

BALAZS 1980  
(Jan - June)

HIMB OUTGOING LETTERS  
JANUARY - JUNE G.H. BALAZS  
PART 2 OF 2

February 25, 1980

Dr. John R. Hendrickson  
Professor of Biology  
Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
The University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear John:

I would like to have had the opportunity to visit with you during your recent trip to Hawaii, but unfortunately I was on the mainland attending some finalization meetings relating to the Washington Conference. I also had the interesting and informative experience of being able to visit with Lew Ehrhart and see some of his *Caretta* and *Chelonia* study areas at Cape Canaveral and Mosquito Lagoon.

Richard Shomura, Director of our NMFS Honolulu Laboratory, has told me of your interests in experimentally marking hatchlings at French Frigate Shoals through the use of tissue transplantation. With the proper safeguards, this certainly sounds like a worthwhile research effort. Along similar lines, I have been continuing my laboratory studies of experimentally identifying hatchlings and juveniles by tattooing. Mr. Shomura probably also mentioned his interest in eventually testing the use of salmon nose tags as a life-long identification technique on hatchlings.

It is my understanding that your ideas on tissue transplantation were presented, or at least discussed, at the Tampa Symposium. If available, I would greatly appreciate receiving some descriptive material dealing with this work.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 25, 1980

Mr. Scott Gilliam  
Koral Kings Dive Club  
Box 300, Midway Islands  
San Francisco, FPO 96614

Dear Scott:

Many thanks for your most welcome letter of February 19th. The xeroxed turtle tagging information was certainly appreciated.

I would indeed like to reestablish the KK-Midway turtle tagging program. However, first I must check on the provisions of my Threatened Species Research Permit to see if such action would be acceptable at this time. As you are probably aware, the green turtle was recently given full protection under the US Endangered Species Act. Certain steps must therefore be taken with the Wildlife Permit Office in Washington, D.C. before I can encourage and supply tags for further research at Midway. I will keep you posted as this matter progresses. Incidentally, how much longer will you be stationed at Midway?

Of the various sets of tags I have left with KK over the years, I am presently only unable to account for numbers 2901 through 2915. If you come across records for these numbers, or the actual tags, please let me know. Some tags used to be stored in the file cabinet in the dive store; others were kept on the shelf to the left immediately inside the main large door of the KK clubhouse.

I noted in the xeroxed log sheets that "Willlett" recaptured turtle 173-174, but unfortunately no date was listed. I wonder if Mr. Willlett is still at Midway?

I currently have about 25 sea turtle buttons (one enclosed) and I would be happy to send one each to any KK member that sights a turtle and reports this information to me on the enclosed forms.

Best regards and good diving.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md  
Encl.

February 25, 1980

Mr. Walt Simmons  
Ka Imi Kai Diving Club  
44136-2 Hako Street  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Simmons:

Many thanks for taking the time to send me the interesting and informative turtle sighting report for the Kahala Hilton area. I was not previously aware that such small turtles were routinely sighted along this particular coastline.

The tumors which you described have been reported from sea turtles on a worldwide basis, however it certainly appears that they are more common on Hawaiian green turtles. Over the years I have submitted numerous preserved tumor specimens to Dr. Harshbarger of the Smithsonian's Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals. While considerable detailed analyses have taken place, it is still not certain if viral agents or external organic material (leeches, barnacles, algae) are responsible for this abnormal growth.

Again, thank you for the valuable report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 25, 1980

Mrs. Karen B. Armsby  
Wildlife Section  
Kouf National Park  
P. O. Box 1302  
Beida, LIBYA

Dear Mrs. Armsby:

I apologize for taking so long to respond to your interesting and informative correspondence of 12 November 1979. Field research and various conferences have kept me out of my office for long periods during the past few months.

I was pleased to learn of your interest in and concern for sea turtles in Libya. To my knowledge, there is very little available information for this area of the world. Any studies that you can carry out would therefore be exceedingly valuable. Concerning your inquiry about Inconel tags, about all that I can tell you at this time is that National Band and Tag Company is very close to producing tags of this alloy as a standard order item. If you are still interested in placing an order, you should contact them again in the near future.

I have enclosed an assortment of reprints dealing with my research of both Hawaiian green turtles and monk seals. Hopefully these will be of some use to your park library. I look forward to hearing from you again as your project progresses.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 25, 1980

Dr. James A. Peters  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Peters:

I wonder if you would be kind enough to provide me with a copy of your 1956-57 publication entitled "The eggs and I" (*Biologist*, 39, 21-24). For some time now I have been trying to locate this paper without success. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 25, 1980

Ms. Patty Shaver  
Defenders of Wildlife  
1244 19th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Patty:

This is just a brief note to let you know that I continue to be interested in the status of your employment, and your involvements with sea turtle conservation. I am sorry to say that no opportunities were presented at the January Gainesville meeting for me to work effectively on your behalf. In fact, as you are probably aware, the publication of the Proceedings as well as several other important matters relating to the Conference are now somewhat at a standstill. Hopefully this will all be successfully resolved in the not too distant future.

I look forward to periodically corresponding with you on matters of common interest during the coming months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 25, 1980

Dr. Paul Licht  
Department of Zoology  
University of California  
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Dr. Licht:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Serum gonadotropins and steroids associated with breeding activities in the green sea turtle *Chelonia mydas*. I. Captive animals."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



February 25, 1980

Dr. D. C. Jackson  
Division of Biology & Medicine  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

Dear Dr. Jackson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Ventilatory response to inspired CO<sub>2</sub> in the sea turtle: effects of body size and temperature."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 25, 1980

Dr. W. Threlfall  
Department of Biology  
Memorial University  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
Canada A1B 3X9

Dear Dr. Threlfall:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your recent article entitled "Three species of Digenea from the Atlantic leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:md

February 25, 1980

Dr. Norman Goldstein  
Alexander Young Building, Suite 326  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 8th and the journal copy of "Special Issue on Tattoos." I greatly appreciate having this publication as it represents a valuable addition to my file on the marking of animals for identification purposes.

My efforts to mark young sea turtles by tattooing were terminated primarily due to the absence of access to an electric tattooing needle. Mike Malone of China Seas Tattoo Company (on Smith Street) was not all that anxious to conduct further experimentation with his equipment. This was, of course, entirely understandable. As you read in my short article, the black pigment came out of the turtle's skin after only a short time period. I was advised, however, that permanent marking might be obtained by implanting the pigment at different depths. Also, it was suggested that zinc oxide could be successfully used to tattoo light colored marks on areas of dark skin. This procedure is apparently used on race horses.

As requested, I am having two duplicate slides made which illustrate my sea turtle tattooing experiment. I will send these to you in the near future. In the meantime, I have enclosed my color booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, turtles and seals that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 25, 1980

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

Dear Rene:

The main purpose of this letter is to offer some brief comments on J. K. McElroy's letter of 28 January 1980 which solicited financial support from SPC for modeling studies of Pacific sea turtles. In order to properly evaluate Mr. McElroy's population modeling abilities, I asked a respected and knowledgeable colleague to read through his belated Solomon Islands report. The outcome of this informal review was not at all encouraging. In fact, the opinion was expressed that the modeling procedures utilized were basically irresponsible, and that the author had very little knowledge of the available sea turtle literature. As you are aware, modeling is a highly complex undertaking, and apparently Mr. McElroy has reduced many important factors to simplistic and virtually meaningless terms. I thought that you should be aware of this appraisal before any decision is made on his request for assistance.

I want to thank you very much for telling me of your sea turtle observations at Ilot Kouduyo. This is important information that should certainly be incorporated into our New Caledonian turtle report. I look forward to receiving the photograph you mentioned so that a positive species identification can be made. Incidentally, I have not yet received the 8mm movie film taken at Beautemps-Beaupre by Mr. Gigaroff. I hope that it will eventually be available for our examination.

Concerning your earlier inquiry about the Conservation Strategy, I will send this to you for publication as you see fit just as soon as the final draft has been completed.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Shomura

February 25, 1980

Mr. Robert Redford  
c/o Columbia Pictures  
1 Columbia Plaza  
Burbank, CA 91505

Dear Mr. Redford:

On behalf of the SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), I would like to request your assistance in helping to prevent the extinction of the hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*. As you may know, the hawksbill is seriously endangered due to international commercial trade in both tortoiseshell and whole stuffed specimens sold as curios. Although many countries now provide full legal protection for this species, an enormous trade continues to flourish for the purpose of satisfying the demands of the Japanese market. Japan is by far the world's largest consumer nation of hawksbill products. Logically, high quality plastic imitations should have replaced real tortoiseshell. However, the exotic appeal of the genuine material coupled with the turtle's symbol of longevity in the Japanese culture have served to maintain a high market demand for hawksbill products. This is a deplorable situation in which the industry is literally mining the species to extinction. Clearly some decisive action needs to be taken by the world conservation community if the hawksbill is to survive.

Because of your considerable popularity and respected image among the Japanese people you have the potential for helping to reduce the exploitative pressures confronting the species. This could be accomplished through expressions of concern voiced by you to the Japanese public using TV, newspapers or other media opportunities that may become available during the course of your activities. It is my hope that you will be receptive to this suggestion and be interested in developing an appropriate strategy with members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

For your information, I have enclosed several articles dealing with our World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation which was held from November 26-30th, 1979 in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Archie Carr, Group Chairman, Univ. Florida

February 19, 1980

Dr. Robert Scott  
International Union for the  
Conservation of Nature  
Avenue du Mont Blanc  
CH-1196 Gland  
Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I am writing to tell you that I fully support the request made by Anne Meylan (Turtle Group Agenda Officer) and others concerning acquisition of a copy of the Newsletter mailing list from Nicholas Mrosovsky. In addition to the increased conservation effectiveness that can be obtained through use of this list, there is, of course, the fundamental question of who actually owns this list - the Newsletter editor or IUCN/WWF and the Turtle Group. Quite honestly, I hope this entire Newsletter matter will be resolved in the very near future. I am sure you will agree that the amount of energy we are expending on this issue would be far better utilized in conservation efforts for sea turtles.

The attached copied correspondence is being sent to you on a confidential basis. As of this date, no response has been received.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Anne Meylan

February 22, 1980

Mr. Ross Wicham  
Florida Department of Natural Resources  
MRL Field Station  
P. O. Box 941  
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

Dear Ross:

Thank you for your interesting and detailed letter of February 7th concerning the unresolved Jupiter Island tag recovery. As you will note from the attached letter which appeared in the Jan. - Feb. 1980 issue of OCEANS MAGAZINE, this recovery is continuing to be represented as authentic in spite of the questions that have now surfaced.

Ross, I realize that you haven't asked for my advice in this matter, but nevertheless I urge you to take whatever steps are necessary to clarify this situation to the general public. If the validity of the recovery remains questionable, it would obviously not be appropriate for this case to be used as evidence to support the effectiveness of headstarting programs.

Please feel free to call upon me if there is any way that I can help you in this situation.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 20, 1980

Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada  
Dr. Patricia M. Masters  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Dear Drs. Bada and Masters:

I have read with considerable interest the SCIENCE article authored by Thomas Maugh concerning your aging technique through amino acid racemization. I wonder if you would be interested in analyzing the eye lenses of green turtles (Chelonia mydas) for such age determinations? The age at sexual maturity and longevity of sea turtles under natural conditions are almost totally unknown, thereby seriously limiting our abilities to properly manage and conserve the various species. Some of these problems were recently discussed in a paper I presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D. C. (copy enclosed).

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience if you are interested in the possibilities of analyzing such material.

Sincerely,

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

mk



February 20, 1980

Mr. Kim Clifton  
The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum  
Route 9, Box 900  
Tucson, Arizona 85704

Dear Kim:

Many thanks for your interesting and informative letter of February 10th. This was really appreciated, as I did indeed develop considerable interest in your Maruata/Colola turtles during my brief visit. I was, however, sorry to hear about your serious poaching problems. As radical as it may seem to you, I still wonder if the best way (perhaps the only way) to save the Maruata rookery would be to build a hotel/tourist facility focused on the nesting turtles. Sort of a Heron Island counterpart that depends, to a great extent, on the very existence of the nesting turtles for tourist appeal. Perhaps the local poachers could even be employed at the hotel as an alternate means of income. Nevertheless, whatever the outcome, remember that I am here to help you in whatever way possible with your conservation and research problems.

I have been keeping Jack Woody fairly well informed on my efforts to have National Band and Tag Company produce additional orders of Inconel tags at the earliest possible date. They are now holding \$800 of my money on deposit, which I sent to them to demonstrate my sincere interest in such an order. I have enclosed some of their recent correspondence for your background information. Please note that Larry Ogren of the Panama City Lab, National Marine Fisheries Service, is also involved in these negotiations. Larry has access to the extra funds that may well be necessary for the Company to gear up for production. I will keep you posted on the outcome.

As requested, I am sending you a copy of my "Synopsis of Biological Data on the Green Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands." This was contract work for the National Marine Fisheries Service, and has now been formerly accepted by that agency. Please see the cover note memo if you have the occasion to reference this report in your writing. I have also enclosed a copy of my Washington paper on growth rates of green turtles. Your comments on any of this work would of course be most welcome.

Mr. Cliffton  
Page 2  
February 20, 1980

If possible, I would appreciate receiving copies of the reports resulting from the Maruata/Colola study. I believe that I already have the WWF Xerox reports through 1978.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

February 20, 1980

Mr. Kenji Ego, Director  
Division of Fish and Game  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Kenji:

Recently I was asked a question relating to Hawaiian sea turtles that I could not even partly answer. That is, do officers of the Division of Fish and Game at this time enforce either the provisions of State Regulation 36 (no capture of *Chelonia* under 36") or the Federal sea turtle provisions of *Chelonia* as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act? When time permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving some up-to-date information on this matter.

I have enclosed several recent articles on sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

February 20, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Hines:

You will probably recall that I telephoned you during early September of 1978<sup>7</sup> concerning my research program of Hawaiian sea turtles, and my interest in conducting a short study at Kiholo. At that time you indicated your willingness to provide me with the gate key for the access road to Kiholo. I am hopeful that this kind offer still exists in that I would like to now plan a study visit for March 11-14th or March 18-21st. Would either of these time periods be inconvenient for your schedule, or possibly activities that may be taking place in the Kiholo area? My work would involve only two people, myself and my research assistant, Mr. Alan Kam. We would anticipate bringing a small camping tent and staying at Kiholo in an out-of-the-way location for the four nights of the study visit.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

I have enclosed two articles on sea turtles that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

February 15, 1980

Wildlife Permit Office  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request a modification of our Threatened Species Permit (PRT 2-35 93) which will authorize the attachment of small radio transmitters to 10 adult green sea turtles for tracking studies. These transmitters will weight only approximately 250 grams and measure 3 by 4 by 6 centimeters. The transmitters will either be recovered at the conclusion of the study (1-2 months) or be designed in such a manner to detach from the turtle after a similar time period.

A copy of our existing permit and the previous cover letter of authorization has been enclosed for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

cc: Director, HIMS  
R. Shomara  
G. C. Whittow  
A. Dizon

February 15, 1980

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

Dear Bob:

Many thanks for your letter of February 12th which I received this morning. I was pleased to learn that you are able to honor my request for more turtle pins. Please be assured that they will be put to good use.

I am sorry to say that none of the photos taken during my South Pacific trip actually show Melanesians wearing the pins which I distributed. This was certainly a mistake on my part, in that they would have made good photo subjects. Nevertheless, I will make a point of taking such pictures of native peoples during my next expedition.

Again, thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to call upon ~~me~~ or the IUCN Turtle Group for help if the need arises.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

February 15, 1980

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

Dear Arnold:

Thank you for your letter of February 10th which included information on a nesting at Kamehame.

I respect your advice concerning publicity of tag recoveries in the Ka'u Report. I have not seen this newspaper in a long time, therefore would you please send me a recent copy. A self-addressed and stamped envelope has been enclosed for this purpose.

I am interested in returning to the Big Island for further tagging, but no definite plans have been made.

Good fishing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 15, 1980

Captain Jon P. van Tamelen  
1405 Winslow Avenue  
Coquitlan, B. C., Canada V3J 2G5

Dear Captain van Tamelen:

Please accept my sincere apologies for this belated response to your interesting, informative and valuable letter of 21 August 1979. I greatly appreciated learning of your observations of pelagic marine life, particularly the sighting of a male green turtle. This is one of the few reports of a green turtle being observed in oceanic waters of the Pacific. I suspect that the turtles you recorded north of the Galapagos were olive ridleys (Lepidochelys olivacea).

Concerning the blue-grey crabs which you found in some abundance, I have enclosed some drawings provided by my good friend and crab expert, Dr. William Cooke. Do any of these creatures resemble the ones which you encountered? According to Dr. Cooke, there is virtually no information on the toxicity, or lack of toxicity, of oceanic crabs. You were probably wise to have rejected them as a food source - possibly to be used only as a last resort.

I am also sending you a recent news article from our Honolulu paper that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures



February 14, 1980

Earl W. and Olive Lippoldt  
P. O. Box 2067  
South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Dear Earl and Olive Lippoldt:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of any articles or reports relating to your work with sea turtles. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

mk

February 14, 1980

Mr. Tony Duquette  
824 North Robertson  
Los Angeles, California 90069

Dear Mr. Duquette:

Mr. Lowell Barnhart of the Hilton Hawaiian Village has given me your name and address due to my interest in finding out the origin of the decorative turtle shells located at the coral ballroom. I would be most appreciative if you would provide me with the name and address of your supplier. Based on the shape of these shells, I suspect that they were obtained in Mexico, but I would indeed like to confirm this point.

Thank you for whatever assistance you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 13, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Weishaupt:

Recently while going through my files I came across the attached correspondence which we exchanged during December of 1977 and January of 1978. At that time, you indicated that further consideration would be given to my modest request to tag and measure the green sea turtles on display at your facility. A considerable period has now passed and I am, of course, wondering if you ever arrived at a decision. At your earliest convenience, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

February 13, 1980

Dr. Karen Bjorndal  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Karen:

Your letter of February 4th concerning Leo Brongersma was very much appreciated. Although I do not personally agree with all of the reasons you set forth, I certainly respect your sincerity in the matter. I should state that my absence of support for Leo basically stems from a belief that 1) he freely accepts travel money from the Mittags and/or the Cayman Turtle Farm for the purpose of lobbying for their cause; 2) he "used" Archie's early statements to support farming, knowing full well that Archie is now opposed to farming; and 3) if Archie truly wanted Leo back on the Group, he would have added his name months ago when we were first compiling the list. I said "back on the Group" because during the previous IUCN/SSC three year appointment period Leo was not a member of the Group (see attached list compiled by Archie and Nicholas). I wonder if Leo was ever aware of this fact. Nevertheless, after all is said and done, I can live fairly easy with the recent positive decision on Leo - mainly because at least three vigorous new members are also now on the Group.

When and how do you folks want to oppose Suarez? Please help me find out if the ship or plane that carries his ridley hides stops at a U. S. port during shipment.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 13, 1980

Dr. Andrew J. Kemmerer, Director  
Mississippi Laboratories  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kemmerer:

Many thanks for your informative and interesting letter of February 4th concerning your involvement in the satellite tracking of sea turtles. This is indeed an exciting pilot project, and I certainly hope it has a successful outcome.

Our own modest efforts here in Hawaii will commence during June with the radio tracking of several green turtles during interesting intervals at French Frigate Shoals. For this work, I will be collaborating with Dr. Andy Dizon of our local laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. I will keep you posted as our results are obtained.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 13, 1980

Mr. Bill Suzuki  
Camp Erdman  
401 Atkinson Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Suzuki:

As I described during our telephone conversation, I am sending a supply of sea turtle sighting report forms, as well as some related material for use in the Camp Erdman Environment Program. Your assistance in gathering information on the occurrence of sea turtles along this coastal area of Oahu will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 13, 1980

Captain E. B. Holtzman  
14th Coast Guard District (e)  
Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Captain Holtzman:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in obtaining transportation for me and my assistant (Mr. Alan Kam) to Kure during the middle of March. The reason for this visit would be to conduct a short tag and recapture study of green sea turtles, similar to the work I have been periodically carrying out at this location since January of 1977. It is my understanding that a Coast Guard C9130 aircraft will travel to Kure during mid-March for a two to three day visit. While I have previously travelled extensively through the courtesy of the Coast Guard, I have not done so during recent months. Your assistance in guiding me through the proper channels would therefore be greatly appreciated.

I should perhaps point out that lodging at the Kure Loran Station is not absolutely essential. If necessary, my assistant and I can use a tent set up near our study area at the southern end of the island.

Thank you in advance for whatever help you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

February 13, 1980

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

Dear Dennis:

Many thanks for your recent note and the results of the first set of turtle gut samples that I previously sent you. At your earliest convenience, I look forward to receiving the results of the second batch, as well as return of the actual samples for storage in my permanent collection. Incidentally, I noted in my latest computer printout that you have not yet requested payment from the U.H. Research Corporation. Hopefully you will do so in the very near future. I do indeed have another group of samples, but there will only be about 25 vials in the shipment. I will write out an additional Purchase Order in the near future.

I noted with interest that GB-425 may be another species of *Codium*. This is exciting. Have you made any progress on the *Codium* publication?

Dennis, if young green turtles live in the pelagic environment until they are approximately 35 cm in length, would you expect them to acquire algal growth on the shell and skin during this period? On a number of occasions I have observed and captured turtles 35-37 cm living close to shore that were exceptionally "clean" - that is, free of algal growth. I suspect that these turtles are new recruits from the pelagic environment - recent arrivals that have taken up residency in the shallow water foraging pastures. Does this sound reasonable to you? What factors would prevent young turtles from acquiring algal growth in the pelagic environment? Any assistance that you can provide in this important matter would be greatly appreciated.

Best personal regards to you and family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



February 12, 1980

Mr. Paul Watson  
Author of "Pirate Whaler  
Smashed" (Dec. 1979)  
c/o DEFENDERS MAGAZINE  
1244 Nineteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Watson:

As a researcher and conservationist of sea turtles, I was extremely interested to read the statement in your DEFENDERS article that "We paused to swim with sea turtles, part of the vast herd of loggerheads we had passed through all day." I wonder if you would send me some additional information on your observations of these turtles. What size ranges were represented, and did all of the animals appear to be loggerheads? Approximately how many turtles would you estimate were present at the most concentrated locations? Were photographs taken, and if so, would it be possible to obtain copies? I have enclosed a map of this region of the Atlantic for you to mark the locations of your sightings.

Many thanks for any assistance that you can provide in this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 11, 1980

Mr. J. B. Orr  
P. O. Box 14  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

Dear Jon:

I wonder if you made any observations of sea turtle nesting activity along your coastline during this past "season"? If so, I would greatly appreciate hearing of the details.

Enclosed is an article on our recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation which I thought you would find interesting. I wish both you and Annette my best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 11, 1980

Dr. John C. Harshbarger, Director  
Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals  
Smithsonian Institution, Rm. W216A  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear John:

Many thanks for your letter of 6 February 1980 describing the results of RTLA 2097. I was particularly interested to learn that no virus had thus far been found in this specimen. From your letter, I received the impression that this information had already been communicated to me at an earlier date, however, this has not been the case. Perhaps a letter to me was lost in the mail during recent months. Nevertheless, the cause of these fibropapillomas in Hawaiian (and other) green turtles remains unclear, and I truly wish that there was something I could do to help resolve the situation.

In the event that it has not been brought to your attention, I have a recent article from Herpetological Review which mentions your program.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 11, 1980

Mr. Andy Guthrie  
18100 Scottsdale Blvd.  
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

Dear Andy:

Many thanks for your letter of January which arrived while I was visiting with Dr. Carr. Our meeting in Gainesville at Dr. King's office proved to be successful, and we now anticipate distribution of the final Conference Conservation Strategy and Action Projects in the very near future.

During the conference you mentioned to me that you could use to good advantage my green turtle-monk seal photograph taken in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. If you are still interested in such an undertaking, please let me know of your plans and I will have a supply of prints run off. I am not particularly interested in payment, however, photo credit would be appreciated.

Hopefully your Ohio weather is warming up. It was 90° yesterday in Honolulu!

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 11, 1980

Dr. Dan Popper  
FAO/UNDP  
Private Mail Bag  
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Dan:

It was good to see you in Noumea, but I am sorry that you were not able to stay for the duration of the sea turtle workshop. Some interesting and informative data were presented, and I feel certain that everyone felt it was a worthwhile gathering. I was especially interested in the report authored by Bill Travis (covering the hawksbill hatchery and "headstart" project in Western Samoa. Presumably this document has now been circulated among fisheries and other government officials in Apia. I wonder if you are aware of any of the comments, or if, in general, the paper has been well received. As you may be aware, several of the island representatives at the workshop had questions about this project that could not be answered.

I do not know how much longer you will be based in Western Samoa, however, there is a good chance that I will be there for a visit before the year is over. This could very well be in conjunction with a study visit to Rose Atoll planned for August or September. I'll write to you again as these plans materialize.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 11, 1980

Ms. Anne Meylan  
Agenda Officer  
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group  
Department of Zoology  
223 Bartram Hall  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Anne:

Enclosed is a draft letter to the airline organizations of IATA and ATC for Archie's consideration. You will recall that we discussed this preliminary approach during off-hours at the Washington Conference. I am sorry to have taken so long to obtain these addresses and sketch out such a short letter. At this point, you folks should modify the letter as you see fit and either send it out under Archie's name (Chairman), or if for some reason you prefer, return it to me and I'll send it out. It makes no difference to me, so long as we keep the ball rolling.

Within the next two weeks, our local office of Continental Airlines will be sending me OAG books which list the addresses for the main administrative offices of every airline in the world. We can therefore send out a more detailed letter requesting assistance from each individual airline if you think this might be a productive undertaking. Perhaps we should first wait for a response from IATA and ATC.

Have you heard any further word from Cousteau headquarters concerning the movie production?

Anne, when your busy schedule permits, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the following publication:

Carr, A. F. 1972. The case for long-range chemoreceptive piloting in Chelonia. NASA SP-262: 469-483.

Mahalo and Aloha.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec  
Encl.

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

D R A F T

February 11, 1980

Executive Secretary  
Air Traffic Conference of America (ATC)  
1709 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary inquiry to ask for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in their derived products. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that ATC might be willing to provide some assistance in this endeavor, possibly through the placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, either on a non-cost or very low cost basis.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Enclosure ( December 1979 Newsweek article)

D R A F T

February 11, 1980

Executive Secretary  
International Air Transport Association (IATA)  
1155 Mansfield Street  
Montreal 113, P.Q.  
Canada

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is a preliminary inquiry to ask for the assistance of your organization in informing air carriers of the conservation problems of sea turtles and the laws prohibiting international commerce in their derived products. As a result of the recent World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation held in Washington, D.C., the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has undertaken a program aimed at educating both the general public and the airline industry of these aspects. It has been suggested that IATA might be willing to provide some assistance in this endeavor, possibly through the placement of informative articles in newsletters or other trade publications. The specific type of cooperation would, of course, be dependent upon the resources of your organization, either on a non-cost or very low cost basis.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Enclosure ( December 1979 Newsweek article)



February 11, 1980

General Manager  
Kona Village Resort  
P. O. Box 1299  
Kaupulehu, Hawaii 96740

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to ask your assistance in my efforts to obtain biological data on the occurrence of sea turtles along your coastline. The enclosed turtle sighting report forms can provide me with such information. I would therefore be most appreciative if you would make this material available to your staff and guests.

If you have any questions about this request or my research program of Hawaiian sea turtles, please feel free to call me collect at (808) 247-6631.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 11, 1980

Dr. Sylvia Braddon  
Research Chemist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Charleston Laboratory  
P. O. Box 12607  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Dear Sylvia:

I am sorry that circumstances did not allow us to meet in person at the Washington conference as I would like to have learned more about the results of your research. I am, of course, particularly interested in the outcome of your analysis of the sample of Hawaiian green turtle flesh that I previously sent to your laboratory. If you have any preliminary reports or publications on your work available at this time, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy.

If there is any way that I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

mk

February 11, 1980

Mr. Nick Stone  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division  
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Nick:

I wonder if either you or Dick James would be willing to provide me with an evaluation of the Solomon Islands sea turtle report prepared and distributed by McElroy and Alexander? In order to properly judge this work, I feel that it is necessary to hear the views of someone actually in the Solomon Islands at the present time. Your assistance in this matter would therefore be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your letter of January 23rd.

Sincerely,

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

mk

February 11, 1980

Commanding Officer  
Johnston Atoll  
APO San Francisco 96305

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can provide in the distribution and use of the enclosed sea turtle sighting report forms. These forms were used at Johnston Atoll during previous years and some interesting and valuable data have been obtained. Additional reports would continue to be of benefit to my research program of Pacific sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

February 7, 1980

Commanding Officer, Wake Island  
Detachment 4, 15th Air Base Wing  
APO San Francisco 96501

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you can provide in the distribution and use of the enclosed sea turtle sighting report forms. These forms were used at Wake during previous years and some interesting and valuable data have been obtained. Additional reports would continue to be of benefit to my research program of Pacific sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosure

February 6, 1980

Ms. Sylvia Spring  
Wildlife Division  
Department of Lands Sur.  
& Environment  
P. O. Box 2585  
Konedobu, Papua New Guinea

Dear Sylvia:

Many thanks for your recent letter bringing me up to date on research activities in your area. This was very much appreciated. I will also be looking forward to receiving the bank draft reimbursement that you mentioned.

You will be interested to learn that several weeks ago I visited with Archie and his graduate students (Anne Meylan, Karen BJORNDAL, Jeanne Mortimer) in Gainesville for three days. The primary purpose of the trip was to attend to the final follow-up meeting of the Conference Scientific Committee held in Wayne King's office at the Florida State Museum. During this time, some telephone conversations took place with IUCN in Morges, and strong recommendations were once again given in support of funding for your project. Hopefully you will hear from them in the not too distant future. Please keep me advised.

I believe that Archie will be in PNG starting in April, but I am not certain. I suggest that you write to him for this information at your earliest convenience. If the opportunity permits, it would certainly be nice if you would show him some aspects of your sea turtle program.

The report on the New Caledonia aerial survey is currently in preparation, however I am waiting for Rene to send me some additional data on Beautemps-Beaupre near Uvea Atoll. A friend of his has an 8mm movie film of turtles nesting on the island. I will keep you informed as the manuscript progresses.

Ms. Sylvia Spring  
Page 2  
February 6, 1980

There is a Peacesat relay station in Port Moresby at the National Broadcasting Commission office. The person in charge is a Marie English (Box 1359, Boroko). When you have the opportunity, you should contact her to see what arrangements can be made. I look forward to talking to you over this system and, hopefully, researchers in other Pacific territories.

You have been nominated for membership in the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group. If this is approved, as I expect it will be, you should be receiving formal notification within the next few months.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures

February 5, 1980

Ms. Aban Marker Kabraji  
Principal Investigator  
Turtle Conservation Project  
1 Bath Island Road  
Karachi 4  
PAKISTAN

Dear Ms. Kabraji:

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 1980 concerning references to biological information on sea turtles. I was pleased to learn of your developing turtle conservation project for Pakistan, and I am anxious to help you in whatever way possible. Several of my publications have been enclosed which hopefully you will find interesting and informative. In addition, by copy of this letter I am asking Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman of our IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, to send you an assortment of his recent publications.

If you haven't already done so, you will probably want to contact

Mr. A. A. Qursishy, Director  
Zoological Gardens, K.M.C.  
Karachi-3, Pakistan

who is also interested in the conservation and biology of sea turtles in Pakistan.

I look forward to hearing from you again as your work progresses.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Archie Carr, Group Chairman



February 5, 1980

Mr. Craig Harrison  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P. O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Craig:

As a follow-up to your suggestion made during our meeting of 21 January, I would appreciate receiving a listing of the frequencies in use for your seabird telemetry work. I have recently made a similar inquiry to Bob DeLong and Ancel Johnson with respect to the possible radio tracking of monk seals.

Many thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

February 5, 1980

Mr. Lyle Tuttle  
Tuttle Tattooing  
30 7th Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Tuttle:

I am interested in purchasing a high quality electric tattooing apparatus for use in marking sea turtles and other marine animals. I would greatly appreciate any recommendations or assistance that you can provide in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

mk

February 5, 1980

Mr. John L. Elford, Manager  
Hilton Hawaiian Village  
2005 Kalia Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Dear Mr. Elford:

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your assistance in obtaining information on the decorative sea turtle shells used in the banquet halls of your facility. As a biological researcher of sea turtles, I am especially interested in learning of the source of these shells (Hawaiian Islands, Mexico, or?) and the approximate year they were obtained. I would appreciate any assistance that you can provide in this matter.

You may be interested to learn that based on my preliminary observations, 104 of the turtle shells are derived from the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), and one from the loggerhead (Caretta caretta). With your approval, at some point in the future it would be valuable for me to measure the length of each shell from a stepladder. This would, of course, have to be carried out when the banquet halls are not in use.

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

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

February 5, 1980

Dr. Robert L. DeLong  
Marine Mammal Division  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way  
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Bob:

Later this year I plan to carry out some radio tracking studies of adult green turtles in the Leeward Islands. Prior to purchasing the necessary transmitters, I thought it would be a good idea to contact other possible users of such radio gear to determine if certain frequencies have already been selected. I would, of course, not want to duplicate these frequencies in my program. I recall that at one time you were interested in doing telemetry work with a monk seal. Has this progressed to a point where transmitters have been purchased? If so, I would appreciate being informed of the specific frequencies involved.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed resolution on the Leeward Islands that was passed at the IUCN Commission meetings held in Costa Rica last year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec  
Encl.  
cc: Ancel Johnson

February 4, 1980

Norman Goldstein, M.D.  
326 Alexander Young Bldg  
Bishop and Hotel Streets  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Goldstein:

Recently I had the opportunity to visit your informative exhibit on tattooing at the Hawaii Medical Library. You may be interested to learn that I have experimented with tattooing as a secondary identification system for sea turtles (see enclosed article from the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Newsletter).

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving your issue of The Journal of Dermatologic Surgery and Oncology dedicated to tatboing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosure

February 4, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Kobelin:

Mr. Katashi Nose has provided me with your name and address as a result of my interest in obtaining biological information on Kingman Reef. It is my understanding that you and your colleagues recently visited this remote location for a short period of time. As a researcher of sea turtles, I am interested in learning of any observations of these marine reptiles that may have taken place. This might include nesting activity by turtles on sand beaches, or their occurrence in the shallow surrounding waters. Any information that you are able to provide would be greatly appreciated in that virtually no data presently exist for this location.

I have enclosed a booklet on Hawaii's seabirds, sea turtles and monk seal which you may find interesting. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosure

February 4, 1980

Mr. Michael Guinea  
School of Natural Resources  
The University of the South Pacific  
P. O. Box 1168  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Michael:

Many thanks for your letter of January 29 which was mailed about the same time as the letter that I posted to you.

I appreciated receiving the photographs of the heavily pigmented male green turtle found dead at Heron Island. From the fat folds present in the pelvic region, I would say that the animal was in a good nutritional state of health. Although a portion of the tail has been freshly amputated (presumably by a shark), it is highly unlikely that this was the cause of death. Such amputations are a fairly common occurrence at the Hawaiian rookery of French Frigate Shoals. It is indeed curious that there were no tracks left in the sand by this turtle. Was it your impression that someone had carried the turtle up the beach? The dorsal pigmentation of this turtle is certainly indicative of Agassizi (or Carrinegra, as per Caldwell). However, the marginal indentations over the hind flippers are only slight. I wonder if dark pigmentation in the plastron was present as is always the case for adult agassizi? Also, all of the adult black turtles that I observed at Maruata Bay in Mexico during October of last year were very small, rarely exceeding 80 cm in straight carapace length. What was the size of your Heron Island turtle? Again, based on my knowledge, this is a very interesting occurrence for Australia and I appreciate being made aware of the case.

Mr. Michael Guinea  
Page 2  
February 4, 1980

When you are in the Nadi area, you should visit the boathouse at the Regent Hotel. I was told that divers regularly bring in small greens and hawkbills to sell to tourists. If this is the case, some valuable information might be obtained (stomach contents, etc.).

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



February 4, 1980

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

Dear Wayne:

Enclosed are two recent Honolulu newspaper articles dealing with the U.S. Navy's bombing of Kaula, a small island heavily used by seabirds for nesting purposes. I wonder if there is any way that you or your colleagues can lend support to the conservation of this important habitat. I realize that the Navy is a formidable agency to challenge, particularly during these times of international strife. Nevertheless, it would appear from the article of February 2 that it does not intend to abide by U.S. law. Such action certainly makes it difficult for U.S. conservationists to be critical of "double standards" in foreign countries.

Hopefully our problems relating to the publication of the conference proceedings are being resolved in a satisfactory manner. As you are probably aware, I continue to be in periodic contact with Archie, Anne, Jeanne and Karen.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

P.S. I wrote to Dr. Maples on January 15 requesting reprints on bone aging of humans, but thus far have not received a reply.

February 1, 1980

Editor  
T. E. A. M.  
3245 Military Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90034

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would greatly appreciate receiving information relating to your turtle newsletter. If a subscription charge is involved, please indicate the amount.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

SAME LETTER TO:

The Tortuga Gazette  
California Turtle and Tortoise Club  
P. O. Box 11124  
Santa Ana, California 92711

The Plastron Papers  
N.Y. Turtle and Tortoise Society  
215 West 92nd Street  
New York, New York 10025

The Voice of the Turtle  
San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society  
6957 Tanglewood Road  
San Diego, California 92111

Turtle Power  
Bay Area Turtle and Tortoise Society  
P. O. Box 17  
Berkeley, California 94701

February 1, 1980

Lt. Rex Buddenberg  
Commanding Officer  
U. S. Coast Guard Loran A/C  
Iwo Jima  
FPO Seattle 98781

Dear Lt. Buddenberg:

I thought that you and your men would be interested in the enclosed article that recently appeared in our Honolulu newspaper.

As a researcher of sea turtles, I would like to learn about the occurrence of these marine reptiles at Iwo Jima. Do sea turtles inhabit the adjacent waters or nest on sand beaches? Any information that you are able to provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed several sighting report forms which hopefully you and your men will fill out and return to me when observations are made.

Best regards for this New Year. I look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

February 1, 1980

Mr. Derek Green  
Estacion Biologica Charles Darwin  
Galapagos, Isla Santa Cruz  
ECUADOR

Dear Derek:

As requested, I am sending you a prepublication copy of my short article on live techniques for sampling food items of green turtles. This is scheduled to appear in the March 1980 issue of Herpetological Review.

It was a pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington conference. Hopefully your project is going well and the necessary financial support has now been obtained.

Sincerely,

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

GHS:ec

Enclosure

January 31, 1980

Mr. Don Reeser  
National Park Service  
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park  
Hawaii 96718

Dear Mr. Reeser:

I wonder if you are aware of any additional observations of sea turtle nesting activity at Halape since our last correspondence during September of 1978? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

Enclosed is an article covering some of the results of the Washington conference on sea turtle conservation held this past November.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 31, 1980

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to acknowledge that I have been acquainted with Rodney Dahleen for the past three years during his employment as a crew member on the vessel Easy Rider. During this time, I have found Mr. Dahleen to be an honest, conscientious, competent and dependable individual who has provided me with considerable assistance in my professional field research activities.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346 - Coconut Island  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Telephone (808) 247-6631

GHB:ec

January 31, 1980

Ms. Coppelia Hays  
Research Zoologist  
1501 Javier Prado, Apt. 701  
San Isidro  
Lima, Peru

Dear Coppelia:

I am sorry that we weren't able to get together for discussions during the Washington conference. Hopefully we will meet again in the not too distant future and have the opportunity to discuss research and conservation matters of common interest.

I have enclosed several articles dealing with the conference that I thought you might find interesting.

Best regards to you and your husband for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 31, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Huang:

I thought you would be interested to learn that you have recently been nominated for membership in the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). If the nomination is approved, as I feel certain it will be, you will receive a formal letter of appointment within the next two months. I look forward to having you as a fellow member in our organization.

Hopefully you received the items that I sent you in my earlier correspondence.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure



January 31, 1980

Mr. Keith Machell  
Fish Processing Officer  
Fisheries Division  
Funafuti, Tuvalu  
(via Suva, Fiji)

Dear Keith:

Many thanks for your letter of January 25th containing the \$1 coins and postage stamps. Your assistance in this regard has certainly been appreciated. If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I was interested in your comment relating to the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau's practice of accuracy for subject material. I hope that you can trace the leatherback-Niulekita relationship. As you are probably aware, leatherbacks are fairly rare throughout the Pacific islands.

Enclosed is a newspaper article on the Noumea workshop that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

P.S. I have enclosed an additional US \$1.00 to help cover the cost of postage that was necessary for you to mail me the coins. GHB

January 30, 1980

Leslie  
c/o Front Desk  
Hilo Hawaiian Hotel  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Leslie:

I want to express my appreciation for the information that you provided on the sea turtle that occurred near your hotel on January 24th. I am currently attempting to document all such events involving Hawaiian turtles, therefore any future assistance that you are able to provide would be most welcome.

I look forward to meeting you in person during my next visit to the Big Island.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. Roland Almarza  
157 Lukia Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Almarza:

I wonder if you have made any additional observations of turtles in the area of Hilo Bay where you captured the tagged individual during May of 1976? If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed article covering some of the results of our world conference on sea turtle conservation held in Washington, D. C. this past November.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

Mr. Bud Doty  
Pahala  
Hawaii 96777

Dear Bud:

I wonder if you have made any additional observations of nesting activity at Kamohame Beach or elsewhere along the Kau coastline following your report of June 4, 1979. If so, I would greatly appreciate receiving this information.

Hopefully all is going well for you and your family. I wish you best regards for this New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 30, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Truland:

At a recent meeting in Gainesville, Florida, Vivian Silverstein informed me that the remaining sea turtle pins from the Washington conference had been returned to your organization. Vivian was able to provide me with 75 of these pins which I have found to be extremely valuable for distribution to Pacific islanders that provide me with information on sea turtles. You may be interested to learn that there are Melanesians in both New Caledonia and Fiji that are currently wearing turtle pins. If possible, I would like to obtain an additional supply of approximately 200 pins for future use. I would, of course, be willing to reimburse you for whatever costs that may be involved.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 30, 1980

Mr. Herve Gigaroff  
ORSTOM  
Boite Postale A5  
Noumea Cedex  
New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Gigaroff:

Many thanks for your good letter of 11 January 1980. I am looking forward to seeing your movie film when it arrives, and I appreciate your assistance and cooperation in this matter. Please be assured that I will handle it with the best of care and return it to you at an early date.

I will write to you again after the film has arrived.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 30, 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 your letter of 25 January 1980. As requested, I am sending you a prepublication copy of my short article on live sampling of food items. This is scheduled to appear in the March issue of HERPETOLOGICAL REVIEW. In transferring the stomach pumping procedure to loggerheads, my advice to you would be to exercise considerable caution so that no internal damage is inflicted.

I certainly look forward to receiving your paper on aerial surveys in South Carolina. It was good to meet you in Washington, and I look forward to seeing you again in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 30, 1980

Mr. J. CH. Gaudriller, President  
Association Pour La Sauvegarde  
De La Nature Neo-Caledienne  
50, rue Anatole France  
Noumea, New Caledonia

Dear Mr. Gaudriller:

Many thanks for your good letter of 14 January 1980. I am indeed very pleased to have established contact with your fine organization.

I appreciated your compliments concerning my color booklet on Hawaiian wildlife. Please accept the two additional enclosed copies which I have dedicated.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures



January 28, 1980

Kona Seafari and Activity Center  
P. O. Box 416  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

I would greatly appreciate any assistance that you are able to provide on the recording of sea turtle observations. The enclosed forms and self-addressed envelopes are being supplied for this purpose.

Aloha, and Mahalo,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

January 28, 1980

Mr. Michael Guinea  
University of the South Pacific  
Box 68  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mike:

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Noumea workshop, and hopefully we will continue to be in contact on matters relating to sea turtle biology and conservation. I am certainly willing to assist you in whatever possible in the development of your own research programs in Fiji.

You will undoubtedly be interested in the following information. During my visit to Suva in February of 1977, Rob Stone was informed by a Gordon Elliott (aboard a fishing vessel) that approximately 60 green turtles were seen at a sand cay two miles northeast of Yagasa Levu in the Lau Group. All sizes of turtles were present and they reportedly displayed very little fear of man. Nesting was not recorded. Seven turtles were taken, presumably for food. Based on the information which I received, it was unclear if these turtles were in the water or on land - possibly basking.

Another report that I can pass on to you was related to me by a fellow passenger during my most recent flight from Nadi to Honolulu. This involved a low level of nesting (species unknown) at the small island of Gamaya (sp. ?) located about 20 miles off Taveuni. Turtles have been captured at this site during the past year and towed back to Taveuni by small boat.

I have Xeroxed a copy of the publication THE FIJI ISLAND by R. A. Derfick, but unfortunately I have recently discovered that pages 259-263 are missing. If you have easy access to this book I would be most appreciative if you would send me copies of these pages when your time permits.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

January 22, 1980

Ms. Janet Barber  
Head of Information & Conservation  
World Wildlife Fund - U.K.  
29 Greville Street  
London EC2N 8 AX  
U. K.

Dear Janet:

Many thanks for your letter of 4 January containing my color transparency. Your payment for use was certainly generous and I appreciate your consideration in this matter. I have not yet received the magazines, but I feel confident that you did indeed put the photograph to good use.

Concerning your information on the sale of tortoiseshell in the West Indies, the import prohibition for U. S. citizens results primarily from the U. S. Endangered Species Act of 1973. This law prohibits both the private-personal and commercial movement of hawksbill and other sea turtle products across U. S. borders. Our law protecting hawksbills actually dates back to 1970 under the U. S. Endangered Species Act of 1969. However, enforcement has at times been less than ideal.

Yes, you are correct, the farm situation continues to be a messy, complicated matter. This was discussed during one afternoon at the Washington conference, but fortunately it was not allowed to turn the gathering into shambles. I believe that our Conference Conservation Strategy deals with farming and other sea turtle problems in a reasonable fashion - keeping the turtles' best interests first and foremost. When the Strategy is finalized and distributed in a few weeks I hope that you will be able to give it maximum publicity.

Please feel free to call upon me if and when you have need for additional photographs of sea turtles or other Hawaiian wildlife.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 22, 1980

Mr. Patrick Galanon  
Mr. Bruno Ugolini  
Service de la Pêche  
B.P. 20, Papeete, Tahiti  
French Polynesia

Dear Patrick and Bruno:

It was a great pleasure to meet the two of you at the recent SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop in New Caledonia. The paper that you contributed on Scilly made a substantial contribution to our knowledge of Pacific sea turtles. I therefore would like to take this opportunity to commend you for your efforts, and also to encourage you to continue in this research. Scilly is an extremely important breeding site that should be designated as a fully protected sanctuary at the earliest opportunity. In this respect, you will be interested to learn that the Scientific Committee of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation has recommended that Scilly be formally designated a sanctuary.

Please feel free to call upon me if I can be of assistance to your research programs of sea turtles. Also, if at any time you are able to travel to Hawaii, please notify me so I can make arrangements for a visit to our laboratory.

I apologize for not being able to write this letter in French.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

January 22, 1980

Mr. Kenneth W. Goddard  
Chief, Branch of Forensic Science  
Division of Law Enforcement  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Goddard:

I am sorry to say that I- do not have a technique for identifying sea turtles from samples of meat. If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you contact:

Dr. Sylvia Braddon  
Research Chemist  
Charleston Laboratory  
P. O. Box 12607  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 22, 1980

Captain E. B. Holtzman  
14th Coast Guard District  
Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Captain Holtzman:

I thought that you might be interested in the enclosed Coast Guard Report of June 1934 which I recently obtained from National Archives in Washington. The information on page 5 is of particular interest to me in that Coast Guard personnel were apparently the first individuals to actually tag sea turtles in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 21, 1980

Dr. Val Hinds  
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries  
P. O. Box 2298  
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Val:

Many thanks for your letter of January 9. I hope that your one week ocean excursion was pleasant and productive. I was fortunate to travel to Gainesville, Florida last week for a short follow-up meeting relating to our Washington sea turtle conference (see attached).

As an initial effort to collect current information on sea turtles in the Kermadecs, I am sending you some basic sighting report forms and identification sheets to pass on to resident personnel. Several turtle badges have also been enclosed, and certainly more can be provided if the response exhausts this supply. I greatly appreciate your assistance in this matter, and I am hopeful that valuable information will be forthcoming.

You may be interested to learn that an aerial survey which we conducted of New Caledonia following the workshop resulted in the rediscovery of large numbers of nesting green turtles at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. In collaboration with ORSTOM, I would like to go out there for some tagging work at the end of this year.

Looking forward to hearing from you again when your time permits.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosure

January 21, 1980

Dr. Andrew Kennerer  
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
NSTL Station, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Kennerer:

During the World Conference on Sea Turtle in Washington, D. C., Peter Pritchard mentioned that your laboratory is currently involved in the satellite tracking of a loggerhead turtle. In addition, it was indicated that similar procedures would be employed with a Kemp's ridley during the forthcoming breeding season at Rancho Nuevo. In view of my continuing interest in such work, I would certainly appreciate receiving copies of any resulting reports or publications. Perhaps there are even some preliminary documents describing the research procedures and objectives of this work that you can pass on to me at this time.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk





# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O.Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
Cable Address: UNIHAW

January 18, 1980

Mr. G. S. de Silva  
Turtle Islands National Park  
Box 768, Sandakan  
Sabah, Malaysia

Dear Stanley:

Many thanks for your letter dated 7 January 1980. It was indeed good to visit with you, both here in Honolulu and during the Washington meeting. My only regret is that circumstances did not permit us to spend more time together. I was especially keen to learn more about your visit to Suriname. I certainly promise you far more attention during your next visit to Honolulu.

The progress that you have thus far made toward the establishment of an international turtle breeding sanctuary is indeed encouraging. I am hopeful that this momentum will continue, with success being achieved at an early date. Ed Gomez was also in attendance at our joint South Pacific Commission and U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service sea turtle workshop held in Noumea, New Caledonia. I am favorably impressed with Ed and his interest in the conservation and rational utilization of Philippine turtles. I am sure he will do whatever he can to establish the international park.

As you read in the SSC Cambridge minutes, the Turtle Group has been reconstituted for the next triannium. I believe that we discussed this during dinner in Honolulu, along with my difficulties with certain individuals following my appointment as Deputy Chairman. Please be assured that you have again been reappointed, and that a letter to this effect will soon be sent out by Archie. With respect to future SSC meetings, to my knowledge there are no funding sources available for travel. As you are probably aware, SSC meetings are usually held twice a year and do not actually involve individual Group meetings, unless enough members happen to be present. I personally would like to attend the February 1981 SSC meeting, in India, but at this time I don't have the least idea where to obtain financial support. The last meeting of the Turtle Group (or at least a select segment of the Group) was held in May 1978 at the University of Toronto. Nicholas organized the entire affair and selected Siow to represent your part of the world. WWF provided travel funds for the meeting, but I seriously doubt if this will ever happen again. Unfortunately, not much was accomplished at the meeting. The SSC minutes were in error about a Turtle Group meeting being held in Washington. Such a meeting did not take place, principally due to the fact that we were already being kept busy with turtle matters 15 hours a day.

Mr. G. S. de Silva  
Turtle Islands National Park

January 18, 1980  
Page 2

Please keep me informed on your negotiations with the Philippines - I wish you success.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 17, 1980

Mr. Peter Vaughan  
Fisheries Division  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear Peter:

Many thanks for your letter of January 8th which I received upon my return from a short trip to Florida. I have also just received a letter from Mr. J. K. McElroy along with a 57 page report on the sea turtle resources of the Solomon Islands. This paper contains some interesting information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. I would imagine that a copy of the report has also been sent to your office. I would appreciate your comments when time permits.

I certainly agree with your plan to initiate a long-term monitoring program of nesting hawksbills throughout the Solomon Islands, although 20 sites may prove to be an overwhelming task. Perhaps fewer sites should be selected and longer study periods spent at each location. In any event, for whatever research strategy is developed, some precautions will have to be taken to prevent the program from being prematurely used as justification for greater levels of exploitation. Due to the fluctuations which are known to annually occur in the number of nesting turtles, your program will have to continue for at least several years before some meaningful results can be obtained.

I was sorry to learn that you will not be able to purchase Inconel alloy tags for your project. The company now appears to be close to production, and I was going to send them your name as an interested party. As you heard at the workshop, many researchers have experienced corrosion and tag loss with Monel alloy tags. One of the reasons for our imperfect knowledge of sea turtles is the tag loss problem. I would therefore advise you to carefully analyze the tags you have thus far recovered in order to determine if corrosion is indeed taking place.

I look forward to corresponding with you further as your program progresses.

Sincerely,

GHB:ec  
cc: Dr. Archie Carr

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

January 17, 1980

Mr. Ross Witham  
Department of Natural Resources  
Marine Research Laboratory  
P. O. Box 941  
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

Dear Ross:

It was good to see you again at the Washington conference, but I am sorry that we did not have the opportunity to discuss in detail certain aspects of our respective research projects. I am especially interested in learning more about your nesting beach recovery of a headstarted turtle. This was briefly mentioned in a recent issue of Florida Conservation which our librarian brought to my attention. Perhaps the specifics of this recovery were presented in your paper at Tampa. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting due to my recent return from a workshop on sea turtles in New Caledonia. When your time permits, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 16, 1980

Mr. J. K. McElroy  
Marine Resources Research Unit  
Portsmouth Polytechnic  
3, Guildhall Walk  
Portsmouth, U.K.

Dear Mr. McElroy:

Many thanks for your letter of 17 December 1979 and the report on the Solomon Islands' turtle resources which I only received yesterday. This paper contains some valuable information, and it is unfortunate that it was not available for discussion at our Noumea workshop. A composite publication will eventually be prepared which summarizes the workshop papers. However, I am uncertain if your paper would qualify for inclusion since it was not actually tabled at the meeting. I suggest that you write to Dr. Rene Grandperrin, Fisheries Advisor with the South Pacific Commission, for clarification on this matter.

It should be noted that conclusion No. 12 on page 44 of your report that references my 1976 publication in Biological Conservation is unclear as written. In contrast with your statement, reproductive migrations by green turtles in the Hawaiian Islands regularly involves one-way distances of 500 to 1000 km. Immature turtles in their foraging pastures seem to be stationary for extended periods (see enclosure).

If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you send copies of your report to the following individuals:

Dr. Archie Carr, Chairman, IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group, 223 Bartram Hall,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

Ms. Sylvia Spring, Wildlife Division, P. O. Box 2585, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Peter Vaughan, Fisheries Division, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

bcc R. Grandperrin , A. Carr

January 15, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

Last week I had the opportunity to see Peter Pritchard, both in Gainesville and at his home in Oviedo. During the course of our discussions, he mentioned that you would now probably be willing to send Archie and me a copy of the Newsletter mailing list. This belief was apparently based on conversations with you that took place in Tampa. I am, of course, optimistic that you will send this list in the near future.

It is my understanding that SSC is currently preparing a letter which sets forth the various terms and conditions for continued publication of the Newsletter. These are all basically the same points that we discussed at great length in Washington.

Enclosed are several copied articles which you may not have seen.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Archie Carr

January 15, 1980

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

Dear Wayne:

First, I would like to thank you for making it financially possible for me to attend the January 10th Gainesville meeting. It was rewarding to have been able to play a role in the follow-up decisions for our Washington Conference. I hesitate to think what the outcome may have with respect to various action projects if other certain individuals had been in control of the Scientific Committee.

My meeting with Archie, Karen, Anne and Jeanne were, in my opinion, also of significance. Certainly among the five of us there is now more a feeling of "group" effort in helping to conserve sea turtles. We have identified our broad functions, as well as a number of short-term activities to be undertaken.

Wayne, if it's not too late, I would like to see two more important action projects added to our final list. These are:

- 1) Informative pamphlets should be prepared to promote the application of the Conservation Strategy for sea turtles (see attached relating to our earlier Principles and Recommendations).
- 2) Scilly Atoll in French Polynesia should be declared an inviolate breeding sanctuary for sea turtles.

Number two of the above is particularly important in view of the fact that the current lease at Scilly to a small Tahitian family is soon due to expire, and Japanese interests are interested in buying the atoll. These facts were passed on to me by the delegate from Tahiti that attended our recent SPC/NMFS workshop in New Caledonia. An Emergency or at least Critical rating should therefore be indicated.

Dr. F. Wayne King, Director  
Florida State Museum

January 15, 1980  
Page 2

I have enclosed several articles and items on sea turtles that you will find interesting. I am especially concerned about the wreckless statement made in the Philippine article by Fontanilla.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



January 15, 1980

Mr. Satish Bhaskar  
Madras Snake Park Trust  
Guindy Deer Park  
Madras - 600 022  
INDIA

Dear Satish:

It was a great pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington Conference, but I am sorry that we did not have the opportunity to personally discuss in detail matters relating to our respective research projects. I am hopeful of attending the Survival Service Commission meeting and CITES convention scheduled for India in early 1981. Perhaps you are also planning to be in attendance at these important events, thereby giving us a renewed chance to exchange biological and conservation information.

Your September 1979 article in HAMADRYAD was both interesting and informative. I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of additional publications you may have recently authored.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 15, 1980

Lt. Bruce Tate  
Commanding Officer  
U. S. Coast Guard LORAN Station  
(Geo. will complete add.)

Dear Lt. Tate:

I thought that you and your men would like to have a copy of the enclosed article that appeared in yesterday's Honolulu newspaper.

I am still interested in receiving reports on the sights of sea turtles in the waters around Marcus. Any assistance that you can provide in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

January 15, 1980

Forestry Suppliers  
205 West Rankin Street  
Jackson, Mississippi 39204

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your latest  
supply catalog.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

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

Dear Lew:

I want to express my great appreciation for the hospitality which you displayed during my recent visit to Oviedo. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to see your study areas in such detail within the short time available. In my opinion, your work on the nesting beaches and in Mosquito Lagoon is making significant contributions to the knowledge and conservation of Florida's sea turtles. I hope that you will be able to obtain the financial support that you certainly deserve for the continuation of this important research.

As promised, in the near future I will be sending you the reports and items that I mentioned.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

Thank you for your respective letters dated January 2nd and 8th which I had the opportunity to review following my return from a short business trip to Florida. I must confess that I am somewhat confused due to the extremely encouraging statements for an Inconel tag order made by one of you (TVH) in a letter dated 11/16/79, thereby contrasting with your more recent letters. I am hopeful that the information contained in the earlier letter was correct, and that we may proceed in the very near future with a firm order for either 5,000 or 10,000 size 681 tags made of Inconel 625 alloy. Because of my successes, I would like to retain the same specifications as previously used in my Inconel order. I would personally not recommend a thicker Monel tag to other researchers because this is not really solving the widespread Monel corrosion problem. I would also advise against placing a second hole in the tag to accommodate the point of the curl. In my opinion, this is unnecessary, and indeed could result in a weakened tag structure and greater susceptibility to corrosion. In a recent telephone conversation, I find that Mr. Ogren is in complete agreement with me on this subject. A 11/32" wide 681 style tag would probably be acceptable, but I prefer the standard width used in my earlier order.

I look forward to hearing from you on these important matters at your earliest convenience. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec  
Enclosure

January 15, 1980

Mr. Scott Gilliam  
Koral Kings Diving Club  
U. S. Naval Station  
Midway Islands  
FPO San Francisco

Dear Mr. Gilliam:

I apologize for not having contacted you at an earlier date concerning my continuing interests in studying the green sea turtles at Midway. Over the years numerous members of Koral Kings have provided me with valuable assistance in the collection of information, both during my visits to Midway and by recording data for my future analysis. Some of the results of this research was recently presented at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington, D. C. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of this paper which will eventually be published in the Conference Proceedings.

I would like to renew my field research activities at Midway in the near future, hopefully before May of this year. However, my schedule is currently uncertain due to a number of unfinished commitments. In the interim, I would be most appreciative if you would let me know how many turtle tags are currently in stock at Koral Kings, and what inscribed numbers are represented. Also, if it wouldn't be too much trouble, I would like to receive a copy of the tagging and tag recovery information in the Turtle Log that has been entered since July of 1978. Thank you in advance for your help in these matters.

I look forward to meeting you and the other club members that are interested in sea turtle biology and conservation. Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 15, 1980

Ms. Christine Casati  
1615 45th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20007

Dear Christine:

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your excellent and conscientious translations with Mr. Huang at the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. It was a great pleasure to make your acquaintance, and I am hopeful that we will have the opportunity to work together again at some future date.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

January 15, 1980

Dr. Bill Maples  
Florida State Museum  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Dr. Maples:

Dr. Wayne King has briefly told me of your work with bone sectioning as a technique for aging humans. I am currently trying to develop a similar procedure for determining the age of sea turtles. When your time permits, I would certainly be most appreciative if you would send me copies of reports or publications which describe your research.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



January 14, 1980

Dr. John C. Harshbarger  
Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals  
National Museum of Natural History  
Room W216-A  
Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, D. C. 20560

Dear Dr. Harshbarger:

Enclosed is the duplicate slide for RTLA 2097 as requested by Phyllis in her letter of 10 August 1979.

I was in Washington during late November for the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation, but unfortunately did not have the opportunity to contact you.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk  
enclosures

January 3, 1980

Mr. Keith Machel  
Fish Processing Officer  
Fisheries Division  
Funafuti Atoll  
Tuvalu (via Fiji)

Dear Keith:

It was a pleasure to make your acquaintance in Noumea, and I am sorry that you were unable to attend our SPC/NMFS workshop on sea turtles. The meeting proved to be very successful, with a number of important recommendations for future action being agreed upon. The paper from Tuvalu contributed by Mr. E. Pita, Fisheries Officer, was certainly appreciated in view of the fact that virtually no published information on turtles existed for this island group. Hopefully some additional detailed surveys will be conducted in the near future.

As I mentioned to you, I would like to obtain two of the \$7 Tuvalu coins that display the green turtle. I have also been trying to locate, without success, a few of the 1¢ Tuvalu stamps (new, without cancellation) that display the leatherback turtle. Any assistance that you are able to provide in these matters would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed \$3 to cover costs. Please let me know if this is not sufficient.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

mk  
enclosures

January 2, 1980

Dr. Edward Klima  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
4700 Avenue U  
Galveston, Texas 77550

Dear Dr. Klima:

It was a pleasure to meet you in person at the Washington Conference and discuss matters of common interest relating to sea turtles. As promised, I am sending you some copied correspondence on the production of Inconel 625 alloy tags. Nearly all researchers have recorded corrosion in the standard Monel tags, whereas under Hawaiian conditions my experimental Inconel tags have thus far shown absolutely no deterioration over a 38 month period. You may want to consider using these tags in your Kemp's ridley headstarting project.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. Arthur Dahl  
South Pacific Commission  
Post Box D5  
Noumea Cedex  
New Caledonia

Dear Arthur:

It was good to meet you in person in Noumea, and I am glad that you were able to participate in the marine turtle workshop. During the course of the meeting you made some important contributions which helped to provide balance to the discussions.

I wish you best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

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

Dear Mike:

I thought you would be interested to learn that our sea turtle workshop in Noumea turned out quite well, with a number of interesting and informative reports presented for discussion. Of course I feel certain that it would have been even more productive had you been in attendance. While a supply still exists in SPC files, I suggest that you write to Rene requesting copies of all reports contributed to the meeting. This will be a good addition to your sea turtle reference library.

On January 10th I will be attending the final meeting of the Conference Scientific Committee in Gainesville, Florida. A number of important decisions will be made at that time, and I will make sure the best interests of Pacific sea turtles are represented.

Following the Noumea workshop we were fortunate to be able to charter a small plane (with Richard Shomura's funding support) and survey nearly all of New Caledonia for sea turtles. This resulted in the exciting rediscovery of a major green turtle rookery at d'Entrecasteaux Reef. I would roughly estimate that several thousand turtles nest on the six small and uninhabited islands present in the area. Hopefully we can arrange for some tagging work to be conducted there next September and October.

It is my understanding that the SPC chartered skipjack vessel will be working in the vicinity of Helen's Reef during early 1980.

Best regards to you and your family for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. Harold Hirth  
Department of Biology  
The University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

Dear Harold:

Our marine turtle workshop in New Caledonia proved to be highly successful, and it is unfortunate that your schedule did not permit you to attend. One of the papers that was distributed at the meeting dealt with tagging results at Scilly Atoll. I am certain that you ~~will~~ be interested in this report, therefore a copy has been enclosed for your information and files.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encl.

January 2, 1980

Dr. Jeremy Cherfas  
Department of Psychology  
University of Toronto  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1

Dear Jeremy:

Patty Shaver, staff member with the Washington sea turtle conference, recently sent me a xerox copy of your NEW SCIENTIST article entitled "The song of the turtle." This is certainly an interesting and informative presentation, and I would like to offer you my compliments on your conservation efforts. If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving five copies of the 13 December 1979 NEW SCIENTIST issue. If you are unable to honor this request, perhaps you could provide me with the name and address of the appropriate person to contact.

You will undoubtedly recall that we met in Toronto in May of 1978 at a reception sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. I did not realize that you attended the Washington Conference, and I am sorry to have not had the opportunity to speak with you again in person.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Dr. James D. Lazell  
Center for Action on Endangered Species  
175 West Main  
Ayer, Mass. 01432

Dear Skip:

It was a pleasure to speak to you by telephone during your stopover in Hawaii, and I am sorry that circumstances did not permit me to visit with you in person. As you may have heard by now, both the Washington conference and the workshop in New Caledonia turned out to be highly successful gatherings.

Your forthcoming project in India certainly sounds interesting. I would greatly appreciate receiving reports or publications that result from this work.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



January 2, 1980

Mr. Louis E. Garibaldi  
Curator & Director of Operations  
New England Aquarium  
Central Wharf  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Mr. Garibaldi:

A copy of your letter dated 28 November 1979 to Dr. Nicole Duplaix has been forwarded to me for comment due to my involvement in growth studies of green turtles. I was, of course, sorry to learn of your misunderstanding with respect to information resulting from the Washington conference. Slow growth rates for immature green turtles *under natural conditions* have indeed been substantiated by my work here in the Hawaiian Islands, as well as by concurrent research on the Great Barrier Reef (C. J. Limpus), in the Galapagos Islands (D. Green) and at Mosquito Lagoon, Florida (L. Ehrhart). As you pointed out, comparatively faster growth can take place under captive conditions where an abundant supply of high protein food exists.

For your information, I have enclosed the abstract of the paper on growth rates that I presented at the Washington conference. The complete paper will appear in the conference proceedings due to be published in June of 1980.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Encl.

cc: N. Duplaix  
Silverstein/Shaver

January 2, 1980

Dr. E. G. Silas, Director  
Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute  
Vincent Road, P. B. No. 1912  
Cochin - 682018 INDIA

Dear Dr. Silas:

It was a pleasure to meet you during your visit to our laboratory on 7 November 1979, and to see you again at the Washington conference. Hopefully the conference provided you with worthwhile information that will be useful to the sea turtle program at your own research institute.

Please feel free to contact me if there is any way that I can be of assistance to your work with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 2, 1980

Mr. Wayne Witzell  
Southeast Fisheries Center  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Wayne:

I thought you would be interested in receiving a copy of the paper on the Western Samoa hawksbill project that was authored by Bill Travis for the recent SPC/NMFS sea turtle workshop held in Noumea. Unfortunately, Bill was not able to be present at the meeting to answer questions and provide additional details. I would appreciate hearing any comments you may have on this important paper.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Encl.