during my short but highly successful visit to Midway on March 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully I can return in the not too distant future and conduct additional tag and recapture studies of the immature green turtles residing at your atoll.

As requested, I am sending you line drawings of the three species of sea turtles that occur in the Hawaiian Archipelago. I would imagine that these would be suitable for use in the wildlife display board planned for the Station's administration building.

While at Midway it was mentioned that in recent months Station personnel had observed spherical eggs (presumably sea turtle eggs) washing in the surf at a shoreline location. I wonder if you are aware of this occurrence and can provide me with further information, such as date, location, number of eggs, etc. Any assistance that you can provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:wd

March 17, 1980

Ms. Marcia L. Kartub  
P. O. Box 5147  
Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064

Dear Ms. Kartub:

I am writing this letter to ask for your assistance in providing some additional information on the gagged loggerhead which you recorded on Jupiter Beach in June of 1979. As you are probably aware, confusion exists with respect to the original tagging date, location and size of the turtle. I should emphasize, however, that this confusion is not the result of your own field observations, which appear to me to have been conducted in a conscientious and accurate manner.

If at all possible, I would like to determine the following two points:

1. Inscribed address on tag - What institution or organization's name and address appeared on the tag?
2. Size of tag - There are basically only two sizes of metal flipper tags that are in use by sea turtle researchers. When attached to the turtle, the larger size measures approximately 1 5/8" by 3/8" while the smaller size measures 1" by 5/16". For reference purposes, I have attached a photo-reproduction of these two tags. Can you tell me which size was present on the loggerhead you observed?

My intentions in this matter are simply to make the best appraisal possible given the available information that has resulted from your tag recovery. These findings will be of considerable interest to members of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, as well as other researchers and conservationists of sea turtles. I therefore hope that you will respond to this request for assistance at your earliest possible opportunity.

I have enclosed several publications relating to my work with Hawaiian sea turtles which I hope you will find interesting.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md  
Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Dr. Jack Frazier  
Department of Zoological Research  
National Zoological Park  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Jack:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Washington conference, but unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to discuss our respective research projects in detail. I would like to have attended the Tampa symposium where you presented a paper on aging experimentation, however a scarcity of travel funds and my participation in the mid-December SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop in New Caladonia prevented this from taking place. I have, of course, read the interesting abstract of your paper in AMERICAN ZOOLOGIST, the FEDERAL REGISTER notice of 5 October 1979, and the request recently published in the AAZPA newsletter. If you are distributing the complete manuscript of your Tampa paper at the present time, I would certainly appreciate receiving a copy. Copies of any other reports or publications that you have authored in recent months would also be appreciated.

As you will note on page 28 of the enclosed Hawaiian green turtle "synopsis" document, I have carried out some preliminary analyses of the bones of sea turtles in an effort to develop an aging technique. Nothing conclusive has as yet resulted from these attempts. I have, however, assembled a wide array of material from various size classes and geographical locations in the Pacific. If and when I am able to develop anything that resembles a reliable aging procedure, I will provide you with the details at the earliest possible date. An additional line of research that I am currently pursuing involves racemization analysis of the lens of green turtles (see attached correspondence and SCIENCE

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md  
Enclosures

March 17, 1980

Mr. Eric L. Schlemmer  
1692 Lewalani Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Dear Mr. Schlemmer:

I enjoyed reading the recent article about you which appeared in the March 13th issue of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. As a researcher of sea turtles in the Hawaiian Islands, I am greatly interested in learning about your experiences and memories of turtles while living on Laysan Island. Was egg laying a common occurrence? How many turtles would you see at one time hauled out on the beaches sunning themselves during the daytime? Did you ever see large sharks feeding on sea turtles in the shallow waters around Laysan? Any historical information that you can provide about the turtles at Laysan would certainly be appreciated.

I have enclosed a copy of my color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals that I thought you would enjoy. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



March 17, 1980

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

Dear Jeff:

Many thanks for your letter of 3 March 1980. I was, of course, pleased to learn of your interest in conducting some initial tests on the lens of green turtles. At the present time I have three whole green turtles that were frozen shortly after death. Two of these are wild turtles approximately cm in carapace length, and the third is a captive reared specimen measuring only cm. As you may be aware, sexually mature adult Hawaiian *Chelonia* range from 80 to 106 cm in carapace length. It will therefore be necessary for me to salvage the lens from larger turtles so you will have the necessary array of size classes to work with. This should not prove to be too difficult as fresh mortalities due to various causes are reported to me on a regular basis. Nevertheless, it would seem to be worthwhile for me to mail you the lens that I currently have available. Starting tomorrow I will be out of town until approximately March 26th, however, shortly after my return I will send you the specimens in dry ice by air mail special delivery.

I hope we will be able to obtain some interesting results from this preliminary analysis.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 14, 1980

Dr. Ancel Johnson  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
National Fish & Wildlife Lab  
Anchorage Field Station  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ancel:

Patricia Johnson told me that she recently received a copy of your draft report dealing with tagging studies of monk seals conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service. When your time permits, I would certainly appreciate receiving a copy of this document.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 14, 1980

Bird Banding Laboratory  
Laurel, Maryland 20811

Dear Sirs:

The band number 667-35105 was recovered on 12 March 1980 from a recently dead Laysan albatross on Sand Island, Midway. The metal band shows extensive wear, and the return address was not visible. I am interested in learning of the original tagging date for this seabird.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 11, 1980

M. Bruno Ugolini  
Service de la Pêche  
BP. 20 Papeete  
Tahiti, French Polynesia

Dear Bruno:

Many thanks for your interesting letter dated 21 February 1980 which provided details on the female tagged at Scilly and recovered seven years later in Fiji. This is indeed another important documentation of the amazing migrations which green turtles are undertaking in the South Pacific. Scilly and the neighboring atolls of Mopelia and Bellinghausen must certainly be considered among the most important green turtle breeding sites of the islands covered by the South Pacific Commission. I wish you continued success in your efforts to maintain these areas as sanctuaries.

The Conservation Strategy which resulted from the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation (26-30 Nov 1979, Washington, D. C.) has now been finalized. In the near future, you should be receiving a copy of this important document from Dr. Karen Bjorndal, Post-Conference Coordinator with the University of Florida. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that one of the projects incorporated into the Conservation Strategy deals with the full endorsement of maintaining Scilly as a breeding sanctuary for turtles.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

GRB:md

bcc: Karen Bjorndal  
Richard Shomura

March 7, 1980

Colonel John S. W. Lee  
Commander  
Hawaii Air National Guard  
Headquarters 154th Composite Group  
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Lee:

Thank you very much for your quick reply to my letter of inquiry concerning C-7 airlift support to French Frigate Shoals. Unfortunately, I was not previously aware of some of the constraints which you outlined. I should, however, have provided you with more information on the current status of the Tern Island facility at French Frigate Shoals. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs two caretakers that reside at this site and have daily radio contact with employees on Kauai. The runway is regularly maintained for monthly use by a civilian Beechcraft 18 (cargo capacity only 1300 lbs). While the seabirds do indeed continue to nest on portions of Tern Island, this is confined mostly to the eastern (downwind) periphery of the runway. In addition, seabirds are only present in these areas in large numbers from approximately April through July. The need for the C-7 to refuel at Tern Island appears to present the greatest problem. I do not know what quantities would be involved, but possibly one of the NOAA vessels, TOWNSEND CROWMELL, or the yearly USCG buoy tender to the area, might be able to transport fuel drums.

I certainly appreciate your consideration of this matter. If the situation appears more promising in view of the additional information I have provided, please contact me at 247-6631.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 7, 1980

M. Angela McGehee  
111 Early Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Dear Angie:

Many thanks for your recent letter and the superb duplicate slide taken at Escobilla. This is very much appreciated. I didn't realize that the arribada actually took place the day after we left. Perhaps you told me of this when we saw each other at the Washington conference, but with all the excitement of talking to different people I simply forgot.

I am sorry to say that at the present I am not aware of any employment opportunities along the lines you mentioned. Are you dissatisfied with the work at Rancho Nuevo and Oaxaca, or are those job opportunities now limited? It was my understanding that Jack Woody would be funding some work on temperature-sex determination at Oaxaca through David Ehrenfeld. I don't know why Bob Shoop didn't hire you for his aerial surveys - he should have.

Angie, can you provide me with some additional information on the radio tracking study conducted during the interesting interval at Ranch Nuevo in 1979? Were you directly involved in this work? Who was the project leader? How were the transmitters attached, and was the experiment generally successful? Any details that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

We are in the process of slowly expanding our sea turtle programs here in the Pacific region with the introduction of NMFS funds. I will certainly notify you if and when any job opportunity becomes available.

Did Peter ever publish his Oaxaca article in GEO magazine?

You will be interested to learn that during January I was able to spend a day at Mosquito Lagoon with Lew and Mary.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

March 7, 1980

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

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any recent reports prepared on the Hawaiian monk seal by Mr. and Mrs. Brian Johnson. The only report that I currently have in my files is "The Hawaiian monk seal on Laysan Island: 1977" (MMC-77/05; Contract MM7AC009).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 10, 1980

Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.  
231 Broad Street  
Summit, New Jersey 07901

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving information on your internal wire tagging devices that might prove suitable for use on one ounce hatchling sea turtles.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



March 10, 1980

M. V. L. Georgita Ruiz  
Calle Colina 145  
Lomas Bezares  
Mexico 10, D. F.

Dear Georgita:

I was indeed sorry that limited time and all the activities at the Washington conference prevented us from talking at greater length about sea turtles and other matters of common interest. I regret that you were not hired for the job in Galveston as anticipated - certainly you should have been given the position and I do not understand why this did not take place. Hopefully there have been some other opportunities become available to you. Please remember that you should call upon me if you feel there is any way that I can be of assistance (letter of recommendation, etc.).

Georgita, do you know if Mexico has ever issued a postage stamp which portrays a sea turtle? Several different countries have done so in recent years, and here in the United States we have submitted a proposal to our Postmaster General for such a stamp issue. Stamps are seen by a lot of people around the world, and I believe that this would be a good medium for conservation awareness and education. Possibly Antonio can use his influence to have a sea turtle postage stamp issue in Mexico (and Spain). It might be worth a try.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

March 10, 1980

Stone Manufacturing and Supply Company  
1212 Kansas  
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving full information on your line of tattooing instruments for zoo animals, particularly your stock numbers N-25 and R-1-ST-2.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Dear

As you will read in the attached correspondence, a proposal has recently been submitted to the US Postmaster General for the issuance of a block of four commemorative stamps displaying sea turtles. I am convinced that this is an extremely worthwhile endeavor with potential for stimulating further conservation and research of sea turtles, both here in the United States and in the numerous foreign countries that receive U. S. mail.

The chances of this stamp proposal being approved can be strengthened considerably if individuals and organizations express their strong support through letters written to the Postmaster General. I am therefore asking if you will take the time from your busy schedule to write such a letter of endorsement. Your letter should be addressed to:

Mr. William Bolger  
Postmaster General  
Washington, D. C. 20260

In order to take full advantage of the publicity and momentum generated by the recent Washington sea turtle conference, I hope you will be able to send off your words of support at the earliest possible date. Also, I would greatly appreciate receiving a blind carbon copy of your letter so that some assessment can be made of the magnitude of our campaign.

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
and Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

March 4, 1980

Messrs. J. R. Bain, S. R. Humphrey and F. W. King  
The Florida State Museum  
Department of Natural Science  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Gentlemen:

I am sorry to tell you that unfortunately I do not have any specific, up-to-date information on sea turtles in the Thailand area. However, if you haven't done so already, you should review the following reports:

Polunin, N. V. C. 1975. Sea Turtles: Reports on Thailand, W. Malaysia and Indonesia with a synopsis of data on the conservation status of sea turtles in the Indo-West Pacific region. Report to World Wildlife Fund, March, 113 pp.

and

Polunin et al., 1979. Report on Thailand and Indonesia - presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, 26-30 Nov., Washington, D. C.

As an additional suggestion, you should probably delete the emblem and words "Central Intelligence Agency" from the bottom of your map of Thailand. This could, conceivably, create some public relations problems for your project.

I wish you success in this worthwhile endeavor. Please do not hesitate to contact me whenever you feel I might be of assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 4, 1980

Dr. Andrew Kemmerer, Director  
Mississippi Laboratories  
National Space Technology Laboratories  
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

Concerning your letter of 14 February, it was indeed good news to learn that your satellite transmitter is still attached to the loggerhead. I hope this success continues, but even if it doesn't you have already accomplished a praiseworthy "first" in the history of sea turtle tracking.

In an earlier letter you mentioned that the transmitter package is tethered on a short line to the animal's carapace. Was this the method of attachment for the Kemp's ridley that was radio tracked during the interesting interval last year at Rancho Nuevo? We are worried about using such a procedure for our work at French Frigate Shoals due to the numerous coral head where fouling can take place. Our current plans are for a direct attachment to the central scutes of the carapace using adhesives and perhaps safety straps. This would be similar to method shown in a photograph which appeared in Harold Hirth 1971 FAO report on the green turtles. Any information you have on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 4, 1980

Mr. Earl W. Lippoldt  
S.P.I. Ridley Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc.  
P. O. Box 2067  
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Dear Mr. Lippoldt:

Thank you very much for sending me the copy of your report to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This certainly contains interesting and informative material, and I commend you for your conservation efforts on behalf of sea turtles. I am sorry that you were not able to attend our World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held during late November in Washington, D. C. You would undoubtedly have enjoyed this gathering of researchers and conservations from 40 different countries.

I was especially interested in page 2 of your report which lists turtles found dead along the coastline. Both the three inch loggerhead and six inch green (carapace lengths) are of a size range that is very rarely found by man in the wild. I am sure that you are aware of this fact. If you find any more dead turtles of this small size, I hope that you will be able to preserve them in formalin so that they can be carefully examined at a later date. This would be particularly valuable for the analysis of stomach contents. Concerning the other turtles that you bury on the beach, I wonder if you can mark these sites so that the bones can be recovered at a later date? Such specimens would be valuable to museums and certain research institutions. I know that currently there are only one or two loggerhead and ridley skulls in all of the State of Hawaii.

Is it possible for you to determine if the amputated flippers and heads are the result of axes, or possibly shearing of bone by large sharks? If sharks are responsible, you may be able to find piece of teeth embedded in the bone.

At several places in your report you referred to a Jim Woods. Is this the same Jim Woods that works at the Cayman Turtle Farm on Grand Cayman Island?

I am sorry that I do not have any specific suggestions as to funding agencies that you could contact. Perhaps the joint FWS/NMFS/Mexican Ken's ridley project might be interested in partially supporting your work. Certainly it would be worth making an inquiry.

Mr. Earl W. Lippoldt

-2-

March 4, 1980

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

March 4, 1980

Dr. Dennis J. Russell  
Miller Science Learning Center  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle, Washington 98119

Dear Dennis:

I appreciated your letter of 26 February, which was my birthday of 37 years.

Algae seems to be in the news a lot lately, as you will note from the attached article.

Your comments on possible algal colonization of young turtles in the open ocean provided me with some valuable insight. However, I am still wondering if the probability for such colonization would not be far less than for a turtle living in a nearshore algal rich environment. Concerning sloughing, yes small particles of shell and skin are continually coming off. If comparatively rapid growth is occurring under pelagic conditions, then I suppose shell and skin sloughing would also be taking place at a faster rate. As far as secretions are concerned, I am not aware of any such action in sea turtles. I'll look into this further. Yes, I would indeed like to have a copy of the bibliography on the subject of colonization.

I have also enclosed a Xeroxed copy of the RCUH purchase order which I just wrote today. This should cover the samples I will be sending in a few days (GB series 600), as well as return postage and some pressed specimens I would like to have you look at. Dennis, please request payment for this amount immediately, as my funds are rapidly drawing to a close. You didn't mention it in your letter, but I certainly hope you requested payment on the earlier outstanding purchase order.

Best regards - looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
Enclosures



March 4, 1980

Ms. Susan Spencer-Richards  
Asst. to the Vice-President, Business Affairs  
The Cousteau Society, Inc.  
777 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Ms. Spencer-Richards:

Professor Carr has sent me a copy of your letter dated 20 February concerning the future possibility of your Society producing a film dealing in part with the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata). I would just like to say that I share Professor Carr's deep concern for the survival of this species. The Japanese market continues to consume vast quantities of tortoiseshell derived from hawksbills. This international trade cannot be supported by the remaining populations. The result will be the total collapse of the species, probably far sooner than any of us realize. I hope that your Society can play some role in alerting the world of this dismal situation. Widespread action is now needed on behalf of the hawksbill in a manner similar to what is taking place for the great whales.

Please feel free to call upon me if I can ever be of assistance to your fine organization.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

bcc: Archie Carr

March 3, 1980

Captain L. T. Profflet  
Kahoolawe Project Office  
Commander Third Fleet  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Dear Captain Profflet:

I regret that I must inform you that the sections on marine turtles in your Environmental Impact Statement for Kahoolawe Island are replete with inaccuracies, omissions and misrepresentations. Much of the information presented in these sections has been paraphrased from my paper "Sea Turtles of Kahoolawe Island - A Preliminary Report" (Nov. 1978), but unfortunately this was carried out in a manner that materially altered the meaning of my original writing. Furthermore, the listing of "George H. Balazs. 1979. Personal Communication" as a reference on page R-2 was done without my prior knowledge or permission. I am unable to determine what information this reference supports.

Under my present workload, I do not have the time or energy to correct these sections sentence by sentence, as should have been done by Navy biologists and private consultants prior to final publication. You will note from the attached correspondence that at an earlier date I was unable to obtain a draft copy of your document for review purposes. Nevertheless, for the historical record, I have deposited complete copies of my original sea turtle report with the University of Hawaii library system and several federal agencies.

I have always tried to cooperate with the Navy in whatever way possible, therefore I am sure you will understand my disappointment in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 3, 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 11-13th and 25-28th of March 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. (808) 247-6631

GHB:md

March 3, 1980

Jensen Salsbery Laboratories  
520 West 21st Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105

Dear Sirs:

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving information on your line of Tattoo Forceps (No. 6321) used for identifying animals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

March 3, 1980

Holborn Surgical Instrument Company, Ltd.  
Dolphin Works, Margate Road  
Broadstairs, Kent  
United Kingdom

Dear Sirs:

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving information on your line of equipment designed to tattoo animals for identification purposes.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:ec

March 3, 1980

Mr. Huang Chu-chien  
Peking Institute of Zoology  
Academia Sinica  
Peking, China

Dear Mr. Huang:

Thank you very much for sending me the article from your Peking newspaper. I am in the process of having the article translated into English, and I look forward to reading the contents.

I would like to ask you to please tell me if you make any tag recoveries of sea turtles in the area of the South China Sea. I am sure that members of our IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group would be very interested in hearing about these tag recoveries, particularly the tag number, name on tag, location of turtle, and date of recovery. As you know, this is all very important information. I therefore look forward to learning about tag recoveries for this area of the world.

I have enclosed a small book of photographs on the Hawaiian Islands which I hope you will enjoy.

I wish you best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 3, 1980

Ms. Suzanne Montgomery Contos  
Editor, Marine Mammal News  
1056 National Press Building  
Washington, D. C. 20045

Dear Ms. Contos:

I am writing this letter to ask if you are aware of any action that Senators Weicker and Magnuson may have taken as a result of the inquiry on the Hawaiian monk seal made by Drs. Karl Kenyon and Victor Scheffer (see MMN December 1979). If any further developments have taken place in this matter, I would greatly appreciate receiving some of the details.

I have enclosed several articles relating to marine mammals which I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRS:ec

Enclosures

February 29, 1980

Colonel John S. W. Lee  
Commanding Officer  
154th Composite Group (HANG)  
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii 96853

Dear Colonel Lee:

The purpose of this letter is to make a preliminary inquiry as to the possibilities of obtaining transportation between Honolulu and French Frigate Shoals aboard your agency's C-7 Caribou. You will probably recall that this excellent aircraft conducted a training mission to Tern Island at French Frigate Shoals during July of 1976, and returned to Honolulu with research personnel of the National Geographic Society and the University of Hawaii. I was a member of that group who had been conducting tagging studies of migratory green sea turtles.

My research program of Hawaiian sea turtles is due to expand in the near future, with radio tracking and other field experimentation planned for French Frigate Shoals. Transportation to this location continues to be a problem, due principally to the serious cargo limitations of existing available aircraft. I would therefore like to respectfully ask you if it would be feasible to occasionally incorporate your training missions with flights to French Frigate Shoals. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate discussing this matter with you in greater detail to determine if such a mutually beneficial plan could be developed. Perhaps you could telephone me at 247-6631, or, if you prefer, I would be pleased to meet with you in your office at your convenience.

I have enclosed several recent articles on sea turtle research and conservation that I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

cc: Major G. Pilligrin (State DOD/PAO)



February 27, 1980

Dr. Thomas Murray  
Program Manager  
National Sea Grant Program  
6010 Executive Blvd.  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Dr. Murray:

It was a pleasure to meet you during your visit to our laboratory on February 13th, and I enjoyed having the opportunity to give you an overview of my research project on the Hawaiian green turtle. Sea Grant funds have been instrumental in bringing this work to the point where it will soon be transformed into a permanent program within the National Marine Fisheries Service. I appreciate the support that Sea Grant has provided, and at the same time feel that your agency should be proud of the results that have been achieved.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed paper on growth rates which was one of the two invitational papers which I presented at the Washington sea turtle conference.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 27, 1980

Mr. & Mrs. Hook  
2381 Haumana Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Hook:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the commendable role you recently played in rescuing a green sea turtle. With the fine assistance of Dr. Loughton Taylor, Director of the Waikiki Aquarium, I was able to measure and tag this turtle prior to its return to the wild during the evening of February 26th. The future recovery of this animal, either around our main Hawaiian Islands or at the breeding grounds of French Frigate Shoals, can provide us with valuable information on growth rates, migrations and longevity.

I have enclosed two sea turtle badges in recognition of your contribution to both conservation and science. Please feel free to contact me if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Deputy Chairman  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Dr. L. Taylor

February 26, 1980

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart  
University of Central Florida  
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

As promised, I am sending you one of the polished bone sections from the small green turtle which you salvaged from Mosquito Lagoon on 3 March 1977. This particular section was taken from the left hyoplastron. Within the area I have marked on the dorsal surface, you will see that approximately five dense bands or annuli appear to be present. In a section of the humerus polished in a similar manner, I was able to count up to nine such bands. Of course there is presently no proof to show that these bands are laid down on an annual basis. This is one of the other areas I am currently investigating through the use of captive specimens of known age, and also possibly small injections of tetracycline hydrochloride for marking of the growing surfaces. I will keep you informed as this work progresses. In the meantime, you should try to salvage all of the bone material possible from Florida green turtles of a known size. This could be a valuable component to the collection I am assembling from many geographical areas.

I am also sending you a copy of my Washington Conference paper dealing with the Central Pacific. I believe that I promised to provide you with this, but forgot to enclose it in my earlier correspondence.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures