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1981-1982
HIMB GEORGE BALAZS
OUTGOING LETTERS

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

November 3, 1982

Mrs. A. T. Gouw
49 Oei Tiong Ham Park
Singapore 1026
Malaysia

Dear Mrs. Gouw:

I am writing to sincerely thank you for sending me the two Malaysian newspaper articles relating to sea turtles. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. The articles contained information that proved interesting and useful to me. As I may have told you, I am currently the Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. IUCN works very closely with the World Wildlife Fund.

Under separate cover, I will be sending you a colorful poster that illustrates the various kinds of sea turtles. I hope that you enjoy it.

Again, thank you for thinking of me.

With best regards,

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

July 30, 1982

Mr. J. D. Stevens
Mr. T. L. O. Davis
CSIRO
Division of Fisheries & Oceanography
P. O. Box 20
North Beach, Western Australia 6020

Dear Sirs:

I have just read your fine article in the April 1982 issue of AUSTRALIAN FISHERIES. I am writing to ask if any sea turtles were caught incidental to the shark gillnetting survey that you conducted. Also, I would be interested to learn if the remains of sea turtles were found in the stomachs of sharks that were examined.

Thank you for any information of these subjects that you can offer.

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

July 20, 1982

Commissioner for Pitcairn
British Consulate General
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Commissioner:

Mr. Steve Christian of Pitcairn Island suggested that I write to you concerning my suggestion that sea turtles be featured on postage stamps issued by Pitcairn. Mr. Christian thought that this might be a good subject. He tells me that the loggerhead sea turtle is the only species found in the waters around the island. This turtle is also seen at Oeno Island when the people visit there during the summer months.

To aid you in your evaluation of this suggestion, I have enclosed a color identification poster which shows all the different species of sea turtle. If there is any way that I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 20, 1982

Mr. Cesar Z. Luna
Biologist
Task Force Pawikan
Parks and Wildlife Center
Quezon Boulevard Extension
Diliman, Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines

Dear Mr. Luna:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 1982. I am sorry that it has taken me so long to respond to your inquiry. I have only recently returned from field work at French Frigate Shoals where I go each June to tag nesting turtles.

My three methods (hand, scoop net and tangle net) used to catch and tag green turtles here in Hawaii are fairly straight forward. The basic procedures are given in the papers I previously sent you, however the enclosed short report may be helpful in using tangle nets. In all of this work, a fair degree of experience and talent is needed in order to efficiently catch turtles and prevent mortalities.

In developing your program in the Philippines, I would like to suggest that you initially place all of your research emphasis on tagging and assessing turtles at their terrestrial nesting sites. This sort of work will yield important results that are critically needed for effective management in your area of the Pacific.

Please feel free to contact me again if I can be of further assistance. I am pleased to be able to help you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

July 29, 1982

NSW State Fisheries
P. O. Box N211
Grosvenor Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request copies of "Kapala Cruise 66, 67, 68 and 69" (see attached).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

27 July 1982

Nicholas -

I'm clearly starting to feel uncomfortable about sending you copies of this continuing dialogue. But since I sent you the earlier ones, it would seem I have a responsibility to show you the rebuttal. Again, I want to point out that I am not giving this sort of thing widespread coverage. So please let it end with you. It's all so counterproductive.

George



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

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

Cable Address: UNIHAW

8 July 1982

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219(c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom

Dear Brian:

I now have a copy of the draft green turtle RDB account that you just recently sent to Dr. Carr. Although you indicated a publication deadline of June 30th, Dr. Carr nevertheless went ahead and distributed copies to members of our Group realizing, of course, that inadequate time was being given to undertake a proper review. The loggerhead RDB was also just received here in Hawaii under the same circumstances.

There is only one urgent comment that I want to communicate to you, given the short time available. As the principal authority on Hawaiian sea turtles, I am writing to ask that you delete mention of the Hawaiian green turtle colony in your "Special Note" section which now reads- "It should be recognized that populations vary strongly in their survival status. Several, such as the Pacific Mexico colony, or many of those in the Caribbean, are "Endangered"; others are "Vulnerable"; while others, such as the Australian or Hawaiian (my emphasis) colonies may not be seriously threatened at all." The inclusion of the Hawaiian colony in such a statement is inaccurate, inappropriate, misleading to the reader, and potentially very damaging to our conservation efforts here in Hawaii. Briefly stated, the following facts support this judgement.

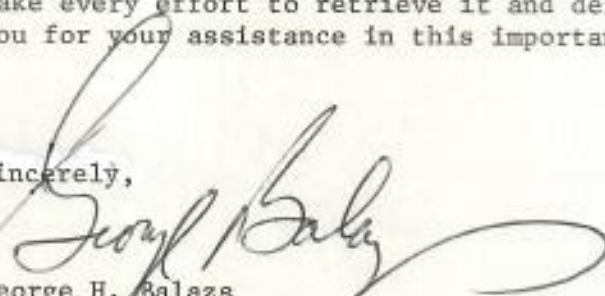
1. The numbers of Hawaiian green turtles found breeding, basking and foraging have sharply declined over the past 100 years.
2. The range of the population has been reduced substantially- four former breeding colonies (Lanai, Laysan, Lisianski and Pearl & Hermes Reef) have now vanished, or at least nearly so.
3. Between 1819 and 1974 no regulatory controls existed on the taking of turtles. Commercial exploitation was substantial and common.
4. In late 1978 the population was finally placed in the "Threatened" category under the US Endangered Species Act. This designation still exists, and continues to be an accurate assignment, although localized aggregations in our northwestern chain are in immediate danger of becoming extinct.
5. When the current illegal take is finally reduced to an acceptable level by law enforcement authorities, full recovery of the population will still take many years because of the slow growth rates now known to occur.

Page two
Dr. Groombridge
8 July 1982

6. The Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy of the 1979 World Conference lists the French Frigate Shoals (Hawaiian) breeding colony as "requiring maximum protection" by reason of isolation and unique ecology (land basking).
7. The Australian colonies have literally thousands of green turtles nesting annually, while Hawaii currently has a mere 250 as a very maximum. To lump the two locations together as .."may not be seriously threatenen at all" fails to reflect the history leading up to the current survival status. I certainly agree that some, perhaps many, of the Australian colonies may not be seriously threatened at all, but this is not true for Hawaii. However, even for Australia, you should check your statement with Colin Limpus, the authority for the area.

If that page of the RDB has already gone to press, I respectfully ask that you make every effort to retrieve it and delete the objectionable section. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(Deputy Chairman-Marine Turtle Group)

cc
Dr. Carr
Dr. Lucas
Dr. King



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 26, 1982

Dr. John E. Burchard
U.P.M. Box 1903
University of Petroleum & Minerals
Box 144, Dhahran International Airport
SAUDI ARABIA

Dear Dr. Burchard:

As I mentioned in my brief postcard-note to you last week, your informative and interesting letter of 21 February 1982 only recently arrived here in Hawaii. I can't imagine what happened to it, or where it's been. The envelope was in excellent condition and the registered label was still attached. The long delay was indeed unfortunate, because it may have caused you to think that I neglected to respond, or somehow felt that the status and ecology of your turtles were unimportant. Let me assure you that this is by no means the case.

My original letter of inquiry to the ARAMCO address came about after reading "Biotores of the Western Arabian Gulf" because I was unaware of any other sea turtle research projects focused on these islands. Consequently, it is indeed good news to hear of your recent return to Arabia, and continued interest in sea turtles. In order to provide you with some rapid initial assistance within the framework of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group, I intend to carry out the following.

1. Send copies of your letter to our Group Chairman (Dr. Archie Carr - Univ. of Florida) and several other members requesting that they provide you with some of their recent reprints and any other background information that they feel may be helpful.
2. Under separate cover, send you by air mail both an English and French version of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy that resulted from the November 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. The many valuable papers presented at this meeting are now due to be published by Smithsonian Press in about five months. I will let you know how and where to order the volume when it becomes available.
3. Send a copy of your letter to the private WWF-funded organization called TRAFFIC in Washington, D. C. requesting information and/or investigation of the lively curio trade in stuffed sea turtles and other wildlife taking place in your area.

Dr. John E. Burchard
May 26, 1982
Page 2

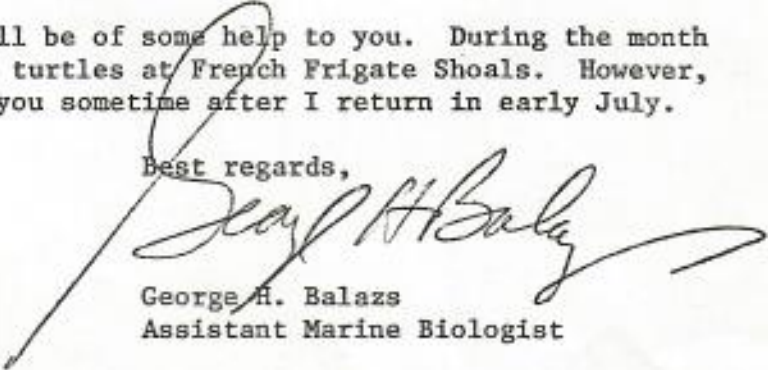
4. Request Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky of the University of Toronto to place your name on the mailing list for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. Nicholas is the editor of this informative publication, and also a member of the Marine Turtle Group.
5. Under separate cover, send you an assortment of my own reprints covering work on sea turtles here in Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific.

In addition to the above, I would like to ask the following questions and suggest a few possible ideas for your consideration.

1. What inscription and number series did the tags have that you used at Jana and Karan?
2. Have you ever seen or heard reports of turtles basking ashore during the daytime on any of these islands (see enclosed article from Sea Frontiers)?
3. What possible action might you recommend that could be undertaken by the Marine Turtle Group to help conserve the sea turtles in your area? Would a letter from our Group Chairman (or a high official in IUCN) written to Saudi authorities on behalf of sea turtles and their nesting habitat be an appropriate and effective action?
4. It would be very worthwhile for you to write a short note for publication summarizing the information contained in your letter. I feel certain that Dr. Mrosovsky would want to print this in the Marine Turtle Newsletter just as soon as space permits. The "Biotopes" books is a beautiful presentation, but not widely known.
5. I would also suggest that you consider submitting a small proposal to WWF/IUCN in Morges dealing with tagging studies on your islands. This certainly seems like a high priority to me.

I hope that this letter will be of some help to you. During the month of June I will be tagging green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. However, I look forward to hearing from you sometime after I return in early July.

Best regards,



George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
University of Petroleum & Minerals
DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA



وزارة التعليم العالي
جامعة البترول والمعادن
الظهران - المملكة العربية السعودية

21 February 1982

Dr. George H. Balasz
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P. O. Box 1346, Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Balasz,

Dr. Cuddeback of ARAMCO has passed your letter of 14 January on to me. I am, for better or worse, the principal author of "Biotopes of the western Arabian Gulf" and the person who has worked on sea turtles here. During my stay with ARAMCO we tagged a modest number of Green Turtles (64 at Karan, if I remember correctly, and a smaller number at Jana). Unfortunately, it was impossible to obtain tags inscribed in Arabic, and also to operate a reward scheme. ARAMCO were unwilling to allocate money without knowing exactly how many tags would be returned. We never obtained any "external" returns, though we did gather a small amount of re-nesting data including one female, tagged during body-pit excavation, who returned to the sea and was re-recorded, barely four hours later, just completing a nest on the opposite side of the island!

During 1973 I and several college students operated a nightly turtle census on Jana Island during most of the breeding season. Unfortunately tagging materials arrived in the field too late to be used during this operation. The daily nest count did, however, give us an approximate idea of the number of females using Jana. The relationship between this number and the number of body pits, visible on aerial photographs, allowed us to make very rough estimates of the numbers of females using the other islands. The total, arrived at in this very crude way, was about 3,000 females per season for the six Saudi Arabian coral islands. Karan is by far the most important nesting site, followed by Jana and Jurayd in that order. There was also a certain amount of nesting on mainland beaches; but this has probably now been seriously curtailed, if not altogether eliminated, by the siting of industrial plants and other developments all along the shore line.

The coral islands are also threatened. ARAMCO periodically unshelves plans for putting a major oil storage and processing facility on Jana, and there are rumors of a Coast Guard base planned for Jurayd. I am trying to generate interest for a marine park or nature reserve including Karan, Kurayn, Jana and Jurayd islands. Needless to say I would welcome IUCN support in this effort.

I should mention that the estimates given above apply to Green Turtles only. The same beaches are also used by Hawksbill Turtles, although I have no good estimate for their numbers. Their shallow body pits do not show up well on aerial photographs, and we arrived on Jana in 1973 in July, which is well past the peak of their nesting season. They seem to begin and to end about two months earlier than the Green Turtles. Their population is, I should think, certainly smaller than that of the Green Turtles; at a wild guess, one fourth the size. Karan is probably their main breeding site; but even that is a guess at present.

The text of the "Biotopes" book had to be watered down in several places to make it acceptable to ARAMCO; in point of fact the environmental situation here is disastrous, especially in respect of the coastal wetlands and shallow subtidal habitats. The scale of dredging and landfill operations is, I am sure, unequalled in the world. Most of the important mangrove stands are already gone, and unless something drastic happens there will soon be no more tidal flats and very few grass beds. This is bound to affect the trophic base of the turtles, and of many other species as well. The local fishing company has just ordered four large, new shrimp trawlers; I cannot imagine what they will find to catch with them! The shrimp stocks are already seriously overfished and their nursery grounds are disappearing apace.

There is at the moment a two-man IUCN team here, surveying the Gulf coastline with a view to making recommendations to the Saudi Arabian environmental protection agency. Their recommendations will necessarily be more or less the same as mine; but perhaps coming from IUCN they may get more attention. I will be providing them with some details of the marine park proposal already mentioned.

I have also submitted, to the environmental protection agency here, a paper on the conservation of critical habitats. These I have identified for our area as coastal wetlands, grass beds and coral reefs with their associated islands. The paper contains urgent recommendations for interim management actions (a ban on dredging and land filling, and on development of the islands or their reefs) as well as proposals for a series of research projects designed to evaluate the status, productivity, nutrient budget etc. of these biotopes. I have very wide interests in biology, but my own research is focussed at the moment on the taxonomy and ecology of reef corals. Consequently I am hoping to get some funding for a research program centered around Karan, Jana and Jurayd islands. Part of this program would include studies of the turtle populations. Tagging work would form an important part of the studies.

The greatest danger to our turtle populations, apart from the siting of industrial or military installations on the islands, is from hordes of Korean or Filipino contract laborers, whose companies might see fit

21 February 1982

to transport them to one of the coral islands for a week-end's "recreation" which would undoubtedly include the capture and ingestion of every animal living on the island at the time. Several such trips have already taken place, but I have not yet had an opportunity to get into the field to evaluate their results. My somewhat hazy sources suggest that there has been some intensive spearfishing, and a little commercial-scale coral collecting, but that so far the turtles have not been seriously molested.

Can you suggest where the dried and lacquered turtles are coming from, which are offered for sale in the local curio shops? These are mostly Hawksbill Turtles, 20-50 cm in carapace length, and the total number in the various shops must run into hundreds. They are associated with various Oriental objects and seem to be imported from Singapore, or possible also from India. There are also dried monitor lizards, dried crocodiles, and vast numbers of the dried feet of these animals (sold as key-chain ornaments) as well as dried hatchling Pseudemys spp from North America. I can't personally imagine how anyone could stand to have such a gruesome relic in the house; but they seem to find a lively sale.

I left ARAMCO in 1977 and returned to Arabia to my present position, at the Research Institute of the University of Petroleum and Minerals, only about ten months ago. Consequently I am rather out of touch with recent turtle work and with the activities of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group, and would be grateful if you could bring me up to date.

This has become a longer letter than I anticipated; but perhaps it has given you a summary idea of the present situation. I would like to get some more turtle work launched, provided only that I can obtain funding for it. It would be nice, at least, to establish the main population parameters of the Gulf turtles on a more solid foundation than the extremely crude work I have done so far.

I hope this helps; and will be happy to correspond further if you wish. Please note my address, as it differs slightly from that given on the letterhead:

Dr. John E. Burchard
U. P. M. Box 1903
University of Petroleum and Minerals
Box 144, Dhahran International Airport
Saudi Arabia

Telex: 601913 UPMRI SJ
Telephone: (03) 8603223 (my office)
8603228 (the Divisional secretary)
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With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


Dr. John E. Burchard



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

Dear Brian -

I just returned from one month of field work at French Frigate Shoals. Your olive ridley account looks fine, but (again) I am deeply concerned about your apparent belief that the listing should be "downgraded." Has the listing in the RDB been wrong all these years, or, do you feel the conservation status has improved enough in recent years to warrant the downward change? Since you are the advocate in this matter, it is reasonable to assume that you can fully justify the change, and bear responsibility for what happens as a result. Can you? As I have repeatedly said, I am opposed to this course of action. More importantly, our Chairman



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1348 • Coconut Island • Honolulu, Hawaii 96812
Cable Address: UH 1348

Dr. Cairn initially expressed this same view, and to my knowledge, has not changed his mind since I last talked to him a month ago.

Please consider carefully what you are doing.

I have not seen the draft green turtle account, but I understand that you also want to downlist this species.

On a separate subject, would you please tell me the literature reference you used in the live idley account concerning "... incidental catch by V. long-line shark fishermen. Also, the literature reference for "live idleys captured in prawn trawls at 80-110m." I am currently preparing papers on related topics.

Sincerely,
George Balazs

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
E. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOHE, HAWAII 96744

June 7, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Executive Secretary
CITES
IUCN, Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

I am writing this short letter to let you know that I fully concur with the views expressed by Dr. Carr in his letter of May 21, 1982. I do not believe that either the Surinam or French island populations should be downlisted for the international commercial trade being sought by turtle ranchers.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman

GHB:md

cc: A. Carr
R. Scott
W. King



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

June 1, 1982

His Excellency, Giordano
Bruno Reffi
Prime Minister
Republic of San Marino

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to ask you to consider having your Republic put out a set of postage stamps that feature sea turtles. San Marino is well-known among collectors as a source of fine and attractive stamps. The issuance of stamps with a theme involving the world's graceful sea turtles would undoubtedly be very popular.

As you may know, sea turtles have experienced serious population declines in recent years due to excessive exploitation for meat, shell and hides. Coastal development has also caused the destruction of important sand beaches where nesting takes place. Because of these various survival problems, many countries now have laws that protect sea turtles and restrict international trade in their products. Education can play an important role in helping to conserve these marine animals. Portraying them on postage stamps can represent a very positive step in this direction.

I have enclosed several illustrations and photographs of sea turtles to help you evaluate this suggestion. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

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

mk
Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 21, 1982

Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator, Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I am writing to ask if you would give further consideration to issuing a set of Ascension Island postage stamps that portray sea turtles. You will probably recall that we corresponded about this subject during May of last year.

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service recently printed a color identification poster showing each of the species of sea turtles. I have enclosed a copy of this publication for your information and reference files.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Prof. A. Carr

bcc *Jeanne Mortimer*
Janet Barber



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 14, 1981

Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator
Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I was very sorry to recently learn that Ascension Island may not be issuing the set of postal stamps displaying sea turtles, as previously planned. I do not know what factors are involved in the selection of such stamps, but it is certainly my impression that earlier Ascension issues showing turtles have been attractive, well-received and prized by collectors. Ascension is one of the world's truly classical sites for a breeding colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The seasonal presence of these animals on Ascension's shores, following an amazing navigational feat from South America, has helped to make your small island famous among the scientific community. These turtles represent a unique wild-life heritage of unsurpassed excellence. The pride and stewardship of your residents for the turtles is fully justified, and the issuance of illustrative stamps is a fine way to internationally advertise these attributes.

If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you in this matter, as a representative of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

CHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 7, 1982

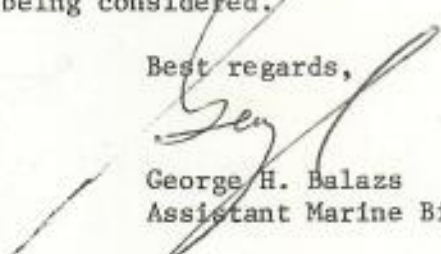
Dr. Peter C.H. Pritchard
Florida Audubon Society
1101 Audubon Way
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Peter:

I appreciated being able to read your analysis pros and cons of downlisting the leatherback within the official IUCN categories. I fully agree with your preference for having the species be listed as "protected." And that is exactly the problem that has aroused my concern. I am worried that many governments, administrators, etc. may now equate the IUCN "endangered" category with "protected," and the lesser categories with partial or no protection at all. Also, will this proposed downlisting, if it goes through, make it necessary or somehow stimulate CITES to change leatherbacks from Appendix I to II, or take them all the way off the list? Will the U.S. then want to move leatherbacks from Endangered to Threatened, or drop them entirely from protection under the Endangered Species Act? As you mentioned, will governments in PNG, Trinidad, and elsewhere have less concern (less protection) for their leatherbacks, if and when the above take place? I honestly don't know the answers to these questions, but feel there is ample reason to be conservative, and exercise great caution. By copies of this letter, I am therefore suggesting to Drs. Carr, King and Groombridge that any proposed changes in the IUCN categories for sea turtles (all species) be held in abeyance until we have held our full Marine Turtle Group meeting. I am assuming that this will occur within the next 12 months, as has been discussed. Waiting for a year or so to downlist (if that's the decision) can't do any harm, but on the other hand, if it's done now it will not have the full and careful scrutiny of Group members working face to face.

If you, or anyone else receiving this letter, feel this is a bad suggestion, by all means please let me know. I only want to be certain that all longterm ramifications are being considered.

Best regards,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Brian Groombridge
Wayne King
Many other Group
members

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 25, 1982

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Central Florida
Box 25000
Orlando, Florida 32816

Dear Lew:

Thanks very much for your recent note and the various reprints. I appreciate having copies of these fine papers to add to my reference library. My sea turtle file really has grown, especially over the past five years. I only wish that the proceedings of the 1979 Washington conference would have come out much sooner, as originally envisioned. I talked to people at Smithsonian Press by telephone the other day (concerning a lost figure) and was told that the volume would be available by late summer. I forgot to ask in what year, but assumed they meant 1982!

I have given some thought to whether or not I should mention the following to you, and decided that I should. I certainly don't want to sound overly critical or concerned, so I hope you will accept these comments in the constructive but questioning way they are intended. Both you and Mary were present at the Washington Conference when I gave my paper on immature green turtle growth rates and other foraging pasture studies. In addition, I'm fairly positive that I sent you a copy of the full text shortly after visiting the two of you in January of 1980. I was therefore surprised to find that my conference paper wasn't used as a reference in your recent paper in *Copeia*. Instead, a sentence in the introduction states "Recently, studies on the movements and growth of immature turtles in the wild have begun (my emphasis) in Australia (Limpus 1979; Limpus and Walter 1980) and the Hawaiian Archipelago (Balazs 1979)." The Balazs (1979) refers to my short piece in the January issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter. In that note, it was clear that my work with immature wild turtles had been going on since at least 1976. In fact, it has been progressing since May of 1973, as shown in my paper in *Biological Conservation* 9, 1976: 125-140. So why would you want to say "recently begun", when your own study itself was only started in July of 1976? Why did you not want to reference my conference paper that contained far more information than the note in the Marine Turtle Newsletter? To add to my confusion over this matter is the fact that Mary wrote to me during mid-1979 (following the note in Marine Turtle Newsletter) and asked if I would be willing to review and comment on her growth/foraging pasture papers. I wrote back and said that I certainly would, but then she never sent them to me.

Dr. Llewellyn M. Ehrhart

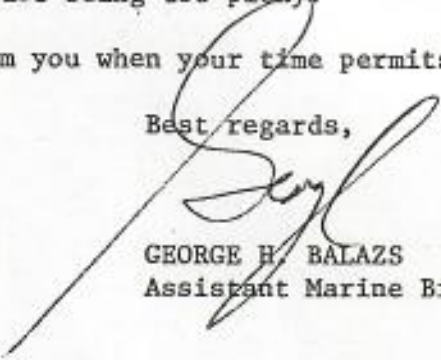
May 25, 1982

Page 2

Right about now you're probably saying that I should have sent this letter to Mary, and not you. You are probably correct, but since we've exchanged letters on other issues, I made the decision to broach the topic directly with you. Of course, you should feel free to send a copy of my letter to Mary if you wish. And by all means, please call me to task if I've missed an important point here, or if you think I'm just being too picky.

Look forward to hearing from you when your time permits.

Best regards,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

PS Just noticed that Mary's 1981 note in J. Herpetology did exactly the same thing- but, as you know, your name is not listed as a coauthor.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

June 1, 1982

Mr. Thomas M. Murphy
Poco Sabo Plantation
Green Pond, SC 29446

Dear Tom:

Thanks very much for your letter of 26 April 1982. Yes, I know how administrative/bureaucratic problems can develop at times. I do, however, regret that your final report was not available to me at an earlier date so it could have been referenced in Marine Fisheries Review paper. This is now scheduled for the May issue (out in June).

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

May 26, 1982

Dr. John E. Burchard
U.P.M. Box 1903
University of Petroleum & Minerals
Box 144, Dhahran International Airport
SAUDI ARABIA

Dear Dr. Burchard:

As I mentioned in my brief postcard-note to you last week, your informative and interesting letter of 21 February 1982 only recently arrived here in Hawaii. I can't imagine what happened to it, or where it's been. The envelope was in excellent condition and the registered label was still attached. The long delay was indeed unfortunate, because it may have caused you to think that I neglected to respond, or somehow felt that the status and ecology of your turtles were unimportant. Let me assure you that this is by no means the case.

My original letter of inquiry to the ARAMCO address came about after reading "Biotores of the Western Arabian Gulf" because I was unaware of any other sea turtle research projects focused on these islands. Consequently, it is indeed good news to hear of your recent return to Arabia, and continued interest in sea turtles. In order to provide you with some rapid initial assistance within the framework of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group, I intend to carry out the following.

1. Send copies of your letter to our Group Chairman (Dr. Archie Carr - Univ. of Florida) and several other members requesting that they provide you with some of their recent reprints and any other background information that they feel may be helpful.
2. Under separate cover, send you by air mail both an English and French version of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy that resulted from the November 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. The many valuable papers presented at this meeting are now due to be published by Smithsonian Press in about five months. I will let you know how and where to order the volume when it becomes available.
3. Send a copy of your letter to the private WWF-funded organization called TRAFFIC in Washington, D. C. requesting information and/or investigation of the lively curio trade in stuffed sea turtles and other wildlife taking place in your area.

Dr. John E. Burchard
May 26, 1982
Page 2

4. Request Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky of the University of Toronto to place your name on the mailing list for the Marine Turtle Newsletter. Nicholas is the editor of this informative publication, and also a member of the Marine Turtle Group.
5. Under separate cover, send you an assortment of my own reprints covering work on sea turtles here in Hawaii and elsewhere in the Pacific.

In addition to the above, I would like to ask the following questions and suggest a few possible ideas for your consideration.

1. What inscription and number series did the tags have that you used at Jana and Karan?
2. Have you ever seen or heard reports of turtles basking ashore during the daytime on any of these islands (see enclosed article from Sea Frontiers)?
3. What possible action might you recommend that could be undertaken by the Marine Turtle Group to help conserve the sea turtles in your area? Would a letter from our Group Chairman (or a high official in IUCN) written to Saudi authorities on behalf of sea turtles and their nesting habitat be an appropriate and effective action?
4. It would be very worthwhile for you to write a short note for publication summarizing the information contained in your letter. I feel certain that Dr. Mrosovsky would want to print this in the Marine Turtle Newsletter just as soon as space permits. The "Biotopes" books is a beautiful presentation, but not widely known.
5. I would also suggest that you consider submitting a small proposal to WWF/IUCN in Morges dealing with tagging studies on your islands. This certainly seems like a high priority to me.

I hope that this letter will be of some help to you. During the month of June I will be tagging green turtles at French Frigate Shoals. However, I look forward to hearing from you sometime after I return in early July.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

May 19, 1982

To: Jack R. Davidson, Director
Sea Grant College Program

From: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA contract with NMFS through May of 1983)

Subject: Intent to submit research proposals to the Sea Grant College Program

The two enclosed preliminary drafts for possible proposals are being submitted for consideration in accordance with your memorandum of April 22, 1982.

My intended proposal dealing with the population dynamics of green turtles at the Big Island would logically fall within the program tentatively envisioned by Rick Grigg. I would welcome the opportunity to once again be a part of this sort of team effort under Rick's coordination.

I am not asking to have both proposals funded during the same year, but rather seeking your views as to which project might receive the highest endorsement from your office. Thank you in advance for your guidance in this important matter.

GHB:md

Enclosures

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

May 24, 1982

Dr. J. A. Ottenwalder P.
Museo Nacional de Historia Natural
Plaza de la Cultura
Sano Domingo D.N.
Dominican Republic

Dear Dr. Ottenwalder:

I would greatly appreciate receiving one of the black and white leatherback posters entitled "Camino a la Extinction?" that was mentioned in the May 1982 Marine Turtle Newsletter. If there is a cost involved, I would be happy to send you payment.

Under separate cover, I am sending you a copy of my Hawaiian green turtle synopsis that you recently requested in writing.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 25, 1982

Dr. C. E. Blanck
Department of Biology
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Blanck:

If reprints are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Hatchery practices in relation to early embryology of the loggerhead sea turtle."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

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

April 13, 1980

Mr. Lucas Chin
Curator
Muzium Sarawak
Jalan Tun HJ openg
Kuching
Sarawak, East Malaysia

Dear Mr. Chin:

Thank you for your letter of 14 March concerning the serious problems confronting the Turtle Islands rookery. I am honored by your invitation to conduct studies at this historical breeding site. However, my time is fully committed to the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands research program for at least the next 18 months. I have taken the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to Dr. Carr (IUCN Turtle Group Chairman) for possible action or advice. You should be hearing from him directly within the near future.

It would appear to me that we have now reached a very critical stage in the survival of the Sarawak turtle rookery. The number of eggs available for harvest has declined significantly over the past 30 - 40 years. This would indicate a long-term population decline that will almost certainly result in the extinction of the colony if the trends are not stabilized and reversed. Both trawling and overharvesting of eggs must be the responsible factors, but we have no way of knowing which impact has been the most devastating. What we do know is that some steps must be taken soon on behalf of conservation. At this stage, it will not be sufficient just to prohibit (and enforce) trawling activities close to the islands. What strategy could be developed to achieve a moratorium on the harvesting of eggs for a 5 or even 10-year trial period? I realize that this may be viewed by some as a drastic measure. Nevertheless, it could very well be the only action capable of restoring the colony. It is my understanding that profits from the egg harvest benefit local charities. This is indeed a worthy use for a sea turtle resource that should ideally be continued in perpetuity. A moratorium on egg harvests, in conjunction with restricted trawling, offers hope for the continued use of these eggs by future generations.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter. As the authority for the area, we must look to you for advice on matters relating to local sea turtle conservation. From an international setting, I feel certain that all of the IUCN Turtle Group will be anxious to render assistance in whatever way possible and appropriate.

Mr. Lucas Chin
April 13, 1980
Page 2

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

cc: A. Carr
W. King

bcc: Stanley de Silva



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 13, 1982

Mr. David Mack
Assistant Director
Traffic (U.S.A.)
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear David:

Thanks very much for the copy of the letter you sent to Mike Bean on April 2, 1982.

I am surprised to the point of nearly disbelief by the quantity of tortoiseshell shown during recent years coming from CTF and going into Japan. In your letter, you mentioned ".....imports of tortoiseshell from the Cayman Islands (which I assume comes from CTF)." I wonder if this assumption might be in error? During the two times I have been to Cayman (1973 & 1974), I saw large hawksbills making up part of the turtle catch brought in by boats fishing off Nicaragua. We need to find out to what extent this still takes place. I'll bet a fair percentage of your values represent "wild" tortoiseshell. Also of interest, do you know the weight of "tortoiseshell" resulting from a single market-size CTF green turtle?

I know you are now very busy with other matters, but if Mike is relying heavily on these values we want to be certain they are accurate. I'll also dig through some of my files to see what I can come up with.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Mike Bean

April 2, 1982

Michael Bean, Esquire
Environmental Defense Fund
1525 18th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mike,

I am enclosing some tables on the sea turtle product trade. I hope these will help you determine how effective the Cayman Turtle Farm has been on reducing trade in wild sea turtle products.

The captive bred CTF green turtles are killed and commercially traded mainly for shell, meat, and skins. In general, wild olive ridley sea turtles are most desired for their skins, hawksbill sea turtles for shell, and green turtles for meat. I summarize the worldwide trade in each product below.

Tortoiseshell

The following Southeast Asian countries list tortoiseshell imports/exports in their published government statistics: Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, People's Republic of China, South Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia. In our 1979 Sea Turtle Trade report we showed that Asian countries consumed most tortoiseshell worldwide. Japan is the only one of the above countries that lists imports of tortoiseshell from the Cayman Islands (which I assume comes from CTF).

Japan Imports of Tortoiseshell (in kg)

<u>Year</u>	<u>CTF</u>	<u>(% of Total)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1974	1,031	2.1%	48,188
1975	1,083	2.9%	37,261
1976	4,002	8.7%	46,060
1977	3,863	8.4%	45,818
1978	7,500	17.0%	44,039
1979	7,687	10.9%	70,846
1980	3,040	7.8%	38,809
1981 (Jan - Sept)	2,834	18.7%	15,137

(Japan became a member of CITES on November 4, 1980 with reservations taken on hawksbill, green, and olive ridley sea turtles. The 1979 increase in total tortoiseshell imports is probably due to stockpiling in anticipation of joining CITES.)

Turtle Skins and Leather

Japan was the only country listing import or exports of turtle skin or leather in their published government statistics.

Japan Imports of Turtle Skin and Leather (in kg):

<u>Year</u>	<u>CTF</u>	<u>(% of Total)</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Skin</u>			
1976	0	0%	104,606
1977	36	.05%	77,244
1978	23,514	24.9%	94,445
1979	14,336	8.5%	169,088
1980	14,778	27.6%	53,542
1981 (Jan-Sept)	6,687	32.2%	20,757
<u>Leather</u>			
1976	0	0	11,371
1977	0	0	7,008
1978	0	0	11,803
1979	0	0	23,874
1980	0	0	12,047
1981 (Jan-Sept)	0	0	9,353

Turtle Meat

Published government trade statistics do not list turtle meat; however, I have enclosed pages from CITES annual reports from countries that list sea turtle imports. Only West Germany and the United Kingdom record imports of CTF turtle meat. France, Italy, and Hong Kong do not list CTF as the origin of any sea turtle products they import.

In summary, only Japan, West Germany, and the United Kingdom appear to import sea turtle products from the Cayman Turtle Farm.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,

David Mack
Assistant Director

Second copy
sent 5/4-82

October 2, 1981

Soames Summerhays
Author of "A Marine Park is Born" (May 1981)
c/o National Geographic Magazine
17th and M Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Soames Summerhays:

I am writing to offer my compliments on the fine article you wrote about the Great Barrier Reef for National Geographic Magazine. The material presented was interesting, informative, and will undoubtedly be beneficial to the conservation of this unique marine heritage.

I noticed in your article on page 632 that you referred to reductions of large predators in the Marine Park region due to "increased commercial and sport fishing." In the accompanying article by Ron and Valerie Taylor, there is a reference (on page 662) to dangers that "still threaten" the Marine Park. Do you feel that sport and, perhaps more so, commercial fishing will constitute a future problem in the Marine Park? Do adequate controls now exist in your opinion? Earlier this year I read an article in Australian Fisheries stating that trawling would be permitted at certain areas inside the park's boundaries. Is such trawling now allowed and, if so, have any adverse impacts been identified?

Again, I greatly enjoyed your article. I hope that you will have time to provide information on the questions I have raised.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1346 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
May 12, 1982

Mr. Jim Sternberg
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund
Center for Environmental Education
624 - 9th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Jim:

I have just finished a delightful, but much too short, visit with Pamela Williams who has been here in Hawaii for a few days on matters relating to monk seals. During our discussions, she mentioned that you may be leaving the Center in the not too distant future. In view of the many fine accomplishments you have made on behalf of sea turtles these past few years, in my view it would certainly be a shame to lose you during this current Washington administration. If at all possible, I do hope that you will reconsider your plans, and continue on in the role of educator and spokesman for sea turtles.

As in the past, if there is any way I can be of help to you, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Second copy
sent 5-14-82

May 7, 1980

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

Dear Drs. Lowell & Flanigan:

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 13, 1982

Mr. David Mack
Assistant Director
Traffic (U.S.A.)
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear David:

Thanks very much for the copy of the letter you sent to Mike Bean on April 2, 1982.

I am surprised to the point of nearly disbelief by the quantity of tortoiseshell shown during recent years coming from CTF and going into Japan. In your letter, you mentioned ".....imports of tortoiseshell from the Cayman Islands (which I assume comes from CTF)." I wonder if this assumption might be in error? During the two times I have been to Cayman (1973 & 1974), I saw large hawksbills making up part of the turtle catch brought in by boats fishing off Nicaragua. We need to find out to what extent this still takes place. I'll bet a fair percentage of your values represent "wild" tortoiseshell. Also of interest, do you know the weight of "tortoiseshell" resulting from a single market-size CTF green turtle?

I know you are now very busy with other matters, but if Mike is relying heavily on these values we want to be certain they are accurate. I'll also dig through some of my files to see what I can come up with.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balass
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Mike Bean

May 13, 1981

S. E. Cornelius
R.R. 3, Box 216
Mtn. View, MO 65548

Dear Steve:

Thanks very much for your quick response of 3 May. I appreciate this additional general information. My short article on driftnets catching leatherbacks in the North Pacific will be out next month. I will automatically send you a reprint. By the way, how did you come by the information on turtles in purse seines? Were they U. S. vessels? Did the captain or crew members send you recovery information? or did it somehow come from NMFS? I'm especially interested in this aspect because NMFS in California has still not analyzed the data and prepared a report on observer records involving several hundred turtles seen caught in purse seines in 1974 and 1975. They stopped collecting such data in later years, presumably because it was identifying a new fishery impact problem.

In looking over my correspondence file, I see that I neglected to answer your nice letter of 24 February. Sorry that this slipped my attention. I am indeed pleased to learn that my tagging note provided some help. My reaction to your comment about the tag "fitting" better when through the flipper scale is entirely positive. I use this form of application for at least one of the 3-4 tags I put on each adult turtle. When piercing through the scale like this, usually the tip will not lock well with the applicators. Consequently it has to be bent over manually with pliers.'

Sounds like your work has really been coming along well. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 12, 1982

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

Dear Ed:

Thanks very much for your letter of 4 May. It was good to hear from you, and I was pleased to learn that you liked the poster. My current supply is now exhausted, but I hope to receive another bundle soon from the NMFS source in Florida. Thus far, they have provided them free, and I can certainly mail more to you in reasonable numbers just as soon as they arrive.

Your mention of starting to collect sea turtle stamps strikes a fond note to me, because that is exactly what I have been doing for about the past 5 years now. When you come to Honolulu I'll take you out to my home and show you the "Bride and joy" collection. I have them all mounted in koa wood frames hanging on the wall. It makes an attractive presentation and good conversation topic. The idea to ask various governments to consider issuing sets of sea turtle stamps for educational purposes was actually an outgrowth of my hobby. Thus far, it has been quite successful. As a result of those letters, Pakistan, Mauritania, Suriname and Dominica have issued stamps. Also, Mexico and New Guinea are scheduled for the next year or so. Just last week Archie and I received a letter from Prince Ranier's palace in Monaco saying they are keen on the idea. The U.S.A. and Australian proposals are still pending, but some encouraging signs have been received. So you see, your mention of a set possibly coming out of the Philippines is more news good on this topic. I don't have a complete set of photos to send you, but how about using one of the ID posters, my set of postcards, and some miscellaneous photocopied items that I can pull together? I can send it all to you shortly after the resupply of posters arrive.

The idea of writing up something in the form of a sea turtle stamp checklist also crossed my mind. I mentioned it to Nicholas a year or so ago, along with some other ideas for articles. He seemed moderately receptive, if I remember right, but indicated it would indeed have to be short. My more elaborate thought was to have something published where all of the stamps could appear in color. You may recall that the cover of Australian Fisheries had commercial fishery stamps on it a few years ago. It was very impressive.

Dr. Edgardo D. Gomez
May 12, 1982
Page 2

I hope that your visit to Honolulu will be in July, instead of June. For most of June I will be at French Frigate Shoals doing my annual tagging and census work. Let me know of your plans just as soon as they get firmed up.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 5, 1982

Dr. A. Binion Amerson, Jr.
Senior Staff Ecologist
Environmental Consultants, Inc.
4951 Airport Parkway, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75248

Dear Binion:

Many thanks for your letter of April 29th about my request for a copy of Mr. Agard's letter. I do hope that your search will be successful. I also sent a note to Roger Clapp at the Smithsonian asking if he might know of a copy in the files. Thus far, I haven't heard back from him. You are undoubtedly my best hope for ever obtaining this reference item.

Again, I want to tell you how much I appreciate your efforts. If there is every anything that I can do for you here in Hawaii, please do not hesitate to ask. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 7, 1982

Dr. Peter C.H. Britchard
Florida Audubon Society
1101 Audubon Way
Maitland, FL 32751

Dear Peter:

I appreciated being able to read your analysis pros and cons of downlisting the leatherback within the official IUCN categories. I fully agree with your preference for having the species be listed as "protected." And that is exactly the problem that has aroused my concern. I am worried that many governments, administrators, etc. may now equate the IUCN "endangered" category with "protected," and the lesser categories with partial or no protection at all. Also, will this proposed downlisting, if it goes through, make it necessary or somehow stimulate CITES to change leatherbacks from Appendix I to II, or take them all the way off the list? Will the U.S. then want to move leatherbacks from Endangered to Threatened, or drop them entirely from protection under the Endangered Species Act? As you mentioned, will governments in PNG, Trinidad, and elsewhere have less concern (less protection) for their leatherbacks, if and when the above take place. I honestly don't know the answers to these questions, but feel there is ample reason to be conservative, and exercise great caution. By copies of this letter, I am therefore suggesting to Drs. Carr, King and Groombridge that any proposed changes in the IUCN categories for sea turtles (all species) be held in abeyance until we have held our full Marine Turtle Group meeting. I am assuming that this will occur within the next 12 months, as has been discussed. Waiting for a year or so to downlist (if that's the decision) can't do any harm, but on the other hand, if it's done now it will not have the full and careful scrutiny of Group members working face to face.

If you, or anyone else receiving this letter, feels this is a bad suggestion, by all means please let me know. I only want to be certain that all longterm ramifications are being considered.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Archie Carr
Brian Groombridge
Wayne King
Many other Group
members



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 3, 1982

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

Dear Harold:

Thanks very much for your letter of 20 April giving me the comments I asked for on the Pacific Legal Foundation's petition. I sent the same material to David Ehrenfeld, but thus far have not heard back from him. I imagine by now he feels quite worn-thin on this topic. A formal ruling on the petition has not yet been issued by NMFS and FWS. However, I understand it is likely to be rejected. I'll send you a copy when it becomes available. By the way, I sent a copy of your 20 April letter to Dr. Carr so he would also have an idea of your current thoughts on farming. I hope this was okay.

I recently made an inquiry to the Vancouver Aquarium as to the fate of three 40 lb. green turtles that were sent there from Hawaii back in 1956. I came across brief mention of their air shipment while going through microfilm of old Honolulu newspapers. Much to my delight, the Aquarium Curator wrote and told me that two of the turtles are still alive and doing well in a tank shared with a loggerhead and a hawksbill. Furthermore, from the rough weights and measurements he supplied, it sounds like the turtles are still subadults. They would be at least 26 years old. Do you know what the current longevity record is for a green turtle? I believe that Dr. Carr has a tag record of 15-20 years for a Tortuguero female. Hughes (1974) mentions a loggerhead at the Durban Aquarium that was at least 33 years old (or 41, if its still alive now). Any information that you can give me on this subject will be appreciated. I'm going to try to get accurate measurements on the greens in Vancouver so good records will be available for the future.

For several years now, I've had a few notes penciled into my copy of your Synopsis that I felt should be mentioned to you. Sorry its taken so long to bring this up, but hopefully it will be useful if you ever do a revision. Please let me know if I've somehow made an error in these corrections.

Section 3.34 - I am unable to find mention in Tinker (1941) of green turtles up to 4.5 kg being found in groupers.

3.54 - I am unable to find any reference to basking a Islas Revillagigedo.

Dr. Harold Hirth
May 3, 1982
Page 2

3.16 - Fukada's (1965) data doesn't appear to show that the last nesting of each turtle contained fewer eggs.

I hope that a decision will be made soon on when and where we will have our Group meeting. Scraping up travel funds is always a problem.

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

March 17, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
IUCN, avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

This is in response to your letter of 11 February 1982 asking comments on the proposal from Suriname to transfer their green turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II. I have delayed writing to you in the hope that the additional information you requested in your letter of 18 November 1981 would be forthcoming from the Suriname Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I have not received any additional information from your office, so I assume that Suriname did not give you a response. Perhaps the recent change of government has now significantly altered the situation with respect to sea turtles.

I am in full agreement with the views expressed in your letter of 18 November stating that the proposal's justification is too general, that more data are needed on the wild population, and that study reports and supporting references were not provided. Without such material, I find it difficult to make any sort of meaningful evaluation. However, if Suriname stands on the proposal as it is now written, then I would certainly recommend rejection on the grounds that justification has not been given to warrant an Appendix change.

At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the "New Delhi Resolution on Ranching Conf. 3.15". I do not currently know the exact wording of this Resolution.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

COPY



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

March 17, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
IUCN, avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

This is in response to your letter of 11 February 1982 asking comments on the proposal from Suriname to transfer their green turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II. I have delayed writing to you in the hope that the additional information you requested in your letter of 18 November 1981 would be forthcoming from the Suriname Secretary of Foreign Affairs. I have not received any additional information from your office, so I assume that Suriname did not give you a response. Perhaps the recent change of government has now significantly altered the situation with respect to sea turtles.

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At your earliest convenience, I would appreciate receiving a copy of the "New Delhi Resolution on Ranching Conf. 3.15". I do not currently know the exact wording of this Resolution.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

21 APRIL 1982 -
DR. BERNEY: Thank you for your
letter of 16 April 1982.
Unfortunately, the material you
sent me did not include Ranch,
Conf. 3.15. Would you please send
this Resolution so
I can accurately
evaluate the Surinam
and Europa proposals
that you asked me
to comment on.

Sincerely,
George Balazs



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 21, 1982

Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator, Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I am writing to ask if you would give further consideration to issuing a set of Ascension Island postage stamps that portray sea turtles. You will probably recall that we corresponded about this subject during May of last year.

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service recently printed a color identification poster showing each of the species of sea turtles. I have enclosed a copy of this publication for your information and reference files.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Prof. A. Carr

bcc *Jeanne Mortimer*
Janet Barber



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 14, 1981

Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator
Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I was very sorry to recently learn that Ascension Island may not be issuing the set of postal stamps displaying sea turtles, as previously planned. I do not know what factors are involved in the selection of such stamps, but it is certainly my impression that earlier Ascension issues showing turtles have been attractive, well-received and prized by collectors. Ascension is one of the world's truly classical sites for a breeding colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The seasonal presence of these animals on Ascension's shores, following an amazing navigational feat from South America, has helped to make your small island famous among the scientific community. These turtles represent a unique wild-life heritage of unsurpassed excellence. The pride and stewardship of your residents for the turtles is fully justified, and the issuance of illustrative stamps is a fine way to internationally advertise these attributes.

If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you in this matter, as a representative of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

April 26, 1982

Mr. Richard Roe
Marine Mammals and Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
3300 Whitehaven Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dick:

It has been a couple of years now since we met in Washington, D. C. to talk about sea turtles (or was it at CITES in Costa Rica?). Nevertheless, I want to take this opportunity to renew correspondence with you, to send you the enclosed report, and also to inquire about an administrative action that potentially impacts Pacific turtles. Concerning this latter topic, for some time I have been trying to find out how or why Threatened and Endangered species of sea turtles were dropped from the Emergency Provisions that were made part of the Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan of the Western Pacific Region. I know that turtles were part of this Provision right up until the final stage, but for some reason were deleted at the last minute thereby leaving only the monk seal to be covered. Are you aware of this action and, if so, can you tell me why this took place? There would seem to be no biological basis for such a deletion, since there is a clearly documented severe entanglement of a leatherback (Endangered species) in lobster fishing gear in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but no known records of monk seal/lobster gear entanglement. I have made inquiries of this nature to personnel of the NMFS Southwest Region, both in Honolulu and at Terminal Island, but no one seems to know the answer.

I hope that your work is going well. Hopefully we will meet again in the not-too-distant future, possibly at the Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium scheduled for next year.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(I.P.A. CONTRACT to NMFS,
Honolulu Lab)

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 26, 1982

Dr. James Maragos
U. S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Jim:

I am writing to inquire about the attached letter that I sent to the Army Engineer District during September of last year. Has a "Final Navigational Report" for the Hilo area now been completed? If so,,I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy. Any other information that you can provide on the status of this study, or the comments/suggestions made in my letter, would also be most welcome.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

April 21, 1982

Mr. B. E. Pouncefort
Administrator, Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pouncefort:

I am writing to ask if you would give further consideration to issuing a set of Ascension Island postage stamps that portray sea turtles. You will probably recall that we corresponded about this subject during May of last year.

The U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service recently printed a color identification poster showing each of the species of sea turtles. I have enclosed a copy of this publication for your information and reference files.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: Prof. A. Carr

January 27, 1982

Chief, Permit Branch
Federal Wildlife Permit Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
Box 3654
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Sir:

In compliance with Condition 12 of sea turtle permit PRT 2-3593, I am sending you three reports which provide detailed results of our Hawaiian research program through 1981.

Request for the renewal of this permit for 1982 is respectfully requested. I hereby certify that the information contained in the original application is still correct.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

Enclosures:

1. Radio Telemetry of Hawaiian Green Turtles at their Breeding Colony
2. Basking Behavior of the Hawaiian Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)
3. Factors Affecting the Retention of Metal Flipper Tags on Sea Turtles



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 14, 1981

Dr. Robert F. Scott
Executive Officer
Species Survival Commission
IUCN, Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I hope that you received my letter of October 16th (copy attached) that probably arrived in Switzerland while you were in New Zealand. A summary of my thoughts on this matter are as follows.

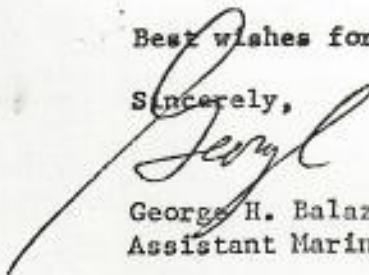
It would be exceedingly valuable if SSC routinely:

1. provided timely notification to proposal reviewers stating if a project has been funded or not funded (if funded, the amount awarded should be listed);
2. provided reviewers with a copy of a project's final report if a request is being made for more funding (ie project renewal or extension); and
3. provided the Turtle Group Chairman with a quarterly list showing all turtle-related projects that are currently being funded or have been approved for funding. I am assuming that the Group Chairman (at least) is now receiving for review all turtle-related projects that are being evaluated for funding.

I think that the blue "Evaluation" form that you sent me is too involved and liable to make things more confusing. Of course, I could be wrong, but that is my honest view.

Best wishes for the Holiday and New Year.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

cc
Archie Carr
Wayne King

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

October 16, 1981

Dr. Robert F. Scott
Executive Officer
Species Survival Commission
IUCN; Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I leave for Western Samoa and the Tokelau Islands tomorrow afternoon, so I want to at least get an interim response to you concerning your letter of 17 September. I will write again on this subject in a more detailed manner when I return to my office on or about 6 November. I hope that Archie Carr and Wayne King will also be expressing their views to you, in response to the cc's that is sent to them.

In providing feedback to the reviewers of proposals submitted to IUCN, I don't think you need to implement a system that necessitates lots of paperwork and compounding of the bureaucracy. For instance, when the various reviews have been compiled, and a final decision made by IUCN, each reviewer could be sent something as simple as an air mail post card indicating "not funded," or "funded" with the funding level listed. If and when an IUCN funded project requests a renewal, the reviewers should automatically be sent a copy of the final report covering the portion of the project completed. My third and last suggestion is that the Group Chairman should be sent a list, perhaps quarterly, showing all of the projects that are currently funded by IUCN involving the species covered by the Group. The list should also be made available to anyone else who requests it, but Group Chairman would normally keep their own members informed about these developments.

It was never my aim to see more log jams of paperwork, but rather give some concise and simple feedback in the review process. I'm sure that by all of us working together on the problem, some positive improvements can be made.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: A. Carr
W. King

April 14, 1982

Mr. Harry Sperling, Jr.
Regional Fisheries Coordinator
United Nations Development Programme
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Sperling:

Many thanks indeed for your helpful, candid and interesting letter of 31 March. I greatly appreciated your suggestions, along with the nice comments you made about my report. Under separate cover, I sent you the extra copy you requested. A third copy is being enclosed with this letter. Just yesterday I received a letter from Dr. Birkland at the Guam Marine Lab indicating that he would like me to modify the report slightly so it can be formally considered for the journal, Micronesica. He felt that the contents were worthy of publication. Apparently the journal also covers regions outside of Micronesia.

It was good to see the pages from your report that express many of my own feelings on the conservation of sea turtles (and other small-island resources). It is a shame that SPC has been unable to develop an effective project for turtles exactly along the lines you suggested.

You will be hearing from me again within the next few months.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 14, 1982

Felicidad S. Matillano
Coral Reef Research Project
Fisheries Research Division
1184 Ben-Lor Bldg
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Felicidad:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 9 requesting information on the artificial rearing of turtles in management programs. I regret my delay in responding to you, but my research activities here in Hawaii have kept me very busy over the past few months.

The enclosed "fact sheet" by Dr. Ehrenfeld may give you some guidelines and ideas for your project. Within the next few months, the Proceedings will be available of the November 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. This compilation should be of great help to you, and I urge you to order a copy from the Smithsonian Press in Washington, D. C. You may also want to contact Dr. Gomez or Mrs. DeCelis of your country, both of which attended the Conference.

It was good to hear from you, and I wish you well in your conservation and research activities with sea turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

April 19, 1982

Mr. Semu Vili
Mr. John Larkindale
Office for Tokelau Affairs
P. O. Box 865
Apia, Western Samoa

Dear Semu and John:

There is a good possibility that I will be able to have my Tokelau sea turtle report published in the near future in a scientific journal. I am therefore in the process of soliciting comments, corrections and other advice from interested parties. Obviously, the Office for Tokelau Affairs is very high on my list. If you have had the time to read through the report, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you. It would also be to my advantage to receive comments from Hosea, Kalolo, and other members of your staff. I will welcome all suggestions.

As you will read in the attached correspondence, I have already written to Judith Huntsman with a similar request. I would especially appreciate your comments on the comments she has offered with respect to "tushivivalu" (p. 12, par. 2), "kea" (P. 12, par. 3), and "Vavau" (p. 19, par. 1).

Under separate cover, I will be sending you (and each atoll) a recently published wall-size poster illustrating the various sea turtle species.

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

Sincerely,

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

CHB:ec

Enclosure

April 6, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle Group
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Archie:

I was happy to receive your letter of March 17th which seeks to poll all Turtle Group members about the possibilities and problems of holding a Group meeting. It is good that you have done this, and I am anxious to learn what sort of responses will be given. The early one from Dr. Hirth that you sent me certainly was thoughtful. The "half-funding by IUCN" idea seems worthy of pursuit.

A few days after I received your letter, Wayne also wrote to me and mentioned the regional meeting of the Turtle Group tentatively scheduled for Bali in October of this year. This "regional" meeting concept comes new to me, but it sounds like a great strategy, assuming major decisions aren't made on controversial issues thereby opening the door for complaints by non-regional Group members who don't attend. As the situation stands right now, I think it highly unlikely that I would want to or be able to, attend. I need to save my potential funding sources (and bank account) for the full Group meeting which is now destined to occur within 12 months, or so I predict. If you plan your trip with a one-day stopover in Hawaii on the way out, that would give us a nice opportunity to meet and exchange views. Presumably this would make up in part for my absence at the meeting. I hope that your travel schedule will allow this to be possible.

And speaking along those lines, I still cast my vote for Australia, in collaboration with Limpus' offer, as the location for a full Group meeting. If Limpus' offer for some reason can't be fulfilled, then my second choice would be Sarawak and/or Trengganu. Having sessions held at two locations might have merit and shouldn't be all that difficult to arrange. At least it's an idea to consider.

Don't be too surprised if you raised some eye brows by saying in your letter that "our last two sessions have been on this continent" (N. America).

Dr. Archie Carr
April 6, 1982
Page 2

Both the ad hoc gathering in Miami, and the Toronto group, were "limited-entry" sorts of things. I know that some Group members contend that a full meeting hasn't been held for over a decade. Depending how it's viewed, this may be true, but it fails to take into consideration the many good things that have been accomplished in the Group's name over these years.

I really enjoyed reading that nice piece in National Audubon. You should be very proud of the article.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 6, 1982

Mr. Bud Doty
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Bud:

A few weeks ago I heard an interesting story that I thought I would pass on to you. On August 1st of last year a Hawaii Army National Guard helicopter was flying along the Kau Coast at low altitude when they spotted a large turtle lying on its back close to the water. They landed, turned the turtle over, and watched it crawl safely into the sea. They saw a jeep trail leading into the area, but could find no evidence of anyone around that could have been responsible for catching the turtle. The episode remained a mystery, so they left to continue on their flight.

Unfortunately, by the time this story was related to me the men could not identify the exact site. They are all from Oahu and apparently not that familiar with the Big Island. Although I can't be certain, it is probable that they were in the area of Kamehame. Do you recall hearing any reports of a helicopter landing during the first part of August? If it was at Kamehame, then perhaps the turtle had crawled up to nest and somehow fell off a low cliff onto its back. I can't imagine that someone would turn a large turtle over and then just leave it there. Any information that you can give me on this matter would certainly be appreciated.

Best regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 6, 1982

Dr. Cecil H. Brown
Department of Anthropology
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Dear Dr. Brown:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Growth and Development of the Folk Zoological Life-Forms in Polynesian Languages".

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

April 7, 1982

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

Dear Rob:

I hope that you safely received the post cards that I sent to you by insured surface mail last December 14. I haven't heard from you since that time, but assume that I would have if the cartons had not arrived. In looking over my records, I see that I still owe you about 400 cards that weren't sent with the original shipment due to space limits in cartons. I will therefore be mailing these remaining numbers to you in the next day or two. I hope that you will accept some of my Chelonia and Eretmochelys cards as partial replacements, since the few leatherback and depressa cards I kept are now nearly exhausted. All of my correspondents over the past few months have been sent samples of the cards for use in their programs. I am sure they were put to good use.

The next issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter will carry a short ad offering my two cards for sale. I have them listed at US\$10 per 50, but almost half of that price will be needed for foreign overseas air mail postage. The post office advised me not to send them by boat because transit time from Hawaii can take several months. I don't really expect to get a large response from my ad, but thought it might be fun to try.

Mr. Robert Truland
Page Two
April 7, 1982

My supply of turtle buttons is now nearly out and I hope that you can send me a couple hundred more. I found the buttons to be a very popular item during my study visit to the Tokelau Islands last October. Pin on a button and watch a smile light up! It nearly always works, with adults as well as children. I have enclosed a copy of my report that resulted from this trip. Also a photo taken during a turtle distribution ceremony that shows workers wearing the buttons. I realize that this sort of thing seems far removed from our traditional concepts of conservation. However, for their own reasons and needs, the people of Tokelau are just as fond of turtles as we are, and certainly want them to be around in the future.

I haven't come across any additional photos for making our other post cards. Perhaps you have come across something that is to your liking.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

V11 4295299

RECEIPT FOR INSURED MAIL
DOMESTIC—INTERNATIONAL

ADDRESSED FOR DELIVERY AT
(Post Office, State and Country)

Arlington, VA. 22209

POSTAGE AIR \$ 17.34

INSURANCE COVERAGE FEE \$ 3.45

SPEC. HANDLING \$

DOMESTIC ONLY SPECIAL DELIVERY \$

RESTRICTED DELIVERY \$

RETURN RECEIPT (Except to Canada) \$

FRAGILE LIQUID PERISHABLE TOTAL \$20.79



CUSTOMER OVER

POSTMASTER By [Signature]

V11 4295298

RECEIPT FOR INSURED MAIL
DOMESTIC—INTERNATIONAL

ADDRESSED FOR DELIVERY AT
(Post Office, State and Country)

Arlington, VA. 22209

POSTAGE AIR \$ 17.34

INSURANCE COVERAGE FEE \$ 3.45

SPEC. HANDLING \$

DOMESTIC ONLY SPECIAL DELIVERY \$

RESTRICTED DELIVERY \$

RETURN RECEIPT (Except to Canada) \$

FRAGILE LIQUID PERISHABLE TOTAL \$20.79



CUSTOMER OVER

POSTMASTER By [Signature]

November 2, 1981
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

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

Dear Rob:

The post cards have just arrived from Australia and I took delivery on them this afternoon. I hope that you are as delighted with them as I am. Due to the full "non-profit" cooperation of Hawaiian Service Inc., the cost turned out to be lower than we ever imagined- 2.97 cents per card!

I paid for and received 6,850 leatherback and 6,850 flatback cards. I plan to keep, at my own expense, 500 of each card for use in my research and conservation projects. I therefore need to be reimbursed for the following charges:

Leatherback C-629	6,350 cards	unit cost 2.97¢	\$188.60
Flatback C-630	6,350 cards	unit cost 2.97¢	188.60
Hawaii State wholesale tax	0.5%		<u>1.89</u>
		subtotal-	\$379.09

There are two options for shipping the cards to you in *Virginia* using the US mail.

Priority (air mail) including insurance	\$116.00
Surface mail (5-6weeks transit) including insurance	39.00

You should therefore forward me a check for \$495.09 (\$379.09+116.00) for air mail shipping, or \$418.09 (\$379.09+39.00) for surface shipping, depending on which form of delivery you prefer.

You should have no trouble in selling these cards in 500-1000 unit lots to other conservation organizations, even at twice the cost. Normally such cards sell for 15-20¢ each retail.

I promised the photographers, Col Limpus and Peter Pritchard, that I would send them some cards at no cost as a token of appreciation for allowing use of their slides. I will therefore send 50 cards to each of them within the next day or two.

I am very pleased to see this first segment of the project come to completion.

Best regards-Aloha,


George H. Baraza

copy of original invoice enclosed for your records



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

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

Dear Rob:

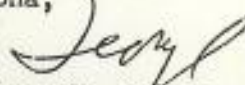
I am pleased to report that the leatherback and flatback turtle photos (by P. Pritchard & C. Limpus) that you kindly consented to fund are now on their way to being printed into color postcards. Because of a lower cost and higher quality product, I am having this carried out by a Honolulu-based publishing company that has their postcards done by Colorescan in Australia. You will recall that I sent you one of the postcards printed by this company to show you the quality of their work. I am convinced that we could not do better. The cost will be less than 5¢ per card for the 6500 minimum order per photo. The other company's price (that I described earlier) was 7¢ per card, so this will represent a good savings. The reason I am getting such a low price is because my Honolulu contact is handling the transaction without taking any profit for himself. He was recently awarded distribution rights for the Hawaii Audubon Society's color booklet entitled "Hawaii's Birds". I am the current President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, and he is handling the postcard project as a helpful favor to me.

Payment for the cards will not have to be made until the latter portion of the production process - perhaps in about 7-8 weeks. The total amount will not exceed \$650 (5¢ x 6500 x 2 cards). This includes prepaid shipping from Australia to Honolulu. From here, I will make the necessary arrangements to have them shipped to you in Washington for further distribution.

I was so impressed with the bargain price and quality product that I am having two of my own photos of a nesting green and a nesting hawksbill made into post cards at my own personal expense.

I will contact you again when I have an invoice showing the exact amount due for the leatherback and flatback post cards.

Aloha,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

PS The name Chelonia Institute and your mailing address will appear on the postcards in small print. Captions describing the turtles were written by Peter Pritchard (in English & Spanish, at my request) and Colin Limpus. My name will also appear on the cards, in small print, as a co-publisher.

Chelonia Institute



November 30, 1981

Mr. George H. Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Since Robert Truland is away on his honeymoon, I thought I should respond to your note of November 27th in regard to the postcards which you sent to us.

We did indeed receive the cards a couple of weeks ago but, unfortunately, Rob had been extremely busy with the combination of work pressure and the preparation of his wedding. Please accept our apology for not replying to you sooner but I am sure you can readily understand now, knowing the circumstances. It has all been very exciting but normalcy once again reigns.

Upon Rob's return the end of this week, your letter will be brought to his attention and reimbursement made to you.

Much success to you in the continuation of your research and conservation projects.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in teal ink that reads "Eleanor M. Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E".

Eleanor M. Harrison
Assistant to the Director

Chelonia Institute



December 2, 1981

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

Dear George:

The leatherback and flatback postcards were safely received and I am at least as pleased as you are. The quality of the printing is superb and I imagine that these will have more than scientific interest. It makes one anxious to see the project continue along. I have gathered a few more slides which I will have duplicated and sent to you. If none of these are suitable, we may wish to go ahead and publish the next several from your archives. I rather think that the cards will have more appeal to organizations if part of a series.

I will contact the Sea Turtle Rescue Fund (CEE) to see if there is any interest. In the meantime, why not go ahead and ship the balance via surface mail.

Enclosed is our check in the amount of \$418.09 to cover costs.

The photocopy of a postcard from Mauritius which you sent in September is much appreciated. I trust that all goes well.

Sincere regards,

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT/emh

Enclosure (\$418.09 check)

*Peak Change, a movement & apologies. I dictated this prior to leaving
TOWN NOV. 22ND BUT FAILED TO GIVE THE TAPE TO MY SECRETARY*

HAWAIIAN SERVICE, INC.
 Wholesalers of Postcards, Books & Souvenirs
 P. O. BOX 2835
 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96803
 PHONE: (808) 841-0134



SOLD TO
 George Balazs
 992 A Awaawaanoa Place
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

SHIP TO
 Will Call

DATE

11.02.81

INVOICE NO.

76599

YOUR ORDER NO.		BUYER	TERMS	SALESMAN		SHIPPED VIA		PPD	COLL
		George Balazs	C.O.D.	12	RH	Will Call			
CODE	RETAIL	DESCRIPTION			QUANTITY	PRICE	AMOUNT		
1		C - 629			6,850	29.70M	203.45		
1		C - 628			6,850	29.70M	203.45		
Paid In Full With Check # 455 11.02.81 \$408.94 <i>price</i>									
SUB-TOTAL		STATE TAX	MISC. DESCRIPTION	MISC. AMOUNT		TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			
406.90		2.04						408.94	

ORIGINAL

The Above Merchandise Received in Good Condition

By

George H. Balazs

Date 11 / 2 / 19 81

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS, E.O.M. A SERVICE CHARGE OF 1% PER MONTH (12% PER ANNUM) WILL BE CHARGED ON ALL OVERDUE BALANCES.

Chelonia Institute



May 22, 1981

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

Dear George:

Sorry not to have replied before now but I really have been hopeful that I would have some additional slides in hand to send to you by this time. All that I do have are some promises by some good people but those are, of course, a little difficult to publish.

We would be pleased to provide the funding for: Colin Limpus' flatback and Peter Pritchard's leatherback. Is the publisher willing to undertake the project piecemeal for the same price? It occurs to us that there is in fact no reason why we could not continue this project over an unspecified period, adding on additional shots of each species as good ones became available.

Thanks for the handsome chelonia mydas post card which you knew I would like. I hope that it will not be that much longer before we are sending those of our own doing.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RWB'.

Robert W. Truland
Director

RWT:kk

April 12, 1982

Mrs. Maisie Fitter
Fauna Preservation Society
c/o Zoological Society of London
Regents Park
London NW1 4RY
United Kingdom

Dear Maisie:

I am writing to request information on how one goes about applying for a small grant under the "Oryx 100% Fund." If there are application forms and printed guidelines available, I would appreciate receiving them when your time permits.

I thought that you would like to have a copy of the report I recently submitted to WWF-U.S. covering my sea turtle study visit to the Tokelau Islands.

I am looking forward to seeing my "leatherbacks in driftnets" article in the next issue of Oryx. I returned the edited version to Dr. Morris, just as quickly as I could, a few weeks ago.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

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

February 23, 1982

Dr. Brian Groombridge
IUCN Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219 (c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Brian:

I hope that you received the short manuscript I sent you a few weeks ago concerning entanglement of leatherbacks in squid drift nets. I understand that it will likely appear in the June issue of *Oryx*, so if it's not too late, you may want to make brief mention of it in your RDB sheet. The sooner we can focus worldwide attention on such new impacts, the more likely we are of getting the problems resolved. RDB can be a big help in this respect.

I have seen the manuscript review comments that Anne Meylan sent you, and I feel she superbly covered many critical points. You have most certainly done an excellent job, but Anne's contributions will make it even better. Under "Conservation Measures Proposed," I especially agree with her questioning of the 15% figure. I feel you will be on much firmer ground by referring to Action Project No. 57 of the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation. This "Strategy" document doesn't seem to appear in your "References" section. In my opinion it should be cited in each one of the RDB sheets. It is the most important piece of paper for sea turtles to be forged out in a long time. It shouldn't be forgotten.

One other comment I have of a far less important nature relates to your mention under "Habitat and Ecology" of "...Tunicates such as *Pyrosoma* (Thaliaceae)" being among the main diet items of leatherbacks. In looking through the literature, I have only been able to find one record of *Pyrosoma* being found in a leatherback (Capra 1949, quoted by Leo Brongersma 1969). In contrast, *Salpa* (also a Thaliaceae) have been recorded on several occasions, as well as ascidians (also pelagic Tunicates, class Ascidiaceae). Maybe you should mention all of these instead of just *Pyrosoma*.

In closing, I would like to find out what system is used to arrive at an RDB designation. It was my understanding that the leatherback is in the Endangered category. How and when did it get moved to Vulnerable? As the Deputy Chairman of the SSC Marine Turtle Group, I'm surprised that I missed hearing about this somewhere along the line. I would have voted firmly against it.

Dr. Brian Groombridge
February 23, 1982
Page 2

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balans
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

November 12, 1981

The Council
Fakaofu Atoll
Tokelau Islands
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuku, The Council, and people of Fakaofu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Fakaofu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

As in other areas of the Pacific, there is clear evidence that the numbers sea turtles in Tokelau have declined considerably over the past 50 years. These turtles, which are born in Tokelau, and eventually return to Tokelau when they are old enough to breed, are a valuable part of your heritage and island way of life. Some actions need to be taken to help conserve these turtles so that they will continue to occur in Tokelau and benefit your people. It would indeed be unfortunate if the next generation of people in Tokelau did not have turtles to catch and eat. As a researcher of sea turtles, I would be pleased to help you in whatever way that is deemed appropriate.

I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

March 17, 1982

The Council
Nukunonu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuke, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 30, 1982

Mr. Koichi Masaki
P. O. Box 286
Waimea, Kauai 96796

Dear Mr. Masaki:

I am trying to gather information on the past and present abundance of sea turtles on Kauai, and I have been told that you are an excellent source of knowledge. Can you tell me about coastal areas where turtles were abundant in past years? Do they still occur at these sites? Do you know if any of the beaches on the Na Pali Coast, or anywhere else on Kauai, were used by turtles to lay eggs? Have you ever heard of turtles crawling ashore to sleep or bask during the daytime?

Any help that you can give to this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

March 30, 1982

Sir Henry Wigley
Chairman
World Wildlife Fund - New Zealand
P. O. Box 12-200
Wellington North
New Zealand

Dear Sir Henry:

The enclosed report dealing with the conservation of sea turtles in Tokelau is the result of a small grant I received last year from the World Wildlife Fund - U.S. I thought that you would be interested in the information I was able to gather during my short visit.

I would greatly appreciate receiving information on any other environmental conservation efforts in Tokelau that may have come to your attention.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 30, 1982

Mr. Susumu Nakagawa
Retired Research Entomologist
U. S. Department of Agriculture
75 Aupuni
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Nakagawa:

I recently had the opportunity to read the excellent article about your Keaukaha fish pond that was published in the Hawaii Tribune Herald. Because of the long experience of you and your family working in this aquaculture environment, I would like to ask you some questions that relate to my own research of Hawaiian sea turtles. Are sea turtles ever kept in Hawaiian fish ponds for the purpose of controlling limu, or for aiding in the culture of mullet and other fish? Someone has told me that the Hawaiians used to do this, but thus far I have not been able to have this confirmed. A friend of mine on Molokai spoke with pond operators and was also unable to substantiate this point. In fact, he was told that sea turtles might be harmful to the fish because they would try to bite them. What is the approximate temperature and salinity of the water in your pond? Perhaps the environmental conditions in many Hawaiian fish ponds would not even be suitable for sea turtles.

Any information that you can give me on these subjects will certainly be appreciated. I have enclosed some literature on turtles that I thought you would find interesting.

Best regards. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 30, 1982

Dr. Judith Huntsman
Department of Anthropology
The University of Auckland
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Judith:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of my report dealing with the sea turtles of Tokelau. My study visit was very short, but I did my best to record as much information as possible. Needless to say, I have no formal training in ethnology. In writing the report, I felt it was necessary to provide some detailed background information. Most of the people (sea turtle biologists) who will be reading it will only have a general idea of where the islands are located, who lives there, and the style of life that is followed.

Any corrections, additions or comments that you may want to offer on this work will be accepted with appreciation. In particular, I would like to know your thoughts on the location of the "Vavau" mentioned in the Hina tale.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 9, 1982

Monsieur J. Maigret
Centre National de Recherches
Oceanographiques et des Peches
B.P. 22
Republic of Mauritania

Dear Monsieur Maigret:

It was with great pleasure that I received the news from George Balazs that Mauritania is issuing a series of stamps signaling the appeal and predicament of marine turtles. As well as embellishing the philatelic quality of your country's postage stamp series, the turtle stamps will undoubtedly be an important contribution to conservation awareness and protection of the threatened species involved. We in turtle conservation are all most grateful for your efforts in this undertaking.

Sincerely yours,

Archie Carr
Chairman, IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

AC:lw

cc: George Balazs

March 17, 1982

Dr. C. E. Birkeland
General Editor, Micronesica
The Marine Laboratory
University of Guam
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96913

Dear Dr. Birkeland:

I am sending you the enclosed report in order to obtain a preliminary appraisal on its suitability in subject matter and scope for possible publication in Micronesica. I realize there are a number of sections that would have to be modified to make the transition from a "report" to a "manuscript suitable for publication." I also suspect that it can be shortened by about 20% without losing content. However, before undertaking a rewrite, I thought it would be appropriate to ask for your advice.

I appreciate any assistance that you can offer.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 17, 1932

The Council
Fakaofu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulevuku, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1982

The Council
Nukunonu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Puleuku, and the Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1982

The Council
Atafu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Puleuku, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1932

The Council
Fakaofu Atoll
Tokelau
c/o Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulevuku, and The Council:

As promised, I am sending you a copy of the report that resulted from my visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles.

Once again, I want to thank you for your assistance and hospitality. Please contact me if I can be of any future help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

March 17, 1982

Mr. David Evens
Senior Fisheries Officer
Fisheries Division
Ministry of Natural Resources
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear David:

This short letter is long overdue, but I still want to write and tell you what a fine report Peter Vaughan prepared on the Solomon Islands' turtle project. It really is well written, and just full of interesting and important information. I wrote to Peter at his mainland U.S.A. address a few months ago and expressed these same views. I regret that he didn't stay on with you. Has the project continued under the guidance of other workers? Did the World Wildlife Fund come through with additional funds? I certainly hope so.

Feel free to contact me if there is anything I can do for you pp here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

March 19, 1982

Mr. Jack Woody
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, N. M. 87103

Dear Jack:

I may have mentioned this to you before, but if you ever want to use a couple hundred of my size 681 Inconel tags on the Kemp's ridleys down at Rancho Nuevo you would certainly be welcome to do so. They carry a "University of Hawaii" return address with no reward, however depending on how it's viewed, this could be an advantage. Please understand that I'm not pushing for their use, but rather simply want you to know that I am happy to make a limited quantity available for special projects like this.

Enclosed is a copy of my report to WWF covering a small project they funded for me last October. Thought you would be interested.

Hope that all is going well. Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

October 29, 1979

Mr. Stuart Inder, Editor
Pacific Islands Year Book
Pacific Publications (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.
76 Clarence Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

Dear Mr. Inder:

I want to take this opportunity to offer three constructive comments on your generally excellent Pacific Islands Year Book (13th ed.) which I recently used as a reference source.

First, I think it would be valuable for you to include Marcus Island (24°18'N, 153°58'E) in your next edition. Marcus is noticeably absent from your 1978 volume, and certainly well within your area of interest and coverage. Secondly, I believe that you should discuss, or as a minimum at least list, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. For more details on this, please see my enclosed publication entitled "Hawaii's Seabirds, Turtles and Seals." My last comment is more of a correction, in that under Midway Island (actually Midway Islands) you state that "The islands are also classified as a National Wildlife Reserve..." and that "This facet of the islands falls under federal statutes as set forth by the U. S. Department of Interior." Actually, as detailed in my short booklet, all of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, except Midway and Kure, are part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior. Midway is a U. S. Territory completely under the control of the U. S. Navy. The Navy also classifies the area as a Wildlife Reserve, but actually this is a very loose designation that could be changed at any time should military needs make it necessary. The seabirds themselves are protected separately under the U. S. Migratory Bird Treaty.

Hopefully these comments will be of use for your future editions.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 12, 1982

Nancy E. Hammond
Program Administrator
World Wildlife Fund-U.S.
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

Enclosed is my final report to the World Wildlife Fund covering the work with sea turtles in Tokelau which you kindly funded. I hope that the expanded scope and detail that I have incorporated in this document will make up for the few weeks it is late being sent to you.

I am simultaneously sending a copy of the report to the Office for Tokelau Affairs, in recognition of the fact that this study is a cooperative and continuing venture. You may recall that the Tokelau administration provided my vessel transportation, and food and lodging while I was in Tokelau. The Council of Elders on each atoll will also be sent a copy, since they are directly in charge of sea turtles and have the power to implement suggestions for conservation.

With some slight modification, I intend to send this manuscript to Micronesica for possible publication.

Best regards, and thank you again for all of your help.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 26, 1982

Mr. Larry B. LeSage, Curator
Stanley Park Zoo
2099 Beach Ave.
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada V6G 1Z4

Dear Mr. LeSage:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with any information on the three green sea turtles that were sent from Hawaii to the Vancouver Zoo in 1956. A copy of a newspaper clipping referring to this event has been enclosed. Do you have any records for these turtles that tell of their growth rates, survival, or any other history? Could any of these turtles still be alive at your facility? As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you on this interesting subject.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 26, 1982

Dr. Walter A. Starck
PMB 1, Daintree
Queensland, Australia

Dear Dr. Starck:

Mr. Mike McCoy of Honiara in the Solomon Islands has given me your name and address in response to my request for information about the reference in his book to a loggerhead turtle seen feeding at a depth of 300 meters. Mr. McCoy indicated that you would probably be able to offer more details, or at least direct me to the appropriate individual or literature source.

I would certainly appreciate any help that you can offer in this interesting matter. As a researcher of sea turtles here in Hawaii, I am continually trying to expand my knowledge of these amazing animals.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

February 12, 1982

Lord Howe Island Board
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney, AUSTRALIA

Dear Sirs:

As a researcher of sea turtles here in Hawaii and at other areas of the Pacific, I would like to obtain information on the present occurrence of sea turtles at Lord Howe Island. In my historical readings, I noted with interest that when the vessel Supply visited Lord Howe Island in 1788 turtles were found to abound, and 16 were taken for food. This description appears in the book, "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales" by David Collins. Can sea turtles still be found at Lord Howe Island? What species are present, and do they lay eggs at this site? Perhaps you would be kind enough to pass this letter on to a resident of the island who would be interested and knowledgeable in such matters.

Thank you for any assistance that you can provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GMB:md

February 12, 1982

National Film Library
Tape Duplicating Service
Department of Education
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a recording of the Tokelau narrative that is offered in your publication, "Atoll" by G. Keen (1976). I wish to use this for research and education purpose here at the University of Hawaii. A 60-minute cassette has been enclosed as specified.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

4 Jan 1982
FMPS- Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Dr. Nicholas Mresovsky
University of Toronto

Dear Nicholas:

Thank you for your letter of December 18th indicating acceptance of my note on metal tags. The changes mentioned in your PS are fine with me.

Since you sent a cc of your letter to Peter, I feel a need to give some additional perspective on your comments regarding the newsletter.


- 1) In reviewing my correspondence records, I find no indication that I have sent you "a stream of suggestions" about how to "run things". I don't understand why you hold this impression. I have, however, regularly sent you news articles, reprints and other informational materials on sea turtles to hopefully aid you in preparing the newsletter. I certainly view this as a positive approach. My negative words to you at the Washington conference dealt with the mailing list and that one editorial which I felt was inappropriate. My long-standing suggestion on photoreduction to cut costs and get more words per page is about the only mention I've made on how you should run things- if it could even be called that.
- 2) Philosophically, I consider a publication like MTN to convey benefits in multiple directions. Yes, I am appreciative that you have published my articles. But at the same time, please remember that there wouldn't be (or have been) much of a newsletter if readers such as myself didn't contribute.

Anyway, enough said- I hope this helps to clarify things. Our views obviously differ, but there are still many areas we can work together on behalf of sea turtle conservation and inquiry.

Yes, I'm the one that sent you "The Present Status of Japanese Tortoise Shell Product Industry". I received a few copies from Mr. Uchida about four months ago. Sorry, but I don't know any more about it than what's presented in the text and on the cover.

Best regards for this New Year.

Sincerely,


George Balazs

cc Peter Pritchard

University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

RAMSAY WRIGHT ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
25 HARBORD STREET
TORONTO M5S 1A1, ONTARIO, CANADA

December 18, 1981

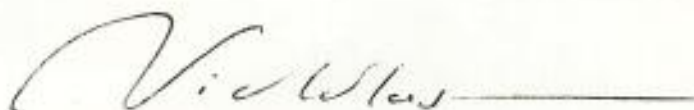
Mr. George Balazs
NMFS/NOAA
P.O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812
U S A

Dear George,

Thank you for the revised version of your tagging article. This did not go anywhere near to putting your views across in half the number of words, but I am accepting it, largely to avoid delay and messing everyone around. I should have been tougher in my previous letter, but instead will say for the future I may reject your articles if they are so wordy. I think you could have reduced it considerably without losing important points. I am having to reject an increasing number of articles. Despite this carping, I think the table and information in your article will be valuable to readers.

At the Washington conference I gave you technical reasons why I have not opted for photoreduction. It would be more useful if instead of sending a stream of suggestions about how I should run things, you took a more positive approach to the MTN. Instead of getting absorbed by these minor details, why not raise some support from WWF or IUCN for helping us along? You are lucky to have a newsletter at all. It has published plenty of your articles. But you were very negative at the '79 Washington meetings, and later turned down an offer to be associated with it. OK, OK, you are entitled to your views, but please stop dwelling on minutiae.

Yours,



Nicholas Mrosovsky

PS: I have removed the word "flipper" from the title, to make sure it fits on one line.

For similar reasons, I have removed "for sea turtles" from the table legend.

If you object strongly, please write express or wire. If I hear nothing, I'll assume it is OK.

cc; Pritchard

NM/rs

February 10, 1982

Dr. Grenville Lucas
Chairman, Species Survival Commission
International Union for Conservation of Nature
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland, SWITZERLAND

Dear Dr. Lucas:

Thank you for your recent letter asking if I would be willing and able to serve for another 3-year term as Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I accept this invitation with pleasure. I will continue to work closely with our Group Chairman, Dr. Carr, to promote a better biological understanding of marine turtles, and at the same time enhance their conservation status.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Carr

February 9, 1982

John Lusty Ltd.
57, Standard Road
Park Royal
London NW10, U.K.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request a copy of your informative pamphlet
entitled "John Lusty and the Turtle."

Thank you very much for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 3, 1982

Dr. A. Binion Amerson Jr.
Environmental Consultants Inc.
14325 Proton
Dallas, Texas 75240

Dear Dr. Amerson:

You will probably recall that we had the opportunity to talk briefly about Pacific sea turtles when you visited our laboratory several years ago. I am writing to you at this time to ask for your assistance on the same subject. In your comprehensive 1971 publication, "The Natural History of French Frigate Shoals," you cited correspondence from a Louis K. Agard Jr. relating to fishing operations at Tern Island and green sea turtles. Copies of the pages where these references appear have been enclosed for your convenience. If it wouldn't be too difficult for you to locate in your files, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of Mr. Agard's letter. I would like to have this correspondence as part of my personal reference library on sea turtles. Hopefully you can accommodate this request.

I have enclosed several items that I thought you might find interesting.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

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

February 2, 1982

To: Dr. Fred Kamemoto
Chairman, Department of Zoology

From: George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(Currently under IPA agreement with NMFS)

Subject: Application for membership on the Graduate Faculty

Many months have now passed since I submitted my application and supporting documents for membership on the Graduate Faculty. I am anxious to learn of the outcome of your Department's evaluation of this request.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

GB:md

C
O
P
Y



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

January 29, 1982

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville 4810 Australia

Dear Col:

Recently while looking over existing information on Pacific turtle migrations, as they relate to New Caledonia, I noticed that Anne Meylan's Conference paper lists the Bustard (1974) report of a loggerhead tagged at Mon Repos subsequently recovered in New Caledonia. You will recall that in your letter to me of 10 March 1980 you indicated that Bustard's records were something of a mess, and that the loggerhead movement should not be shown as coming from Mon Repos. I don't know if you informed Anne of this, but it does present something of a dilemma for those of us citing papers on Pacific turtle movements. Do we quote Bustard as written for Mon Repos to New Caledonia? Or should we list a "personal communication" from you saying Bustard was mistaken? If we ignore the whole thing, it could be interpreted as doing sloppy literature research by having missed that particular loggerhead movement. The problem needs to be corrected in some manner. Possibly the best avenue would be for you to specifically make the correction in one of your own future publications. Please give this suggestion some consideration.

I imagine that you have now seen Mary Mendonca's Journal of Herpetology paper on growth rates. Overall, it's certainly a fine and welcome contribution to the literature. I was, however, surprised to see that she did not reference the early tag and recapture growth work of Schmidt, and also Carr and Caldwell 1956. These were key studies deserving of recognition. In addition, shortly after the Washington Conference I sent Lew Ehrhart and Mary a copy of the growth paper that I presented. Sorry to see it wasn't mentioned, but I guess that's part of the price one pays when proceedings aren't issued shortly after the event.

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
Page Two
January 29, 1982

I hope that you are having a good turtle season, with lots of tags being applied. Were your Titanium tags made in time?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

cc: Anne Meylan ✓

COPY



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

January 29, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr III
Assistant Director
Animal Research and Conservation Center
Bronx Zoo
Bronx, New York 10460

Dear Chuck:

Thanks very much for your letter of January 11, along with the interesting project proposal by Jonathan Reed. I took the liberty of contacting Dr. Rob Shallenberger, Manager of FWS Refuges throughout Hawaii. Rob is an authority on Procellariiformes and other seabirds. He is familiar with the project on Kauai, and indicated the following to me in a note:

"I think Reed's study is excellent and has substantial potential of contributing to the survival of this species. Unlike most studies with listed species, the results are likely to yield applicable management options (i.e. design of shades/filters, etc.) that can be implemented. Together with our fallout retrieval project and efforts to control predators in colony areas, there is good reason to believe we could put this species back on its feet - unless the mongoose gets firmly established on Kauai. Jon is a very hard worker and Dr. Hailman, in my opinion, is a very sharp scientist with much to offer in the direction of this study. I hope that NYZS can help substantially."

On your question about doubling-up the proposed study with green turtles (hatchlings and/or nesting adults), yes, if the investigators are indeed interested in the problem I am willing to "help out" in whatever way possible. However, at this point, I

Dr. Archie Carr III
Page Two
January 29, 1982

don't feel I have the time (or talent) to be a formal part of such a study. Keep in mind that almost all of our turtle nesting occurs at French Frigate Shoals, some 500 miles from Honolulu. Access to the facility, on Tern Island is by small chartered aircraft costing approximately \$2,300 a flight. Of course, we could get a permit to bring some hatchlings back to Kauai for experimentation at that site. Anyway, whatever is decided in the way of interest, time, funds and expertise by the investigators, you can count on me to be of assistance.

I'm glad you were able to see Colin Limeus in Australia. I have yet to get there, but Col visited with my project here in Hawaii a few years ago. We are something of friendly competitors in our studies of green turtle growth rates. He had best watch close for sting rays when jumping on those turtles at night in shallow water. Two years ago my assistant had a sting ray barb driven into his arm when we were checking a turtle net at 4 a.m. It took a surgeon over an hour to get it out. Luckily it "only" penetrated muscle.

I'll be sending you some turtle papers under separate cover. Best regards. Call me if and when you ever get over here.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: W. King ✓
A. Carr

February 2, 1982

To: Dr. Jack Davidson
Director, Sea Grant Program

From: George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(currently under IPA contract to NMFS)

Subject: Sea Grant Funding for Projects Starting in June 1983

I would appreciate being informed of the various requirements and deadlines that will be in effect for submitting a project proposal for possible funding starting in June of 1983.

Thank you for your assistance.

GB:md

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

February 2, 1982

Mr. Shou-Hsian Mao
Department of Biomorphics
National Defense Medical Center
Taipei (107)
Taiwan, Republic of China

Dear Mr. Mao:

I am writing to ask how I may obtain a copy of your 1971 publication entitled "Turtles of Taiwan." I would like to include this document in my reference library.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1982

Mr. Cliff Ratcliffe
Principal Fisheries Officer
Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 14, Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga

Dear Cliff:

Dr. Archie Carr recently mentioned to me that about 10 sea turtles have been captured (and tagged) over the past two years in conjunction with a "Japanese trap net" set near Nuku'alofa. I am not familiar with this type of fishing gear and would greatly appreciate receiving a brief description from you. Are the nets set offshore by Japanese fishing vessels, or is the "Japanese" designation just the origin of a gear type that is now being used by Tongans?

Many thanks in advance for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 2, 1982

Alaska Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 1668
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a complete copy of your document entitled "Preliminary Fishery Management Plan for the Trawl Fisheries and Herring Gillnet Fishery of the Eastern Bering Sea and the Northeast Pacific."

Thank you for your assistance.

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

December 8, 1981

Mr. Bob Seibert
District Ranger
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
Hawaii 96718

Dear Mr. Seibert:

Many thanks for your letter of November 26th answering my inquiry to Don Reeser about sea turtle sightings entered into the Halape log. I appreciated the update you provided, but was sorry to learn that no reports have been made since September of 1978.

From what I have gathered, it would appear that over the years Halape has been regularly used by a few hawksbill turtles for nesting purposes. If you are now regularly visiting this site, it would be worthwhile to make inspections for evidence of nest diggings and emergence of hatchlings. Hawaiian hawksbills are known to nest from August through November, with hatching taking place 50-70 days after the eggs are laid. At least this is the pattern that has existed at Halawa on Molokai, and at several other small beach sites along Kau and Puna. Unfortunately, I have not personally visited Halape, but I do hope to get down there on one of my forthcoming study visits to the Big Island. Any current information that you can pass on to me will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards for the Holidays.

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

January 29, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr
Department of Zoology
223 Bartram Hall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611

Dear Archie:

I am indeed pleased to be able to accept your invitation to serve on the IUCN Turtle Group for another 3-year tour of duty. As before, I pledge to do whatever I can to advance sea turtle conservation and research.

The question of the Deputy Chairman title being renewed should be a separate issue, and one which I hope you will devote some serious thought in consultation with others. At a few select times I have used the title when signing letters, but I wonder if the position is really needed. For instance, if it was dissolved right now I would continue doing the same thing, that is, aiding you and the Group as a whole as situations arise. Or possibly better still, instead of eliminating the position, have you considered rotating it to others? In doing so, it might help to defuse some of the past problems lingering with us, such as Nicholas and his newsletter, Pritchard's strange behavior, and others. As a further suggestion, I can see much merit in your having a Deputy Chairperson right there with you in Gainesville, or at least something closer than the nearly 5000 miles that now separates us.

Please think about all of this, if you haven't already. I'm open to change.

Aloha,


George Balazs

January 27, 1982

Sr. Mario Hurtado
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Box 5018
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Sr. Hurtado:

As a fellow member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I want to take this opportunity to sincerely welcome your participation and expertise in our efforts to conserve the world's sea turtle resources. I am confident that you will make valuable contributions over this next three-year period of service. I look forward to meeting you in person when circumstances permit.

In order to make you better aware of my own activities here in Hawaii, I have enclosed several articles and reports of possible interest. I will be sure to send you new items as they become available.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

January 14, 1982

Ms. Cynthia Minarik
Apartado Postal 188
Choluteca, Choluteca
Honduras, Central America

Dear Cynthia:

Jack Woody recently sent me copies of the letters you exchanged relating to sea turtles in Honduras. At this time, I have nothing to add to Jack's excellent response to your inquiry. However, I would very much like to receive a copy of the letter you send to Jack answering his questions.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

January 14, 1982

Director
ARAMCO
Department of Loss Prevention and
Environmental Affairs
Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Dear Sir:

As a researcher of Hawaiian sea turtles, I am interested in learning about studies that are being conducted by your company on sea turtles in the Arabian Gulf. In your fine book entitled "Biotopes of the Western Arabian Gulf", there is mention of tagging being undertaken on Karan Island. I would like to correspond with the researcher doing this work.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md

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

January 14, 1982

Department of the Army
U. S. Army Engineer District Honolulu
Ft. Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Sirs:

The following comments and questions are being submitted in relation to the "Final Detailed Project Report and Environmental Statement for the Kaulana Bay Navigation Improvements Study."

1. The results of the formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act are not contained in the FEIS as would be expected. Will an addendum to the FEIS covering this important evaluation be prepared and distributed to the consulted parties?
2. The FEIS does not contain a written response to the testimony submitted by Mr. Susumu Ono of the Hawaii State Board of Land and Natural Resources (page B-26). In view of the fact that nearly all other letters of testimony were answered in the FEIS, why was a response not included for Mr. Ono's concerns?
3. Nestings by the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) are known to occur at several sites along the Kau coast. These occurrences are listed in the paper "Terrestrial Critical Habitat for Sea Turtles under United States Jurisdiction in the Pacific Region" which I authored in October of 1978. The FEIS makes no mention of the presence of this endangered species.
4. Kaalualu Bay on the Kau coast has historically been an important aggregate foraging site for green turtles. An adult female that I captured and tagged at Kaalualu in May of 1977 was found two years later nesting on East Island at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Department of the Army
Page Two
January 14, 1982

I appreciate having the opportunity to review this FEIS.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
cc: U.H. Environmental Center

December 21, 1981

Northwest Marine Technology
Shaw Island
Washington 98286

Dear Sirs:

I would greatly appreciate receiving full information on your system of tagging small salmon and other animals using wire implants in the nasal cartilage.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)
GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 14, 1981

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

Dear Rob:

Thanks very much for your letter of December 2nd and the reimbursement check. It was good to learn that you are also pleased with our product. The cartons containing the post cards were sent this morning by surface mail as you requested.

I have enclosed bundles of the green, hawksbill and green turtle/monk sea cards which I also had printed. The Hawaii Audubon Society paid for the latter, while I personally financed the other two. I just couldn't pass up having this done using my own photography. I hope to regain my investment by selling them at \$8 per 100. However, the production of these cards on my own should not be viewed as taking the place of our joint ongoing project. Please have the slides you mentioned duplicated and sent for my examination. I'm eager to see them.

Best wishes for the Holidays, and congratulation on your recent wedding. I did it about 18 years ago and it has not been regretted!

Aloha,



George H. Balazs



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 9, 1981

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville 4810
Queensland, Australia

Dear Col:

This letter responds to your request for comments on the manuscript "Sea turtles of the Capricornia section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park" that you sent to me in mid-September. I regret the delay in this response, however, since the paper was already in press with Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. my comments would only be useful in a secondary sort of way.

Overall, I feel that you have once again produced a valuable document on your research results. My only specific comments are as follows.

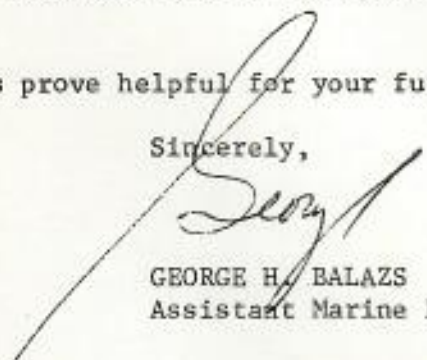
- 1) The statements on page 4 about immature turtles moving to other areas, or making several habitat shifts, does not appear to be consistent with the information presented on pages 16 and 18. Do you have tag recoveries showing movements of immatures? If so, I would be interested to learn of the numbers, time intervals, and distances involved.
- 2) I think it would have been nice to also reference my work, and perhaps several others, in your statements about growth and age at maturity on pages 4 and 18.
- 3) The statement on pages 7-8, "4,500 green turtles are estimated to breed," leaves the reader unclear as whether you are reporting males and females, or just nesting females.
- 4) Significant fluctuations have also occurred in the number of nesting turtles at French Frigate Shoals over the past several years (pages 8-9).
- 5) It would have been appropriate to reference my success with Inconel tags when you mentioned on pages 12-13 that an alternate to Monel was being sought.
- 6) You should have also referenced/credited the other earlier workers when you discussed influence of incubation temperatures on pages 13-14.

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
November 9, 1981
Page 2

7) The caption for Figure 3 states that there are no precise data for 1964-1973 (Bustard's work). We all know that this is an important and significant gap in the history of Australian sea turtle research. I therefore feel that this point should also have been made directly, though tactfully, in the text itself.

I hope that these views prove helpful for your future papers. Best regards.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec


University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island, Kaneohe, Hawaii

MEMORANDUM

December 8, 1981

TO: Jacquelin Miller
UH Environmental Center

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist 

SUBJECT: Your request to submit review comments on the November 1981 Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Maalaea Boat Harbor.

No mention is made in this EIS of Hawaiian green (Chelonia mydas), hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata) or leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) sea turtles or their status under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. A discussion of these listed marine species, particularly the green turtle, needs to be included under the section "Flora and Fauna" on pages 3-8 to 3-11 and 5-3 to 5-7. Green turtles of various sizes are known to occur in Maalaea Bay, presumably to forage on benthic algae. Also, in July of 1974 an adult female green turtle was recovered in Maalaea Bay that had been tagged while nesting at French Frigate Shoals during the 1973 breeding season (see Biological Conservation, 1976, 9:125-140). The statement made on page 5-7 of the EIS about the possible long-term secondary impacts of greater boat traffic upon the humpback whale population may very well also apply to green turtles. An appraisal of this needs to be made and incorporated into the EIS.

Concerning your inquiry on the advisability of having a "special notice to mariners" for listed whales and turtles, I feel that this is an excellent idea. Any educational steps that are taken to inform boaters about humpback whales should logically also involve sea turtles. In addition to special notices to mariners, it would also be worthwhile to place permanent signs in the harbor telling of the species protected status (see attached).

GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 8, 1981

TO: Jacquelin Miller
UH Environmental Center

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

SUBJECT: Your request to submit review comments on the November 1981
Environmental Impact Statement for Improvements to the Maalaea
Boat Harbor.

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GHB:ec

Enclosures

December 2, 1981

Dr. George R. Hughes
Natal Parks Board
Box 662, Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Dear George:

I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed letter from the Louis Henry canned soup company. I didn't realize that the Raunion project had reached this stage of commercial production. Are you still consulting for the project? Maybe this would be a good time for you to give the members of the Turtle Group an update and overview of progress achieved by the project.

Best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Archie Carr
Wayne King



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

December 2, 1981

Dr. George R. Hughes
Natal Parks Board
Box 662, Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Dear George:

I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed letter from the Louis Henry canned soup company. I didn't realize that the Reunion project had reached this stage of commercial production. Are you still consulting for the project? Maybe this would be a good time for you to give the members of the Turtle Group an update and overview of progress achieved by the project.

Best regards for the holidays.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

louis henry

foies
gras

B.P. 161
67000 STRASBOURG
F. 1 - 1991 05 44 41
TELE 871 716 1111
CCP 1903 671 STRASBOURG

Mr. SCOTT L. ANDERSON
National Marine Fisheries Service
Po Box 3830
HONOLULU - Hawaii 96812
USA

YH/ab/1190

Strasbourg, November 18th, 1981

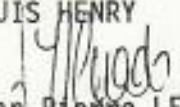
Dear Mr. Anderson,

We refer to your letter of November 9th, and inform you that the type of turtle used in our product "soupe de tortue" is calipee (origin : turtles farming - Reunion).

We hope this information will be helpful to you, and remain,

Very truly Yours

LOUIS HENRY


Jean Pierre LEROUX
Export Manager

November 27, 1981

Japan Marine Fishery Resource Center
Godo-Karkan Building 6F
3-4 K101-Cho
Chiyodo-Ku
Tokyo 102, JAPAN

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to request a copy of your report entitled
"Report of Feasibility Study on Squid Jigging Fisheries in
the Southwestern Pacific Ocean 1977" (JAMARC report 18).

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

BHB:md

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

November 19, 1981

Director
Marine Science Laboratories
P. O. Box 114
Queenscliff, Victoria 3225
AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate receiving copies of reports or other information that you can provide on the use of gill nets for sampling squid in Australian waters. Thank you for your assistance.

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

November 24, 1981

Mr. Hiroshi Yokoyama
Executive Director
All Japan Coral Fisheries Association
No. 2 Awaya Bldg. (6th Floor)
3-4, Tsukiji 4-chome, Chuo-ku
Tokyo, Japan 104

Dear Mr. Yokoyama:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 26, 1981 responding to my inquiry about sea turtles. I greatly appreciate your willingness to send me the results of seaman's observations in the central North Pacific Ocean.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 16, 1981

Mrs. J. Carpine-Lancre
Head Librarian
Musee Oceanographique (bibliotheque)
Avenue Saint-Martin
MC-Monaco-Ville
MONACO

Dear Mrs. Carpine-Lancre:

Under separate cover I am sending you an assortment of my recent publications on sea turtles which you requested in your letter of October 27, 1981. I hope that they will prove useful to your institution.

The assortment of colorful stamps on your letter prompts me to ask the following questions. Has Monaco ever issued a set of stamps which show sea turtles? What agency or individual within the Monaco government might I write to in order to suggest this theme, if it has not already been used? As you may be aware, sea turtles are experiencing serious conservation problems on a worldwide basis. Having these marine animals appear on stamps in an attractive manner represents a positive way of focusing attention on their plight.

Any assistance that you are able to give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 12, 1981

The Council
Nukunonu Atoll
Tokelau Islands
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuke, The Council, and people of Nukunonu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Nukunonu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

As in other areas of the Pacific, there is clear evidence that the number of sea turtles in Tokelau have declined considerably over the past 50 years. These turtles, which are born in Tokelau, and eventually return to Tokelau when they are old enough to breed, are a valuable part of your heritage and island way of life. Some actions need to be taken to help conserve these turtles so that they will continue to occur in Tokelau and benefit your people. It would indeed be unfortunate if the next generation of people in Tokelau did not have turtles to catch and eat. As a researcher of sea turtles, I would be pleased to help you in whatever way that is deemed appropriate.

I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

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

September 29, 1981

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

Dear Sir:

I am writing with respect to the attached copied letter of testimony that was submitted to your office about 10 months ago.

I would appreciate being informed about the status of this proposal to designate certain coastal areas in Puerto Rico as Critical Habitat for the hawksbill turtle. How many individuals, or organizations submitted comments in response to your Federal Register notice, and of this number, how many expressed opposition to the proposed action?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

November 12, 1981

Dr. Judith Huntsman
Anthropology Department
University of Auckland
Private Bag
Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Dr. Huntsman:

During a recent visit to Fakaofu Atoll, Mrs. Elizabeth Perreira mentioned to me that she had read a section of one of your papers that described the usage of sea turtles in Tokelau. I am not familiar with this publication, therefore I would greatly appreciate receiving an air mail reprint at your earliest convenience. I am trying to consolidate all of the available information on sea turtles for this area of the Pacific for use in a report to the U. S. World Wildlife Fund. I would be pleased to send you a copy of this report when it is completed.

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

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 12, 1981

Mr. Steve Cornelius
Universidad De Costa Rica
Rodrigo Facio, San Jose
Costa Rica

Dear Steve:

Nancy Hammond of the World Wildlife Fund recently asked me to provide you with some of my thoughts on the use of flipper tags. We exchanged correspondence on this topic earlier in the year, but I am now in a position to send you the enclosed manuscript updating most of my views. I hope that it proves helpful in your selection and use of tags. If you have any questions, or constructive comments, I would be pleased to hear from you.

My manuscript has been sent to the Marine Turtle Newsletter for consideration. If Nicholas feels it's too long, I'll submit it to Herp Review.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

bcc: Nancy Hammond

November 12, 1981

Mr. J. P. Larkindale
Official Secretary
Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear John:

The great excitement of the Tokelau trip is only now starting to die down as the demands of my various other research commitments require attention. I am happy to say that most of my photographs turned out exceedingly well. I will be sending you several prints as a token of my appreciation for your assistance. Also, under separate cover I will be forwarding you the 1975 Tokelau/Swains Island bibliography that I mentioned. You should find this to be a useful reference document.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter of thanks that I wrote to the Councils on each island. I thought that this action would be appropriate.

Please extend my personal regards to the various members of your office that I had the good pleasure to meet.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

SAME LETTER TO:

Nukunonu Atoll
Atafu Atoll

November 12, 1981

The Council
Fakaofu Atoll
Tokelau Islands
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuku, The Council, and people of Fakaofu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Fakaofu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

As in other areas of the Pacific, there is clear evidence that the number of sea turtles in Tokelau have declined considerably over the past 50 years. These turtles, which are born in Tokelau, and eventually return to Tokelau when they are old enough to breed, are a valuable part of your heritage and island way of life. Some actions need to be taken to help conserve these turtles so that they will continue to occur in Tokelau and benefit your people. It would indeed be unfortunate if the next generation of people in Tokelau did not have turtles to catch and eat. As a researcher of sea turtles, I would be pleased to help you in whatever way that is deemed appropriate.

I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

November 12, 1981

The Council
Fakaofu Atoll
Tokelau Islands
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Pulenuke, The Council, and people of Fakaofu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Fakaofu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

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I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

November 12, 1981

The Council
Atafu Atoll
Tokelau Islands
c/o Office for Tokelau Affairs
Box 865, Apia
Western Samoa

Dear Faipule, Puleuku, The Council, and people of Atafu Atoll:

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your fine hospitality during my recent visit to Tokelau to study sea turtles. I greatly appreciated the generous assistance and cooperation that was provided. During the short time available, I was able to collect an impressive amount of biological and cultural information on sea turtles of Atafu Atoll. When my final research report is completed, I will be sure to send you a copy.

As in other areas of the Pacific, there is clear evidence that the numbers of sea turtles in Tokelau have declined considerably over the past 50 years. These turtles, which are born in Tokelau, and eventually return to Tokelau when they are old enough to breed, are a valuable part of your heritage and island way of life. Some actions need to be taken to help conserve these turtles so that they will continue to occur in Tokelau and benefit your people. It would indeed be unfortunate if the next generation of people in Tokelau did not have turtles to catch and eat. As a researcher of sea turtles, I would be pleased to help you in whatever way that is deemed appropriate.

I send you my best personal regards.

Sincerely,

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

4 November 1981

Dr. Edward O. Moll
Professor of Zoology
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, Illinois 61920

Dear Dr. Moll:

I appreciate having the opportunity to review your draft proposal concerning technological transfer of the sea turtle excluder device to the Malaysian trawler fishing fleet. Briefly stated, it is my view that your intended project is extremely well conceived, and has tremendous potential for conserving Malaysia's sea turtle resource. As emphasized in your narrative, these turtles make an important contribution to the country's economy and culture. Action clearly needs to be taken to reduce the impacts of trawling, but without affecting the harvest of prawns and fish. The use of the newly developed excluder device represents the best hope for achieving this goal.

I wish you success in obtaining the necessary funds to carry out your important project. Please keep me informed of the outcome.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:le

November 9, 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Law Enforcement
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 1490
500 N.D. Multnomah
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Sirs:

During a brief stopover in American Samoa on October 30, 1981, I noted at least four businesses that were selling jewelry made of tortoiseshell derived from the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). From the style, workmanship and information provided by sales personnel, most of this jewelry could be positively identified as originating from either Fiji or Western Samoa. In the case of Burns Philip Ltd., an Australian firm that operates in American Samoa, it was clear that the jewelry is being imported from their sister store in Apia, Western Samoa. In both February and October of 1981, I personally documented that the Apia Burns Philip store buys raw tortoiseshell from individuals living in the Aleipata District of Western Samoa. The store then commissions independent artisans to manufacture assorted jewelry.

The tortoiseshell is obtained from adult female hawksbills that are taken while nesting on three uninhabited offshore islets located in the Aleipata District (Nuulua, Nuutele and Namua). This is the last known nesting area for hawksbills in Western Samoa, and not more than 50 turtles nest there each season. For the past 10 years the Government of Western Samoa has operated a small hatchery project in Aleipata in a commendable effort to increase the number of turtles in coastal waters. The owner of the nesting islets, a Samoan Matai (Chief), has declared that entry to the islets is prohibited except for authorized workers. However, this is difficult to enforce due to the remoteness of the region and the absence of enforcement people.

The line of commerce between the nesting islets in Aleipata, and the retail outlets in American Samoa (specifically Burns Philip), is an excellent, if not depressing, example of international commercial trade hastening the destruction of a local native resource. The number of turtles that are taken from the islets while nesting is directly correlated with the amount of jewelry sold

Fish and Wildlife Service
November 9, 1981
Page 2

in American Samoa, and the length of time that such sale is allowed to continue. In this respect, it is interesting to note that there are currently two passenger liners visiting American Samoa each month, with approximately 700 tourists disembarking from each ship for shopping and sightseeing. The Burns Philip store operates a free and continuous bus service between the docked ships and their retail outlet.

As shown by the attached correspondence, I first brought this matter to the attention of the Fish and Wildlife Service (Enforcement Chief C. R. Bavin) in March of this year. An additional inquiry made in late August has apparently still not resulted in the initiation of corrective action. I therefore hope that this present letter will further emphasize the importance and seriousness of the problem. I would appreciate being informed in writing of the status and outcome of this case.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure

cc: C. R. Bavin

November 9, 1981

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville 4810
Queensland, Australia

Dear Col:

This letter responds to your request for comments on the manuscript "Sea turtles of the Capricornia section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park" that you sent to me in mid-September. I regret the delay in this response, however, since the paper was already in press with Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld. my comments would only be useful in a secondary sort of way.

Overall, I feel that you have once again produced a valuable document on your research results. My only specific comments are as follows.

- 1) The statements on page 4 about immature turtles moving to other areas, or making several habitat shifts, does not appear to be consistent with the information presented on pages 16 and 18. Do you have tag recoveries showing movements of immatures? If so, I would be interested to learn of the numbers, time intervals, and distances involved.
- 2) I think it would have been nice to also reference my work, and perhaps several others, in your statements about growth and age at maturity on pages 4 and 18.
- 3) The statement on pages 7-8, "4,500 green turtles are estimated to breed," leaves the reader unclear as whether you are reporting males and females, or just nesting females.
- 4) Significant fluctuations have also occurred in the number of nesting turtles at French Frigate Shoals over the past several years (pages 8-9).
- 5) It would have been appropriate to reference my success with Inconel tags when you mentioned on pages 12-13 that an alternate to Monel was being sought.
- 6) You should have also referenced/credited the other earlier workers when you discussed influence of incubation temperatures on pages 13-14.

Mr. Colin J. Limpus
November 9, 1981
Page 2

7) The caption for Figure 3 states that there are no precise data for 1964-1973 (Bustard's work). We all know that this is an important and significant gap in the history of Australian sea turtle research. I therefore feel that this point should also have been made directly, though tactfully, in the text itself.

I hope that these views prove helpful for your future papers. Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

November 5, 1981

Mr. Mark Gentle
Assistant Fisheries Officer
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D5
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

Sorry for the delay in responding to your letter of 7 October, however it arrived the day I departed for Tokelau. I spend two weeks out there gathering information on sea turtles under a small grant from the World Wildlife Fund-US. I'll send you a copy of my report when it's completed in late January.

Some confusion apparently exists concerning the scute grafting or "living tag" experiments conducted this past year here in Hawaii. First, the study was not of my making or inspiration. I have only been involved in a secondary sort of way. The idea was proposed by John Hendrickson of the University of Arizona. Richard Shomura awarded him a several thousand dollar contract to come to Hawaii for a few weeks to do the work. The 200 hatchlings were subsequently reared for one year under contract to Sea Life Park here on Oahu.

While it is certainly true that many of the marks are still visible (light colored spots on the dark carapace, and dark colored spots on the light plastron), an analysis of the data at one year of age has not yet been conducted. Personally, I am not optimistic about the maintenance of the marks during the next year or two. Pigment diffusion is apparent in most of the graft sites, and the size of the mark has become proportionally smaller. I have close-up photos of each turtle at one year of age. All of the turtles, except nine individuals, have now been released into the wild. As you may know, it is very costly to raise turtles.

Mr. Mark Gentle
Page 2
November 5, 1981

Tagging hatchlings in conjunction with a hatchery project would be a relatively easy matter, if and when a tagging system is perfected. However, tagging hatchlings on a natural nesting beach requires the hatchlings to be caught when they emerge and scamper to the sea. Since this is a fairly rapid event, it seems to me it would be a formidable task.

I will once again make an effort to assemble a map on Pacific island sea turtle migrations. I regret that something has not been sent to you sooner. The demands for my time have been substantial over this past year.

For your information, I have enclosed a draft manuscript containing suggestions on improving the use of metal flipper tags. I don't want to make a firm decision at this time, but let me know if you are interested in using it in the SPC Fisheries Newsletter.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

November 5, 1981

Mr. Mark Gentle
Assistant Fisheries Officer
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D5
Noumea Cedex, New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

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Mr. Mark Gentle
Page 2
November 5, 1981

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Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures

November 5, 1981

Mr. Harry Sperling, Jr.
Regional Fisheries Coordinator
Office of Regional Representative
UNDP
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji

Dear Mr. Sperling:

You may recall that I met with you in Suva during February of 1977 to discuss the SPC turtle farming project. At that time, I had been asked to serve as an honorary consultant to evaluate both the Fiji and Cook Islands components of the project. My comprehensive report was subsequently submitted to SPC. I hope that a copy eventually reached your office for use as a reference document.

I have just recently completed a ten-day visit to Tokelau to assess sea turtle populations and record the cultural/nutritional importance of this resource to the Polynesian inhabitants. Financial support for this short project was provided by a grant from the World Wildlife Fund. The office for Tokelau Affairs gave me passage at no cost on their supply vessel out of Apia. I regret that circumstances and timing did not allow me to meet with you during your recent trips to Hawaii and Western Samoa. Dr. Philip Helfrich, Director of our institute, told me that you had been to Tokelau several years ago. It seems likely that I once again could have benefited from your insights.

My report on Tokelau for the World Wildlife Fund will be completed by the end of January. I will be sure to send you a copy. In the meantime, I would like to know if your office would be receptive to proposals concerning the management of sea turtle resources in the Pacific islands, such as at Tokelau. The overall goal of such work would be to reinforce traditional conservation practices and achieve a balance between the use of turtles for human needs and the protection of the breeding stock. Some efforts need to be undertaken along these lines or the resources will surely be lost to future generations of Pacific islanders. Is this an area of work that could be funded by your office? As you may know, SPC is not currently interested in funding projects involving sea turtles, although they did co-host a workshop in December of 1979. Any information or advice that you can offer to me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

October 19, 1981

Mark Gentle
Assistant Fisheries Officer
South Pacific Commission
Post Box D 5
Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Mark:

Your letter of 8 October 1981 was received on the day I was leaving for Samoa. I will answer it after my return on October 30th.

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

October 2, 1981

Ms. Nancy Hammond
Program Administrator
World Wildlife Fund-U.S.
1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

This letter responds to your request for review comments on the proposal "Abundance, Distribution and Movements of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles" submitted to WWF-US by Steven Cornelius and Douglas Robinson. The March 1981 report for the initial year of this project is on file here at my office, therefore I am aware of the work activities and progress thus far accomplished.

It is my opinion that this proposal should be funded by WWF in that it represents an extremely valuable piece of research with far-reaching potential benefits for olive ridleys in Costa Rica, as well as other areas of the world. The only constructive suggestions that I have to offer are as follows:

- 1) Duplicate sets of all tagging records should be stored at some appropriate location in the United States to protect against unforeseen accidental loss or damage of the records on file at the University of Costa Rica.
- 2) The smaller size no. 681 Monel tags should be used on adult olive ridleys, in that this size of tag is far more appropriate for the size of the turtle. These smaller tags will undoubtedly be less susceptible to tag loss that results from tearing and biting.

I appreciate having the opportunity to assist you in your proposal evaluation process.

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

October 2, 1981

Dr. George R. Hughes
Natal Parks, Game and
Fish Preservation Board
P. O. Box 662
Pietermaritzburg 3200
South Africa

Dear George:

Many thanks for your letter of 14 September which included some kind words about my commitment to communicate current sea turtle information to you (and other Turtle Group members). It seems to me that this is one of the few concrete things we can do, as a group. I have tried to take the lead in this as Archie's assistant.

The only enclosure with your letter was a copied letter to John Rudge from Jim Wood dated 24 July 1981.

The reply from Jim Wood to your inquiry, plus a third inquiry you mentioned, was not enclosed. I will, of course, be interested to learn what was said about Mike Bean's summary.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

CAPTIVE REARED GREEN SEA TURTLES RELEASED INTO THE WILD

Over the past few weeks the Honolulu Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service has released a total of 165 8-lb yearling green sea turtles (Chelonia mydas) at coastal sites on Oahu, the neighbor islands, and at French Frigate Shoals. The releases were carried out in cooperation with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The liberated turtles were originally obtained as one-ounce day old hatchlings at French Frigate Shoals, a remote site in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands located 500 miles from Honolulu where green sea turtles go to breed. French Frigate Shoals is a unit of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Following transport to Oahu by chartered aircraft in September of 1980, the hatchlings were reared under contract to Sea Life Park for a one-year period. The objective of this project was to evaluate an experimental marking procedure involving small pieces of white tissue surgically grafted into the hatchlings' black shell. The study's overall results are still being analyzed, but the technique appears to be promising for certain types of marking needs in the research of sea turtle populations.

The green sea turtle has experienced declines in both numbers and range as the result of man's overexploitation and encroachment on habitat. The species is now fully protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife regulations of the State of Hawaii. It is hoped that the 165 turtles that have been released will eventually become part of the breeding colony as mature adults. The ability of captive reared sea turtles to successfully adapt to the wild and grow to adulthood is not known for certain. However, in several other areas of the world where similar rearing or "headstart" projects have been undertaken, some encouraging results have been achieved. Nevertheless, many years will very likely be needed in order to positively demonstrate the value of this restocking conservation practice. Green sea turtles do not mature until they reach an average shell length of about 36 inches and a weight of 200 lbs. The turtles grow very slowly in the wild where they feed primarily on algae (limu) and sea grasses. On-going tagging studies here in Hawaii indicate that naturally occurring turtles can take anywhere from 10 to 60 years to grow to adulthood.

All of the young turtles that have been released are individually identified with a small numbered metal tag attached to a front flipper. Information from the public on the sightings of these tagged turtles will be appreciated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, TELEPHONE WILLIAM GILMARTIN OR GEORGE BALAZS
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE- 946-2181

October 2, 1981

Ms. Nancy Hammond
Program Administrator
World Wildlife Fund-U.S.
1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

Dear Nancy:

This letter responds to your request for review comments on the proposal "Abundance, Distribution and Movements of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles" submitted to WWF-US by Steven Cornelius and Douglas Robinson. The March 1981 report for the initial year of this project is on file here at my office, therefore I am aware of the work activities and progress thus far accomplished.

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I appreciate having the opportunity to assist you in your proposal evaluation process.

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

September 29, 1981

Mr. Hiroshi Yokoyama
Executive Director
All Japan Coral Fisheries Association
No. 2 Awaya Bldg. (6th Floor)
4 - 3 - 4 Tsukiji, Chuo-ku
Tokyo, JAPAN

Dear Mr. Yokoyama:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with information on the occurrence of sea turtles at 35-45°N Lat. in the Pacific Ocean. Do the Japanese vessels that fish for precious coral ever observe turtles in this area? Any details that you can send me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GBB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 21, 1980

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

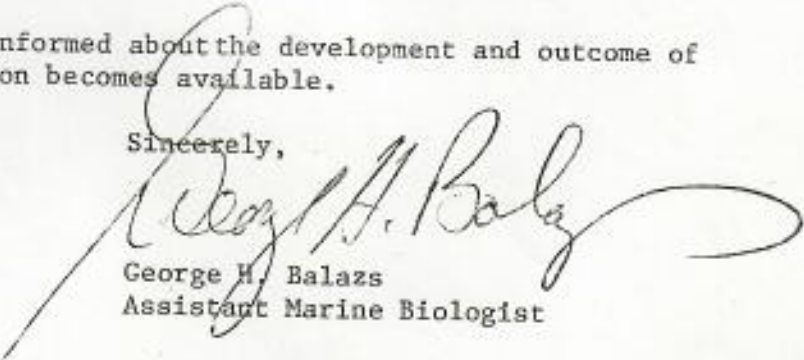
Dear Mr. Spinks:

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

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

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

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
September 18, 1981

Dr. Peter Pritchard
Florida Audubon Society
PO Drawer 7
Maitland, Florida 32751

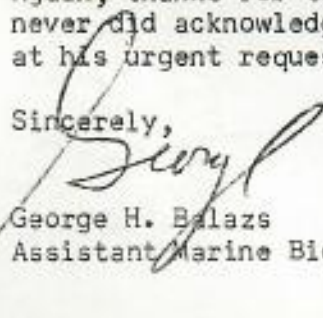
Dear Peter:

Thank for taking the time to express your views to me in your letter of September 9th. I have no intention of copying this letter to anyone- that is, unless you want me to for some purpose.

One thing that I do want to make clear is that I did not recommend or suggest that you remove certain members of your Recovery Team because they "disagree" (See p2 paragraph 3 of your letter). My point was that such individuals should be ousted for their "intellectual totalitarism" of rejecting in hand the Conference Conservation Strategy because Wayne King had some involvement in preparing it. This isn't disagreement- it is plain nonsense prejudice of the worst kind that should not be tolerated. Honest disagreements are always present in task groups. However, what you described to me goes far beyond this.

Again, thanks for taking the time to acknowledge my letters. Fred Barry never did acknowledge receipt of the review comments that I sent to him at his urgent request.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 2, 1981

Georgia Charuhas de H.
Calle 62, No. 484
Merida
Yucatan, Mexico

Dear Georgia Charuhas:

Dr. Wayne King, Director of the Florida State Museum, has told me of your concern for sea turtles and suggested that I send you literature on my conservation and research activities here in Hawaii. Dr. King also sent me the name and address of your friend (Cesar Clairin Luna) in Quintana Roo. By copy of this letter, I am also sending him this assortment of sea turtle literature.

If you feel that there is any way that I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards and Aloha,

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

GHB:md

Encls.

cc: Cesar Clairin Luna

August 31, 1981

Mr. C. R. Bavin
Chief, Division of Law Enforcement
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Bavin:

I am writing to inquire about the law enforcement matter that I brought to your attention last March, as acknowledged by your letter of April 8 (FWS/LE INV-8-0, copy attached). I would appreciate learning what actions may have been taken to rectify the illegal trade described.

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

August 31, 1981

Dr. Peter C. H. Pritchard
Florida Audubon Society
P. O. Drawer 7
Maitland, Florida 32751

Dear Peter:

There is something patently ludicrous in what you wrote to me about why the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy will not be included in the SE Sea Turtle Recovery Plan, and why it probably couldn't be reprinted in the forthcoming Research and Conservation Manual (that is, Wayne King's name on the Strategy rendered it "suspect" by certain team members).

As you know, the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy was a committee effort that was subsequently modified and adopted by the Conference as a whole. The Conference itself was, of course, sponsored in part by NMFS. If some of your Recovery Team members are indeed preventing the reprinting of the Sea Turtle Conservation Strategy because Wayne was among those involved in framing the document, then I think you should take steps to have those individuals removed from the team, or at the very least have their nonsense publicly exposed for scrutiny. I certainly don't see how you can continue on in good faith as a co-leader without taking some remedial action.

Presumably, I have the perogative of providing you with this unsolicited advice in my capacity as official Consultant to the SE Recovery Team.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Fred Berry
Archie Carr, Chairman-Marine Turtle Group

LARGE SEA TURTLE FOUND LIVING IN THE ALA WAI BOAT HARBOR

A large green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) estimated to weigh over 250 lbs has been found living in calm waters well inside the Ala Wai Boat Harbor. Telephone reports from concerned boat owners and other individuals prompted sea turtle biologist George Balazs to investigate the matter by swimming underwater in the area where the animal had been regularly seen sleeping. The turtle was found to be in a weakened and somewhat sick condition, possibly as the result of several large tumors seen on the back portion of the shell and hind flippers.

The cause of such tumors on Hawaiian green sea turtles is currently unknown, however their occurrence seems to be on the increase. In some turtles, even small young ones, these tumors grow so extensively that the eyes become covered over. Tissue samples of tumors removed from dead turtles found washed ashore over the past few years have been sent to a specialist at the Smithsonian Institution (in Washington, D.C.) in an effort to explain the affliction. No conclusive results have been obtained, but analyses are still underway.

The turtle living in the Ala Wai Boat Harbor was found to have numbered identification tags attached to its front flippers- tags that Balazs himself had placed on the turtle while she was nesting at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands during June of 1978. French Frigate Shoals, a unit of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is located about 500 miles northwest of Honolulu and is the principal breeding site for the Hawaiian population of green sea turtles. Based on tagging studies exemplified by this recent tag recovery, adult green sea turtles are known to regularly migrate back and forth between French Frigate Shoals and numerous sites throughout the Hawaiian chain. The Ala Wai Boat Harbor is not a location where normal healthy turtles regularly live. The turtle living there at present is believed to have taken up residency because of its weakened condition, and also possibly due to the periodic blooms of jellyfish that green turtles sometimes find attractive for food.

The public is asked not to disturb the turtle, but rather give her every opportunity to recover from her ailment. Sea turtles are fully protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and wildlife laws of the State of Hawaii.

prepared by George Balazs
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
University of Hawaii (247-6631)
currently affiliated with the
National Marine Fisheries Service
Honolulu Laboratory (946-2181)

August 31, 1981

Ms. Jean Bradfish
Executive Editor
Sea Frontiers
3979 Rickenbacker Causeway
Virginia Key, Miami, FL 33149

Dear Mrs. Bradfish:

I am writing to ask if you would be interested in considering a general interest article on Rose Atoll for publication in Sea Frontiers. Rose Atoll is a part of our National Wildlife Refuge System located about 150 miles to the east of Pago Pago, American Samoa. It is a small, remote and unique site that is uninhabited and very seldom visited. During November of last year, I was fortunate to be part of a small scientific party that visited Rose by chartered fishing boat. We spent four days at the atoll surveying seabirds, sea turtles, terrestrial flora, and marine resources in the shallow lagoon.

To aid in your evaluation of this suggested article, I have enclosed 11 color slides taken during my visit, as well as a descriptive brochure issued by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If you find interest in this topic, I can provide you with a draft article of approximately 1500 words sometime before the end of the year.

Thank you for your consideration. Please return the enclosed slides, but feel free to make copies at this time if you wish.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encls.

August 31, 1981

Office of Marine Mammals
& Endangered Species
National Marine Fisheries Service
U. S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Sir:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the Marine Mammal Annual Report (4/80 - 3/81) which I understand is now available.

Thank you for your assistance.

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
August 26, 1981

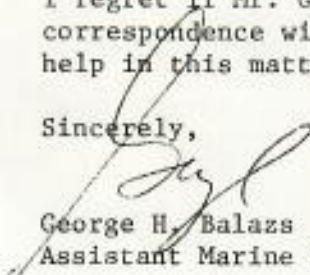
Mr. Eric Onizuka
Division of Aquatic Resources

Dear Eric:

I hesitate to sign this permit as it is now written because there are some errors present. The 10 hatchlings will not be collected "in the waters of French Frigate Shoals", but rather they will be excavated from nests in which natural hatching and emergence has already taken place. The hatchlings will therefore be salvaged, that is, they would otherwise be doomed if we were not there to rescue them for this conservation and education project with the Seattle Aquarium.

I regret if Mr. Girth did not make these points clear in correspondence with Mr. Ono. Thank you for your continuing help in this matter.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

August 24, 1981

Dr. Samuel Gruber
Rosenstiel School of Marine &
Atmospheric Sciences
University of Miami
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, Florida 33149

Dear Dr. Gruber:

I thought that you would like to have a copy of the enclosed article from the August 19, 1981 Honolulu Star-Bulletin relating to shark attacks in Florida. I have also enclosed a reprint of a paper on Hawaiian shark attacks that I recently authored with Alan Kam.

Are you aware of any publications that provide historical information on shark attacks in Florida, such as has been compiled for Hawaii? I am not familiar with the "National Underwater Accident Data Center" mentioned in the newspaper article, and therefore would appreciate any specifics that you can send me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 24, 1981

Mr. Adrian Akau
Pahala High School
Pahala, Hawaii 96777

Dear Mr. Akau:

It was a pleasure to speak with you about sea turtles during my study visit to Kau during late July. Our fieldwork proved to be very successful, with a number of green turtles being tagged and recovered with old tags.

I thought that you would be interested in the enclosed literature on sea turtles, some of which may prove useful as a teaching aid at your school. If you come across any interesting observations of turtles on the Big Island, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

August 5, 1981

Dr. George Pisani, Editor
Herpetological Review
Division of Biological Sciences
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Dear Dr. Pisani:

Thank you for your note of May 26 concerning the seal/green turtle photo. I regret my delay in responding, but I have been away from my office for extended periods.

You are absolutely justified in being puzzled by my note of May 18. As you pointed out, a very similar photo and caption was used in the HR10 (4) 1979 issue. This was an oversight on my part and I apologize. The problem was partially due to the fact that someone "walked off" with my 10(4) issue some time ago, and I had completely forgotten that the photo was indeed printed.

Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

August 5, 1981

Mr. Craig Van Note
Executive Vice President
Monitor
1506 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Van Note:

For several years now, I have been regularly receiving the Monitor information packets sent out by your fine organization. This was initiated following a request that I serve as a consultant member of Monitor's committee on sea turtle conservation.

I want to express my appreciation and enthusiasm for Monitor's information packets. They are consistently one of the most valuable pieces of mail that I receive. In addition to the timely articles on sea turtles, I almost always find items covering a wide variety of conservation topics that I reproduce and remail to colleagues, both in the U. S. and in foreign countries.

I would like to continue receiving the information packets. Hopefully your financial supporters will also recognize the great value of this information network and see fit to designate funds for this purpose.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

August 5, 1981

Mr. Rob Milne, Chief
International Affairs Division
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Milne:

I am writing to request information on the procedure that should be followed to nominate a U. S. location as a World Heritage Site. Jeffrey McNeely, Executive Officer of IUCN/CNPPA, recently suggested that I contact you in this regard concerning my interest in nominating French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I believe that a strong persuasive case can be made for this unique site.

Thank you for any assistance that you are able to provide.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosure

August 18, 1981

Mr. W. E. Stringer
4153 Montego Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

Dear Mr. Stringer:

Thank you very much indeed for your informative and interesting letter of July 26th reporting the sighting of our tagged sea turtle. This turtle, a young Kemp's ridley, was tagged and released along with others during early June 1981 about three miles off of North Padre Island. The project is being conducted by Dr. James McVey of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Galveston Laboratory. Some of my special alloy tags were applied to these turtles to test their resistance to corrosion.

I have passed your letter on to Dr. McVey and he will undoubtedly be writing to thank you in the near future. If you see any other tagged turtles, please let us know.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

July 15, 1981

Mr. Stanley T. Arakaki
Chief, Operations Branch
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858

Dear Mr. Arakaki:

The attached copied postcard dated June 12, 1981 was sent to me in response to my testimony of June 2nd pertaining to the proposed construction of a boat-launching ramp at Nohili, Barking Sands, Kauai. No further correspondence has as yet been received on this subject. I would be interested to learn of the current status of this proposal, and what time-frames are involved in your decision making process. When may I anticipate receiving a response to the questions that I have raised?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

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

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

July 8, 1981

Mr. Larry LaRochelle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Wildlife Permit Office
P. O. Box 3654
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. LaRochelle:

I would appreciate receiving copies of the documents and other information submitted in conjunction with the PRT-2-7837 application by the Commander, Naval Forces of the Caribbean. This notice appeared in the Federal Register (Volume 46, No. 99) on May 22, 1981. I would also like to know if the permit has now been granted and, if so, under what conditions.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist
on behalf of the
IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

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

July 8, 1981

Mr. G. S. deSilva
East Coast National Parks
Regional Office
Box 768
Sandakan, Sabah
EAST MALAYSIA

Dear Stanley:

I am sorry to have taken so long to answer your letter of May 23rd. It arrived here in Honolulu while I was at French Frigate Shoals tagging green turtles, as I have done each June for the past eight years.

After I wrote to Lucas Chin, Wayne King sent him a follow-up letter endorsing my suggestion for the moratorium on egg collections and offering other words of encouragement. As yet, I have not received further correspondence on this subject. Both Wayne and Archie visited our home for part of an evening on May 24th on their way to Papua New Guinea. Although numerous topics were touched upon in the short time available, the Sarawak problem never came up. I therefore assume that the matter is indeed in abeyance.

I was gratified to learn that you would want me to serve in a consultancy to survey nesting beaches with you in Sabah, should funds become available. However, the 5-month period you mentioned would probably preclude my involvement. I could not leave my family for that long, and it would probably be very difficult for the three of us to move to Sabah for 5 months. Nevertheless, if and when the funds are designated for the project, I would at least like to have the opportunity to consider this in greater detail.

Under separate cover, I am sending you several articles on sea turtles that I thought you would find interesting. We send you and your family best regards and Aloha.

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

July 8, 1981

The British Trust
for Ornithology
Tring, Hertfordshire
ENGLAND

Dear Sirs:

If possible, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the short article entitled "Seabird Slaughter" authored by W. Bourne and C. Mead that appeared in a 1969 issue of your publication. I have not been able to locate this paper here in Hawaii.

Thank you for any assistance you are able to provide to this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

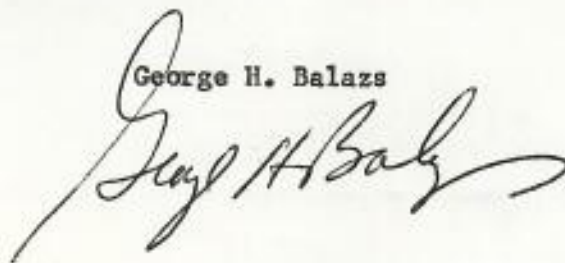
SEA TURTLES AS NATURAL FISH-AGGREGATION DEVICES

The value of green sea turtles as ecological, educational and aesthetic components of our Hawaiian marine environment is well-known to many residents and tourists who have seen these great reptiles swimming in island waters. These reasons alone seem sufficient to justify current protective laws aimed at preventing further population declines following many years of heavy and uncontrolled exploitation. However, an additional benefit of special interest to the fishing community has now come to light. The following short but true "fish story" was recently related to me by my colleague, John Naughton, of the National Marine Fisheries Service:

While trolling between Kauai and Niihau during calm weather, a turtle about two-feet long was seen floating at the surface with several seabirds circling overhead. A closer inspection revealed the presence of small fish aggregated under the turtle along with two mahi mahi. As the boat passed by, the turtle quickly dove out of sight and both fish were hooked-up and landed. The total catch amounted to a respectable 40 lbs.

Maybe there is something to the Japanese "Urashima Taro" folk-tale where the sea turtle becomes the fisherman's good friend!

George H. Balazs



992 Awaawaanoa Place
Honolulu, HI 96825



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

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

Dear Rob:

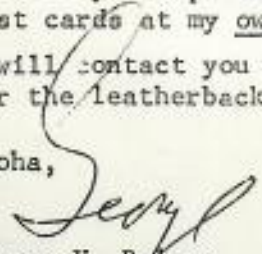
I am pleased to report that the leatherback and flatback turtle photos (by P. Pritchard & C. Limpus) that you kindly consented to fund are now on their way to being printed into color postcards. Because of a lower cost and higher quality product, I am having this carried out by a Honolulu-based publishing company that has their postcards done by Colorscan in Australia. You will recall that I sent you one of the postcards printed by this company to show you the quality of their work. I am convinced that we could not do better. The cost will be less than 5¢ per card for the 6500 minimum order per photo. The other company's price (that I described earlier) was 7¢ per card, so this will represent a good savings. The reason I am getting such a low price is because my Honolulu contact is handling the transaction without taking any profit for himself. He was recently awarded distribution rights for the Hawaii Audubon Society's color booklet entitled "Hawaii's Birds". I am the current President of the Hawaii Audubon Society, and he is handling the postcard project as a helpful favor to me.

Payment for the cards will not have to be made until the latter portion of the production process - perhaps in about 7-8 weeks. The total amount will not exceed \$650 (5¢ x 6500 x 2 cards). This includes prepaid shipping from Australia to Honolulu. From here, I will make the necessary arrangements to have them shipped to you in Washington for further distribution.

I was so impressed with the bargain price and quality product that I am having two of my own photos of a nesting green and a nesting hawksbill made into post cards at my own personal expense.

I will contact you again when I have an invoice showing the exact amount due for the leatherback and flatback post cards.

Aloha,


George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

PS The name Chelonia Institute and your mailing address will appear on the postcards in small print. Captions describing the turtles were written by Peter Pritchard (in English & Spanish, at my request) and Colin Limpus. My name will also appear on the cards, in small print, as a co-publisher.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 3, 1981

Dr. L.M. Ehrhart
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Central Florida
Orlando, FL 32816

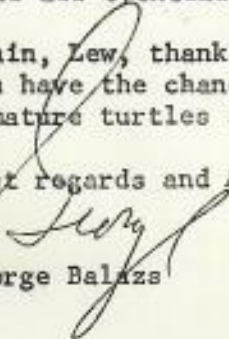
Dear Lew:

It certainly is with deep regret that I have to return your two loggerhead slides without having them made into color postcards, as originally envisioned. I was only able to convince Rob Truland to provide funds for two of the postcards- the leatherback and the flatback (photos by P.Pritchard and C. Limpus). The argument I used was that it would be virtually impossible to find underwater photos for these two species. If I didn't mention it to you already, apparently Rob Truland has a strong bias against photos of turtles on land nesting. This unfortunately wasn't made clear to me when I first approached him for funds. Needless to say, I wish that it had been. It is now somewhat difficult (and embarrassing) to be returning the various photos that had been selected as appropriate, but were rejected by the funder. I also take the blame for a good chunk of this, because I should have insisted on a written agreement with advance funding.

The leatherback and flatback photos have just recently been turned over to a publisher here in Honolulu who will have them printed in (of all places) Australia. The price and quality are really good now there. Entirely out of my own pocket, I am also having postcards made of the green and hawksbill, using photos I have taken. I have yet to figure out exactly how I will distribute them, because they won't be sent to Rob Truland like the others. Nevertheless, I'm sure it will all eventually work out.

Again, Lew, thank you very much for your patience through all of this. When you have the chance, I would really like to hear of your recent work with immature turtles in the lagoon.

Best regards and Aloha,


George Balazs

2 slides enclosed



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

July 3, 1981

Laura Tangley
4020 Javins Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310

Dear Laura:

It is indeed with regret that I have to return your remaining two Kemps ridley slides without having them made into color post cards as envisioned. Rob Truland did finally agree to provide funds for two of the species, the leatherback and the flatback photographed by Peter Pritchard and Col Limpus. The only reason I could talk him into these two (or at least the argument I presented) is because it would be almost impossible to find decent underwater photos, like he preferred. I have no objection to Rob Truland's bias for photos of turtles underwater, I only wish that he would have made this point very clear to me in the beginning when I first approached him about the possibility of funds. Nevertheless, the leatherback and flatback photos have now been turned over to a publisher here in Honolulu who will have the postcards printed at a reasonable cost in (of all places) Australia. They should be delivered in about three months. At my own expense, I am also having postcards made of the hawksbill and green turtle, using photos that I have taken. I guess that more or less shows that I am indeed committed to this project and believe in its conservation and education value. I haven't quite figured out how I'm going to handle these postcards on my own- but something will work out- it usually does. I'll be sure to send you some when they are completed.

I hope that you had a successful, educational and fun stay in Mexico. How did the Kemps season go? I understand that Peter is no longer involved. I wonder if I'll ever see a real-life Kemps nesting, or only in photos or stuffed in a museum.

I would like to hear from you when you have the time. Again, thank you for bearing with me through all of the ups and downs in this postcard matter. I for one still think your photos are the greatest! I made a duplicate to use in my slide lectures to school kids- hope this was alright.

Best regards-Aloha


George Balazs

24 June 81

Miss Lisa Phillips
c/o A. J. Noon
24 Macaulay Street
Coorparoo
Brisbane, Queensland
AUSTRALIA

Dear Miss Phillips:

You will be pleased to learn that on May 27th at 3:00 p.m. the bottle containing your message of September 27, 1976 washed ashore near my campsite on East Island, French Frigate Shoals, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The bottle beached itself near a large green sea turtle that was basking in the sun. The time and distance involved since you set the bottle afloat suggests that it may have traveled in circles around the North Pacific. Your message was in excellent condition and perfectly legible. I have enclosed a photocopy, but if you wish, I can send the original when I find out if this is still your correct mailing address.

East Island is a 12 acre uninhabited islet situated in the middle of a 16-mile long reef area named French Frigate Shoals. There are nine other small sand islets in the area, as well as a basalt rock pinnacle of 125 feet in height. French Frigate Shoals is about 500 miles northwest of Honolulu and a part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The May 1976 issue of National Geographic Magazine has an excellent article and color photograph series on the area.

I have been visiting East Island during late May and June of each year since 1973 to tag and study green sea turtles. The major portion of nesting in the Hawaiian Islands takes place at this site. The turtles have been found to migrate for up to 700 miles to get to East Island.

It was fun to find your message and I look forward to hearing from you.

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

June 29, 1981

Mr. Jeff McNeeley
Executive Officer
CNPPA
IUCN
Gland CH-1196
SWITZERLAND

Dear Mr. McNeeley:

Mrs. Fitter recently suggested that I write to you to obtain information on the World Heritage List. Specifically, I would like to know what course of action would be necessary to have French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands placed on this list. Without going into great detail at this time, I believe that a strong case could be made to have this unique site so designated.

Thank you for any help that you can provide.

Sincerely,

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

GHB:ec



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

June 9, 1981

F/SWC2:GHB

TO: William G. Gilmartin, Leader, Marine Mammal and Endangered Species
Investigation

FROM: George H. Balazs, Fishery Biologist *George H. Balazs*

SUBJECT: Low-level overflights of French Frigate Shoals by military aircraft

At 1140 on June 1, 1981, a Navy four-engine propellor aircraft made two overflights of East Island at 500-800 feet. The aircraft came into the Shoals from the east at this same approximate altitude, and departed in the direction of Whale-Skate Island. No radio contact was made with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel on Tern Island.

The passes over East Island where I was camped caused most of the adult seabirds to take flight. I was not at a location to observe the responses, if any, of monk seals or basking green turtles. On June 1st, there were at least 14 monk seals with pups present on or in waters adjacent to the island.

John Andre, resident biologist at Tern Island, has informed me that several of these low-level overflights involving military aircraft have taken place since last December. If this is developing into a regular practice, as appears to be the case, then some action needs to be taken to have it terminated. I believe that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations pertaining to National Wildlife Refuges prohibit low-level transiting of aircraft. I do not know if this restriction currently appears on both civilian and military aeronautical maps.

If the flights over French Frigate Shoals are being undertaken to keep a lookout for shipwreck victims, it seems likely that the same objective could be accomplished at a much higher altitude where the possibilities of wildlife disturbance would be greatly reduced.

June 25, 1981

Mr. Mark Wexler
Senior Editor
National/International Wildlife
225 E. Michigan
Milwaukee, WIS 53202

Dear Mark:

I greatly appreciated the copy of National Wildlife that you recently sent to me containing your super article on Kim Cliffton's work with Mexican green turtles. I was fortunate to spend a few days with Kim at Maruata Bay in September of 1979. On my first night out on the beach, I realized that I was indeed with a "get involved" researcher when we included a 45 automatic with the tagging gear! We all hope that Kim's positive influence can continue; he undoubtedly represents one of the few chances for survival for this very special stock of "black" green turtles.

I too would like to see you do an article relating to some aspect of Hawaiian Wildlife (preferably incorporating sea turtles in part). Overall coverage of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge), with special focus on French Frigate Shoals, would seem to be the most interesting possibility. Have you seen the piece that appeared in the May 1978 National Geographic? This may help to give you an idea of the potential. Whatever you eventually decided you can feel confident that I will help you out in whatever way possible.

Did I ever send you a copy of my 1981 calendar containing color photos of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands?

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 28, 1981

Dear Peter:

I appologize for the delay in responding to your letter of March 19th. As usual, there are too many things to be accomplished within the available time. Nevertheless, I am giving it my best effort.

I find it difficult, if not impossible, to adequately answer at this time the central question posed in your letter. That is, do I "think there are now enough international safeguards to justify our beginning to re-evaluate the unacceptability of the farm to turtle conservationists".

I simply don't have the first-hand information on:

- 1) new SSC and CITES policies on ranching of Appendix I species;
- 2) any new data on CTF being truly closed-cycle on a sustained basis. The most current information on hand was that presented by Jim Wood, and analyzed by Mike Bean, at the Washington Conference. It all certainly looked dismal and deceptive to me (ie "self-sufficient" in eggs, but not in hatchlings because the majority of eggs never result in hatchings)
- 3) a reasonable data-based assurance that farming (and ranching) will not lead to expansion of existing markets, which in turn will jeopardize wild turtles;
- 4) a reasonable data-based assurance that farmed and ranched products can be easily and inexpensively identified by enforcement and importation officials.

I have seen the BHSB articles that you mentioned, but see nothing that I could call "persuasive". It simply looked like a rewrite of the same old complaints. I was, however, somewhat suprised to read in your letter that you have now changed your viewpoint and consider yourself to be a "neutralist" and self-appointed mediator. I would be interested to learn what new facts have been brought to your attention to warrant this change of opinion. As you mentioned, you have been an outspoken opponent in the past, along with others (myself included).

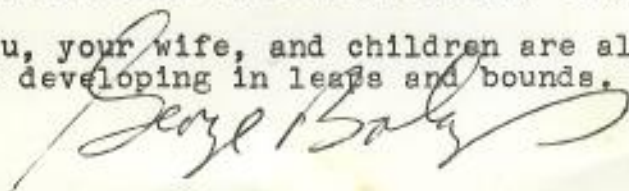
In closing for now, I might ask you if the onus of "endorsing" or "rejecting" CTF, or any other farming or ranching operation, really rests with the Turtle Group? I don't really think so. In fact, wasn't this one of the points that was resolved at the ad hoc meeting in Miami in 1974? It seems to me that our "Principles and Recommendations" are still valid and constitute a thoughtful, well-conceived document. Also, I should call your attention to the Conservation Strategy of the Washington Conference, specifically section IIIc. Have all of the conditions listed in this section now been fulfilled?

While we were in Costa Rica in 1978 you told me that CTF actually maintains dossiers on researchers/conservationists in order to establish a "rating" on how sympathetic they will be to the facility. If I remember correctly, you said that I had a pretty low score ("rabid" to quote you exactly). I suppose that the above opinions that I have expressed will be viewed as grounds for keeping me in this category.

The enclosed information that I am sending to you is all self explanatory.

I hope that you, your wife, and children are all well. Our son seems to be growing and developing in leaps and bounds.

Best regards,



SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

March 19, 1981

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

Dear George:

Thanks for your letter. Enclosed is a Spanish version of the text for the Dermochelys postcard caption.

There have been a few interesting developments that you may or may not know about. The Cayman Turtle Farm is winding down, slaughtering most of its stock, and converting into a public exhibit and research facility, also providing some meat for local consumption. However, at the same time they are aware of the general pro-business tone of the Reagan Administration and are, I believe, making a last-ditch effort to have the domestic ban on their product lifted, in which case they will doubtless do back to full production. Part of this I have heard directly from the Farm, part is inference. If the farm does go to a non-exporting mode, it will have satisfied those who disagree with international commerce in turtles on principle, but it will probably be the end of "favors", e.g. paying the costs of maintaining the captive ridley herd, or supporting the Marine Turtle Newsletter (did I hear you say "good"???). Nevertheless, what is especially interesting is that IUCN and CITES have now endorsed the concept of ranching for commercial export of Appendix I species, provided the population drawn from is capable of withstanding exploitation in this way (in which case it would be locally downgraded to Appendix II), and providing incidental conservation benefits can be demonstrated. Since one of the main criticisms of the "Farm" over the years was that it was a ranch and not a farm (though it has been closed-cycle for about three years now), the assumption is that a true farm is "better" than a ranch. CTF has also been gaining support from other quarters - the most recent issue of the British Herpetological Society bulletin included about four pro-Cayman Farm articles, some of them by British herpetologists and others by predictable, but persuasive, boosters (i.e. Brongersma and Johnson). I can send you xeroxes if you are interested.

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

In my self-appointed role as neutralist and mediator on Cayman Farm matters,
I would be interested in knowing if you think there are now enough interna-
tional safeguards to justify our beginning to reevaluate the unacceptability
of the farm to turtle conservationists. I feel strange being in this position
since for years I felt as strongly against it as you, and only gradually
realized that the real picture was more complex, and the market stimulation
threat that was so obvious before CITES and the endangered species act may
now be less of a threat. In other words, I think we should some time either
align our policy along with the new SSC and CITES policies on ranching of
Appendix I species, or else clarify why we think the Turtle Farm is a special
case that should still not be approved. Incidentally, the Reunion turtle
farm appears to be in full swing - I talked with Bonnet at the India meeting,
who was a little upset by some of the remarks I made about his operation in
the Marine Turtle Newsletter.

I would be interested in hearing your thoughts. My own mind on these matters is certainly not made up, but I believe the concept of commercial turtle farming or ranching (as is done in Surinam) is now considerably more sophisticated from the situation of ten years ago when Mariculture's rather dangerous advertising policies turned a number of people against turtle farming. I cannot help reflecting that the only country in South America in which turtles are well managed is Surinam, and that is the one country where turtle conservation is now tied in with a commercial ranching operation. I wouldn't bet a nickle on the long-term survival prospects of sea turtles in any other South American country, except perhaps French Guiana which is a special case in terms of low human population density and little economic need to exploit natural resources.

Best regards to you and Linda,

Nidia E. Huffman

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

*Signed in his absence
to avoid delay*

enc

PCHP/nh

SINCE NINETEEN HUNDRED



"THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION"

May 7, 1981

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

Dear George:

Thanks for your letter and the copies of the material from Rob Truland. I hope you manage to work something out with regards to the latter. Truland may well have a better eye than you and I as to what kind of pictures the general uninformed public would find most attractive. Perhaps it would be possible to assemble pictures of each kind of sea turtle chosen to show attractively, brightly marked specimens as well as possible. Underwater pictures would do well if they were taken with a color-compensated flash at rather short range, so they didn't appear too blue-green. On the other hand, specimens on land that had just been washed down with water might also be useful. They could be presented on a pure-white background since in most cases such pictures would have a distinctly unnatural background. The use of only adult turtles makes sense from the point of view of making comparisons, but on the other hand to show the "prettiest" representatives one could find of each species, whatever their age, may do more to get the mindless masses to turn on to sea turtles; and I presume that is the target group you are after.

Regarding our discussion of farming and ranching matters: I should have prefaced my argument by emphasizing that my personal morality has not changed; I do not eat turtle products, nor wear them, or have any dealings with them (although I do maintain a scientific reference collection of sea turtle material - all of it salvaged rather than killed for the purpose). However, as I grow older it is becoming more and more apparent that much of the rest of the world does not share my particular ethic on this issue, and shows no signs of doing so in the future. While not giving up efforts to close markets down wherever possible (i.e. via CITES etc.), it does not take a very astute political observer to detect that, in the US at least, the atmosphere for endangered species protection and the funding of endangered species research is going from bad to worse. The turtle farm continues to exist, and holds the potential for funding sea turtle projects, doing direct sea turtle conservation themselves (e.g. with the ridleys, which

FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Dr. George Balazs

May 7, 1981

Page 2

could well be cut off from all federal support with the next year or so), and also for being allies in the struggle to keep wild products off the market.

Perhaps you have not reached this stage yet, but I find that things that I thought I knew were clearly good or clearly bad become less clearcut as the years go by, and as I learn more about them and see more of the world. For example, I don't know if it is good or bad to sell the "exotic print" boots of which you sent me an advertisement. Perhaps they are good, because they do not consume actual turtles in their manufacture, while still achieving the same look; perhaps they are bad, because a market for a "fake" product may stimulate a market for the real thing; and perhaps - to be even more complex - turtles will only be saved in some countries if they do have this sort of commercial value, since an increasing number of countries will only expend conservation funds on something that will give them a controllable take or a cash return. I cannot help reflecting, as I probably told you before, that Surinam is the only country in South America where turtles can be considered to be safe - and it is the only country doing turtle ranching at present.

Similarly, is it good or bad for the Japanese to set up hawksbill turtle farms in Indonesia? It is bad in that it perpetuates a vogue that I would sooner they did away with altogether; it is good in that it undertakes to supply an existing, and very resilient, market with products that are not taken from the wild.

Despite these complications, there are some things that I know are bad - such as the olive ridley skin industry, all the way from Suarez to the Italian pimp that wears his products.

Regarding your specific four points where you sought new information, partial answers are as follows:

i) I don't have copies of the new SSC and CITES policies on ranching, but essentially they both have come very close to endorsing projects for ranching Appendix I species for commercial purposes if the particular population from which the ranched stock is drawn can stand the pressure (in which case it should be downgraded to Appendix II), and if conservation benefits of the ranching operation are evident. I don't have the exact wording, and you may want to contact CITES or SSC in Gland for written material.

ii) The Farm is closed cycle to the extent that any shortfall of eggs since 1978 and in the future will simply have to be absorbed; they will make less profit from that year's batch of hatchlings. There is little problem in producing enough hatchlings to replace the occasional adult that dies, so if that is the definition, they are certainly self-sufficient. They had two seasons of very poor survivability of hatchlings, due to a health problem that they have now solved by the rather simple expedient of heating the hatchlings' water during the coolest months of the year, using waste heat from the pumps.

iii) The Farm had proposed to have an independent team (from Harvard if my memory serves me correctly) to evaluate the impact of their product on wild turtle populations. However, the figures that they drew together suggested

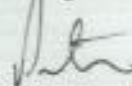
Dr. George Balazs
May 7
Page 3

that they supplied such a small part of world turtle product demand at this stage of the game that they called the project off, assuming that their impact for good or bad would be too small to detect. However, I still think the study should be done (though not necessarily under farm sponsorship).

iv) Technically, there is no problem in producing a tamper-proof seal with a special stamp on shipments of farm products through customs around the world. The only problem is that most countries don't bother intercepting turtle meat of any kind, wild or farmed. The levels of customs enforcement in most parts of the world is so poor that I have rather little confidence in the ability of laws and conventions to stop people importing almost anything. But at least for the US (probably not for the European countries, which have common market agreements with each other etc.), it should not be difficult to separate farm from wild products at the point of entry. It may be more difficult down the pike at the retail stage, and for that reason I do not favor opening US markets to any turtle products (though in my more pessimistic moments I think that may happen anyway).

The BHSB articles did repeat a lot of arguments that we have both heard for years. But they did make a case that I think is valid in at least one instance: the evaluation of turtle farming by the conservation community has not been characterized by a sense of fair play; rather, it has too often been "don't confuse me with facts, I know what I believe - turtle farming is bad, and anything that will stop it is OK." I don't believe that is a good way to settle disputes.

Best regards, as ever,



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

rd P.S. Just had lunch in Washington with Rob Truland -
did my best to keep him interested in the postcard project.



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 20, 1981

Dear Peter:

While I respect the views you expressed in your letter of May 7th, they certainly differ from my own. I'm suprised that you view the "evaluation" of turtle farming in the manner that you stated in the last paragraph of your letter. You yourself have been a key part of each evaluation that has taken place, so how could you describe them as not being characterized by a sense of fair play? Specifically, I am thinking of the "Principles and Recommendations" and the Washington Conservation Strategy, both of which I referred to in my letter. If you felt that all of the facts weren't being considered during the formulation of these documents, you should have refused to participate and raised protest.

Quite honestly, I'm just not all that interested in the turtle farming controversy anymore. At least until something significant comes along in the way of facts. I almost fell asleep reading the BHSB articles, they were so old hat. There are a lot of other things involving sea turtles that can stimulate one's imagination. I've reached a stage where I much prefer to focus on them.

I sent Nicholas a copy of my letter to you since some of the same inquiries had come up over the past several months. I dislike writing the same thing twice, so I just used the xerox machine.

Best wishes for a good summer.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

May 22, 1981

F/SWC2:GHB

TO: William G. Gilmartin, Leader, Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Investigation, Honolulu Laboratory

FROM: George H. Balazs, Fishery Biologist *George Balazs*

SUBJECT: Entanglement of a green turtle in the mooring line of a lobster-larvae collector in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu

On the morning of May 19, 1981, a green turtle was found entangled in the 3/8-in. nylon mooring line of a lobster-larvae collector situated near the east side of the Kaneohe Bay Sampan Channel. The turtle was recovered alive floating at the surface by Jason Akamine, an employee of Sea Grant researcher Craig MacDonald. Based on information provided by Mr. Akamine, the line was entangled only around the neck, with numerous tight loops present. The turtle was subsequently transferred to one of my sea turtle holding cages at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island.

On May 20, 1981, I measured, photographed, tagged, and released the turtle back into Kaneohe Bay. The turtle was found to be 62 cm in straight carapace length, 48 cm in width, and weigh 28 kg (60 lb). Tissue damage was confined to the neck region, with abraded open lesions exhibiting moderate swelling. Overall, the turtle appeared to be in good condition except for a slightly concave configuration to the plastron. This may have been due to total evacuation of the gastrointestinal tract as a result of having been restrained by entanglement for 48 hours or longer.

The lobster-larvae collector under discussion measures 2 ft x 2 ft and was floating at the surface over a depth of approximately 15 ft. The apparatus is normally serviced once every 2 weeks, but in this instance it had not been examined for about 1 month. Various invertebrates and algae were growing on the collector, as normally occurs with any object placed in the ocean environment for a period of time. It seems likely that the turtle was attracted to the collector for feeding purpose, although this is admittedly somewhat speculative. However, a green turtle recovered whole from a tiger shark at Midway was found to have been feeding heavily on gooseneck barnacles, cirripeds that are normally found growing on floating objects.

It is my understanding that approximately 20 of these lobster-larvae collectors will soon be moored at French Frigate Shoals, some of which will be placed within 1/2-mile of the various islets. The monitoring schedule apparently only calls for inspection and servicing once each month. In view of the recent sea turtle/line interaction in Kaneohe Bay (along with other documentations around the world), it would seem prudent to examine the collectors at French Frigate Shoals at shorter periodic intervals, particularly during the early phase of the project which coincides with the turtle breeding season.

June 23, 1981

Mr. John J. Thompson
New Zealand Meteorological Service
P. O. Box 722
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear John:

Many thanks for your note of June 9th along with the records of three sea turtle observations made between Panama and Sydney. This information is greatly appreciated, and hopefully more will be forthcoming as opportunities and circumstances permit.

I have enclosed several sea turtle buttons as a small "reward" to the three gentlemen that made the sightings (R. J. Cresswell, R. Laycock and J. Brennan).

again, thank you for your continuing help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

June 23, 1981

Dr. Richard H. Sams
Alamo Savings Tower East
Suite 707
909 NE Loop 410
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Dr. Sams:

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet you during your short visit to French Frigate Shoals on June 8th.

When your paper relating to Whale-Skate Island is published, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure

May 20, 1981

Dr. William K. Kikuchi
Kauai Community College
RR 1, Box 216
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Dr. Kikuchi:

I enjoyed reading your interesting note on the discovery of a petroglyph at Kenomene Point, Princeville.

On the north shore of Kauai, a short distance to the west of Princeville, there is a coastal site by the Name of HONU POINT. I visited the area last month, but could not find any evidence of sea turtles (honu) using the "beach" or inhabiting the immediate adjacent waters. Do you have any information as to the significance of this place-name? Is it likely to be of a very old origin? Any hints that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
HAWAII INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIOLOGY
B. O. BOX 1346
KANEHOHE, HAWAII 96744

May 18, 1981

Dr. G. Shelton
University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ
ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Shelton:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled

"Cardiovascular dynamics of the Chelonia during apnoea and lung ventilation."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

May 18, 1981

Dr. R. Kaufmann
Inst. Colombo-Alesan
Invest. Cientificas
Santa Marta, COLOMBIA

Dear Dr. Kaufmann:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Observaciones sobre el crecimiento de tortugas marinas en cautividad."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

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

May 18, 1981

Dr. S. Townson
c/o Brit. Herp. Soc.
Zool. Soc. London
Regents Park
London NW1, ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Townson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Observations and notes on the captive breeding of the green turtle on Grand Cayman" (appeared in TESTUDO).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 18, 1981

Dr. H. D. Prange
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Dear Dr. Prange:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a
copy of your article (abstract) entitled
"Responses of sea turtles to graded hypoxia."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:md

May 15, 1981

Dr. D. R. Clark
Fish and Wildlife Service
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
Laurel, MD 20811

Dear Dr. Clark:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Organochlorine residues in eggs of loggerhead and green sea turtles nesting at Merritt Island."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 15, 1981

Mr. J. Feldman
9557 Terrace Pl.
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Dear Mr. Feldman:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled
"A technique for preparing a turtle shell for display."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

May 15, 1981

Dr. J. H. Fischthal
State University of New York
Binghamton, NY 13901

Dear Dr. Fischthal:

If copies are still available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Some digenetic trematodes from Atlantic hawksbill turtle from Puerto Rico."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

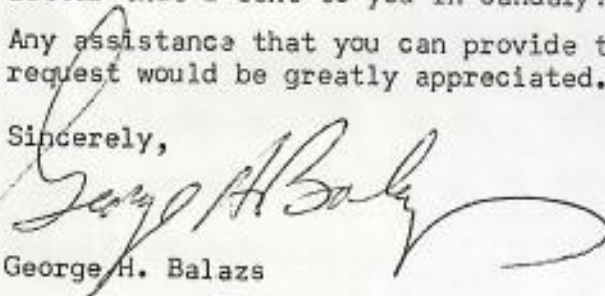
May 15, 1981

Dear Mr. Pai:

I wonder if you ever recieved the attached copied letter that I sent to you in January?

Any assistance that you can provide to this request would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Coconut Island • P. O. Box 1348 • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

January 30, 1981

Mr. Roger Pai
Division of Conservation
and Resources Enforcement
P. O. Box 1006
Wailuku, Maui 96793

Dear Mr. Pai:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in obtaining up-to-date information on green sea turtles that live in coastal waters and possibly nest on sand beaches of the Island of Maui. Which shoreline areas of your island are turtles known to be the most abundant? Are you aware of any nestings that have taken place in recent years? If so, what beach locations were utilized?

Any and all help that you can provide to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a map of Maui for use in marking the areas of importance and interest for turtles.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 29, 1981

Dear

Probably one of the most important activities that we can regularly undertake as members of the IUCN Marine Turtle Group is to exchange current information on the biology and conservation of sea turtles. The foundation of this "information network" would, in my view, be the timely distribution of journal reprints, reports and other publications authored by Group members. I would therefore like to suggest that each of us adopt a policy of automatically sending out such material to all Group members as soon as it is available for distribution. A few individuals have already undertaken this courtesy, but most of us (including myself) have not been doing it on a regular basis.

If for some reason you feel that this is not a good idea, by all means please write to me expressing your views.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs

May 14, 1981

Mr. Clancy Greff
Na Pali Zodiac
P. O. Box 456
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Clancy:

With the impending arrival of our summer ocean conditions around the Hawaiian Islands, I would like to ask for your help in recording significant observations of sea turtles made along the Na Pali Coast. I am especially interested in learning of the numbers and locations of any aggregations that may be seen in coastal waters. Your kind assistance in this regard would be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope, as well as a xerox map of Na Pali that can be marked and returned to me.

Mahalo for any help that you can provide. I hope that your tour service is going well.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 14, 1981

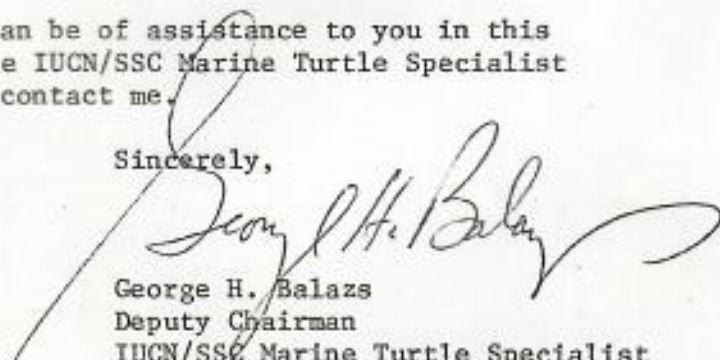
Mr. B. E. Pauncefort
Administrator
Ascension Island
c/o P. O. Box 4608 ASI
Patrick Air Force Base
Florida 32925

Dear Mr. Pauncefort:

I was very sorry to recently learn that Ascension Island may not be issuing the set of postal stamps displaying sea turtles, as previously planned. I do not know what factors are involved in the selection of such stamps, but it is certainly my impression that earlier Ascension issues showing turtles have been attractive, well-received and prized by collectors. Ascension is one of the world's truly classical sites for a breeding colony of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). The seasonal presence of these animals on Ascension's shores, following an amazing navigational feat from South America, has helped to make your small island famous among the scientific community. These turtles represent a unique wild-life heritage of unsurpassed excellence. The pride and stewardship of your residents for the turtles is fully justified, and the issuance of illustrative stamps is a fine way to internationally advertise these attributes.

If there is any way that I can be of assistance to you in this matter, as a representative of the IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Specialist Group, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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

GHB:md

May 13, 1981

Mr. Jack Harter
P. O. Box 306
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Harter:

I want to sincerely thank you for your interesting and informative letter of April 30 concerning sightings of sea turtles around Kauai, and specifically along the Na Pali coast. I realize that in strictly "scientific" terms your observations might be called subjective by some. However, I can assure you that I place great importance on your information, which is backed-up by years of sightings as a skilled helicopter pilot. It would be very difficult indeed for anyone to refute the overall validity of your statements.

Your offer to make daily counts of turtles for a one-month period in the Na Pali area is welcomed and accepted with great enthusiasm. Along with the actual censuses, it would be important to note the approximate wind speed and direction, sea-surface conditions, the relative sizes of the turtles (small, medium, large), and some mention of how close to shore they occur. Times of day that the counts are made could vary within the limits of your flight schedule, in that a principal objective of the month-long study would be to determine the maximum number of turtles that can be seen during any one count.

I believe that it would be best not to send you a formal data sheet to record your information. I want you to have full flexibility in writing down as little, or as much, as you care to during each flight. I fully realize that your main reasons for being up there are to fly the helicopter and escort tourists, not to do research on sea turtles! I have therefore enclosed a bound booklet that you can use for writing the information as you see fit. Among other things, I am also sending along a supply of Xeroxed maps of the Na Pali area. You can use these to mark locations of turtles as may be needed to supplement the counts.

I was intrigued by your mention of seven turtles having recently been seen on the beach at Nualolo. What time of the day did this take place, and approximately how far up the beach were they? Do you think that they may have been nesting, or possibly land basking (sleeping ashore just above the water's edge) such as regularly occurs in the Leeward Islands? Any details that you can offer will be appreciated.

Mr. Jack Harter
Page 2
May 13, 1981

If all goes as planned, I will be leaving by chartered aircraft for French Frigate Shoals on May 25, returning mid to late June. This will be my ninth consecutive year monitoring and tagging green turtles at their principal breeding site in the Hawaiian chain. Numbers of adult females present each year have ranged from 95 to 250. No trends are apparent.

If any exciting observations of turtles are made on Kauai between now and the 25th, or after June, please feel free to telephone me collect at my offices (247-6631 and 946-2181) or at home (395-6409). I am always anxious to learn more about Hawaiian turtles.

Again, many thanks for offering to record sightings of turtles.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

May 4, 1981

Mr. Robert G. Davidson
Department of Fisheries
and Allied Aquacultures
Auburn University, Alabama 36849

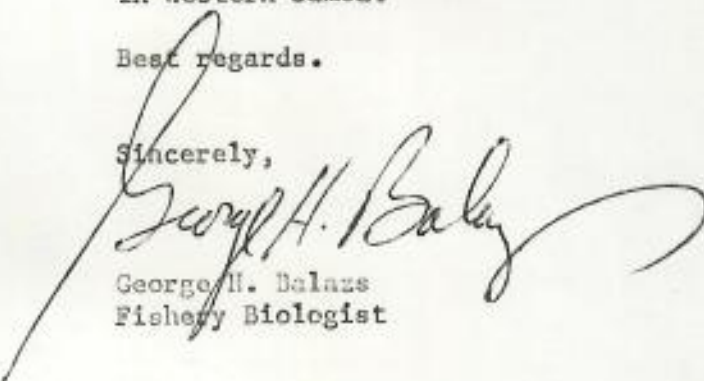
Dear Mr. Davidson:

I have only recently obtained your correct mailing address, therefore I am sending you a copy of the letter that I posted back in February, but undoubtedly never reached you. Your curriculum vitae and letter to Wayne Baldwin were brought to my attention, in that I am a staff member of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology under contract to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

I do hope that you can provide me with some of the answers to questions posed in my letter of February 25th. I would also greatly appreciate receiving a copy of the "efficacy report" on the Aleipata Hatchery that you mentioned in your vitae. Unfortunately, I was not provided with a copy of this document while in Western Samoa.

Best regards.

Sincerely,


George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

GHB:lc

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HONOLULU LABORATORY
P. O. BOX 3830
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96812

February 25, 1981

F/SNC2:GHB

Mr. Bob Davidson
28 Quarry Ridge Road
Monroe, CT 06468

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Recently I returned from a 2-week study visit at the hawksbill turtle hatchery in Aleipata, Western Samoa. In going through the historical records I noted that you were involved in this project as a Peace Corps volunteer sometime during 1977. Although this was 4 years ago, I am hopeful that you will be able to provide me with the answers to some fairly important questions.

My first question relates to the times that you spent overnight on the islets where nesting occurs (Nuulua, Nuutele, and Nausa). Specifically, how many nights were spent on each island, and how many turtles came ashore to nest during each night? Can you recall the dates, or at least the month? Secondly, can you tell me of any observations you may have made of turtles with "notches" in their shell? Were these adults or juveniles? Were they in the market, on the nesting beaches, or at some other location or circumstance? Lastly, can you give me some idea of how many turtles were being taken off the islands by residents for sale to turtle shell merchants in Apia? To your knowledge, was this a common occurrence? Were any particular individuals consistently involved?

Viliamu and his family spoke very highly of you while I was in Aleipata. He is truly a gracious host.

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

Talofa.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

bc: Balazs ✓
HL

GHB: iht

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

May 4, 1981

Dr. Jacques Fretey
Laboratoire des Reptiles et Amphibiens
Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle
25, Rue Cuvier
75005 Paris, France

Cher Collegue:

I am writing to thank you very much for your letter of 8 April 1981, and the sample of Axaflex tags used in your research project. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your informative letter to:

Dr. Steven Cornelius
RR3, Box 216
Mountain View, MD 65548
USA

Dr. Cornelius has used similar plastic tags to tag alive ridleys on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica.

Can you tell me if any corrosion has occurred in the metal (Monel) tags you have used?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

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 3, 1981

Dear Mr. Duerr:

I regret to inform you that I will have to cancel my plans for a research visit to the Village during May. Changes in the air transportation to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will force me to leave for this destination sooner than I had anticipated.

I will contact you again in July to see what arrangements might be convenient at that time.

Best regards and Aloha,

George H. Balazs



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

April 16, 1981

Mr. Fred Duerr
Vice President and General Manager
Kona Village Resort
P. O. Box 1299
Kaupulehu, Kona, HI 96740

Dear Mr. Duerr:

Many thanks for your letter of March 31st indicating a willingness to allow turtle tagging studies for a 3-4 day period in coastal waters of the Village. I am very pleased indeed to learn of your interest and expression of cooperation.

I have just returned from a week of field work on Kauai, and next week I will be searching for new turtle foraging pastures on Maui. During the entire month of June I will be at French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands tagging adult turtles while they are nesting. In view of this relatively intensive field schedule, I would prefer to visit the Village (with my assistant) for 3-4 days sometime between May 11th and 18th. If this time period is agreeable with you, I can work up the exact dates and communicate them to you by May 1st. To facilitate your response, I have enclosed a self-addressed post card.

I will plan to bring along an assortment of color slides for use in a 30-40 minute talk on Hawaiian sea turtles.

Best regards, and once again thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

May 6, 1981

Mr. Michael Weber
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund Coordinator
Center for Environmental Education
1925 K Street, NW - Suite 206
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Weber:

As requested in your letter of February 20th, I am sending you my review comments on the draft manuscript "Worldwide Map of Sea Turtle Hunts." Overall, I think this is an excellent undertaking that will receive widespread support and acceptance.

Please send me two copies of the final completed report.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

May 6, 1981

Mr. Derek Green
Texas Memorial Museum
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

As requested, I have devoted time to reviewing your interesting manuscript detailing long-distance tagrecoveries of Galapagos green turtles. My comments and suggestions have been written directly on the manuscript which I am returning to you. I think you are well on the way to producing a fine publication on an important aspect of your results. Before you submit the manuscript to a journal, I would, however, recommend that you consider the following.

1. On pages 13-14, you express some apparently serious reservations as to whether or not your tag recoveries represent "true migrations." I wonder if you might feel more comfortable replacing the word "migrations" in your title with "long-distance movements" or "post-breeding movements"? Also, it seems to me that the word "international" in your title imposes restrictions in your discussion. The key factor here, in my opinion, is that the "movements" or "migrations" cover great distances. The fact that they are "international" will automatically be covered in the text, and can be emphasized in the appropriate sections.
2. The manuscript needs to be tightened-up in organizational format, and restructured to conform more with the traditional scientific exposition of: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusions. Many of the section headings that you now have can fall as sub-headings under these principal headings.
3. I estimate that the manuscript can be shortened by about 15% without any loss of data or information. I am sure that this will be recommended by the journal editor when first submitted, so you might want to get a head start on the problem.

I appreciate having the opportunity to help you out on this publication project. Although you said in your letter that you would be sending the

Mr. Derek Green
May 6, 1981
Page 2

manuscript to John Hendrickson and me before journal submission, I think it would be a very good idea to also have it reviewed by Peter Pritchard and Anne Meylan.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

May 6, 1981

Mr. Derek Green
Texas Memorial Museum
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

As requested, I have devoted time to reviewing your interesting manuscript detailing long-distance tag recoveries of Galapagos green turtles. My comments and suggestions have been written directly on the manuscript which I am returning to you. I think you are well on the way to producing a fine publication on an important aspect of your results. Before you submit the manuscript to a journal, I would, however, recommend that you consider the following.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

April 27, 1981

F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Elliott Jacobson
J. Hillis Miller Health Center
Division of Laboratory Animal
and Wildlife Medicine
P. O. Box J-6
Gainesville, FL 32610

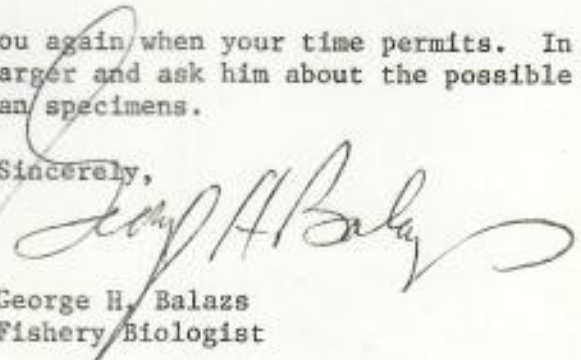
Dear Dr. Jacobson:

I appreciated your letter of April 9th describing some of your important findings with respect to the generation of papillomas in green turtles. I am afraid that there is very little more that I can offer in the way of information on this problem in Hawaiian waters. I believe that I sent you a copy of my National Marine Fisheries Service green turtle "synopsis." Pages 20-22 of this report contain some discussion of the subject, based almost totally on the results of Dr. Harshbarger's analyses of preserved specimens. I don't believe that evidence of trematode eggs was detected in this material.

If it would be beneficial to your work, I can plan to excise, preserve, and ship to you the next case of tumor material that comes to my attention. Dead and stranded turtles afflicted with tumors are a fairly regular occurrence here in Hawaii. On the average, I have the opportunity to salvage such material about once in every 2 months.

I look forward to hearing from you again when your time permits. In the meantime, I will write to John Harshbarger and ask him about the possible presence of trematode eggs in our Hawaiian specimens.

Sincerely,



George H. Balazs
Fishery Biologist

April 22, 1981

Mr. Jack Harter
P. O. Box 306
Lihue, Kauai 96766

Dear Mr. Harter:

I am writing to ask if you can provide me with some current information on your frequency of sighting sea turtles along the Na Pali Coast, or elsewhere on the island of Kauai. Have the numbers of turtles that you have observed over the past few years increased, decreased, or remained about the same?

I realize that your helicopter tour service keeps you very busy, but I would greatly appreciate hearing from you on this matter. For your convenience I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a reply. Thank you for any help that you are able to provide.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 22, 1981

Mr. Red Johnson
Papillon Helicopters
Box 608
Hanalei, Kauai 96714

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing to ask for your assistance in providing me with information on the sightings of sea turtles along the Na Pali and other coastal areas of Kauai. At which locations are sea turtles most frequently seen during helicopter flights, and in approximately what numbers do they occur?

Any and all help that you can give to this request will be greatly appreciated. For your convenience, I have enclosed a stamped and self-addressed envelope, as well as xerox maps that can be marked and returned to me.

Best regards and Aloha.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

Enclosures

April 29, 1981

Dr. Thomas Laughlin F/CM3
Office of Resource Conservation and Management
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D. C. 20235

Dear Dr. Laughlin:

I am writing to ask if you would allow me to use your slide of a tiger shark (mouth open, attacking a sea bird) in a color booklet I am currently preparing on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Bill Gilmartin, my colleague at the NMFS Honolulu Lab, recently showed me a print of this unique and excellent photograph taken at Lisianski Island.

If permission is granted, I will see to it that you receive full photo credit, as well as two free copies of the book (retail price will be approximately \$5). The book will contain about 100 color photos in all, with a total of approximately 85 pages. It will be distributed in Hawaii through the Oriental Publishing Company.

Rather than borrowing your slide for the extended publication period (5-10 months), I would prefer to have a high-quality duplicate made professionally here in Honolulu. The duplicate could be retained for publication purposes, and your original slide could be returned to you in a few days.

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

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

April 29, 1981

Ms. Marianne Reidman
Center for Coastal Marine Studies
Division of Natural Sciences
Applied Sciences Building
University of California
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dear Marianne:

Thanks very much for sending me the prepublication copy of your article dealing with white sharks. I had forgotten that I had requested it, but it was a most welcome arrival. As you will see from the enclosed, I have also recently finalized a paper relating to sharks. This is somewhat ironic in view of a similar paper covering California and Oregon that just appeared in the California Fish and Game Bulletin. You have probably already seen the paper in that it discusses some aspects of white shark predation on marine mammals.

At the present time, I will prefer not to send you all of the information on elephant seals in Hawaiian waters that I have assembled. My reason is that I would like to get it published in some form before it is used by others in print. I trust that you will understand this position, and bear with me until a manuscript can be finalized. I should mention, however, that only one tag recovery has been made, and most of the specifics on this were previously communicated by me to Dr. LeBoef. At that time, I told him that I would include the tag recovery with two other sightings and prepare a short paper entitled "Elephant Seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands" by G. H. Balazs, J. B. Giezantanner, G. Means, and B. LeBoef. I still haven't worked up the manuscript, but I promise it will be forthcoming. These atypical subjects do eventually receive my attention, as evidenced by the enclosed shark article.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk
Enclosures