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1980s HIMB
OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
OF GEORG BALAZS

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

March 31, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Gicca:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island · P. O. Box 1346 · Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

April 14, 1980

Mr. Paul Harada
Kalaupapa Settlement
Molokai

Dear Mr. Harada:

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

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

Sincerely,

George E. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 8, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 8, 1980

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

Dear Patricia:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
6 August 1980

Dear Wayne:

Many thanks for your letter of 28 July. The "congratulations" was appreciated, but I don't really know if they are called for in this case. I view my current funding arrangement with NMFS to be short term- at this point I have no long-range goals for a career with the federal government. This will, however, be a good learning experience as to how NMFS functions internally. I will keep you informed. As I mentioned in my earlier letter, I am still actually employed by the University of Hawaii, but on an IPA loan to NMFS. I still have my office at HIMB, where I can usually be found on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Unfortunately, I still draw my University pay scale, and not the "fat" check that would exist at the equivalent GS government pay scale.

You were, of course, absolutely correct in all of your statements and thoughts about Brother Peter. For some years now I have recognized that he has has certain professional and personality flaws (as we all do). However, until this latest episode over New Caledonia and the South Pacific Commission, I never fully realized the extent of these deficiencies. They are considerable. At some point in the future I can give you all the details, but for now it is sufficient to say that I will not be dealing with or helping him again. I am, however, still on speaking terms with him (if only to keep an eye on what he's going to do next). I wonder if the Florida Audubon Society realizes what sort of person is representing them when he does things like this?

I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the Gainesville SSC meeting. I am, however, going to do my best to get to the Delhi meetings in early 1981. I have been urging Karen, Anne, Archie, Jeanne and others to also try for this one.

The Conference Proceedings arrangements look real good. I have been in close contact with Karen on all of this.

Best regards,

George
cc Archie

July 29, 1980

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

Dear Anne:

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

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

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

Stone, R. B. et al. 1979. A comparison of fish populations on an artificial and natural reef in the Florida Keys. Marine Fisheries Review, September, 1-11.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

July 29, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Woodard:

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

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

Thank you very much for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 28, 1980

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

Dear Senator Matsunaga:

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

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

Again, I appreciate your interest and assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Susumo Ono
Dr. R. J. Shallenberger

July 28, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Thompson:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

July 22, 1980

Mr. Beryl Kendall
Box 17032
Via Mombasa
KENYA

Dear Mr. Kendall:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
cc: Dr. J. Frazier

July 22, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Bada:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 18, 1980

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

Dear Murata Takashi:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

July 18, 1980

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

Dear Dick:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

July 17, 1980

To: Gloria Keohohou
RCUH Purchasing

From: George H. Balazs

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in these matters.

GHB:md

July 17, 1980

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

Dear René:

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

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

Dr. René Grandperrin
July 17, 1980
Page 2

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

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

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

Again, all the best in your new assignment.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

July 17, 1980

Dr. D. E. Sergeant
Research Scientist
Biological Station
555 St. Pierre Blvd.
Province of Quebec
Canada H9X 3R4

Dear Dr. Sergeant:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your 1978 article in *Biological Conservation* entitled "The recent status of *Monachus monachus* the Mediterranean monk seal." I have enclosed several publications on the Hawaiian monk seal that I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Encls.

July 15, 1980

Mr. Charles A. Oravets
Fishery Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Oravets:

When available, I would greatly appreciate receiving full information on the outcome of the "public scoping meeting" relating to sea turtles scheduled for 17 July 1980 in Atlanta, Georgia. I would imagine that official minutes or a public report will result from this important meeting.

Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

July 15, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Mallek:

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

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

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

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

Mr. Edward Mallek, Member
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

July 15, 1980
Page 2

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

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 15, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Mallek:

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Mr. Edward Mallek, Member
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

July 15, 1980
Page 2

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

Thank you for your assistance and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

July 14, 1980

Dr. Brian Groombridge
Compiler, Red Data Book - Amphibia & Reptilia
Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge, England

Dear Dr. Groombridge:

Thank you very much for your letter of introduction dated 19 June 1980. I have only recently returned from field work at French Frigate Shoals, hence my delay in responding to your request for information.

Professor Brongersma in particular should be able to answer your questions about sea turtles within waters of member states of the European Economic Community. Perhaps he did not receive your earlier inquiry, therefore, by copy of this letter I will notify him of your search for information. I would suggest, however, that you also write to him and renew your request.

A list has been enclosed of the names and addresses of Marine Turtle Group members for the 1979/81 triennium. You will note that Dr. Archie Carr is our Group Chairman.

I look forward to meeting you in person in the not too distant future.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Professor L. D. Brongersma

Enclosure

July 14, 1980

Dr. Federico Achaval
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Casilla de Correo 399
Montevideo, URUGUAY

Dear Dr. Achaval:

I would greatly appreciate receiving copies of your following publications:

Achaval, F. 1965. Hallazgo de Chelonia mydas mydas (Tortuga Verde) en el Uruguay. Rev. Oficial Club Ancsp 108:27-28, 1-2 figs.

Achaval, F. 1968. Presencia de la Tortuga Verde Chelonia mydas mydas en el Uruguay. Zool. Platense 1(3):55-16.

I have enclosed several of my own papers on sea turtles that I thought you would find interesting.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Encls.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
19 May 1980

Dona K. Finnley, Editor
Endangered Species Technical Bulletin
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

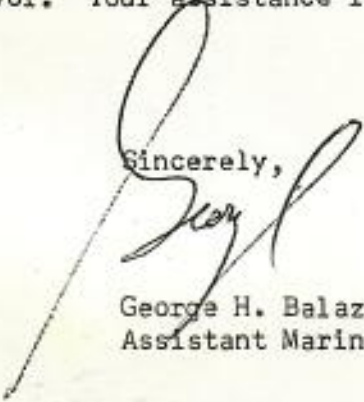
Dear Dona:

In response to your "Special Request" memo of May 12, 1980, I am pleased to send you a color slide showing a green turtle and monk seal (Monachus schauinslandi) basking on the beach at French Frigate Shoals, Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. I have also enclosed several published items for your background information. You have my permission to use this photo as you see fit in your program brochure. The transparency should be returned to me when you are finished. Photo credit should read- G.H. Balazs, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. In addition, I would greatly appreciate receiving 50 copies of the brochure when it is published.

You may also be interested to learn that I have quality color slides of the Endangered Laysan duck and Nihoa finch. I can make these available if you so desire.

I want to personally thank you for your excellent letter of support to the Postmaster General. This is an important endorsement which I feel will weigh heavily in our favor. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

enclosures

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Derek:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balaz
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Stoneburner:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your interesting and informative report on the satellite tracking of loggerhead turtles.

On page two of the report you mention that only transmitter C "survived the curiosity" of individuals who encountered the turtles. I wonder if you would care to elaborate on this matter for me. Were the transmitters intentionally taken off the turtles? Any insight that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:nd

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Croft:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Mr. Ernest Kosaka

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

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Mrs. Fitter:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Ms. Loetscher:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

July 10, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Donahoo:

Thank you for sending me a copy of the report "Summary of Sea Turtle Activity in Florida, 1979" (PRT 2-3456) which I requested in a letter dated 21 May 1980. Permit number PRT 2-3456 appears to be held by the Florida Department of Natural Resources, but their report states that it is a compilation of "reports" received from "permit holders, USFWS coastal refuge managers, and Florida State Park superintendents." I am consequently somewhat confused about the other "permit holders." Do sea turtle researchers in Florida need a permit from your office or do they only have to obtain a State permit from the Florida Department of Natural Resources? Any clarification that you can provide on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 28, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Aron:

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

Absence of a Specific Proposal

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

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

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

Nihoa and Gardner Pinnacles

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

Gardner Pinnacles (3 acres)

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

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

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

Dr. William Aron
Page 3
April 23, 1980

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

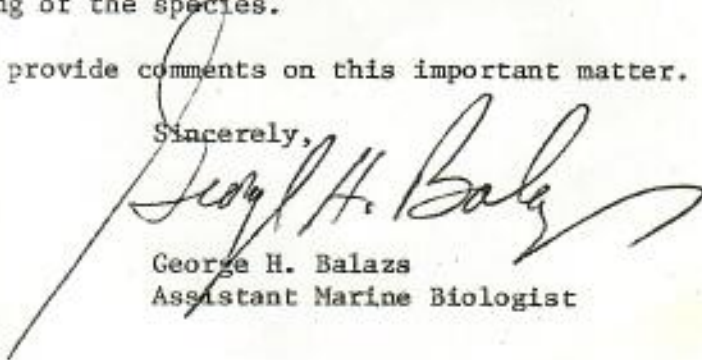
Based on Table 1 (summary of censuses) presented in the Critical Habitat proposal, it is apparent that the scarcity of monk seal records for Gardner Pinnacles is due to the deletion of this site from most research expeditions. Gardner Pinnacles is the only haul-out grounds for monk seals for 120 miles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

Nihoa (156 acres)

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

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

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

References attached

References

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

June 5, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Croft:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

bcc: Mike McCoy

June 4, 1980

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

Dear Michel:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk
enclosure

June 3, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Dimond:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk
enclosure

June 4, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Curray:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

June 3, 1980

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

Dear Henry:

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

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

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

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

June 3, 1980

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

Dear Rhett:

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

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

Mr. O. Rhett Talbert Jr.

Page 2

June 3, 1980

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

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

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

Best regards and good luck with your work.

Sincerely,

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

mk
enclosures

June 3, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Klukas:

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

Sincerely,

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

mk

May 29, 1980

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

May 29, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Miller:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

May 29, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Stoneburner:

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

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

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

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 29, 1980

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

From: George H. Balazs

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

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

GHB:md

cc: Gilbert Oshima, RCUH



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
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Cable Address: UNIHAW

May 22, 1980

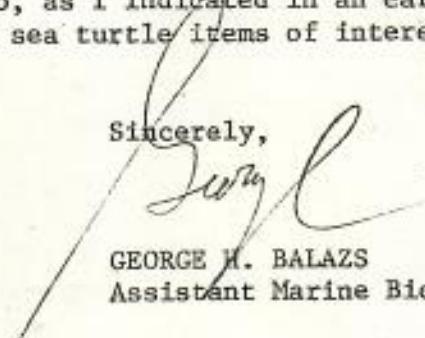
Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories
Department of Zoology
25 Harbord Street
Toronto, M5S 1A1, Ontario
CANADA

Dear Nicholas:

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

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

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
cc: A. Carr
P. Pritchard

May 28, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Rappa:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 5, 1980

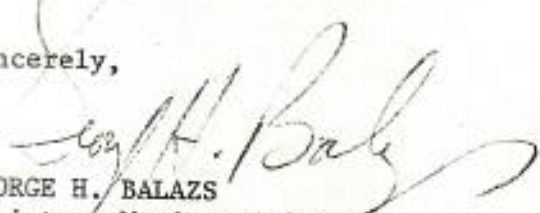
Mr. Kelley Dobbs
Greenpeace Hawaii
913 Halekauwila Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Dobbs:

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

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,


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

GHB:ec

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Colonel Stearns:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

Alan -
Please
mail return to me
box

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Jim:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
28 May 1980

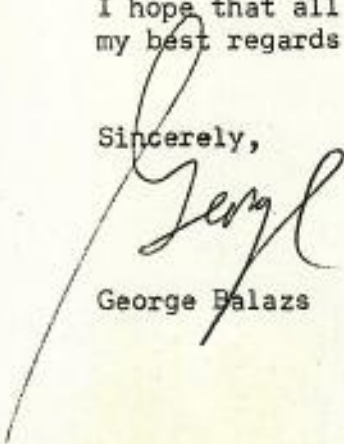
by
Hawaii 96744

Dear Leo:

I thought you would be interested in the attached copied correspondence which relates to the open-ocean sighting of sea turtles near Portugal. I would be interested in your reaction to these observations.

I hope that all is going well with you. I send my best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,


George Balazs

, I was extremely
article that "We
hard of loggerheads
ould send me
f these turtles.
the animals appear
would you estimate
Were photographs taken,
I have enclosed a
the locations of

e in this important
c earliest convenience.

a Group

Enclosures

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Matsuzaki:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 27, 1980

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

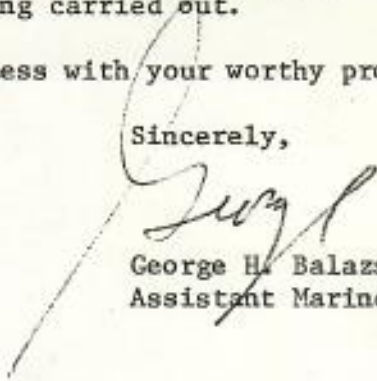
Dear Paul:

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

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

I wish you continuing success with your worthy project.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Paul:

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

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

I wish you continuing success with your worthy project.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Clarke:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 27, 1980

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

Dear Sally:

Many thanks for your letter of May 19th.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 21, 1980

Mr. H. Emmett Finch
32101 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Malibu, California 90265

Dear Emmett:

Enclosed are the negatives that you kindly loaned me. I had several prints made for my reference collection - many thanks for your assistance.

As you will read in the enclosed newspaper article, the Greek clay freighter was safely pulled off the reef at French Frigate Shoals. However, about 2000 tons of the clay had to be thrown in the ocean. We don't really know what damage this will do and some surveys are being undertaken. The ship went on the reef about 2-3 miles NE of Disappearing Island. I'm certainly glad that it wasn't in the northern section of the Shoals where the turtles breed.

I read with great interest your letter concerning the future of French Frigate Shoals. Well I cannot say that I firmly believe in these predictions, I certainly do not disbelieve them. Such things require an open mind, which is something that I try to maintain. I appreciate that you made this inquiry for me, and passed on the response.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to write a short letter of support to the Postmaster General for the issuance of stamps showing sea turtles. We now have about 90 letters of support from all over the country - I hope that yours can also be included.

Please be assured that I will continue to send you news of the Leeward Islands as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

May 21, 1980

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

Dear Minister Smith:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

bcc: Karen Bjorndal

May 21, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Donahoo:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 21, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Futch:

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 20, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Moala:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96722

May 1, 1980

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

Dear Sally:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Perran:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Perran:

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

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Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Mittag:

At the Washington sea turtle conference you expressed a sincere desire to operate the Cayman Turtle Farm in a strictly professional manner, therefore I thought you would be interested in the attached letter which appeared in the Miami Herald on 17February 1980. Apparently no effort is being made by sales personnel at the Farm's gift shop to inform U. S. citizens that items purchased cannot legally be taken into the United States. I realize that such notification, either verbal or through a posted sign, would lessen the shop's sales. Nevertheless, it would seem to me that the Farm has an obligation both to its paying visitors, as well as the Cayman Government which depends heavily on tourism, to inform gift shop customers of the current laws in effect. I hope that you will agree with me on this point, and take some action to rectify the situation.

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

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

CHB:md

Enclosure

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Perran:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 19, 1980

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

Dear Perran:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

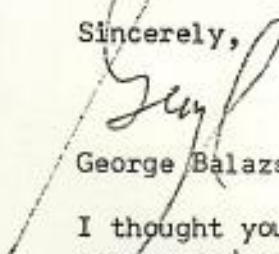
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
19 May 1980

Dear Mike:

I'm certainly glad that you questioned the handwritten date of "1980" which appeared on the Tourist Weekly Cayman Turtle Farm ad. I scrutinized the opposite side (page 8) and found a car rental ad that stated valid "until April 30th, 1979". The ad therefore dates back to sometime before April of 1979.

The excised ad was sent to me by Dr. Perran Ross of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. The handwritten "1980" appeared in the lower right hand corner and I had no reason to suspect that it was not correct. Obviously a mistake was made somewhere along the line. It's the sort of thing that I wouldn't want to see happen very often. I'll write to Perran today to see what went wrong.

Sincerely,



George Balazs

I thought you would be interested in the enclosed correspondence.

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

May 15, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Bain:

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

I wish you success in your project.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 14, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Morison:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 14, 1980

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

Dear David:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 14, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Kobelin:

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

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

Once again, many thanks for all your fine help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 13, 1980

Mr. Wayne Minami
Attorney General
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 405
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Minami:

A friend recently told me that your office has recommended that amendments be made to DLNR Regulation 36 which relates to the protection of sea turtles. I have always been interested in the conservation of Hawaii's turtles, therefore I would like to know exactly what amendments you have proposed. I assume that before any changes in this regulation are made the public will be given ample opportunity to comment on the matter.

I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this subject in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Hilding K. Cherry
2115 Rocky Hill Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

May 12, 1980

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

Dear M. Gigaroff:

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

Please give Michel Petit my best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Richard Shomura
Rene Grandperrin

April 10, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Morison:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

bcc: Archie Carr



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

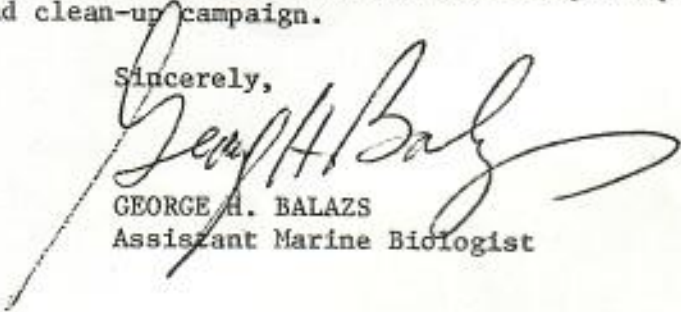
May 6, 1980

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

Dear Admiral Lauth:

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

Sincerely,


GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Kenji Ego
Doyle Gates
Dale Coggeshall

May 8, 1980

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

Dear Ed:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

May 6, 1980

TO: Jack Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist, HIMB

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

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

GHB:ec

May 7, 1980

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

Dear John:

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

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

May 7, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Wellington:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 7, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Mittag:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

May 7, 1980

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

Dear Archie:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Peter Pritchard

May 6, 1980

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

Dear Rhett:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 6, 1980

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

Dear Carla:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 6, 1980

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

Dear Editor:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

mk
bcc: Jeanne Mortimer

May 6, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Killingley:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 5, 1980

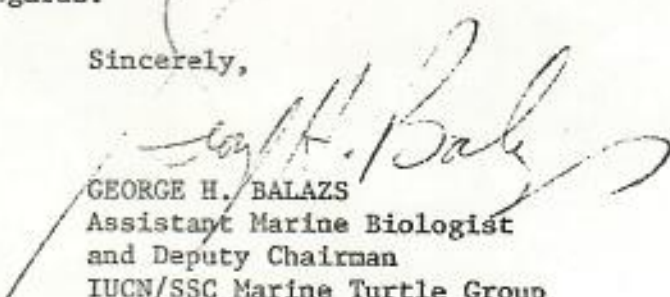
Mr. Kelley Dobbs
Greenpeace Hawaii
913 Halekauwila Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Mr. Dobbs:

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

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,



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

GHB:ec

May 5, 1980

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

Dear Rene:

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

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

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

Best regards to you and Jim.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
cc: Richard Shomura

May 5, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Curray:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 25, 1980

Sir Peter Scott
Chairman
Survival Service Commission
The New Grounds
Slimbridge
Gloucester GL2 7BT
United Kingdom

Dear Sir Peter:

I am writing this confidential letter to you to express my concern about the "Living Tags for Sea Turtles" proposal and cover letter which you recently received from Dr. John Hendrickson of the University of Arizona. This material was sent to both you and Dr. Lee Talbot with an urgent appeal for personal assistance. As your Deputy Chairman of the Marine Turtle Group, I would like to offer some of my thoughts and opinions on this matter. The following comments are not in any order of importance, but rather are simply set forth for your equal and overall consideration.

1. All proposals relating to sea turtles that are submitted to IUCN/WWF are of considerable interest and potential importance to the Marine Turtle Group and therefore receive equal, unbiased and thoughtful evaluation in accordance with the established IUCN procedure. I therefore find it disturbing when a proposal, such as the one in question, is submitted with some personal appeal for special and urgent assistance. This is particularly true when no urgency actually exists.

2. At the present time, I feel it would be extremely unwise for IUCN/WWF to fund any sea turtle research that is intimately tied to, or dependent upon, the farm on Cayman Island. Past experiences should certainly be a lesson to us in this matter.

3. The statement in the second paragraph of Dr. Hendrickson's letter (i.e. "The Hawaii work is marginal to the central purpose and only included because of the interest in Hawaii...") differs considerably from what Dr. Hendrickson told fisheries and wildlife administrators here in Hawaii. Furthermore, the statement on page 9


Sir Peter Scott
April 25, 1980
Page 2

of the proposal indicating that 'responsible authorities in Hawaii favor an immediate pilot program of marking using his experimental surgical procedures at the hatchling beaches' is simply not true. In addition to the absolute prerequisite for lengthy (1-2 years) laboratory trials, there are several other problems relating to a field marking program of hatchlings here in Hawaii. This would include a depressed population at the breeding beaches, difficulties in physically collecting hatchlings from our beaches, and disturbance to our critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal. I would have provided Dr. Hendrickson with full and factual information on these problems, if he had had the professional courtesy to contact me at some point about the proposed Hawaii phase of his project.

My last comment is in reference to the entry in Dr. Hendrickson's Curriculum Vitae which states that he is presently a member of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group. To my knowledge, which hopefully is accurate in such matters, Dr. Hendrickson is not a member of the Turtle Group during this triennium. His name also does not appear on any of the appointment or membership lists for the previous three-year period. I realize that this is indeed a delicate matter, if he honestly believes that he is a member of the Turtle Group. Nevertheless, someone at sometime will have to give corrective notification. I am sure you will understand my desire not to be given this assignment.

I send you Best Regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 25, 1980

Sir Peter Scott
Chairman
Survival Service Commission
The New Grounds
Slimbridge
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Sir Peter Scott
April 25, 1980
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I send you Best Regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 25, 1980

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Chairman
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The New Grounds
Slimbridge
Gloucester GL2 7BT
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Sir Peter Scott
April 25, 1980
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I send you Best Regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Downs:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 30, 1980

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

Dear Cynthia:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

bcc: Captain Profflet
Doyle Gates, NMFS

April 30, 1980

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

Dear Sir:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

IUCN PROJECT PROPOSAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST

To..... Archie Carr / G. Balaza / F. Wayne King Date 8.4 1980

From .. Patricia Chabla / SSC Proposal No. Int. 287

Title "Living Tags" for Sea Turtles

The enclosed project proposal has been submitted to IUCN for evaluation. IUCN will have to decide whether the project proposal can be endorsed in principle, recommended to WWF or others for funding, or rejected. Your comments would be most valuable in helping IUCN reach a judicious decision. Please check, as far as possible, the appropriate points below and make any additional comments you might have under "Remarks". Your comments will be treated in confidence if so desired.

Please use the following rating codes : 5 = very high, 4 = high, 3 = moderate, 2 = low, 1 = very low

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The <u>relevance</u> of the proposal in relation to the IUCN Programme | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| 2. a) The likelihood that the proposal will attain its objectives | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| b) The likelihood that the proposal would lead to : | |
| - follow-up action within one year of implementation | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| - follow-up action within the time necessary to produce results | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| - background information or expertise necessary for future action | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| c) The likelihood that the proposal will lead to conservation action | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| 3. The likelihood that the proposal would : | |
| - receive government endorsement/support | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| - receive local people's/NGO's endorsement/support | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| - <u>not</u> receive government or significant non-government opposition | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| - <u>not</u> conflict with the cultural and social climate of the country | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| - <u>not</u> duplicate similar activities of others | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 4. The training and expertise of the investigator(s) <u>as they relate to the needs of the proposal</u> are | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| 5. The <u>need</u> for this proposal in relation to the conservation of a threatened ecosystem or habitat of high conservation value, endangered species | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| The likelihood that the status of a unique ecosystem/species will irreparably deteriorate if this proposal is not carried out it is | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| 6. The justification for the budget is | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| The justification for the amount of equipment and supplies needed is | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
- (Note: 5 = budget figure highly justified; 1 = budget figure not justified)

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- 6. b) The likelihood that funds other than those available through IUCN/WWF could be located to support :
 - the entire proposal is [1]
 - over 75% of the proposal is [1]
 - between 25% and 75% of the proposal is [1]
 - any of the proposal costs is [3]
 (Note: Please indicate any possible funding source below or on an additional sheet).

- 7. The likelihood that the proposal will
 - stimulate additional conservation action in the country/region [2]
 - provide training or other experience that could enable local personnel to follow up [1]
 - produce direct/indirect benefits to the local people [2]
 - have a favourable impact on government conservation policies [2]

- 8. The likelihood that the proposal will :
 - serve as an example for solving conservation problems of similar nature is.. [1]
 - not only achieve one but a number of conservation objectives [1]

- 9. After considering the demand for conservation funds, I feel the priority assigned to this project :
 - for full funding by WWF should be [1]
 - for partial funding by WWF should be [1]
 - for endorsement only (no funding) by IUCN/WWF should be [1]

REMARKS : *please treat these comments in confidence*

In addition to, and strictly separate from, the serious reservations I have expressed in the above evaluation, I feel it would be extremely unwise for IUCN/WWF to fund research that is tied to the commercial sea turtle farm on Cayman Island. Past experiences should be a lesson to us in this matter.

Name George H. Balazs Signature *George H. Balazs*

Date 24 April 1980 Tel. No. (808) 247-6631



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 25, 1980

Sir Peter Scott
Chairman
Survival Service Commission
The New Grounds
Slimbridge
Gloucester GL2 7BT
United Kingdom

Dear Sir Peter:

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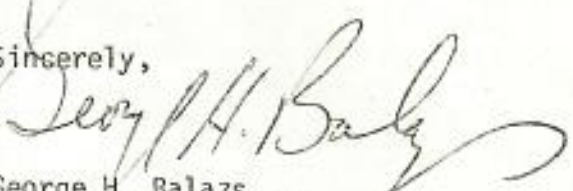
Sir Peter Scott
April 25, 1980
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My last comment is in reference to the entry in Dr. Hendrickson's Curriculum Vitae which states that he is presently a member of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group. To my knowledge, which hopefully is accurate in such matters, Dr. Hendrickson is not a member of the Turtle Group during this triannium. His name also does not appear on any of the appointment or membership lists for the previous three-year period. I realize that this is indeed a delicate matter, if he honestly believes that he is a member of the Turtle Group. Nevertheless, someone at sometime will have to give corrective notification. I am sure you will understand my desire not to be given this assignment.

I send you Best Regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 28, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Chavez:

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosures

April 28, 1980

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

Dear Captain Profilet:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 24, 1980

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

Dear Arnold:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

CHB:md

April 24, 1980

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

Dear Mike:

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

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

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

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

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

Looking forward to seeing you during early May.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 23, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Weishaupt:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

April 23, 1980

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

Dear Ms. Hillyard:

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 22, 1980

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

Dear Col:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encl.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 22, 1980

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

Dear Nicholas:

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

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Peter Pritchard

April 22, 1980

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

April 22, 1980

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

Dear Walt:

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

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

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

April 22, 1980

LtJg Daniel Whiting
LORSTA KURE
FPO San Francisco, CA 96619

Dear Daniel:

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

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

Best regards - hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

April 18, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Ayoso:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

April 16, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Hines:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

April 15, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Chua Tock Hing:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk
enclosure

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Donahoo:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Dr. G. C. Whittow

April 14, 1980

Mr. John Gage
332 Awini Way
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

Dear John:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Downs:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island - P. O. Box 1346 - Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Ms. Chable:

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

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

Project Screening Co-ordinator
April 14, 1980
Page 2

Page 2 - Methods need to be spelled out or the "work plan" submitted along with the proposal.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

cc: Drs A. Carr and W. King

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Robert:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Sirs:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Sir:

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 14, 1980

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

Dear Anne:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 8, 1980

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

Dear Dennis:

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

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encl.

P.S. Have you seen the enclosed?

April 1, 1980

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

Dear Mr. TenBruggencate:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 31, 1980

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

Dear Gene:

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

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
bcc: Dr. Causey Whittow



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

March 28, 1980

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

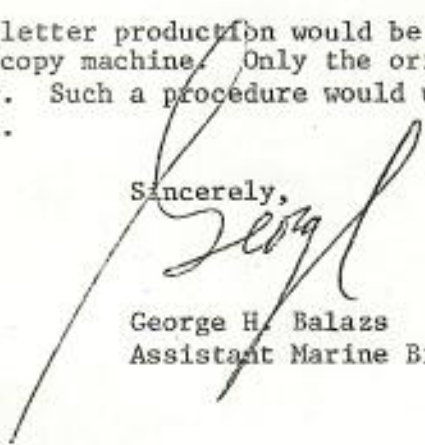
Dear Nicholas:

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

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

One way that money could be saved on a newsletter production would be to reduce the print by 40-50% using a reduction photocopy machine. Only the original would need to be reduced prior to offset printing. Such a procedure would undoubtedly help to economize on both paper and postage.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures
cc: Peter Pritchard
Archie Carr



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

March 14, 1980

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

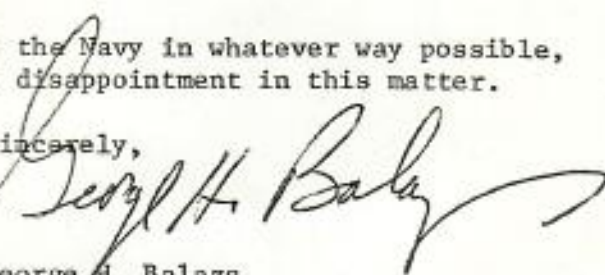
Dear Captain Profilet:

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

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

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

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

PACIFIC DIVISION
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
(MAKALAPA, HI)
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860

09F:mm
Ser 5880

15 Aug 1979

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

Dear Mr. Balazs:

This is in response to your letter of 10 August 1979 in which you requested a copy of the Navy's report which discussed findings from your November 1978 report on sea turtles of Kahoolawe.

The newspaper article enclosed with your letter refers to a preliminary draft of the Navy's Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which was filed with the Court recently as part of the continuing litigation over the Navy's use of Kahoolawe.

As soon as the Supplemental EIS has been completed and released for distribution, you will be mailed a copy.

Sincerely,



J. M. STEVENS
CDR, CEC, USN
Special Assistant for Ecology

Copy to:
Mr. J. Caperon
Hawaii Institute of
Marine Biology

March 31, 1980

Mr. Erik Kiviat
Smithtown Road
Fishkill, New York 12524

Dear Erik:

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

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island · P. O. Box 1346 · Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

March 14, 1980

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

Dear Ancel:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 28, 1980

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

Dear Ms. Bradfisch:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

March 27, 1980

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

Dear Reverend Kaupu:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosure

March 27, 1980

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

Dear Mr. Haas:

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

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

mk

cc: Larry Ogren

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

March 31, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Holt:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
enclosures

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96741

March 31, 1980

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

Dear Dr. Cahn:

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

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

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enclosures