

18

PART 1 OF 2

1981-1982 INCOMING
HIMB G.H. BALAZS LETTERS

University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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

March 12, 1982

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

Dear George,

I'm glad all parties were satisfied with the outcome of your tagging article. I do try to keep things moving along and get things out when they are topical, and that all relates to the particular methods we use for printing the MTN.

I note with interest your points on Indonesia and Wood's articles. Since the Indonesian article was a reprint, it would have been impossible to alter the title without drawing more attention to the problem, and getting drawn into that issue.

With respect to fee or donation at the Farm, it is difficult to get details of how it all works. I was happy to have an account of their releases down on paper. Whatever one may think of farming turtles in general, much interesting scientific material seems to have come from there, and they do rather better than some biologists in telling people what they are doing on releases and such.

In reply to your question, I don't know if CTF products are being sold in Canada at present.

Best wishes,



N. Mrosovsky.

NM/jr

Would you be willing
to mention my green turtle
and hawkbill post cards
as being for sale (on
a nearly non-profit basis)?

Yes - but please write me out a brief notice of
what you want said - if possible not more than 3
lines !!!

Victor

FEB 10 1982

DEC 8 1981

Memorandum

LA - Virgin Islands
St. Croix - Leatherback
Turtles

To : Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

From: ^{Deputy} Associate Director - Federal Assistance

Subject: Acquisition of Habitat for Endangered Species

The region has recommended the fee title purchase of 230 acres of beach and upland buffer on the southwestern tip of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands with a sand-mining reservation. Costs are now estimated at \$2.5-3.0 million for acquisition, \$15,000 for annual revenue sharing payments and \$35,000 for annual O & M. The principal objective is the protection of a prime nesting site for the endangered leatherback turtle. The tract includes all of the designated critical habitat on the island (155 acres), plus an adjacent strip of upland. The mining of sand would be permitted on 25 acres of non-critical habitat for a period of time since this is a major source for a critical construction material in short supply in these islands. The area is about 1,150 miles southeast of Miami. The landowner (West Indies Development Corporation) is willing to sell the property and acquisition is supported by the Virgin Islands. It would be administered as part of the Caribbean refuge complex.

The leatherback turtle has other nesting areas but all the other major nesting beaches are located outside the U.S. jurisdiction; most are at beach locations along the equator (St. Croix is 18° north of the equator). This acquisition was recommended by the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation and it is believed that such actions would strengthen the credibility of the U.S. and establish a desirable precedent for other nations.

During the nesting season, the female comes ashore, digs a nest cavity, and lays approximately 80-90 eggs before covering them. She can only move forward and cannot "back up." The female repeats this process several times during the nesting season extending from March through July. The hatchlings emerge at night about 60-70 days later and, in a natural state, are attracted to the ocean by reflected light on the water. Unfortunately, the city lights of Frederiksted can also attract them and the hatchlings sometimes head inland and become stranded in the vegetative rim of the beach. Therefore, inland lights should be minimized, or a morning patrol must search the inland margin and move the turtles to open water where predation may be very high since sharks and other predators patrol nearby. These factors point up some of the potential management problems.

Threats to the beach area are principally from development, since the present zoning is for "waterfront pleasure." This designation permits construction of single-family dwellings, commercial establishments, marinas, hotels, and the like. Sand mining is also a threat since this beach represents the largest deposit of carbonate sands in the Virgin Islands. Egg poaching is practiced by people and some eggs are lost due to mongoose predation. The adult turtles have only limited commercial value. Life history information is meager.

Other alternatives considered include (1) the acquisition of the same acreage but eliminating all sand mining (in which case there would be economic hardship and adverse public reaction since the alternative source of construction sand would be principally from more costly imports), (2) purchase of the entire ownership including lands back of the salt pond (this has some merit since the additional lands are used by the least tern--a locally listed endangered species--and the brown pelican--on the Federal list. It also contains an archeological site of some significance but the cost would be an estimated \$3,700,000), (3) purchase of an environmental easement on the preferred property (this would prevent development but would cost an estimated \$2 million and give fewer management options than the preferred alternative), (4) purchase only the critical habitat (this would provide only limited control of predators and development inland of the beach area--cost would be an estimated \$1,750,000), and (5) no action (in which case future development of the area would proceed along the lines already planned with the cessation of most or all of the egg-laying activities of the turtle at this location).

NEPA compliance is evidenced by an Environmental Assessment and FONSI. The action would be consistent with the Executive Orders on flood plains and wetlands. There are no historical or archeological resources on the tract proposed for acquisition. The biological opinion was that the action proposed would promote the conservation of the leatherback, hawksbill, and green turtles and "preserve the leatherback sea turtle's Critical Habitat."

The management objective would be to protect and increase the population of leatherback turtles that nest on Sandy Point. Staffing requirements would be for at least one full-time person during the period from March 15 through September 15. Management would be designed to protect nests from predators, vandals, and poachers by means of regular patrols; protect nests by means of trapping or predator guards principally against feral dogs and mongooses; control of human access by posting, fencing, regulation, etc.; and consolidate and continue research on the species.

Incidentally, sand also attracts terns and the hatchlings sometimes head inland and toward openings in the vegetation just off the beach. Therefore, inland

I recommend your approval to acquire the area generally described as the preferred alternative. Timing and priority of the action would be dictated by the availability of funds in relation to other needs and priorities. Normal source of funds would be the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Concur:

Harold J. O'Connor

(sgd) Walter R. McAllester
Associate Director - Wildlife Resources

JAN 21 1982
Date

(SGD) Rolf L. Wallenstrom
Acting Associate Director - Environment

FEB 2 - 1982
Date

(sgd) A. A. Sokoleski
Assistant Director - Planning and Budget

FEB 4 1982
Date

Approved:

/SGD./ROBERT A. JANTZEN
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

FEB 8 1982
Date

cc: Directorate Reading File OES
DD Chron Copy for Realty

FWS/RE:AWDickson:smn:Disk 23:11/12/81:x272-3365
Revised:OES:ESparrowe:smn:Disk 23:11/20/81

Dear George

letter sent

Sea Frontiers

Basking article

~~I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article~~

..... Thanks for the literature; both papers...
from the ... are ... of use. I'm impressed with the...
amount of work in each! Any comments...
you have on our shark-seal m.s. would
if you have any copies available

be appreciated.

~~Thanking you,~~
Yours very truly,

Tom Loughlin

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
NORTHWEST AND ALASKA FISHERIES CENTER
NATIONAL MARINE MAMMAL LABORATORY
7600 SAND POINT WAY N.E. BLDG. 32
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98115

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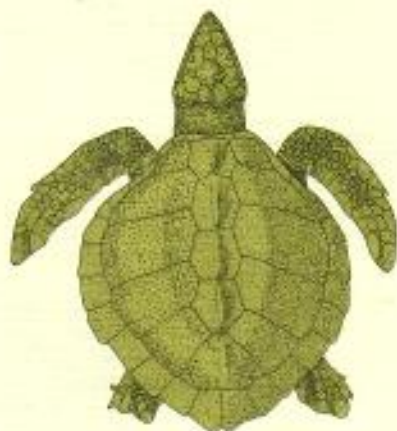
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

REPLY ATTN.

(Please Print)

George H. Balazs
Nat. Mar. Fisheries Service
Honolulu Laboratory
P.O. Box 3870
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

Southeast Region Sea Turtle Recovery Team



March 20, 1982

Dear George,

"Final touches" are being made on the technical draft. It will be sent to you for review in about 2 weeks. Is this a new address for you or should I send it to Coconut Island? You will have 30 days to submit comments to the Team. The Team will meet to review all comments and prepare the "Agency" draft. This will be sent out for review to all agencies named in the plan. Agencies will have 60 days to submit comments. We will meet again when these are received and then submit the final draft to NMFS. When it will become an "approved" plan after that is anybody's guess. *Go this what you need to know?*

Co-Leaders: Peter C.H. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Florida Audubon Society
P.O. Drawer 7, Maitland, FL 32751
(305) 647-2615

Sally Ray Hopkins
South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Dept.
P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, S. Carolina 29412
(803) 795-6350

Sally

Members: A.E. Dammann, Ph.D.; Otto Florschütz; Charles Futch; Donald Geagan; H.O. Hillestad; Robert Jones; Milton Kaufmann; Ron Odom; Larry Ogren; Glen Ulrich

NMFS Coordinator: Dr. Joseph Sylvester, NMFS, Duval Building, 9450 Koger Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (813) 893-3721



Department of Natural Resources

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
1200 GLYNN AVENUE
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31523
(912) 264-7218

Joe D. Canner
COMMISSIONER

DIRECTOR

Sea Turtle Research Workshop
St. Simons Island Casino
Beachview Drive
St. Simons Island, Georgia

1-2 April 1982

Sponsored by
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division

The final agenda for this year's Sea Turtle Workshop is enclosed and, hopefully, meets the needs of as many people as we have been able to accommodate. The format of the individual topics will be up to the speaker. Some will choose to lead group discussions and others will choose to present more formal talks on their topic. Whatever the format, we are expecting a productive session that will bring many of the regions sea turtle researchers and propagationists together, and let them reassociate with their fellows and absorb some new information. Hopefully, a summary of the topics presented will be mailed out to any interested persons sometime after the meeting.

We'll see you at the meeting!

Sea Turtle Research Workshop
 1-2 April 1982
 St. Simons Is., Georgia

Thursday, 1 April 1982

- 0800 hrs Coffee and Doughnuts
- 0830 hrs. Welcoming Address -
 Dr. C. Robert Shoop, University of Rhode Island
- 0900 hrs Problems in Studying Nesting Beaches -
 James Richardson, University of Georgia
- 1000 hrs Tagging Programs; Cost Vs. Benefits -
 Dr. Nancy Thompson, NMFS - Miami
- 1100 hrs Predation on Nesting Beaches -
 Sally Hopkins, S.C. Wildlife & Marine Resources
- 1200 hrs Lunch
- 1300 hrs Evaluation of Habitats, Movements, Activity Patterns
 with Telemetry -
 Tom Murphy, S.C. Wildlife & Marine Resources
- 1400 hrs Causes of Mortality -
 Robert Schoelkopf, Marine Mammal Stranding Center
- 1500 hrs Life History Unknowns -
 Dr. L. M. Ehrhart, University of Central Florida
- 1600 hrs Estimating Population Sizes and Trends -
 Dr. C. Robert Shoop, University of Rhode Island
- 1700 hrs Adjourn
- 1900 hrs Discussion Leaders readjourn to summarize the discussions

Friday, 2 April 1982

- 0800 hrs Coffee and Doughnuts
- 0830 hrs Trawling Efficiency Device (TED) -
 Milton Kaufman, Fund For Animals
- 0900 hrs Information Exchange -
 James Sternberg, Center for Environmental Education
- 1000 hrs Federal Funding Status and WATS -
 Fred Berry, NMFS
- 1100 hrs Summary Presentations
- 1230 hrs Adjourn

Despatched 10.2.82

qldprem aa41418
22618 iucn ch

to: premier of queenland

from: lee talbot, director general, international union for
conservation of nature and natural resources

concerning issue of proposed residential development of 13 ha
behind mon repos beach near bundaberg queenland, iucn
respectfully urges govt to consider:

1. reports to world conference on sea turtle conservation,
washington, d.c. 1979 demonstrated inevitable disappearance
of turtle nesting concentrations wherever incompatible
development allowed in proximity.
2. such habitat deterioration is a major destructive factor
affecting sea turtles worldwide.
3. mon repos beach is particularly important area for highly
endangered loggerhead and other species.
4. mon repos is the most significant mainland rookery and the
largest of its kind in australia. its location offers
unusual opportunities for education, interpretation and
maintenance of the resource.

it is hoped the government will uphold the decision to maintain
these unique natural values.

qldprem aa41418
22618 iucn ch

Sent by Lee Talbot, IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

March 16, 1982

Monsieur Nkosi Luta Kingengo
B.P. 5025
Luanda/Angola

Dear Monsieur Kingengo:

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Carr requesting information from the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. We are pleased to hear of your plans to initiate a sea turtle program in Angola. One of our Specialist Group members, Dr. George Hughes, is particularly knowledgeable about sea turtles in the southern African region, including Angola, and you may want to correspond with him about your program. His address is on the enclosed list of our Group members.

As far as references are concerned, the best single source of information that I can recommend is the forthcoming publication, Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles. This is a symposium volume containing some 60 papers that were presented at the 1979 World Conference on Sea Turtles. It will be available late this summer from Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. For more reference material, you may want to write Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky, (address on the list) to have your name added to the mailing list of the Marine Turtle Newsletter. This publication always contains a number of articles by sea turtle researchers as well as a list of current publications. It is available upon request free of charge.

For educational aids, I suggest you contact Dr. Jacques Fretey, also a member of our group. I believe he can give you the source for educational posters in French concerning sea turtles. Also, World Wildlife Fund has recently announced that a French version of the excellent slide show "Turtles in Danger" is available through WWF/IUCN International Education Project, Greenfield House, Guiting Power, Glos. GL54 5TZ, United Kingdom. This is a series of 35mm color slides with an accompanying text. It is extremely useful for public education purposes.

Enclosed are some publications which I hope will be of interest to you. We wish you success with your program in Angola and look forward to hearing from you about its development. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Anne Meylan, Agenda Officer
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

cc: George Balazs
George Hughes

AM/ljw



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

SEFC, Panama City Laboratory
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, FL 32407

February 23, 1982

F/SEC5:LHO:meg

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

Dear Dr. Carr:

I gladly accept your invitation to serve another term as a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I will do all I can to participate in the Group's future activities and to keep in touch with your office on important sea turtle events.

Sincerely yours,

Larry H. Ogren
Fishery Biologist
(Research)

cc:
F/SEC5 - E. Nakamura
F/SECx4 - H. Kumpf





**Sea Turtle
Rescue
Fund**

March 24, 1982

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

Dear Mr. Balazs:

Thank you for reviewing the draft of Sea Turtle Hunts Throughout the World. I have enclosed a complimentary copy of the final publication which I hope is of use to you in your efforts to conserve sea turtles. Because of your efforts and expertise, the most up-to-date compilations of sea turtle nesting beaches and hunts have been distributed to scientists, policy-makers and conservationists throughout the world.

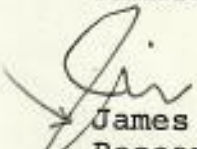
The Sea Turtle Rescue Fund has taken the initiative to get important information about sea turtles out to the people who make decisions about the future of turtle populations. In doing this, new lines of communication between scientists, politicians and conservation organizations have been activated and will hopefully continue to be effective.

In order to keep information about sea turtle nesting beaches and hunts up-to-date, please send any new information to the Sea Turtle Rescue Fund for incorporation into future editions of the Worldwide Distribution of Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches and Sea Turtle Hunts Throughout the World.

Thank you again for your review of this publication. Additional copies of Sea Turtle Hunts Throughout the World (\$5.00) are available from:

Circulation Manager
Center for Environmental Education
624 9th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001 USA

Sincerely yours,


James Sternberg
Research Associate

Enclosure

Panda House
11-13 Ockford Road
Godalming, Surrey GU7 1QU
Telephone: Godalming (04868) 20551
Telex: 859602

23. 2. 82.

Dear George,

I was very happy indeed to receive your delightful postcards at Christmas, including my favourite of a seal and fish asleep on a beach. It was extremely kind of you to think of me. I also wanted to thank you for sending me the information on the seizure of ivory in California? I used the piece in a copy of our membership magazine.

I can't remember to where you sent the pc's and if it was your new office in the middle of Surrey. We moved here 6 months ago and its monstrously inconvenient professionally. We had the worst winter for decades in the UK, as I gather has occurred in the whole of the northern hemisphere; its only the fortunate like you who can wander, unreflected, about on a tropical island, in a bikini suit and shorts!

I am planning to go to Venezuela for 3 1/2 weeks in a month's time, to lose myself in the llanos to dwell deeply on the WCN/WWF dilemmas, and, as I sit on the back of a horse, consider what its all about!!

I much appreciate your keeping in touch, please continue to do so with best wishes

Yours ever,
Janet Butler

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum



HARVARD UNIVERSITY · CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 · TEL. 617 495-2466

15 Mar 1982.

Dear George,

Yes, I agree, the red data sheet situation is getting out of hand. Brian has indicated time after time that he is not a turtle biologist and needs our help to sort out fact from fancy. He is certainly way out of his depth when he begins unilateral re listing! His comparison to the Madagascar tortoise Geochelone is entirely specious. Of course there are many species with few representatives than Dermochelys there are also many - Polar bears and some seals for instance, even elephants! that are equally numerous and undeniably endangered. The concentration of large numbers of individuals (coupled with the documented egg poaching that may reduce reproductive output to zero) may constitute a particularly sensitive sort of endangerment - look at buffalo-carrier pigeons!

However, I believe Brian has a case for reconsidering the listing of D. coriacea. I believe the only correct approach is for Green Lucas to request such a reconsideration from the turtle group. We have occasionally played into the hands of our enemies by not being able to respond in reasonable time to requests of this sort.

(over)

- I think a dual approach is called for.
- Archie must insist on regaining the prerogatives of the group or as you say we become redundant.
 - We must simultaneously (without waiting for a meeting I'm afraid) generate & correct and coherent advice to the SSC concerning this ~~as~~ Dermody's problem.

This is a real challenge to the 'New' turtle group to prove it can and does function. If factionalism prevents us from quickly (like this month!) sending Lucas a request to consult with us followed immediately by our answer then ~~we~~ we clearly cannot respond to the needs of the conservation community.

But I am sure we can! I shall straighten these thoughts out and send them to Archie and Wayne. Advise me quickly if you think I should refrain (phone 617 523-3455 or 617-776 9017 (home) in addition to MCZ number. Leave a message)

To arms To arms.

The Ocean Research
and Education Society, Inc.
156 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

P.S. No I don't think Brian intends disrespect to A.C. as he is smarter than that (b) I think he is becoming pleasingly familiar and relaxed with us all, as a result of the many exchanges we have had - I think this is good! p.

Draft Confidential. J.P.R.

15 Mar 82.

Dear Dr. Cav,

The memorandum from Brian Groombridge to Gwen Lucas (24 Feb 1982) concerning re-listing Demochelys has come to my attention.

There seem to be two separate issues involved here

- 1) What criteria are used to determine Red Data book status.
- 2) Who gets to decide on the available data.

On issue 1) there is clear need for a re evaluation of the status of Demochelys in light of the large increase in reported individuals and populations. However there are many points to be considered before a change in listing is advisable.

a) What methods and data support the current population estimates? - I believe they are (with the exception of Trengganu and Siamome populations) all guesses. They may well be correct but it is premature to say so.

b) The concentration of large numbers of individuals on ~~single~~ ^{few} nesting grounds makes them more vulnerable, not less so. The reported greater numbers of individuals must be balanced against the horrendous reports of predation on eggs and adults that approaches 100% of reproductive output in some cases.

get "Tread" article from ANIMAL KINGDOM - HIRSH

c) The determination of status from just number of individuals ^{small populations of} is ridiculous. Comparison with other turtles, ~~the~~ Geochelone yniphora for instance, is entirely specious. Of course there are endangered species over than Demochelys there are also many clearly endangered species, elephants and whales for instance, with many more individuals. Endangered status must derive from a balanced view of animal numbers, reproductive rate, ^{natural} mortality ~~both~~ ~~human induced and natural~~, ~~and~~, the effect of exploitation and ^{habitat destruction} and the cascading effects that delisting would have on the integrated structure of conservation law and activity.

CITES and ESA for instance. Ideally our actions protect species that are still ~~not~~ ~~not~~ reasonably numerous not just mount rescue missions for very small populations that may be lost causes.

R [OK. so who should make such determinations? - (Emphatically - not a single red data book compiler). I feel strongly that such decisions are properly the purview of the specialist group; ^{under guidance of the Group Chairman} I think it would be appropriate for us to insist that we advise the SSC steering group on this matter.

Unfortunately we have a bad record of slow or negative response to challenges of this sort. We need to offer clear unambiguous advice within a week or two. The ultimate resolution of such a matter ~~should~~ ^{may need to} ~~properly~~ be decided by the full SSC and a Turtle group opinion could be fine tuned at a future meeting, but I think the red data book compilers and SSC deserve an immediate

'best approximation' response^{now}. The issues are fairly clear - Could it ~~be~~ you, Peter, Nicholas, René Marquez quickly assemble a preliminary ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} for ~~SSC~~ ^{steering committee} and immediate use by SSC_A and subsequent discussion ^{and modifications} by the group and eventually ~~the SSC~~ ratification by SSC.

For my own opinion, for the reasons given above I do not believe the data warrant any reduction in the status of *D. coracea* from Endangered at this time.

However a careful review of this situation and careful rationalization of this position should be developed to guide the red data book compilers and others.

I think this is an important challenge to the Turtle group and I am confident we can rise to meet it.

Sincerely
James Perran Ross.

cc. Wayne King
Brian Groombridge
of Balazs
Peter Pritchard



Colin J. Limpus

Home: P.O. Box 189
Aitkenvale
Townsville. 4814
Australia
Telephone 73-2674

Business: National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville. 4810
Australia
Telephone 74-1411

11th March, 1982.

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

Dear George,

Hi, I've arrived home from my usual 4-5 months of turtle field work. So that you don't complain that I never write to you I've brought your letter to the top of the heap. How's that for service. We had a busy summer. Our second biggest green nesting since I began my green study in 1974 - possibly the second largest in some 20 years. Fortunately I had teams on Heron, Raine, Wreck Island, North West Island, Lady Musgrave Islands as well as on the Mainland at Mon Repos and Wreck Rock. John Parmenter had a team at Peak and Wild Duck Islands (flatbacks). We weren't out to tag everything but we tagged over 6000 females. Recaptures were plentiful. My first batch of Titanium tags is in use. The metal is a bit softer than monel and the design of the tag needs some modification but I'm confident that they will outlast the monel. Have you heard anything more on a supply of Inconel 625 tags?

Re Bustard's *caretta* from New Caledonia. Why not quote me as saying that as the only person who has tagged turtles at Mon Repos I have no record of a loggerhead tagged at Mon Repos being caught at New Caledonia. I am writing my PhD at present on *caretta* in eastern Australia. (That is the reason for virtually none of my *caretta* work having been published to date) and I will try to rationalise Bob's distribution maps in that.

You will find if you read my papers as they come along that I am taking Bob's ideas apart one at a time while I hope retaining the best of his work and adding to it.

We had an unexpected 3 *Dermochelys* nest on the Wreck Rock beach in January and they gave us 5 clutches. This allowed us to include *Dermochelys* in our sex determination studies. In addition we have continued to identify a very poor hatchling success for the *Dermochelys*. We have had 100% failure of many of the totally undisturbed clutches over the years we've been recording on these beasts. I'm not sure whether it is a feature of *Dermochelys* generally or just our "waifs". Certainly they perform poorly by comparison with over other species on the same beaches. For all their problems though they are certainly magnificent turtles.

We are still running a battle with the real estate developer who wants to open up for housing 100 m from the high tide mark at Mon Repos. Unfortunately it is no longer biology but politics that is the name of the game. Still I'm confident that we will extend the Mon Repos environmental park beyond its current 40 m width to something more substantial as a result of current stirring.

Yours sincerely,



C.J. LIMPUS.

CJL:DH

Colin J. Linnus



Home: P.O. Box 189
Aitkenvale
Townsville, 4814
Australia
Telephone 73-2674

Business: National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pallarenda
Townsville, 4810
Australia
Telephone 74-1411

Dear *George,*

Neville McLachlan and his wife Bev will be visiting the United States of America between April and July, 1982. Nev is a primary school teacher who has been a volunteer assistant in my Turtle Research programme for 11 years. For a number of years he and his wife have supervised the tagging programme at our Wreck Rock Study Beach.

I am keen for them to broaden their experience with sea turtle studies and have suggested that they contact you if they are visiting your area. Any assistance you can provide by introducing them to your local turtle research teams would be appreciated.

If you have the time to chat with them if they stop in Hawaii I would appreciate it.

*Col
J.*

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA
SECRETARIAT

c/o IUCN, avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH - 1196 Gland, Switzerland

Telex : 22618 iucn ch
Tel. : (022) 64 32 54

Telegrams :
IUCNATURE GLAND

Ref. :

D/1/1.53
JB/srr/16

Dr. George H. Balazs
Deputy Chairman
Marine Turtle Group
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe Hawaii
96744
U.S.A.

Please note
new telephone number
as from 26 oct. 1981:
(022) 64 71 81

Gland, 11 February 1982

Dear Dr. Balazs,

I am sending you herewith a copy of a proposal from Suriname to transfer the Surinamese population of the green turtle (Chelonia mydas) from Appendix I to Appendix II pursuant to New Delhi Resolution on Ranching Conf. 3.15 as well as copies of letters to and from Dr. Archie Carr. I also attach a copy of my letter to Suriname requesting additional information. I have not yet received any answer but any information will be copied to you as soon as received.

NOV 81?

Your assistance in this matter will help the Secretariat to make its recommendation to the Parties.

Best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Jacques Berney
Acting Secretary General

for the

SURINAM GREEN SEA TURTLE RANCHING PROJECT

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a trade convention, but one in which the conservation of endangered species plays a crucial role. To some, trade and conservation appear conflicting and have automatically been regarded as mutually exclusive. On the contrary, these two activities should not necessarily be considered as a dichotomy because, when properly applied, trade can be made a powerful tool in the conservation of some endangered species. doc?

The green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas), whose products are sought after in international trade, is reproductively quite prolific. A mature female of the Surinam population, averaging 3 nests per season, lays on the order of 400 eggs per year. This nesting population is stable and is estimated at 5,000 females. Each year, more than one million green sea turtle eggs are laid on Surinam beaches. This considerable reproductive potential of the green sea turtle has been an evolutionary adaptation to the high, early-age natural mortality, which is generally acknowledged to be about 99% for eggs and hatchlings, up to the age of one year. Through the millenia of the green sea turtle's evolutionary development a balance has emerged between these two population attributes. Man, in just a short time, has been able to upset this balance through excessive harvesting and through the destruction of suitable nesting sites. The resulting massive depletion of the reproductive stock has given rise to fears that the inherent reproductive potential of the adults will no longer be adequate to compensate for the high, early-age mortality. The cumulative effect of these factors will be that fewer reproductive animals are being recruited to the wild populations than are necessary to keep these populations viable. Consequently, the species may become extinct in the foreseeable future if no remedial action is taken soon.

400 x
5000 =

2000000

Recent statistics have shown that for the past decades legislative measures, prohibiting trade in sea turtle products, have not been effective. doc?

Sea turtle populations are decreasing in numbers, ostensibly to a great extent as the result of such trade. Although Suriname supports the view that trade in wild-caught specimens of sea turtle populations should be severely restricted or prohibited, it also advocates the principle of captive-rearing the hatchlings of such animals by means of a ranching scheme to be used for trade where justifiable and when beneficial for the conservation of the species.

The Suriname Scientific Authority supports the premise that the Suriname green sea turtle population, as a renewable natural resource, can make a substantial contribution to the country's economic well-being through controlled, international trade in captive-reared specimens and that trade in such ranched products simultaneously aids in the conservation of the species in general. Notwithstanding international legislation, markets for sea turtle products will persist, and will most likely increase as human populations increase, but the pressure on natural populations can be reduced by substituting products from wild-caught specimens with those from captive-reared animals. doc?

In addition, the ranching facilities will provide so-called headstart animals, beyond the hatchling stage, to be released in the wild in order to rebuild natural populations at practically no cost to the conservation community. doc?

Suriname legislation has provided all sea turtle species with full protection since 1964, and since that time there has been neither legal harvest nor any significant poaching of the wild populations in Suriname. Starting in 1970, Suriname has allowed for a limited, and Government controlled, harvest of so-called "doomed eggs", for local consumption. Doomed eggs are those eggs that would be destroyed by natural forces, such as beach erosion and the flooding of nests by excessively high spring tides. On the average, 25% of the eggs laid on Suriname beaches are doomed eggs. more

Since 1977 Suriname has been operating an experimental green sea turtle ranching project in order to evaluate the economic and conservation aspects of captive-rearing these animals for use in international trade. Annually about 15,000 of the doomed eggs are taken to be hatched for the ranching project. The taking from the wild of these eggs has no detrimental effect on the wild population inasmuch as doomed eggs, left under natural conditions, would not hatch. Furthermore, as part of the ongoing headstart program developed for this ranching project, 1,000 captive-reared yearlings of each year's hatch are being released to the sea in order to augment the wild population. This means that, with an estimated mortality of 99% until the age of one year for green sea turtles, when 1,000 yearlings are released to the sea the potential of about 100,000 eggs is being put back for the 15,000 eggs taken the previous year. As such, the ranching project is primarily beneficial to the conservation of the Suriname green sea turtles. A diagram, outlining the general program of the pilot project is shown in figure 1. Many of the released yearlings have been marked in order to study the migratory movements of released, captive-reared green sea turtles. Tag returns have already shown that the released animals are thriving and are mixing with the parental wild stock on the traditional feeding grounds.

The Suriname Scientific Authority, in cooperation with the Foundation for Nature Preservation in Suriname (STINASU), shall provide the proper restraints to ensure that the ranching operation will be carried out under optimal environmental conditions and that the animals will be treated in a humane manner at all stages of their development.

The Surinam Management Authority shall perform on-site inspections to ensure project compliance with CITES regulations. In addition, the Management Authority shall be the sole Agency issuing the required documentation which will identify any of the products derived from the ranching project that will enter the local as well as the international market.

The Surinam Management Authority further pledges to provide the CITES Secretariat with the required periodic reports pertaining to the status of the wild green sea turtle population in Suriname, and that it shall monitor the ranching operation to ensure compliance with the criteria established by CITES. Data concerning the performance of the ranching operation shall be provided if so requested by the CITES Secretariat.

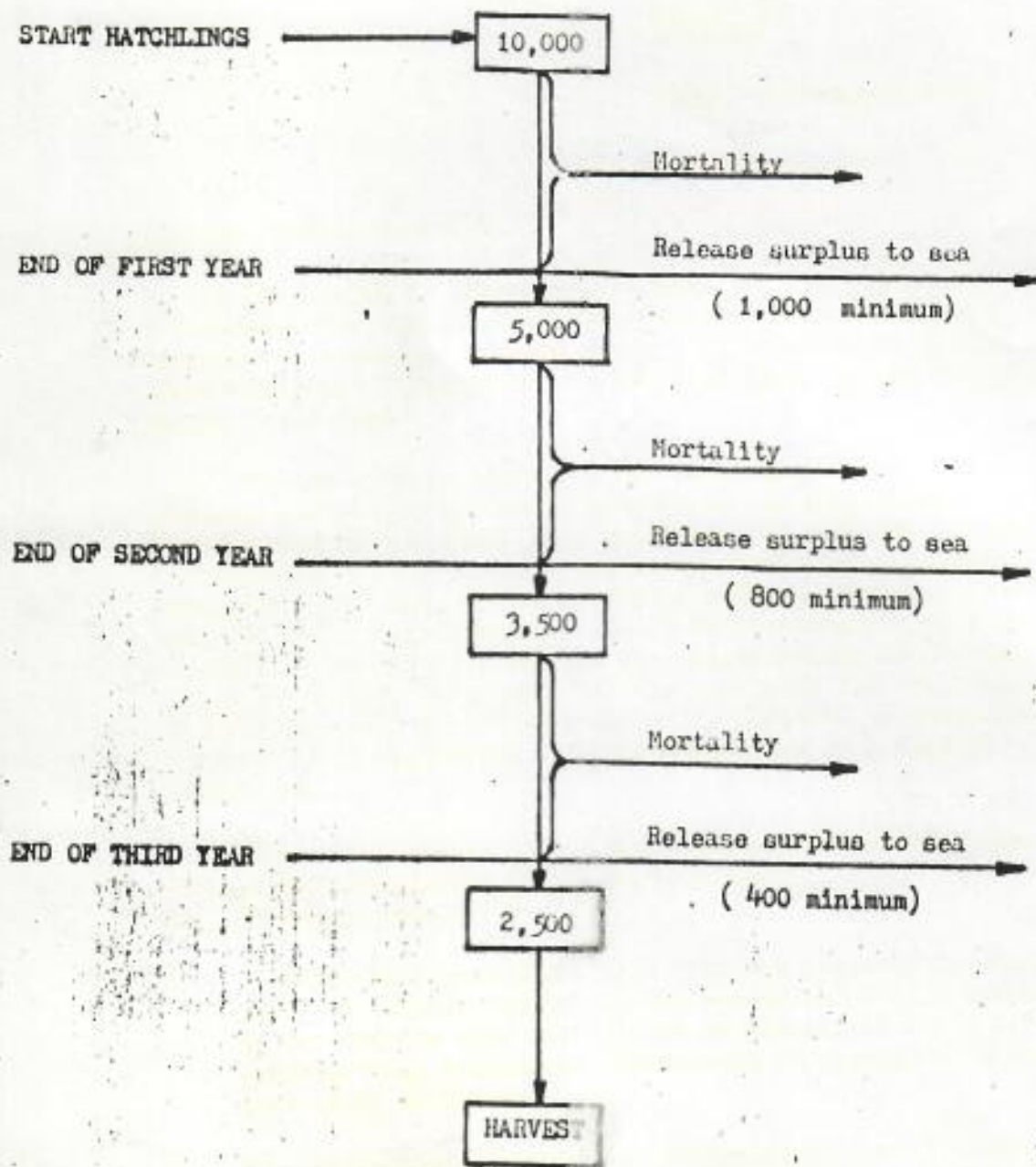


Fig. 1 - TURTLE RANCH PILOT PROJECT WITH HEADSTART PROGRAM AS DEVELOPED
BY THE FOUNDATION FOR NATURE PRESERVATION IN SURINAME (STINASU).

D/1/1.22SR
JB/err/16

Ms. Georgina Ridder-Rustwijk
Permanent Secretary of Foreign
Affairs s.i.
Ministerie Van Justitie en
Buitenlandse
Zaken
PARAMARIBO
Suriname

Gland, 18 November 1981

Dear Ms. Ridder-Rustwijk,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 9 November 1981 and the enclosed documentation concerning a proposal to transfer, from Appendix I to Appendix II of the above-mentioned Convention, the Suriname green turtle (Chelonia mydas) population.

This proposal clearly refers to the Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981) and to communicate it to the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2, of the Convention followed under Resolution Conf. 3.15. It is possible to submit the proposal to the Parties at its fourth meeting in 1983. The text of the proposal will be communicated to the Parties in accordance with Article XV.

the Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (New Delhi, 1981) and therefore, it will not be possible to communicate it to the Parties in accordance with Article XV, paragraph 2, of the Convention followed under Resolution Conf. 3.15. The screening procedure to be followed under Resolution Conf. 3.15 is such that it will only be possible to submit the proposal to the Parties at its fourth meeting scheduled for the beginning of 1983. The text of the proposal will therefore be communicated to the Parties in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article XV.

Concerning the proposal itself and without waiting for comments from persons the Secretariat will have to consult, I would like to make the following comments:

1. It would have been preferable that the proposal be presented under the format adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (San Jose, 1979) by Resolution Conf. 2.17, together with additional information as requested by Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching.
2. The information contained in the proposal justification is rather general, and more precise data on the wild population, collecting and rearing techniques, etc., would be useful, as well as study reports and/or a list of references.

.../...

3. The proposal gives no information on the industrial and commercial aspect of the ranching operation. It would be interesting to know if the operation is in private or governmental hands, how it will be controlled, in which form, where and how the products will be traded, etc.
4. The proposal stated only that the "Management Authority shall be the sole Agency issuing the required documentation which will identify any of the products desired from the ranching project that will enter the local as well as the international market". It would be useful to give more information on the methods to be used to identify the products, such as labels, stamps etc. and/or on particular documentation to be used.

Taking into account the above-mentioned points, the Secretariat recommends that as much additional information as possible be submitted at your earliest convenience in order to support your proposal and increase the chances of acceptance. The Suriname proposal is the very first one relating to the CITES resolution on ranching and the chances of approval will be greatly increased by the submission of more data.

Yours sincerely,

Jaques Berney

Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General

cc: M.A. Sufname

NOTE - Didn't attach copy of Archie's response

D/1/1.53
D/1/1.22US
JB/ams/16

Dr. Archie Carr
Department of Zoology
University of Florida
223 Bartram Hall
GAINSVILLE, Florida
32611
U.S.A.

Gland, 4 February 1982

Dear Dr. Carr,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 January 1982 and the address of Dr. Bjorndal. France has agreed to finance her travel to La Reunion as I informed you by telex. Further information will be forwarded to her directly.

Concerning the Suriname proposal and your comments, I would have expected to receive a more detailed answer. Ranching has been accepted in principle by the Conference of the Parties at its New Delhi meeting. To submit a proposal to change the status of a species or population from Appendix I to Appendix II is the only way to have a ranching operation accepted under CITES. Such proposals are subject to recommendation from the Secretariat on the basis of appropriate scientific and technical advice. For that purpose, the Secretariat requested the help of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN which agreed to provide such advice from its specialist groups.

Having reminded you of this background, no doubt you will understand that your opinion, as expressed in your letter, could not be used as a basis for the Secretariat's recommendation.

I would therefore appreciate knowing why you are opposed to the idea if this opposition is a matter of principle or is related to Suriname only (this in view of the expected similar proposal from France about La Reunion) and receiving any information on the situation of the green turtle in Suriname and the whole region. Your co-operation could be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,
Jacques Berney
Jacques Berney
Acting Secretary General

cc. G. Lucas, Chairman SSC

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 21, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora
c/o IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

In reply to your letter of January 15, 1982, Dr. Karen Bjorndal's address is: Department of Zoology, University of Florida, 223 Bartram Hall, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

As to my opinion of the Suriname proposal to change the status of their green turtle population from Appendix I to Appendix II, I am opposed to the idea even though I can readily understand the socio-economic pressures that generate it.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group, IUCN

AC/ljw

D/L/L.2208
JB/ej/16

Professor Archie Carr
Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Department of Zoology
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Florida
GAINESVILLE, Florida 32601
Etats-Unis d'Amerique

Gland, 18 November 1981

Dear Archie,

The Secretariat has received the first proposal for amendment of the CITES appendices with reference to the New Delhi Resolution Conf. 3.15 on Ranching. Copy of the proposal to transfer the Surinamese population of the green turtle (Chelonia mydas) from Appendix I to Appendix II is attached herewith.

To be able to make recommendation to the Conference to the Parties, the Secretariat needs comments from competent experts in this field and, therefore, I would appreciate receiving your comments on the proposal and on the ranching operation in Suriname which you probably know. I would also appreciate receiving as soon as possible a list of persons to whom I should also send a copy of the proposal for comments.

I have already sent a request to Suriname for more information (see copy attached) but if you need additional details to make a judgement please let me know as soon as possible also. Any information received from Suriname will be forwarded to you immediately.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Jaques Berney

Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 4, 1982

Dr. Jaques Berney
Acting Secretary General
Convention on International Trade in
Endangered Species of Wild Fauna
and Flora
c/o IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

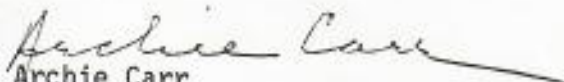
Dear Jaques:

I was sorry to learn that because of conflict with an inflexible schedule of boat trips to islands that she is bound by her contract to visit, Jeanne Mortimer will not be available for the farm inspection expedition to Europa and Reunion.

I am glad to say, however, that Dr. Karen Bjorndal, another former graduate student of mine, will have time free from her work during the period planned for the trip, and that I can recommend her with no less enthusiasm. Karen's doctoral research was in the nutritional ecology of the green turtle. This was partly laboratory work, but another part was carried out under difficult field conditions in the southern Bahamas and the Miskito Cays area of Nicaragua. Karen is a most extraordinarily well-rounded, enterprising and capable scientist. She has a pleasing and agreeable personality that makes of her an ideal colleague in field work. She thoroughly understands the ramifications of the relationship between aspirant turtle farmers, biologists and conservationists, and she can be expected to make judgments in that field with restraint and perspicacity. It seems to me, therefore, that Dr. Bjorndal is in every respect well prepared to carry out the mission that is planned, and I hope that her candidacy will be favorably reviewed and approved.

Please communicate with me if more information should be required.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Chairman, Marine Turtle Specialist
Group, IUCN



Department of Natural Resources

COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
1200 GLYNN AVENUE
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31523
(912) 264-7218

Joe D. Tanner
COMMISSIONER

DIRECTOR

Sea Turtle Research Workshop
St. Simons Island Casino
Beachview Drive
St. Simons Island, Georgia

1-2 April 1982

Sponsored by
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division

The Sea Turtle Research Workshop is an opportunity to discuss and review questions dealing with Sea Turtle biology and conservation programs. No formal paper presentations are planned. The format will be a round-table discussion focused on selected agenda items during the first day, with audience participation being encouraged. Several aspects of Sea Turtle conservation and biology will be open for discussion. A preliminary list of discussion topics is attached. On Thursday evening, discussion leaders will meet to summarize their topics and draft formal statements to be presented to the audience on Friday. The statements, in final form, will be submitted to the various user groups/agencies. Comments and statements by members of the audience will be encouraged again on Friday.

If you plan to attend, please confirm your Sea Turtle Research Workshop reservation by contacting:

Chuck Cowman
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
1200 Glynn Avenue
Brunswick, Georgia 31523-9990

Telephone: 912-264-7218

A list of motels near the meeting site is attached. Please direct your request for accommodation to the motel of your choice. No organized social functions are planned. Meals are available at local restaurants.

The nearest airports served by scheduled air carriers are Jacksonville, Florida, and Glynco Jetport, just north of Brunswick.

Preliminary Agenda Topics
Sea Turtle Research Workshop
1-2 April 1982
St. Simons Is., Georgia

- 1) Estimating population sizes and trends -
problems, needs, costs
- 2) Problems in studying nesting beaches -
limitations, variability, diversity and goals
- 3) Tagging programs; cost vs. benefits -
short-term programs, future direction, data banks,
tag problems/needs
- 4) Predation on nesting beaches -
successful techniques, future prospects
- 5) Evaluation of habitats. Foods and feeding habits -
movements, telemetry
- 6) Behavioral unknowns. Time and activity budgets,
dive times, species differences, nesting
beach fidelity, migratory pathways
- 7) Causes of mortality -
disease, incidental catch, accidents,
anything new?
- 8) Life history unknowns -
how much do we know?
- 9) Information exchange between sea turtle workers -
suggestions, comments, statements
- 10) Budget Process -
federal funds, present and future

Accommodations in the Area

St. Simons Island:

Sea Gate Inn
1014 Ocean Blvd.
912-638-8661

rates: \$32-\$40

Epworth by-the-sea
Methodist Center
912-638-8688

rates: \$20-\$25

Craft's Ocean Court and Apartments
1568 Wood Avenue
912-638-3676

rates: \$26-\$42

King & Prince Beach Hotel
King & Prince Beach
912-638-3631
1-800-342-0212 (in Georgia)

rates: \$50-\$90

Queen's Court Motel
437 King's Way
912-638-8459

rates: \$27-\$35

Sea Palms
North Frederica Road
912-638-3351
1-800-841-6268 (outside Georgia)

rates: \$51-\$66 (villas \$80-\$130)

East Brunswick:

Best Western
3302 Glynn Avenue
912-264-9111

rates: \$22-\$39

Holiday Inn
East 2307 Gloucester Street
912-265-8830

rates: \$26-\$32

Ramada Inn
3241 Glynn Avenue
912-264-8611

rates: \$21-\$26

Will this do George?

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY
The Agassiz Museum



HARVARD UNIVERSITY · CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138 · TEL. 617 495-2466

-9 March 1982

Dear Dr. Carr,

I have just finished reviewing the red data sheet on Dermochelys from Brian Groombridge. He seems to be doing a pretty good job although there were some errors and omissions in both this and the preceding L. kempi sheets. I question his estimates of number of nests / season on both sheets. He keeps using those old estimates that we know are too high. I was also concerned about his uncritical endorsement of egg sales. These are thorny problems that we have all discussed before. I thought we came out with a pretty good compromise at the conference in 1979 and we should stick to it.

I have been sending my comments back to Groombridge but I have no idea how a final version is decided. I think very strongly that the Turtle Group should have final approval of the red data sheets as they will be used to justify conservation action for the foreseeable future. I think we are due for a meeting of the group to formulate a policy on this and also to solidify our group activities. I know that such a meeting has been considered for some time and perhaps is overdue now. If there is anything I could do to assist the organisation of a meeting let me know- but I think the time for it is now.

I hope all continues to go well at Gainesville.

Best wishes to all .

regards P.

P.S. invited to Ecological Symposium at San Juan Puerto Rico Mar 31st to talk on Sea Turtle Conservation.!



Dear George,
Yes I did receive the squid net/leatherback
ms. - many thanks, & thanks also for your
further comments on the draft.

4 March 1982

Dr. Archie Carr,
Chairman IUCN/SSC Marine Turtle Group,
Department of Zoology,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida 32611,
U.S.A.

Regarding status category, please
see below - any remarks from you
on the subject would be very welcome!

Best wishes, Brian

Dear Archie,

Many thanks indeed for your letter of 9 February concerning the Leatherback draft, and especially your helpful comments on its status category.

Unfortunately I still find myself in a dilemma! I quite see your point about the real or suspected dangers of changing the status category from Endangered to Vulnerable, but I find some difficulty in seeing how the IUCN category Endangered can be applied to Leatherback - is the species really "deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction"? The RDB will contain both the available Leatherback population data and definitions of the IUCN categories; I still tend to feel that many persons conversant with normal English usage would arrive at the conclusion that the Leatherback data most closely fit the category 'Vulnerable'. Perhaps the consequences of losing strict objectivity would be more widespread and serious in the long term than the possible consequence for sea turtles of down-listing? Perhaps the IUCN categories should be re-defined?

Please can you advise me further on the likelihood of the consequences you forecast (of changing from Endangered to Vulnerable) actually coming to pass? Is 'Vulnerable' listing really going to affect the US Endangered Species programme? Incidentally, I can see how 'Endangered' in the sense of the US 1973 Act can apply to Leatherback, but the IUCN category is defined differently.

This whole issue of categorization seems incredibly petty, but the categories do exist.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Brian

Brian Groombridge.

PS: I enclose a note on the subject that I hope may get discussed at the SSC Steering Group meeting this month.

cc: George Balazs
Anne Meylan
Wayne King

Memo



To: Gren Lucas

From: Brian Groombridge

Cc: Bob Scott, Tony Mence, All Compilers.

File Ref:

Date: 24 February 1982

Subject: Proposal for discussion at SSC Steering Group meeting, March 14-17 1982: Application of Red Data Book Categories.

The question I wish to raise is not a new one. It appears at first sight extremely straightforward - how sacred are the IUCN Red Data Book status categories, and how rigidly should the criteria for their application be followed?

This problem is closely linked with many others concerned with the fundamental question of what Red Data Books are actually for, probably many persons connected with the SSC feel that these wider issues also require discussion at some point.

The specific case prompting this note involves the Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). This taxon is listed as 'Endangered' both in the previous edition of the Amphibia-Reptilia RDB (Sheet dated 1975) and by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior (1970). It is listed on CITES Appendix 1. Recent discoveries of new nesting sites have allowed the estimate of the world minimum numbers of breeding female Leatherbacks to be revised upward from c 29,000 (1971 est.) to 104,000. Evaluating the available data on population numbers, distribution and threats to survival, I find that my own conception of what the IUCN category 'Endangered' means does not apply very closely to the Leatherback situation. In the draft of the revised account I listed the species as 'Vulnerable'. Certainly there are threats to the species, both in the short term and the long term, but there are a lot of Leatherbacks currently in existence and there probably will be for several years to come. The difficulty is largely one of perspective; the endemic Madagascar tortoise *Geochelone yniphora*, for example, is restricted to a tiny portion of the island, its remaining habitat is diminishing and there may be as few as 20 individuals left (this is definitely a minimum estimate). The category 'Endangered', currently applied to both these species, seems to lose much of its meaning when used to describe two such different cases.

The problem arises when it is pointed out that to change the Leatherback status from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' would likely lead firstly to a weakening of current protective measures, and subsequently to greater pressure from certain quarters to weaken protective measures applied to other sea turtles. This is certainly a cogent argument, and if the RDB's are intended primarily for use as a tool in the practice of conservation, then there are clear reasons for ignoring rigid application of the present IUCN categories, or at least interpreting them with marked latitude.

In the present case I personally simultaneously feel happy to perhaps further the cause of Leatherback conservation by using 'Endangered' status, but unhappy at the prospect of being asked to account publicly for the reasons behind using that particular status.

RED DATA BOOK CATEGORIES

The following categories designated by the Survival Service Commission of IUCN have been adapted to apply to all taxa.

Extinct (Ex)Endangered (E)

Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating.

Included are taxa whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction.

Vulnerable (V)

Taxa believed likely to move into the Endangered category in the near future if the causal factors continue operating.

Included are taxa of which most or all the populations are decreasing because of over-exploitation, extensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance; taxa with populations that have been seriously depleted and whose ultimate security is not yet assured; and taxa with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from serious adverse factors throughout their range.

Rare (R)

Taxa with small world populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable, but are at risk.

These taxa are usually localized within restricted geographical areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range.

Indeterminate (I)

Taxa known to be Extinct, Endangered, Vulnerable or Rare but where there is not enough information to say which of the four categories is appropriate.

Out of danger (O)

Taxa formerly included in one of the above categories, but which are now considered relatively secure because effective conservation measures have been taken or the previous threat to their survival has been removed.

Insufficiently known (K)

Taxa that are suspected but not definitely known to belong to any of the above categories, because of the lack of information.

N.B. In practice, Endangered and Vulnerable categories may include, temporarily, taxa whose population are beginning to recover as a result of remedial action, but whose recovery is insufficient to justify their transfer to another category.

For species which are neither rare nor threatened, the symbol 'nt' is used.



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

202-797-6800

March 9, 1982

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 Mr. Balazs:

Thank you for the calendar. We looked over the photos very carefully, but decided that none were quite what we need for this book.

The title of the book has changed to MEMORIES OF WILDLIFE. We need scenic photos with some wildlife in them if at all possible. Still the scenics must be very broad showing as much of the habitat and surroundings as possible.

We appreciate your interest and help, even though none of your photos were chosen at this time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Margaret E. Wolf
Photo Control Editor

23 February 1982

Dr. Brian Groombridge
@ECM
Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
219 (c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
U.K.

Dear Brian:

I hope you are getting along well with the accounts. A somewhat belated question--would you have any objections to our sending copies of your leatherback draft to the rest of the ~~Mar~~ Turtle Specialist Group? We think your circulation list is more than adequate, but we are a bit concerned about possible criticism from members who would have liked to comment, and did not have an opportunity to do so. Because input to the Red Data Book accounts is perhaps one of the most important functions of Specialist Group members, this is a valid point. We wouldn't solicit comments on the draft, but would merely send it out--perhaps labelled "For Your Information." Then, if someone has a burning issue to bring up with you, they can. Would that be agreeable to you? Please advise.

Best regards,

Anne Meylan

RIJKSMUSEUM VAN NATUURLIJKE HISTORIE

RAAMSTEEG 2, LEIDEN, NEDERLAND — TELEFOON 071-14 38 44

CORRESPONDENTIE-ADRES: POSTBUS 9517, 2300 RA LEIDEN

Professor A. F. Carr
Department of Zoology
228 Bartram Hall,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida 32611
U. S. A.

Leiden, February 7th, 1962

Dear Archie,

Thank you very much for your letter. With pleasure I shall serve for another three years on the Turtles Turtle Specialist Group. I do hope indeed that it will be possible to arrange a meeting of all members of the Group. It will be of great value for the members to meet one another and to discuss turtle problems.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Leo

L. D. BRONGERSMA



The Ocean Research
and Education Society, Inc.

156 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
617-523-3455

22 Feb 1982

Dear George,

I do not have copies of the *Chenologica* articles - I have sent ~~to them~~ to obtain same. *Chenologica* is published by the Netherlands Turtle and Tortoise Foundation. President, Editor, main author (and I suspect financial patron)

J. H. du Pon, P.O. box 125, 8700 A.C. Bolsward,
The Netherlands.

I sent them a rehashed version of the reports on my Oman and Dominican Republic stuff when they solicited me for an article. There is nothing that is not out or appearing elsewhere.

I finally got page proofs of the Turtle conference papers but for some absurd reason have not got proof copy of the tables and figures, which makes careful proofing difficult! Oh well, Karen assures me they are coming.

I have landed some grant support to develop educational and scientific work on *Pseudemys felis* in the Bahamas, from WWF and NYZS. I have to give seminars at MIT and the Smithsonian last this spring on the whole work I have been doing and will run a summer program of 'Practical Research Methods'

(over)

and whale feeding ecology studies on Cape Cod this summer. I am still looking for another job and am increasingly dissatisfied with my present position. I have failed to get jobs at U. Connecticut, Brown, U. Stn FLA. and I have applications out at U. Texas, ~~U. Ariz~~ Arizona State, U. Maine. and Trinity college as well as enquiries going in Australia. Fortunately I am in no hurry and with Reaganomics reaping its grim toll it seems better to hang onto what you got.

I was ^(@15K/yr) tempted by the NMFS Rfp. for a S-E turtle survey but was unable to assemble enough info on aerial survey facilities to meet their rather specific needs by the deadline - Oh well -

sounds like you are still having fun in the Pacific.

When is the turtle group going to get together - ?

Keep in touch

Regards

Pertan.

P.S. Got the Demochelys Red Data book sheets to review (I seem to be on the mailing list) and pointed out that the data on number nests/season was shaky and unlikely to be ± 7 . Also suggested Red Data Book sheets were not the place to endorse egg selling even though it is politically necessary and might even work one day. P.

Dear George,

I received this this afternoon of ~~the~~ after I mailed the pkg w/ your paper to Smithsonian. However, your sharp-eyed editor (me) had already caught it plus one misspelled under Christmas Island. I go over all the U.S. papers checking for headings & other problems w/ consistency from paper to paper that individual authors can't check. It goes slowly.

Concerning Mrosovsky's letter - I don't know really what to say. Was that meeting we all (you, me, Archie, Anne, Mort, Pritchard, Wayne & Vivien) a follow-up meeting? I believe, other than that there has been no meetings because

of the usual lack of funds. I'm not clear on just who is on the Strategy Committee. There were so many committees & subcommittees up there, made up half of figureheads, that I get confused. If Mowbray would spend less time "wondering" about every one else & just do his own work, we'd all be happier - including Nicholas. I hope you destroy all these letters in which I am too frank. It is against St. Carr's teachings to put these things down on paper & I know he's right.

Just got my "MTN" as N.M. calls it. Haven't had a chance to read your article yet, but know I'll like it. I'm going to write to Mauritania right away to ask how to order CITES

~~Cites~~ is as bad as IUCN - they're all crazy. Got another letter from Berney saying I

71 Palmerston (18°04'S, 163°10'W). Powell (1957), quoted
72 by Wiens (1962), indicated that green turtle eggs were
73 "fairly plentiful" at Palmerston and that both turtles
74 and eggs were frequently used for food by the 85
75 inhabitants. Carr (1965) considered Palmerston to be
76 a major Pacific nesting site for green turtles. Although
77 Hirth (1971b) included the atoll in a list of important
78 nesting sites in the western hemisphere, it was stressed
79 that the number of turtles involved was unknown and
80 that the situation warranted immediate research at-
81 tention.

82 In 1977 each family on the atoll had a tradition of
83 raising 15 hatchlings in floating cages for 1 to 3 months
84 before releasing them as a restocking effort (S. Ka-
85 vakana and D. Brandon, personal communication). This
86 practice apparently started in the 1950s following rec-
87 ommendations offered by Powell (1957). However,
88 other reports in 1977 indicated that, instead of being
89 released, many of the turtles were gutted, injected with
90 formalin, and sent as curios to relatives in New Zea-
91 land. From 1972 to 1977 a decline in the number of
92 nesting turtles was observed by the inhabitants, thereby
93 prompting the local Island Council to prohibit the use
94 of spearguns (T. Wichman, personal communication).
95 Approximately 4 to 5 turtles are sent from Palmerston
96 each year to the market in Rarotonga where the meat
97 is not readily accepted by the residents and sells for
98 only US\$ 0.45 to 0.90 per kg. Large shells, however,
99 bring US\$50.00 or more in the growing tourist trade.
100 Hatchlings were reported to be present at Palmerston
101 in January (Brandon 1977), but the range of months
102 in which nesting takes place is unknown.

103 Prior to 1862 Palmerston was uninhabited. In that
104 year an Englishman (William Marsters) and 3 women
105 from Penrhyn settled on the atoll and founded the
106 colony that now exists (Bryan 1942).

107 • Pukapuka (10°53'S, 165°49'W). Green turtles and some
108 hawksbills nest on one of the uninhabited islets at
Pukapuka. Turtles and eggs that are taken from this
location must be shared among the native inhabitants

Wiens

could go to Réunion,
then I called him
again & he said it
was all off! "There
must have been some
misunderstanding
between me & the French
authorities, I mentioned
your name..." I
often think you would
be perfect for some
high level job in
Monges, or Gland or
wherever they are
but then I deal (or
try to deal) with

221
TS 04269
Smithson

SEA TURTLE
SUNDAY
12/11/1977
Palmerston

STATUS OF
N Center

- 109 location must be...
110 of the atoll (D. Clark, personal communication).
111 • *Manihiki* (10°25'S, 161°01'W). Green turtles, and
112 possibly some hawksbills, nest at Manihiki. The na-
113 tives take both the turtles and eggs for food. Hatch-
114 lings are also raised for a few months and preserved
115 with formalin for shipment to relatives in New Zea-
116 land (T. Wichman, personal communication).
117 • *Rakahanga* (10°02'S, 161°05'W). Both Carr (1965)
118 and Hirth (1971b) list Rakahanga as a nesting site for
119 green turtles. Gill (1876), quoted by Weims (1962),
120 stated that "Several species of turtle—loggerhead,
121 hawksbill, green turtle, etc.—are very plentiful on
122 Rakahanga in the breeding season." Although log-
123 gerheads (as well as leatherbacks) have occasionally
124 been sighted in the Cook Islands (Brandon, 1977),
125 this is the only known report of nesting. The north-
126 western point of Rakahanga is named Te Mata i Pa-
127 honu and relates to sea turtles.
128 • *Penrhyn* (9°0'S, 157°59'W). Green turtles and some
129 hawksbills are known to nest at Penrhyn and forage
130 in the adjacent waters. During 1976 between 40 and
131 50 turtles of unknown sizes were taken principally
132 for their shell. A few were sent to Rarotonga, but
133 most were used for trading with Japanese, Korean,
134 and Taiwanese fishing vessels that illegally visit the
135 atoll (Brandon 1977 and personal communication).
136 • *Suvarrow* (13°15'S, 163°06'W). Brandon (1977) lists
137 Suvarrow as a nesting site for turtles, but no details
138 are provided. One of the islets is named Turtle Island.
139 Only one person lives on the atoll.

them & I feel guilty
for wishing such
a fate on you.
Love to all the
Balayzes.

Karen

Karen -
I just found
one more of my
misspelling of the
name Weims -
Sorry - Hope its
not too late.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

8 February 1982

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

Dear Brian:

Enclosed are comments on the leatherback draft by Karen and myself. Dr. Carr also read it, and said he had no additions or comments--other than it seemed to him to be very comprehensive and well done. We were all a bit surprised by the degree of detail. Will you be able to give such detailed accounts for all the species? I admire your fortitude and dedication!

Dr. Carr is writing you today concerning his opinion on the status of Dermochelys. You will no doubt also receive comments on this from George Balazs, our Deputy Chairman.

Enclosed are a few publications that I thought you might want to look over. I was surprised not to see Pritchard's catalogue account in your bibliography. Perhaps you were not aware of it.

I think all the comments on the draft itself are self-explanatory, but if you have any questions, just write. It seems to all of us to be an excellent account.

Good luck with your remaining assignments.

Best regards,

Anne
Anne Meylan

NATAL PARKS, GAME AND FISH PRESERVATION BOARD



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PIETERMARITZBURG
3200

YOUR REFERENCE
U VERWYSINGSNOMMER

PLEASE QUOTE
OUR REFERENCE
HELD ASSEBLIEF
ONS VERWYSINGSNOMMER

E. 6/1

3 February 1982

Dr. Archie Carr,
Dept. of Zoology,
223 Bartram Hall,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, 32611,
FLORIDA,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Archie,

MEMBERSHIP TURTLE GROUP

Thank you for your circular letter of December 16, 1981. I am delighted to say that my Board have authorised my continued membership of the Group and I look forward to another three years involvement in its work.

Our season goes along quietly with no record figures this year but good solid numbers which is most satisfying. Hope that you are well.

Yours sincerely,

DR. G. R. HUGHES

for : DIRECTOR

GRH/klh



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SE

POST OFFICE BOX 1306
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103

January 4, 1982

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

Dear Cynthia:

Sorry about the delay in responding, but there should be time until the arribadas begin. You didn't give me any idea as to the relative total number of tortugas you are working with, i.e., >100,000 or <100,000. Are the 243 nests you had in 1981 the total or a small percentage? The logistics of working with a large number of turtles will dictate what activities you undertake.

I'll try and address your questions consecutively.

I. Your beach patrol timing is okay. You may be running into the wee hours more than is necessary and productive, but you can judge that. Ridelys commonly return to the sea without nesting, especially if large numbers of turtles try to occupy a small area or if they are disturbed by humans or other extraneous sources before they begin to dig the nest. They should not be disturbed until nest excavation is well underway. If they are not disturbed and can't seem to find a suitable environment in which to complete the nesting cycle, then let them go. I've never encountered or heard of forcibly bringing the turtle back until it does nest. My firm recommendation is leave them alone. She will return when ready, and there isn't anything you can do to "help" her. Odds are overwhelming that she will return to that beach, either the same night or the next, as well as in subsequent years.

II. Accepted practice allows the turtle to complete her nesting effort prior to removing the huevos. It probably does no harm to passively collect eggs as she deposits them. I see no need to physically remove the turtle from the nest in order to gather the eggs and recommend that this practice be discontinued. "Reasonable" disturbances related to flashlights, camera flashes, and subdued talking, once the turtle has started the egg chamber, is usually acceptable and appears to be harmless. Good judgement and respect for the animal should be all the guidance required.

III. Collecting the huevos, recording pertinent data, and placing the eggs in cloth/burlap bags is accepted practice, so long as it is done within 12 hours of laying. Do not turn eggs after 24 hours of laying as it is likely the attached embryo will be dislodged and suffocated. At times it may be necessary to put more than one clutch in the same bag and tie a knot in the bag between the clutches. However, you should strive to have one clutch/bag rather than double up as mentioned. It becomes too easy to get sloppy and set them down with potentially unacceptable weight from the extra clutch(s) on top of the other.

The eggs can be transported safely by vehicle, hand, motorcycle, etc., so long as reasonable care is used to prevent excessive heat from exhausts, direct sun, etc., and to prevent unnecessary roughness.

Most turtle projects require removal of natural nests to a protected corral and do the actual transplanting within a few hours or immediately, if possible. Why are the eggs left in a house until daylight? Can't they be transplanted sooner? The longer an egg is out of the sand, the greater the chance of loss. Your objective, I assume, is to obtain maximum hatch success and the longer the huevos are subject to extraneous environmental factors, the greater the chance of loss. I would attempt to prevent or to reduce potentially hazardous human caused factors to the greatest extent possible. Keep them out of water, away from excessive heat or cold, sunlight, desiccation, etc. Again, you are dealing with a living organism at a very critical stage--take care. Eggs can withstand moderate handling within the first 12 hours after laying, but why push it when we don't really know the critical parameters.

IV. The holes (for transplanting) should not be dug until you are ready to put the eggs in them. You are correct in your concern of digging the nidos the night before and allowing the chamber and fill sand to be exposed to unnatural drying and other possible problems. Don't dig the holes before an hour of transplanting; the best approach is to dig the holes and put the eggs in as one operation without "deadtime" between the actions.

Nest depth and shape is very important, especially chamber depth as it relates to temperature and to escapement of the young. See the enclosed publications for direction on this matter.

Nest temperatures determine the sex of the hatchlings. This occurs during the early part of the 2nd 1/3 of the incubation period. As a rough guide, temperatures above 29.5° C will produce females. Temperatures immediately above and below of 29.5° C could produce clutches of both sexes. The colder the more males; the warmer, the more females. We have not yet refined our studies enough to tell you exactly the time or number of days it takes to determine the animals' sex, but it is within the range of time and temperature that I have given you.

I would not suggest attempting to manipulate the sex of the turtle populations you are dealing with until you have a good understanding of this population's dynamics or what is "normal" for your area and what and

how human factors may be impacting your animals. Temperatures of 32° C are fine and not a cause for alarm. If this is the prevailing temperature in the early second third of the incubation, you are probably producing a high percentage of females. Nest location in relation to high tides is not in itself significant so long as moisture is not too high or too low, temperature regimes are acceptable, etc.

V. The study the Chinese are doing in relation to egg size and number of eggs per nest is of minor interest; I doubt they will find correlation, and even if they do, so what? How will it have practical value to protection/management of the resource? I'd prefer to see the effort spent on any number of needed studies of practical application. As you can see, research per se does not turn me on unless it has direct application of the needs of management and the species.

Your information and questions regarding tagging are quite another matter. Sea turtles of all species are being tagged all over the world. In the last 2 years, approximately 30,000 ridleys were tagged at Nancite and Ostional playas on Costa Rica's west coast. Mexico is tagging thousands each year from the State of Oaxaca northward to Sinaloa, primarily ridleys, but some greens and leatherbacks, also. The U.S. is tagging loggerheads and greens, and some hawksbills, but this is on the east coast and in the Caribbean. Australia, Phillipines, India, et al., are all tagging. Unfortunately, there is no central storage location of tagging data, not even in the western hemisphere. Costa Rica has computerized and stored their tag data (Dr. Doug Robinson, University of Costa Rica, San Jose). Mexico has finally computerized their many years of data and the U.S. is making a half-hearted attempt to do so, but there is little data exchange between entities, except attempts to report tag returns, i.e., a Mexican fisheries tag found on a Kemp's ridley along the Texas coast, or returns on the Costa Rican reward tags by other Central American countries and individuals, etc.

The normal tagging technique is to attach the tag (metal, plastic or both) to one or both of the front flippers (4" to 6" out from the body). In some cases, tagging is done on the rear flipper(s), posterior edge. Tags are not affixed to the carapace. The carapace method you described is not desirable and the tag will probably not stay attached a year even under ideal conditions. I recommend the method be discontinued and a normal tagging program be initiated using metal or plastic locking tags (samples enclosed). If there is a real interest and a reliable recording, storage and reporting system available in Honduras, FWS could probably supply the project with appropriately inscribed (address and tag number) tags without cost. Let me know.

If possible, I would appreciate a sample of the tag presently used; I am not familiar with it. Tagging will not, to our knowledge, affect the turtle if properly applied. It will not affect copulation or other normal reproductive behavior. We do not have data on the question of predation, but there may be some increase as a result of use of certain tags and their color, as well as tag placement. The increased predation (shark) is believed to be very minimal.

VI. I do not recommend that hatchlings be held (high or low tide is of no consequence). Hatchlings should normally be released at dawn and allowed to enter the water on their own. Don't be concerned if the waves keep throwing some of them back and maybe a few don't make it--it won't be many. Let them do their thing and it may be an extremely important stage of the animals life cycle. The efforts to "help" the little critters at this time could be screwing them up down the road.

What I would recommend is that before sunrise each morning (during the hatching period) the hatchlings be gathered up in buckets from the corral, taken along the playa, and released at scattered locations in groups of a clutch or more at each site. Release on the sand, up to 25 feet from the water and let them crawl to the sea. I am assuming they are being released on the playa where the eggs were laid; please don't tell me otherwise.

Releasing all the hatchlings at the same site is not a good idea. Hatchling release can concentrate predators, hence one of the reasons for scattering clutches along the playa. Other than not concentrating your daily release point, I don't know of a viable method to minimize fish predation. Predation may be the least of your concerns. Hatchlings, shortly upon entering the water, go into what Archie Carr referred to as a "swimming frenzy" and they will go like hell out to sea for quite some distance before assuming a more moderate mode of swimming and resting. At least this is true of hatchling greens and we believe it applies to the other species as well--observations indicate it does. The "homing instinct" you asked about is very real although we don't know the biological mechanisms that make it work. Turtles are much like salmon in this respect. They return to their natal beaches to nest and continue to return at each successive nesting. Occasionally an individual turtle will show up somewhere other than her natal beach, but this is the exception.

At this time, young hatchlings and young subadults cannot be sexed alive. Dead ones yes, but it still can't be done in the field and the samples must be prepared in a lab. Work is now being done to determine sex through blood drawn from live turtles, but problems still remain. By the way, there exists no way of aging a sea turtle, which creates tremendous problems in understanding population dynamics. Work is being done on this problem also, but results to date are not encouraging. I am sure a way exists, but the technique remains to be discovered.

There is not a practical technique for tagging/markings hatchlings that will last for any significant period of time. Isotopes, tagging, plastron and carapace material transplants, and other somewhat exotic methods have been tried or are under study and may have limited application. They are not universally applicable and should remain for specific intensive research.

Your hatch rate (50%) is somewhat low and I expect it can be improved. The relatively small number of clutches and nesting females you are working with should enhance your chances of increasing the hatch/survival

rate. I suspect that improvements in handling the eggs, including transporting, holding, and attention to time, constructing the artificial nido, and transplanting, as well as not holding hatchlings to meet the tides, will increase the hatch success. Relative moisture level of the sand in the transplanted nests could also be a factor--they could be too dry based on what you told me, i.e., digging the nest the day before.

There are a number of things you didn't tell me which may have helped me answer your questions, so now it is my turn.

Why are you doing this? Will the natural nests, eggs, or adults be poached or destroyed if you left them in place and "guards" stationed along the nesting area, or isn't this practical? Is the nesting all on one beach or on a number of beaches? If so, how many? What is the approximate length of the nesting area and what does the beach look like? Do you have a photo? You said you collected 23,741 huevos from 243 tortugas (one turtle may nest 3 times in one season). What percent of the total Honduran nesting population is this? Was the nesting distribution and number greater historically? What if anything, changed it? Is the turtle protected in Honduras--real or on paper? Do the local people depend on the turtle/eggs as a food source and if so, is it really important to them or is it more custom and not need?

I think you'll find the numerous enclosures very helpful--especially the Mexican publications. Let me know if you need anymore or if there is anything I might do to help you or your fellow workers. I don't mind answering intelligent questions like yours or trying to help someone who is making a real and sincere effort to help wild critters and to maintain the diversity of life which still makes our small earth a fascinating world--it's all we have.

Best of luck,

1/s/ JACK B. WOODY

Jack B. Woody
Endangered Species Coordinator

Enclosures

P.S. I'm not that much of an expert regarding sea turtles, and I've taken the liberty of sending your letter and my response to a number of people more qualified than I to help you. If I've erred I'm sure they'll let me know pronto, and some may even write you.

cc: Dr. Archie Carr w/incoming
✓ Dr. George Balazs w/incoming
Mr. Steve Cornelius w/incoming
MVZ G. Ruiz w/incoming

Coord.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mgmt.	
Sec. 7	
Admin.	
ACTION	
FILE	

6 November, 1981

Jack Woody
 U.S. F. & W.S.
 P.O. Box 1306
 Albuquerque NM 87103

Dear Mr. Woody:

I am a Peace Corps volunteer working in Honduras, Central America. I work for the government in the Department of Renewable Natural Resources as a Wildlife Biologist. This past August I worked for the first time with a sea turtle (Lepidochelys olivacea) project which is in its seventh year. The work is being done on the south coast of Honduras, on the Pacific coast in the Gulf of Fonseca. I am seeking advise on the methods being used in Honduras and changes that we could implement to improve the program. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a summary of the project, and asking that you evaluate the methods and inform me of changes we could implement or any other information you may have to offer.

Outline of Methods Used in Honduras August 15-27, 1981

- I. Beaches were searched during these dates anywhere between 8:00p.m. to 4:00a.m.
- Some turtles were seen heading back to sea before reaching the high tide line.
 - Some turtles would begin excavating a hole, but would stop digging before completion of the hole. Sometimes they would begin 2 or 3 holes but return to the sea before depositing their eggs.
 - If a turtle was seen returning to the sea before depositing her eggs, she would be picked up and brought up on the beach. Sometimes she would deposit her eggs, other times she would return to the sea. At times volunteers would continue to pick her up and put her back on top of the hole she had began to excavate. She would be picked up 2-3 times and placed back on the uncompleted hole before being allowed to return to the sea without depositing her eggs.

Questions: Did the turtles return before nesting due to human disturbance by shining flashlights on them, or due to, too many people in the area? Is it possible the beach was not conducive to the turtle for reasons yet unknown? What is known about the effect of disturbance and what is known about her returning another night or to a different location on the same beach?

- II. After the turtle completed depositing her eggs and began replacing sand into the hole she was lifted from the area and placed to one side while volunteers collected the eggs.

Questions: What is known about the effects of flashlights, flash from cameras or by too many people standing near the turtle while she is depositing her eggs?

- III. The eggs were collected, counted and placed in burlap bags. Marking on a piece of paper location, number of eggs and TWS REG 2
 A. Often there were 2 or 3 nests/bag, separated by a strip RECEIVED

NOV 16 '81

tied between the nests. The bags were carried by hand to a women's house where they would stay until morning. In the morning, depending on, in which location the nests had been found they were brought to the artificial hatching area by hand, motorcycle, boat, or car.

Questions: Is there a problem with the eggs cooling off or drying out during the night? Sometimes in the boat the bags would be sitting in a small amount of water. What's this effect? Is transferring by motorcycle or car causing more disturbance than the embryo can handle? By morning has the embryo developed sufficiently so that care needs to be taken not to turn the egg over when placing in the artificial hole? At what stage in development will turning the egg over suffocate the embryo?

IV. The artificial holes were dug by hand the night before. The diameter of the mouth of the hole, approximately 13cm to a depth of 15cm. From 15cm to 40 cm the hole was widened.

Questions: How critical is depth and size of the artificial hole? By digging the holes the night before the moisture of the sand in the hole was much reduced by the following day. Moisture in the sand would help to keep the temperature lower during the day. How important is this factor to hatching success? Temperatures at the same depth as the artificial holes were taken. The temperature recorded was as high as 32°C. Is this too high for embryo development? How critical is the placement of the artificial holes in relation to high tide? I made a few measurements and found the artificial holes were 3x higher than the natural holes.

V. Two Chinese working with the China Mission, an organization from Taiwan took the following measurements:

- A. They weighed 10 eggs/nest. They are looking for a correlation between number of eggs/nest to size of the eggs/nest. Their idea is that larger nests have smaller eggs, and smaller nests have individual eggs weighing more. Are you aware of other work being done in this area?
- B. They measured length, width, and height of the turtle shell. Their idea is that larger shells are older turtles and would therefore deposit more eggs. What do you know of work being done in this aspect?
- C. They tagged the turtles using an opaque piece of white plastic, approximately 5cm X 4cm. Written on the tag with black magic marker RRNN (standing for Recursos Naturales Renovables), Honduras, G. Fonseca (Gulf of Fonseca), 8 1981 (August 1981).

On the other side each tag was numbered in successive order. A hole was drilled with a hand drill at the back edge of the shell, sometimes centered, sometimes off centered. The tag was attached with fishing line.

Questions: Will the movement of the tag in the water create attention to the turtle by predators? Will the tag effect males from being interested in the female during the mating season? Will the tag be in the way during copulation? Is this species protected by International Treaties or regulations that would prohibit this type of tagging? How is tagging done? Is a license needed to tag turtles? Is the data being stored in one location for all people tagging turtles? Who could I get in touch with if we want to tag

turtles next year?

We collected 23,741 eggs, which were transferred to artificial holes from 243 turtles.

VI. The turtles began to hatch the 28 of September. The turtles were counted/nest and placed in plastic tubs. They were held until the tide was at its lowest. Volunteers would wade up to there chest and place the turtles in the ocean.

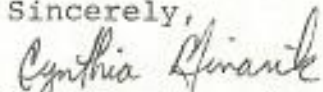
Questions: What is known about detaining the turtles. Are there energy reserves the highest at hatching? Does the position of the tide effect when the turtles should be released? What is known about the turtles homing extinct? Should the turtles be allowed to crawl on the beach to the ocean? Do predators gather in the water off shore? Is there a way to minimize predation after the turtles enter the water? Is there any method known for tagging the young? Is there a known method for sexing the young?

Of the 23,741 eggs we collected, 50% hatched, survived during the holding period, and were released in the ocean. I have read where other turtle programs are obtaining a 80% - 90% hatching rate. I would like to improve our methods for next year.

I hope I haven't put you in shock with my tons of questions. As I'm sure you've noticed my knowledge is very limited on sea turtles. I'm very excited with the possibility of improving the methods used here and maybe in the near future being able to contribute new information about sea turtles from the work being done in Honduras.

Thank-you very much for the time and information you are able to give me.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Minarik
Wildlife Biologist

My address is:
Cynthia Minarik
Apartado Postal 188
Choluteca, Choluteca
Honduras, CA

SECRETARIAT

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 Tel. : (022) 64 32 54

Telegrams :
 IUCNATURE GLAND

Ref. : D/1/1.22US
 D/1/1.53
 JB/ams/16

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

GAINSVILLE, Florida
 32611
 U.S.A.

*Beautiful
 set of
 letters*

Gland, 4 February 1982

Dear Dr. Carr,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 January 1982 and the address of Dr. Bjorndal. France has agreed to finance her travel to La Reunion as I informed you by telex. Further information will be forwarded to her directly.

Concerning the Suriname proposal and your comments, I would have expected to receive a more detailed answer. Ranching has been accepted in principle by the Conference of the Parties at its New Delhi meeting. To submit a proposal to change the status of a species or population from Appendix I to Appendix II is the only way to have a ranching operation accepted under CITES. Such proposals are subject to recommendation from the Secretariat on the basis of appropriate scientific and technical advice. For that purpose, the Secretariat requested the help of the Species Survival Commission of IUCN which agreed to provide such advice from its specialist groups.

Having reminded you of this background, no doubt you will understand that your opinion, as expressed in your letter, could not be used as a basis for the Secretariat's recommendation.

I would therefore appreciate knowing why you are opposed to the idea, if this opposition is a matter of principle or is related to Suriname only (this in view of the expected similar proposal from France about La Reunion) and receiving any information on the situation of the green turtle in Suriname and the whole region. Your co-operation would be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jaques Berney
 Jaques Berney
 Acting Secretary General

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 10, 1982

Dr. Jacques Berney
Acting Secretary General
CITES
% IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Berney:

Your letter of 4 February saying that France has agreed to finance Dr. Karen Bjorndal's travel as a member of the turtle farming inspection mission came as a surprise. When previously I received your telex telling of the approval of her participation I asked Dr. Bjorndal to telephone you, confirming her acceptance and asking for details of the scheduling of the trip. She was astonished to hear from an individual in your office that you had decided to look about for someone closer to the scene of the expedition, who could be sent more economically. The person there also suggested that "Professor Carr had funds" that might help defray expenses, and so on. Dr. Bjorndal was nonplussed, because she had made rather complicated arrangements to fit the mission into a scheduled recess in her research program. I hope, therefore, that you will reassure us once more that all is now in order.

In respect to the brevity of my reply to your request for an opinion on the Surinam turtle farming proposal, I made it short because my opinion is simple. My objection is by no means directed toward Surinam alone but

Dr. Jacques Berney
February 10, 1982
Page 2

toward the whole concept of international trade in endangered species. It is based wholly on the premise that until a natural species can be given complete protection by appropriate laws that are adequately enforced, products from that species - farm-raised or natural - should not go into international commerce. Until immunity for natural stocks is insured, markets should be killed, not extended.

That is the point at which my views and those of farm-minded people collide. They say their activities do not extend markets, but rather glut them. That is simply not true. Their customs immunity opens doors for poaching and contraband trade. Their propaganda extends desire for the products beyond the traditional seaside and gourmet outlets to an insatiable new clientele. The same things are happening, on a smaller scale, in Florida because of the ill-advised sale of alligator meat, derived from the state's ridiculous "nuisance-gator" control plan.

Naturally, the farm-oriented people don't accept my view on this. They say, rightly, that I am not an economist. But economics is not involved - only common sense and a longtime familiarity with trends in the traffic in, and use of, sea turtle products. I am telling you this, not because I believe the information will be of any use to CITES in its deliberations, but merely to indicate why I, personally, deplore the efforts of people to make money out of endangered species. I should emphasize that the Marine Turtle Specialist Group includes members who

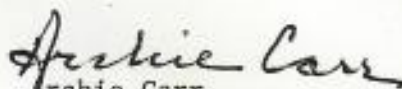
Dr. Jacques Berney
February 10, 1982
Page 3

do not share my views, so this letter should be seen as a purely personal opinion.

So my objection applies to the whole idea of delisting local populations of an endangered species for localized reasons. CITES is now committed to such a course, however, and from here on it will simply be judging the merits of each separate proposal for regional delisting.

I enclose a copy of the Conservation Strategy approved by the World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation in Washington in 1979. Please see the marked section on page 9.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/prn

cc: G. Lucas, Chairman, SSC
R. Scott SSC Officer

for turtle products where it did not previously exist is insupportable.

Fourth, the establishment of new commercial turtle "farms" must be discouraged until it is certain that such operations will not cause, directly or indirectly, a further decline in turtle populations.

IV. Incidental Catch

Incidental catch is a major threat to many sea turtle populations and must be eliminated or reduced to very low levels.

- A. All countries should be prepared to establish restricted fishing zones in areas of high turtle concentration (as has been done by Mexico, near Rancho Nuevo, and by the United States, near Cape Canaveral).
- B. The development of fishing techniques and equipment that preclude the incidental take of sea turtles should be given high priority. This technology should be made freely available to all states.
- C. Information concerning the magnitude of the incidental catch of sea turtles is sorely needed. The industries involved in this incidental catch should be encouraged to assist in the gathering of information.
- D. International fisheries commissions should address the problem of incidental catch in the framing of their regulations. If necessary, amendments should be promoted for international fishery conventions to give specific jurisdiction to fishery commissions over non-target species.
- E. Turtles which remain alive after being incidentally captured in fishing nets should be resuscitated and released.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

2/8/82

To: George

From: Larry

Keep the color prints --
I have the ^{more} negatives
if you want ^{more} copies.

The 16 mm color movie
on TED (Turtle Excluder Device)
went to SE Fisheries Center
(Miami) for official screen-
ing. I hope that a
copy would become
available for distribution
soon.

TRANSMITTAL FORM CO-25A (10-67)
PRESCRIBED BY DAO 514-2

I would hope a print will
be made available for general
distribution/showing -- at
least to the NMFS labs
(i.e., Hawaii). It's really
a sight to see the turtles
kiting at the top and
the shrimp zipping thru
the gatering and into the
bag. I'll keep you
Posted.

The gear research group
will be traveling to Panama
City in May to test an
improvement to TED. They
are trying to make it more
efficient and reduce the

fill by-catch further.

Looking forward to Feb. 24th when I accompany A. Carr on his second

Florida Current - sargassum weedline survey. Plan to do some long lining for potential hatching predators and also conduct a thorough search for ^{prot} hatchlings in the weedline (snorkel-dip net etc.). Want to take every opportunity to work with Carr (and get out of the office and the attendant "see" of reports and info requests!

I am still amazed at his energy (Carr is that is) and fertile thoughts about sea turtle biology. He hasn't appeared to aged one bit since I first met him in the early '50's.

Hope all is well by you and your assignment with NMFS has been productive. Sounds like will be the lead conservation agency if FWS relaxes its regulatory role under the new administration. At least their chief is completely open about his plans! Best ever
Jamy



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

To :

From:

P.S.

The new turtle poster, in color, will be out in March, early in month, according to Chuck Oravetz of NMFS St. Pete Office.

Numerous people helped with comments - criticisms - etc.

P.C.H.P. located the artist to do the job, and Mike Weber et al of Center for Environmental Ed.

helped defray the costs. Carr is slated to receive the first print!

TRANSMITTAL FORM CD-82A (10-67)

PRESCRIBED BY DAO 218-2

again - I'll send you a copy w/instructions

TRAFFIC (U.S.A.)



1601 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 Telephone (202) 797-7901 Cable: PANDA FUND Telex: 64505

February 12, 1982

Dr. George Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

Thank you for sending us all the clips on sea turtles.

I have enclosed 1980/81 Japan import statistics for tortoiseshell and turtle skins (and leather) for your information. I'm still amazed at the number of CITES parties still trading in turtle products. Only Japan, France, and Italy have taken reservations.

We are preparing our 1981 Sea Turtle Trade Update and will include Japan's statistics along with data we collected for Singapore, Thailand, Korea, China, Indonesia, and Hong Kong. If you have any information you would like to include, please let us know. We would like to include the picture you sent us of the box of green turtle meat from Expromar sitting in a Japanese warehouse. Any problems with this?

Best,

David Mack

David Mack
Assistant Director

photo sent

P.S. I have also enclosed CTF's petition to reverse the decision and allow farmed products back into the U.S.

SEA TURTLE PRODUCTS IMPORTED

BY JAPAN

TORTOISESHELL

1980 (Jan. - Dec.)

1981 (Jan. - Sept.)

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	当月 CURRENT MONTH		累計 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
05.00-060 ベッコウ(くずを含む) Bekko including waste					
TAIWAN K.G.	-	-	50	96	-
SINGAPORE K.G.	50	430	264	4369	-
PHILIPIN K.G.	-	-	2514	27675	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	4811	131733	-
BRUNDAI K.G.	-	-	49	489	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	187	1927	-
INDONESIA K.G.	90	432	1305	32565	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	1132	32215	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	254	14893	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	7	153	-
PANAMA K.G.	91	2670	5360	152318	-
PANAMA K.G.	-	-	763	36195	-
JAMAICA K.G.	38	961	895	32094	-
BARBADOS K.G.	-	-	9	187	-
CUBA K.G.	2000	102711	7334	373970	-
HAITI K.G.	-	-	1024	63735	-
DOMINICA K.G.	9	683	534	15340	-
F.W.IND. K.G.	20	1090	196	3294	-
CAYMAN K.G.	-	-	2905	83180	-
GRENADA K.G.	9	336	9	236	-
ST. LUCIA K.G.	-	-	143	3296	-
C. DOMIN. K.G.	36	1322	99	3949	-
C. VERDE K.G.	-	-	417	2758	-
SEYDLA K.G.	-	-	483	7271	-
TANZANIA K.G.	-	-	1202	24257	-
SEYCHL. K.G.	181	9934	614	34712	-
TIMOR K.G.	-	-	48	93	-
VANUATU K.G.	-	-	78	734	-
FIJI K.G.	-	-	728	16409	-
SOLOMON K.G.	-	-	794	7794	-
TOTAL K.G.	2476	121119	20830	1146882	-
E.C. K.G.	-	-	1305	52645	-

05.00-070 その他のかめの甲及び爪(くずを含む) Other tortoise-shell and claws, including waste					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
CHINA K.G.	305	817	425	117	-
TAIWAN K.G.	-	-	794	253	-
THAILAND K.G.	-	-	120	131	-
PHILIPIN K.G.	-	-	1214	1326	-
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	10	1873	-
PAKISTH. K.G.	-	-	79	495	-
PANAMA K.G.	124	6596	15	7697	-
JAMAICA K.G.	947	6418	97	6418	-
CUBA K.G.	-	-	225	211	-
CAYMAN K.G.	-	-	536	8471	-
ST. LUCIA K.G.	-	-	85	1711	-
SEYCHL. K.G.	-	-	178	9876	-
TOTAL K.G.	1460	13941	7979	66184	-

05.05-211 ベッコウの加工品及び製品 Worked "Bekko" and articles thereof					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
TAIWAN K.G.	-	-	-	794	9802
MC KUNG K.G.	-	-	-	3	85
SINGAPORE K.G.	-	-	-	10455	44319
PHILIPIN K.G.	-	-	-	988	4330
INDONESIA K.G.	3155	7534	41167	107115	
MALDIYE K.G.	-	-	-	270	2805
BRAZIL K.G.	-	-	-	16	780
TOTAL K.G.	3190	7534	52641	168415	

05.05-231 かめの甲の加工品及び製品(その他のもの) Worked tortoise shell and articles thereof, n.e.s.					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
TAIWAN K.G.	-	-	-	135	2206
MC KUNG K.G.	-	-	-	2	89
SINGAPORE K.G.	-	-	-	8183	12699
PHILIPIN K.G.	160	686	7619	17649	
INDONESIA K.G.	3885	6264	38911	38236	
TOTAL K.G.	6725	8956	75140	109669	

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	当月 CURRENT MONTH		累計 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
05.00-060 ベッコウ(くずを含む) Bekko including waste					
MC KUNG K.G.	-	-	-	164	1516
SINGAPORE K.G.	-	-	-	117	1794
PHILIPIN K.G.	148	1861	861	12701	
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	-	1180	7253
MALDIYE K.G.	-	-	-	295	2173
NETHEL. K.G.	-	-	-	448	11954
INDONESIA K.G.	-	-	-	83	3818
HONDUR. K.G.	-	-	-	44	2843
NICARAG. K.G.	-	-	-	475	19222
CST. RICA K.G.	-	-	-	52	1309
PANAMA K.G.	76	267	646	25656	
BAHAMIA K.G.	-	-	-	29	325
JAMAICA K.G.	27	803	307	11899	
CUBA K.G.	725	39836	2650	134103	
HAITI K.G.	-	-	-	375	28631
DOMINICA K.G.	50	841	202	4641	
F.W.IND. K.G.	-	-	-	14	653
CAYMAN K.G.	-	-	-	2400	71636
GRENADA K.G.	-	-	-	7	219
ST. LUCIA K.G.	-	-	-	148	3211
C. DOMIN. K.G.	-	-	-	90	3271
C. VERDE K.G.	-	-	-	81	1663
SEYDLA K.G.	117	1229	1404	12682	
TANZANIA K.G.	523	4202	845	12886	
SEYCHL. K.G.	-	-	-	423	21065
FIJI K.G.	-	-	-	81	2850
SOLOMON K.G.	-	-	-	326	4485
TOTAL K.G.	1986	48143	13967	402364	
E.C. K.G.	-	-	-	531	14872

05.00-070 その他のかめの甲及び爪(くずを含む) Other tortoise-shell and claws, including waste					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
CHINA K.G.	-	-	-	201	444
PANAMA K.G.	-	-	-	262	5000
DOMINICA K.G.	28	1209	44	1813	
CAYMAN K.G.	-	-	-	434	2737
TOTAL K.G.	28	1209	1140	16994	

05.05-211 ベッコウの加工品及び製品 Worked "Bekko" and articles thereof					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
INDONESIA K.G.	240	2684	-	240	2684
INDONESIA K.G.	6673	12267	-	26,279	69660
TOTAL K.G.	6913	15951	-	26,519	72344

05.05-231 かめの甲の加工品及び製品(その他のもの) Worked tortoise shell and articles thereof, n.e.s.					
品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
PHILIPIN K.G.	-	-	-	6851	6875
INDONESIA K.G.	184	267	-	34790	29678
ITALY K.G.	-	-	-	1	636
TOTAL K.G.	184	267	-	40448	36148
E.C. K.G.	-	-	-	1	636

SEA TURTLE PRODUCTS IMPORTED BY JAPAN

SKINS + LEATHER

1980 (Jan. - Dec.)

1981 (Jan. - Sept.)

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	1980 1-12月 CURRENT MONTH		1980 1-12月 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
41.01-274 海亀皮 Turtle skins				9660	15784
SINGAPORE	K G	-	-	7531	3649
INDONESIA	K G	-	-	4150	8911
INDONESIA	K G	-	-	7181	4820
PAKISTAN	K G	-	-	14728	12818
CAYMAN	K G	-	-	11125	38204
GUATEMALA	K G	-	-	53542	78923
TOTAL	K G				

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	1981 1-9月 CURRENT MONTH		1981 1-9月 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
41.05-251 海亀皮 Turtle leather				173	3685
SINGAPORE	K G	83	1281	1150	2585
MEXICO	K G	1431	27844	184	2754
INDONESIA	K G	-	-	17047	263,846
TOTAL	K G	1496	30925		

(単位: 100 UNIT 1,000yen)

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	1981 1-9月 CURRENT MONTH		1981 1-9月 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
41.01-274 海亀皮 Turtle skins				3847	6856
INDONESIA	K G	-	-	1891	1509
PAKISTAN	K G	1800	1530	4491	2750
CAYMAN	K G	-	-	1870	13273
GUATEMALA	K G	3177	6914	20751	24530
TOTAL	K G	4957	6114		

品名・国名 COMMODITY & COUNTRY	単位 UNIT	1981 1-9月 CURRENT MONTH		1981 1-9月 CUMULATIVE YEAR TO DATE	
		数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE	数量 QUANTITY	価額 VALUE
41.05-251 海亀皮 Turtle leather				19	309
TAIWAN	K G	-	-	880	5835
SINGAPORE	K G	-	-	9884	226111
MEXICO	K G	150	3828	6883	231266
TOTAL	K G	150	3828		

Source: Japan Exports & Imports: Commodity by Country
Japan Tariff Association.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Southeast Region
 9450 Koger Boulevard
 St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

September 3, 1981 F/SERx1:RJ

TO: Files
 FROM: F/SERx1 - Rolf Juhl
 SUBJECT: Turtle Harvest in Mexico, 1973 - 1979

An official report from the Mexican Department of Fisheries lists the following figures on reported harvest of turtles, whole weight basis:

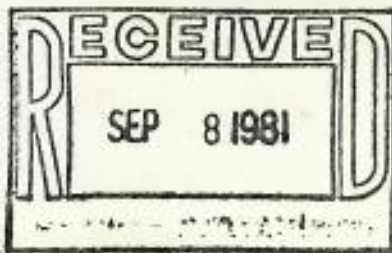
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>LBS. (000)</u>	* <u>Converted to individuals</u> <u>100 lbs. each</u>
1973	4,809	10,579	105,790 each
1974	2,641	5,810	58,100
1975	3,697	8,133	81,330
1976	3,318	7,299	72,990
1977	3,233	7,113	71,130
1978	6,658	14,647	146,470
1979	4,076	8,967	89,670

* The turtles are not listed by species, but it is assumed 95% of the harvest is the Pacific Ridley.

It is believed that at least half of the actual harvest is not reported, consequently, the above figures should be doubled to give a more realistic count.

What comes to mind is - why is the Pacific Ridley on the endangered list?

cc:-
 F - William Stevenson
 F/CM3 - Richard Roe
 F/SEC - Dr. William Fox
 F/IA2 - Barbara Rothschild
 F/SECx4 - Fred Berry
 F/SER6 - Dr. D. Ekberg



University of Toronto

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

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

November 19, 1981

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

Dear George,

In principle I would like to publish your ms on tags. As you know I think this topic needs attention and devoted much space to it over the years.

We are however under increasing space pressure. Your article does not give much in the way of solid data on loss of different tag sizes, loss due to different mechanisms but as someone who has thought much about it, your opinions are especially valuable. The essential parts of your article could be got across with about half the number of words, without loss of clarity. I have gone through it making suggestions for local reductions, but without altering the structure. As author you will be better placed to find more places to reduce.

I am overwhelmed with material coming in for the newsletter, and am having to make some hard decision about priorities. We only have limited funds. In summary, I would very much like your article, but could not accept it at its present length.

You are getting an answer on the day I received this.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Nicholas Mrosovsky

NM/rs

*P.S. The pictures just arrived —
— they are very clear & well done —*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

18 Jan 1982

Dear George:

Thanks for your letter of 11 Jan.
I enjoyed your inter-esting paper,
and look forward to the sequels to
it. You probably have already done
so, but if not, I think you could
use a scale on the figures.

The woman at the museum
shop is: Sally Gale
Collector's Shop
Florida State Museum
Gainesville, FL 32611

I suggest you send what she requested,
and include an invoice.

Yes, AC did get the post cards. I'm
sure he meant to thank you. He was
glad to get them.

Enclosed are copies of the Tonga-Fiji
return. Yes, AC did supply tags to
Tonga. They are tagging once again
out there - we recently got new
tagging records from them.

Glad to hear you had a nice
trip to the mainland. Have to run -

Hasta luego -

Anne

Just got the postcards. Muchas gracias!

50 HAS

25 green *pl*
25 hawk

Dear George,

30 Jan 82

Two minor requests for information:—

1) In the follow on from Cahill's article, there were some letters by you, and by Telger et al, to Outside Magazine. Do you by any chance have the page no, and vol. no of those letters?

2) Is it correct that there was no meeting of the Standing Committee for the Washington Conference (79) subsequent to that conference? According to the Conservation Strategy there was to be a Standing Committee to monitor progress, and I was wondering what had happened.

Your article will be in the next MTN — I'm aiming for Feb — but it might well be March — You will be pleased to hear that Harold Nitte thought well of it —

Yours,
Vicki

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

DATE: 29 October '81

MEMO TO: George:

FROM: Hope you had a good trip. Enclosed
SUBJECT: are my comments on the tag paper.

Don't be alarmed by all the scratchings-
I always over-comment. I think the paper will
really provide help to people trying to decide
on tags. Really, if the 681 tag is good on
your Hawaiian greens, it ought to serve on
just about anything else. And it's nicer to
use, anyway.

I made copies of the paper and gave them
to Dr. Carr and Karen. They should be sending
you their comments soon.

Not much new to report here. We're having
a meeting with Fred Berry next week re WATS.
Maybe we'll find out what's what on the manual.

Lynda is sending you a copy of a paper
on sea turtles in Thailand done by some people
in the Museum. Neither are turtle people --
they just had a contract as part of a bigger
study.

Hope all is well -- write soon. Anne

FAUNA & FLORA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

c/o ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON REGENT'S PARK LONDON NW1 4RY 01-586 0872

Cables: Faunasoc London NW1



JAB/vgb/D1

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Hon. Editor of Oryx Mrs. M. S. Fitter
Executive Secretary John A. Burton

Hon. J. Bjelke Petersen,
100 George St.,
Brisbane,
Queensland 4000,
Australia.

2nd February, 1982

Dear Sir,

We are most concerned about the proposals concerning development of Mon Repos Beach, near Bundaberg, Queensland, which is a breeding site for the endangered Loggerhead Turtle. Please could you keep us fully informed as to the proposals and procedures for voicing objections, should the development in any way affect the turtles.

Yours faithfully,

John A. Burton
Executive Secretary

b.c.c. Prof H Messel ✓
Prof A Carr/Dr George Balazs (Marine Turtle Group/SSC)
Mr M Kennedy (Fund for Animals)

Prof. Archie Carr
Caribbean Conservation
Corporation
Dept of Zoology
College of Arts and Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32601
USA

17 December 1981

Dear

Archie

You should by now have received the triennial report of the Chairman of SSC which was presented to the 15th Session of the IUCN General Assembly in October, in Christchurch, New Zealand. As you will have noted from the report, this has been a very active period for SSC. I send my warm appreciation for the contribution that you have made to this solid record of achievement.

As stated in the IUCN Regulations, your term as Specialist Group Chairman expired at the time of the General Assembly in October. However, I would be most pleased if you were able and willing to serve for a further three-year term as Chairman of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group, with Dr. George H. Balazs as Deputy Chairman. I have taken the liberty to submit your name for re-appointment to the IUCN Council at Christchurch and my nomination has been approved.

I wish to reiterate my thanks for your services over the past triennium and look forward to receiving your decision, which I hope will be affirmative.

Sincerely yours,

Lucas

Grenville Lucas
Chairman
Species Survival Commission

Secrétariat:

Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland - Suisse/Switzerland

Télex/Telex: 22618 iuch
Tél./Tel. (022) 64 32 64

Télégrammes/Telegrams:
IUCNATURE GLAND

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

February 4, 1982

Dr. Grenville Lucas
Chairman
Species Survival Commission
IUCN
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Grenville:

Thank you for your letter of December 17, 1981 with the suggestion that I accept the chairmanship of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group for a new three-year period. By rights I should ask you to find a more youthful and dutiful candidate, but with George Balazs as Deputy Chairman and Anne Meylan as Agenda Officer, maybe it won't be reprehensible for me to accept reappointment. So I do, and am happy that you tolerate the thought.

With funds on the wane as they are, I'm very uncertain as to how we are going to get together a quorum for any Group meeting in the near future - especially the one we aspire to on the Barrier Reef, where the Australian government has invited us.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Archie
Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 28, 1982

Mr. George Balazs
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, HI 96744

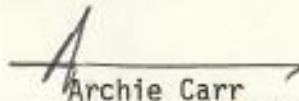
Dear George:

In re the film referred to in Monitor it is the same Jane Frick memorial film you saw in Washington. It's good, although I do too much of the talking in it. It has just been translated into Spanish and we're going to see that version Saturday.

Do you have any reason to want to see the English edition again?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

*I enclose documents you
ought to see and maybe
react to.*

✓	Coordinator	
	Manag.	
	Exec.	
✓	David	
	Admin.	
	ACTION	
Costa Rica - sea		
FILE turtle		

27 January 1982

Dear Jack:

Enclosed is a copy of the Presidential decree establishing Playa Ostional as a "protected area" for sea turtles. In the accompanying letter from Robinson, it seems that the decree may be modified somewhat, primarily as a result of an effort to move the responsibility within the Ministry of Agriculture from the Fisheries Department (very exploitation bent in philosophy) to the Wildlife Department (less so). The in fighting is only now starting to see who has final control. I'll keep you posted on this development especially as to how it affects our activities there (it does considerably in many ways)

Other news: Received a letter with accompanying return data from Sant' Rosa Park informing me of another arribada at Nancite in December. Very small emergence, will elaborate in report.

Have received an encouraging letter from the Center for Environmental Education, Sea Turtle Rescue Fund. No funds available for this year but will try to work it in for next. Am going to treat them special with regular updates and a small selection of slides. Another letter was puzzling. From the Animal Research and Conservation Center (NY Zoological) an statement that they normally do not make minor contributions to projects funded principally by other parties but that they would entertain a proposal if it is indicated that the money would be spent on Nancite and not Ostional! Any idea what the latter is all about?

Do

Am about finished with analysis of the data that does not require computer output from C.R. Much of it very exciting, so much so that the desire to continue with this work is overriding the earlier hesitancy brought on by the prospect of imminent bankruptcy if I do. But then its tough times for all at the moment.

In your letter to Minarik in Honduras, you mentioned that FWS might be able to supply tags. Will you be able to do this for us as in past years apart from the official grant?

Yes

Give me a ring when you have a chance and we can discuss the above and more.

Best regards,

Steve

FWS REG 2 RECEIVED

JAN 28 1982

SE

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA
Y EL MINISTRO DE AGRICULTURA Y GANADERIA.

En ejercicio de las facultades que les confiere el artículo 140, inciso 3) de la Constitución Política, y de conformidad con lo establecido por el artículo 6º, inciso b) del Decreto-Ley número 190 de 28 de setiembre de 1943, y

Considerando:

1º—Que para el Poder Ejecutivo es prioritario la conservación y manejo racional de los recursos naturales renovables.

2º—Que las tortugas marinas constituyen un importante recurso natural renovable y su supervivencia depende en alto grado de las medidas de protección y manejo que el país y la comunidad internacional les brinde.

3º—Que entre los mecanismos más efectivos para su protección se encuentra la realización de investigaciones científicas que conduzcan a la obtención de bases sólidas, para la administración de este tipo de recurso.

4º—Que se hace imperativo, bajo la difícil situación económica por la que atraviesa el país, promover la investigación de los recursos vivos del mar a través de la cooperación interinstitucional y del apoyo que puedan brindar organismos internacionales.

5º—Que Costa Rica además de ser país signatario de la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Flora y Fauna Silvestre, ha realizado importantes esfuerzos en la protección de las principales áreas de anidamiento de tortugas marinas, así como para regular el comercio tanto de sus productos como de sus derivados.

6º—Que Playa Ostional en la provincia de Guanacaste, constituye una zona de suma importancia para el anidamiento de *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

Por tanto,

DECRETAN:

Artículo 1º—Declárase área protegida para el desove y reproducción de tortugas marinas, la zona marítimo-terrestre comprendida desde la desembocadura del río Nosara (provincia de Guanacaste), coordenadas 216850 N-352040 E, Hoja Cartográfica 3045-I, hasta la desembocadura de la quebrada Rayo (provincia de Guanacaste), coordenadas 222000 N-347670 E, Hoja Cartográfica 3056 II, así como las aguas territoriales del mar Pacífico, comprendidas entre esos puntos.

Artículo 2º—La administración del área estará a cargo del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería a través de su Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura y para cumplir con los fines que se persiguen en el presente decreto, deberá de promover la suscripción de convenios de cooperación científica con instituciones nacionales o extranjeras.

Artículo 3º—El Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería podrá construir instalaciones con sus propios recursos o mediante proyectos cooperativos con otras instituciones cuando tenga como fin propiciar la investigación científica o proteger el recurso dentro del área señalada en el artículo 1º.

Artículo 4º—Para la construcción de cualquier tipo de instalación o desarrollo en el área señalada en el artículo 1º del presente decreto, se requerirá el criterio técnico favorable del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería.

Artículo 5º—El Ministerio de Gobernación y Seguridad Pública brindará la vigilancia que el área requiera bajo las normas y supervisión que el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería considere procedentes, con el objeto de garantizar los fines que se persiguen en el presente decreto.

Artículo 6º—Este decreto rige a partir de su publicación.

Dado en la Presidencia de la República.—San José, a los quince días del mes de diciembre de mil novecientos ochenta y uno.

RODRIGO CARAZO

El Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería,
HERNAN FONSECA ZAMORA.



WORLD CONFERENCE ON SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION

November 26-30, 1979 Washington, D.C.

Department of Zoology
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
(904)392-1250

25 January 1982

Dear Author:

The first batch of galley proofs has finally arrived. The rest will follow within the next few weeks. The Smithsonian Press has had these manuscripts in the works since 15 January 1981--I know the wait has been long. To avoid further delay, please return this galley to me, via certified mail, within 72 hours. I will be sending the galleys back to the Press in batches, and they will begin work on them as they receive them.

I know it is tempting at this time to add all the new information you have learned during the last two years. Overcome this temptation. In the WWF/US - Smithsonian Press contract, there is no allowance for alterations; confine your corrections to typesetting errors. I have enclosed a copy of your ms from which the typesetters worked. This copy may differ from your last copy because of changes made by Smithsonian's copy editor. Please return both the galleys and the edited ms to me so that I can return them to Smithsonian Press. They request that you correct typesetting errors in red. If you find any grammatical changes that must be made, other than typesetting errors, make these corrections in blue.

Thank you for your cooperation. I hope there will be no further delays.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Bjorndal

Karen Bjorndal
Post-doctoral Research Associate

Tables for growth paper

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

3 January 1982

Dear George:

I must apologize to you on two counts in this letter. First, for not including a friendly note with my otherwise stern letter that accompanied your manuscripts. I thought I was going to call you to make sure you were in Hawaii before I mailed it, but Annie knew you were there, so I saved the money. You also saved the grant (WWF/US) \$3.50 by providing your NMFS franked mail label, thanks. I hope your manuscripts were okay. My entire morning was taken up with talking to the other authors I had mailed manuscripts to. They all had complaints, and valid ones, about the changes the copy editor had made. It sounds like I am in for a lot more headaches. Also, I thought I was going to Mauritius~~xx~~ to look at their turtle farm. Berney from CITES sent a telegram saying I had been okayed. I called him to confirm I could go and his assistant told me (fairly rudely) that they thought I should come up with the half the money ("Dr. Carr has so many grants for this sort of thing"), and when I told him/her (I'm not sure which) that that wasn't possible, he/she said that they had someone else, cheaper, in mind. I can certainly understand that it is a lot of money to send me over to tell them something I could tell them right now, ~~xxx~~ but they could have been nicer about it. I'm sure Berney didn't know it was handled in such a manner. I am also working my rear end off, killing sheep and incubating sections of their gut contents. Slaughter days start at 7 am and go absolutely non-stop til 3 am. Needless to say, it is a little exhausting. But in the midst of all this darkness came a ray of light. Sweet George sent me some beautiful turtle stamps. I really love them. Thank you so much. Alan said he wishes you collected bee stamps.

The secretary just went home so now I can use her correcting typewriter, and not make such a messy letter. Back to the stamps. They really are great. I'm afraid that my stamp collection is more yours than mine. Oh well. They are pretty. Any word on the US stamps? I hope you don't think I was hinting for stamps from you. I was only sharing my plight with the only person I knew who could truly sympathize.

All is about the same here, except that I am more frantic and feeling torn in more directions than usual. Have you decided what you're going to do regarding your contract with NMFS? Speaking of NMFS and my recent dark moments (I know, a thrilling topic you wish I'd leave) I received a paper to review a couple of weeks ago, and was a bit surprised to see it, because the last time I had seen it I was a co-author, and now I wasn't. One of your NMFS colleagues had dropped my name and not bothered to tell me. The world is full of fiends. I got a very cheerful letter from Mort; it was good to hear her sounding so happy again. I am going to be so relieved when the turtle book¹² is all done. Smithsonian says the book won't be out until late summer. They say that the book is just so big that every stage goes very slowly. I'm sure that's true, but three years is ridiculous. Of course, Smithsonian wasn't involved the first 8 months. I'm planning a trip next month to Inagua. I really need to get back there. I miss it so much. I hope I can get away. Now that the Mauritius trip is cancelled it will be easier. I hope all is going well with you and yours. Come visit Florida again and bring your family. Isn't Christian old enough for Disney World yet? I would even break my vow and go there myself, to be your smiling Florida tourist guide. You really do owe us George. I don't know why, but you do. Dr. Carr visited you last, it's your turn. All here send their regards and best wishes. I have a pile of stuff to send you and to answer from your earlier letters, and as soon as I get the last of

the sheep killed tomorrow, I am going to get my life organized and sit down and write you a proper letter. I promise. Until then, forgive me, and thanks again for the stamps.

Karen



University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Department of Zoology, Biological Sciences Building, 401-792-2372

21 January 1982

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

Dear George:

Thanks for the leatherback article! My guess is that the "orange" spot described was the strange, scar-like, light area on the heads of all leatherbacks. We used orange paint sticks on the carapaces of our animals. At first we painted designs, but later went to block numbers.

Are you interested in attending a turtle workshop in Georgia in March or April? If so, I'll include you in the mailings.

Sincerely,

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

C. Robert Shoop
Professor of Zoology

CRS/cal



State of Florida

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DR. ELTON J. GISSENDANNER
Executive Director

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD / TALLAHASSEE 32303

BOB GRAHAM
Governor
GEORGE FIRESTONE
Secretary of State
JIM SMITH
Attorney General
GERALD A. LEWIS
Comptroller
BILL GUNTER
Treasurer
DOYLE CONNER
Commissioner of Agriculture
RALPH D. TURLINGTON
Commissioner of Education

REPLY TO

FLA. DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MRL FIELD STATION
P.O. Box 941
Jensen Beach, Florida 33457

Phone: (305) 334-1667

16 December 1981

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

File: 18-1-6-4

Dear George:

Thank you for the post cards and the newspaper item. It was good to learn that Hawaii, through NMFS, now has a green turtle head start program.

As a Pearl Harbor Survivor, I, accompanied by my wife, was in Hawaii last week. Our schedule was rather full and we missed many things that we would liked to have seen. Had I known of your head start project, I would have made a special effort to visit your facilities.

With best wishes for success, I am

Sincerely,

Ross Witham
Biologist



DIVISIONS /

ADMINISTRATION • LAW ENFORCEMENT • MARINE RESOURCES
RECREATION AND PARKS • RESOURCE MANAGEMENT • STATE LANDS



MONITOR

THE CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ANIMAL WELFARE CONSORTIUM

1506 19th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 234-6576

Agenda - 23 November 1981

- 1) Federal Register Notices
- 2) Draft letters
- 3) Information and Action Items
 - a) Reagan Signs Lacey Act -- Amendments strengthening this landmark wildlife protection law were signed by President Reagan on 16 November, culminating a four-year effort by conservationists to crack down on the huge illegal trade in wildlife. The Interior and Justice Depts. have pledged to use the Lacey Act to make large numbers of busts in the coming years.
 - b) Madeira Stops Whaling -- The owner of the whaling station in Portugal's Madeira Islands has shut down his operation that was taking 80 to 100 sperm whales each year, reports Petra Deimer, the West German whale-saver who has been monitoring the Portuguese whaling for years. That leaves the Azores as the only place whaling continues in Portugal, with a take of around 250 annually.
 - c) Monkey Trial Decision Today -- The cruelty trial against the owner and the manager of the Behavioral Sciences Lab will climax today when the Maryland judge hands down his decision. Conservationists and humane activists should capitalize on the case, which will be a landmark decision if it is in favor of the monkeys.
 - d) Chimp Language Lecture -- Monday, 14 December at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Smithsonian. "Sign Language Conversations with Chimpanzees" will be the subject addressed by Roger Fouts, psychology professor at Washington State University who has trained a female chimp, Washoe, to communicate with a vocabulary of 240 signs. Audubon lecture series.
 - e) Sea Otter Report -- Stephanie Kaza, of Friends of the Sea Otter will describe the efforts of conservationists on the West Coast to protect the California sea otter, which is under assault by fishing interests and the state of California. Kaza is in Washington to help coordinate the campaign to save the Endangered Species Act between the East and West coasts.
 - f) Sea Turtle Film -- A dazzling, 18-minute film about sea turtles and the threats to their existence will be shown today. It was produced by the Frick family with the cooperation of Archie Carr and Gordy Waterman.
 - g) Interior Declares War on Predators -- Bowing to pressure from ranchers and farmers, the Fish and Wildlife Service last week announced it is lifting the ban on using the highly toxic poison 1080 ("ten-eighty") to wipe out coyotes and other predators around livestock. The feds also approved denning, in which the coyote pups are gassed or burned in their underground dens. Several conservation and animal welfare groups, including Defenders of Wildlife, The Humane Society of the United States and Environmental Defense Fund, may sue to block the war on the predators.



MONITOR

THE CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL
AND ANIMAL WELFARE CONSORTIUM

1506 19th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 234-6576

Agenda - 30 November 1981

- 1) Federal Register Notices
- 2) Draft letters
- 3) Information and Action Items
 - a) Monkeys Win Limited Victory -- The Maryland trial on cruelty charges of Dr. Edward Taub resulted in his conviction on six counts of failing to provide adequate veterinary care and a \$3,000 fine. The fate of the 16 monkeys, however, is unclear. Taub could get them back. He has vowed to appeal his conviction, claiming he is being crucified by a conspiracy of humaniacs. Taub likens himself to Galileo, who was persecuted for his scientific inquiry. He has hired one of the top New York public relations firms to counter-attack, according to reports. Where Taub is getting the tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars for his high-priced lawyers (two sets!) and P.R. is an unanswered question. Report today on the status of the case by Monitor groups.
 - b) Bobcat, CITES Threat -- There are moves afoot to amend the Endangered Species Act to lessen the protections in the U.S. of all species listed as threatened (Appendix II) under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. In implementing the treaty, the Act requires that countries exporting threatened species ensure that the taking of the species is not detrimental to the health of the population. The state fish and game agencies and trapping and fur interests are working to undermine the CITES requirement after losing in federal court in a suit brought by Defenders of Wildlife. The court found that the Interior Dept., the management authority under CITES, had not determined the status of bobcat nor the impact of hunting and trapping for the fur trade. Having lost in court, the special interests are seeking legislative relief. Report by Ginger Marchant of Defenders.
 - c) Endangered Species Act Hearings -- Next week, the 8th and 10th (Tuesday and Thursday) of December at 9:30 a.m. in 4200 Dirksen before the environment subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Interior Sec. Watt has been invited to testify on the 8th in this oversight hearing. Conservationists and special interests will testify later on the 8th and on the 10th. Subcommittee John Chafee (R - Rhode Island) plans to develop a bill later in December for the reauthorization of the Act, which expires in 1982.
 - d) Groups Launch Whale Counter-Attack -- A letter-writing campaign to the U.S. Secretary of State and two key Japanese trade officials has been initiated by conservation groups to pressure Japan and other whaling nations to rescind their objections to IWC regulations. Secretary of State Haig should be encouraged to threaten economic sanctions against the fishing industries of the offending nations, and the Japanese should be educated to the international outrage over Japan's actions. See the December action alert.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

Sr. Mario Hurtado
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Box 5918
Guayaquil, Ecuador

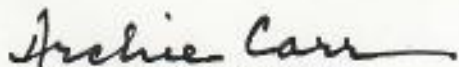
Dear Sr. Hurtado:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The Group is composed of members widely dispersed throughout the world. A principal purpose of the organization is to establish a system of communication among members that will disseminate understanding of the biology and survival positions of the sea turtles of the world, and will provide a means of mobilizing rapid and effective intervention in their behalf.

In order to improve coordination of our efforts, and promote Group understanding of local conditions, please let us know of special turtle conservation problems that you may recognize in your area. I hope also that you will send this office copies of any recent publications by yourself or colleagues. The titles and authors of proposals for sea turtle research now under way or in preparation there would also be helpful.

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you to membership in our Group, and I sincerely hope you will find the association rewarding.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr, Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group
IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA
M5S 1A1

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
RAMSAY WRIGHT ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

6 Jan 82

Dear Archie,

This is to accept membership of the IUCN Turtle
Group for another period.

Could you let me have the 1981 figure for :
Number of Turtles recorded on the 5-mile study beach
at Tortuguero (green turtles); This figure would be
equivalent of the 3170 for 1980

428 for 79 etc.

590 for '81

With best wishes for the New Year,

Nicholas Mrosovsky ,

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE · DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
DOWNING STREET · CAMBRIDGE CB2 3EJ
TELEPHONE 0223 358717

January 8 1982

Dear Professor Carr -

Many thanks indeed for sending me the
welcome and fine news that you have decided to keep me
on in the Marine Turtle Specialist Group. I only hope
that I can live up to your evident expectations. I look
forward to seeing the turtle book which Karen Bjornndal is
editing from the Washington conference. Meanwhile
Happy New year to you.

Best wishes,

Mick

(N.V.C. PO-VNIN)

Telephone: 096-23246
096-23497



STATE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT,
TRENGGANU,
MALAYSIA.
6th FLOOR WISMA PERSEKUTUAN,
KUALA TRENGGANU.

Your Ref:

Our Ref: Prk.Tr. 2601/3 (135)

MALAYSIA

2nd January, 1982

Dr. Archie Carr,
Chairman,
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group,
c/o Department of Zoology,
University of Florida,
Gainesville, 32611,
United States of America.

Dear Dr. Carr,

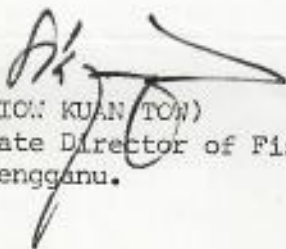
Thank you very much for your memo dated December, 16, 1981.

I hereby accept your invitation to serve for another term of three years as a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group.

I will keep you in touch with the local development on turtle conservation.

With best regards.

Yours Sincerely,


(SION KUAN TAW)
State Director of Fisheries,
Trengganu.

SKT/gal.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 14, 1982

Mr. Kim Cliffton
Apartado 124
Tecoman
Colima 28100
Mexico

Dear Kim:

Many thanks for the copy of your very helpfully annotated map showing sea turtle nesting activity there. All this was too much for me to pick up from your verbal accounts.

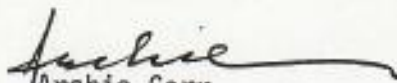
Please tell again, at your earliest convenience - preferably by calling me collect at my office [(904)392-1250] or at home [(904)466-3231] - what you told me about macroplankton collecting in bands along shear lines that form when the wind changes, and pushes Pacific water in till it meets longshore river water. The lack of any sargassum off the coast there makes this seem an important ecologic virtue of the beaches there - as you know. Does the wind-change correspond to the hatching season pretty closely? About when does it occur? Is the change in prevailing direction from westerly to southwesterly? What are the principal plankton organisms that accumulate in the bands? Have you, or has anybody you know, ever seen the stuff being eaten? If you don't know what the main creatures in the driftline are, could you get some of them pickled - in guaro or something - and send them to me? I'm trying to explain to the WWF in Gland how longshore shears and driftlines bear on hatchling ecology and the "lost year," and your information would be very interesting to them.

In a letter to Russell I made a few suggestions regarding the data-taking aspects of your extremely important and stirring project there. I believe Russell is sending these on to you - for whatever feasibility they may have at this late time in the season.

Many thanks for making my visit there so stimulating. I was really very deeply impressed by what you are accomplishing, and I just hope to hell you don't get shot. Eva and George likewise - and to them my very best regards. Also to the Little Angel.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/lw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

January 14, 1982

Biol. Rene Marquez M.
Instituto Nacional de Pesca
Apartado Postal 79-052
Col. Doctores
Mexico 7, DF
Mexico

Dear Rene:

Many thanks for your letter. I'm glad you are willing to continue as a member of the Marine Turtle Group.

I was really very sorry that you found it impossible to join us in the visit to Maruata. I was impressed by the work that Kim and his colleagues are doing there. Buying eggs from potential poachers seems like peculiar management - but what else can you do? Because of the egg purchases thousands of hatchlings that otherwise would not have been hatched, are going into the sea every night. Kim's participation in road-blocks and other efforts to stop the *contrabandistas* also seems unusual behavior for a gringo, and one likely to get him shot - but, frankly, I don't believe the local officials have the motivation to do it. With the road now finished, the poachers can get \$300 or even more for a turtle in Acapulco, Tijuana or San Diego. To try to stop a trade as lucrative as that is very hard, as you know - and probably pretty dangerous. Anyway, the day I arrived at Maruata they recalled the marines, and I freely admit that I was pretty damn uneasy for a while.

Two things I wish. One is that they could keep the Florida Audubon airplane down at Maruata long enough to make twice-weekly, early morning track counts along the whole coast where the black turtles nest. This would give you better data for population estimates. The other is that Colola beach could be marked off in 200-meter sections and, every night, all - not just some - nesting turtles could be tagged, measured, and their exact positions on the beach noted. This would provide very useful information for management proposed, and also for interesting comparison with similar data from Tortuguero. A third wish of mine is that more Mexicans were participating in the program down there, so as to insure continuity and permanence for the work when Kim leaves.

Colola seems to me an ideal place to work on the black turtles, but the two Mexican girls who live out on the beach are too busy with the hatchery work to have time to do thorough tagging. It almost broke my heart to see dozens of black turtles going back into the sea without tags.

Would you please advise me about a question that has arisen in our relations with Cuban tag returns?

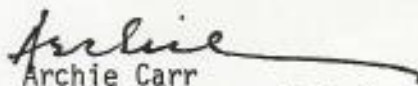
Biol. Rene Marquez M.
January 14, 1982
Page 2

Dr. Gustavo Gotera Gonzalez has just returned three tags. He says no reward is desired, but instead he wants publications, including my book *So Excellent a Fish*. I'm afraid the publications, especially books, would be held up in the *aduana* there. What do you think? If I should send them to you - as with the reward checks - would you be willing to forward them for us, and do you think they would get by customs all right? I'll be happy to hear from you in this respect.

I hope you can get down to Maruata before Kim leaves.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/lw

P.S. The last that Karen heard about the World Conference book was that it ought to be out in a couple of months.

15 Dec '81.

Dear George:

Thanks for your letter and the copy of the Phipps letter. These debates will doubtless go on for ever. I see no problem with the nation of the vidleys - this is a free lance article by an outsider, not a promotional piece, and it was never intended to be a secret that the vidleys were an Cayman. (I should add that I am increasingly glad the turtles are there - the ~~are~~ vidleys at the Seaquarium - one of the best of the commercial oceanaria - had a sudden mortality of all but a few individuals recently.) There are some in Grandstar Seavanna also that look healthy but are being raised indoors and are almost white. I find Phipps' letter embarrassingly simplistic and outdated - sounds like he is getting old.

Best regards to all for Christmas,

John

Since 1900, The Voice of Conservation.
Florida Audubon Society
(305) 647-2615 • P. O. Drawer 7 • Maitland, Florida 32751



Dr. George Balazs
HAWAII INSTITUTE of MARINE BIOLOGY
P.O. Box 1346
COCONUT ISLAND
KANEHOE
HAWAII 96744



University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881
Department of Zoology, Biological Sciences Building
(401) 792-2372

21 December 1981

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

Dear George:

Many, many thanks for your gift of the beautiful
cards. We all like them!

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bob

C. Robert Shoop
Professor of Zoology

CRS/cal

12 Dec 81

George -

Thank you for the turtle postcards.
Those are really nice!! I will try to do the
same for Seychelles.

No I don't know of any ground water
seeping off Ascension. Ascen is very dry, and
no one ever digs wells. But I guess there may
be some.

Thanks again for the clipping.
Sorry, I never saw that postcard when I was on
Mauritius. I enjoyed your paper on Tags. You
gave me a couple of new ideas.

Thank you very much for answering my
questions. I really appreciate you putting the term
into it.

Best regards,

Team

11 December 81

Dear Dr. Carr, Karen, Annie and George*:

* I am sending a duplicate of this to George.

This is to tell you about my trip to La Reunion and Tromelin islands. I spent 6 days on La Reunion and 8 days on Tromelin Islands (and 2 on Mauritius).

There are 3 main people working on turtles on La Reunion. While I was there, I stayed in the homes of each of them. They were all extremely hospitable and fed me very well. The French really do know how to eat. We also had rum and wine with every meal, but breakfast. The purpose of all this as you can ~~get~~ guess, was political. They knew I was Archie's student and they wanted me to come back and tell ^{him} ~~me~~ good things about the "Corail" Turtle Ranch.

" Mr. GUY LEBRUN is director of the ranch. At first I thought he was a bit sleazy, but the better I got to know him the more I came to like him. I think he really is sincerely interested in conservation. The main problem with him is that of over-optimism about how quickly stocks can recover. For example, he is trying (successfully) to get the Mauritians interested in starting a ranch of their own, using St. Brandon stocks. From what I can gather, the St. Brandon colony is barely in existence nowadays. Le Brun's background is in farming. He used to farm fish in southern France before he came to La Reunion. He was one of the early instigators of the idea

of turtle ranching at Reunion, although he claims that at present he has no money ~~not~~ invested in the Ranch.

2) Dr. BERNARD BONNET is a professor at the University at La Reunion. (You may have met him at the Tampa meetings.) He is a physiologist who uses Ranehed turtles in his experiments. I liked him very much, and was very impressed by his interest in all aspects of sea turtle biology (despite the fact that he's a physiologist). When he goes out to work in Tromelin or Europe he really takes advantage of the whole situation and looks at everything. I think he is also a genuinely nice person. If he ever comes to visit any of you, I would recommend that you be nice to him. When I was staying at his house I was exhausted 'cause he wanted to talk about turtles from noon, to night. He is very familiar with the literature.

3) JOEL KOPP is the Chief Fisheries Officer on La Reunion. I spent 8 days with him on Tromelin. He is truly a jerk. We stayed on good terms during the entire time we were trapped together on Tromelin, but it was only because I am such a nice, tolerant person. I was getting ulcers trying to be nice to him. He is a real arrogant creep. He always wants to be in charge of everything, a real domineering ass. But worse than that, he is ignorant! He is a super-clutz in the field. He tags turtles, ^{WHILE} carrying a giant torch. (To quote him, "This is a wonderful torch, it lights up the whole

beach just like daylight.' He was always putting the tags in the applicator upside down, could hardly walk on the beach; and was as lazy as sin. We would make one sweep of the 1 kilometer of nesting beach just after dinner (at 8:00 p.m.), then he would go to bed and I wouldn't see him again until 9:00 a.m. I did all the ~~tagging~~ ^{counts} morning tracks while we were there. (Not that I minded) Tagging turtles with him ~~to~~ was a dreadful experience. We finally got a system worked out for tagging: I would run ahead of him in hopes of reaching the turtle before he saw it. If I was lucky I would ~~usually~~ get the tag on her before he got close enough to shine his giant torch in her face. Usually ~~to~~ I didn't make it before him, so we would then have to wrestle with the poor, frightened animal. Then I measured her while he recorded the data (using his damned torch ~~to~~ to light his paper). Note: There was a full moon almost the whole time we were there!

I guess that I should be thrilled, though, I think he gave me the ultimate compliment. He said "You know, you're really good! In fact you might even be better than me, cause you can walk faster on the beach!" Lord! I'd better be better than him in every way or someone should take me out and shoot me!! He also said that he had been dreading taking me out into the field with him because he

never wanted to have a "girl" with him, for fear ~~they~~^{she} would be a terrible burden. He said he had only invited me for political reasons, but that he was really pleasantly surprised how nice it turned out to be.

His attitude towards animals is about the same as towards people. He is not happy unless the animals are responding to him. So he would go running through the booby colony chasing birds, picking up eggs and ~~stap~~ shaking them, moving chicks from nest to nest, etc. I spent most of my time running away from the creep. I imagine being on an island almost alone (there were 5 other guys who only spoke French) with a creep like that. ^{FOR 5 DAYS!} Tromelin is only $1 \times \frac{3}{4}$ miles in size.

However, Tromelin is a very nice island. It has an airstrip along most of it, with only one kind of ~~shrub~~ shrub (Tournefortia). It has Blue-faced Boobies on the ground and Red-footed Boobies in the Tournefortia. We were there at the beginning of the season, and on 1 km of beach there were about 40 greens per night. Bonnet says that at the peak of the season there are about 200 per night.


Anyway, Mauritius wants Tromelin. Considering how overpopulated Mauritius is, it might not be too good if they were to get it. (Sweet as they are! ♡!!!)

(One problem with the new government in France may be an unwillingness to hang on to La Reunion + surrounding islands).

-5-

Europa has gobs of French military on it all the time. Bonnet would like to see them leave because he feels they are destructive to the habitat. Kopp thinks the military should stay there, to keep the nasty, horrible ^{MADAGASCARANS} away. ^{MADAGASCAR WANTS EUROPE} ~~the French military~~
I'm not sure who is right on that point.

As you know, Europa is overrun with Mosquitos at night. Kopp thinks they should spray the lagoon with DDT to kill the mosquitos. In the next breath

 the jerk tells me how rich in life the lagoon is, and how important it is to preserve green turtles. I tried to politely point out that perhaps these mosquitos contribute to this wonderful productivity. (The guy is hopeless.)

Bonnet, of course, would rather that the mosquitos remain because he feels that they have helped protect the turtles from human depredation. They have to work wearing bee suits! (Sounds like a place for Bjornal!)

The sad thing about Europa + Tromelin is that Kopp is responsible for all the data gathered there, and for writing it up. Nottey has emerged since he took the post 4 years ago. He is not a biologist. I ~~to~~ asked him (politely) how he was going to get a population estimate when he frightened all the turtles into the sea while tagging them. To me this invalidates the morning band counts.

He said "No problem! I just plug all the numbers into a fancy computer program!" (GROAN!!) He admitted that Europa has much finer sand than Tromelin (which to me suggests that they may have an easier time digging $\frac{1}{2}$ holes on Europa, and may thus converge fewer times before laying.) He said he hasn't checked this, but he's sure that they are both the same.

Bonnet + Le Brun both think the guy is a disaster. They are hoping to oust him, but are having problems.

The Ranch collects about 10,000 hatchlings each year. Of these $\frac{1}{3}$ die the first year. They grow then for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years before slaughtering them. Have about 22,000 turtles at the Ranch now.

Slaughtered at about 30-40 kilos. Each turtle yields Fr F 3,000 and ^{COSTS} ~~costs~~ half that to feed.

I have ^{more} extensive notes on what I ~~they~~ saw there and would be happy to answer any questions you might have. The Ranch is nice really, but of course, there is still the problem of stimulating markets, etc.

P.S. The hatchlings are collected in the Love, Jeanne d'Arc, or Eur. + Trom. who purportedly there is 100% mortality from Frigate Birds. (????)

TRAFFIC (U.S.A.)



1601 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009 Telephone: (202) 797-7901 Cable: PANDA FUND Telex: 64505

January 5, 1982

George Balazs
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George,

Thanks for the note and post cards. The picture confirms the fact that sea turtle meat is imported by Japan (a fact not previously established) and that Ecuador is still exporting its turtle products. Ecuador still labels meat "green turtle meat" when they are commercially exploiting the olive ridley.

All our best during the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David", written in a cursive style.

David Mack
Assistant Director

cc: WIMU

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 10, 1981

Dr. Russell Train
President
World Wildlife Fund
1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Russell:

This is a brief summary of my impressions of the fantastic Clifton black turtle project.

First of all, I believe that what Kim is doing is shielding the Michoacan colony of *Chelonia agassizi* from certain and prompt destruction, and that he is virtually the only force at work toward that end.

Kim's active participation in seizures and arrests makes me uneasy for his safety, and is at least in part illegal. I'm happy that he has done this, but it's Alice-in-Wonderland stuff, and very dangerous, and hard for Mexico City to stomach. It probably ought to be soft-peddled. I think we are agreed in that regard.

The policy of buying eggs and installing them in hatcheries is sound and successful. Despite some official objection in Mexico City, many thousands of hatchlings that would otherwise never have seen the light are going into the sea. This ought to continue indefinitely if Pesca can be placated.

The data-gathering aspect of the work ought to be augmented. What I missed badly was a systematic tagging patrol of the magnificent Tulola nesting beach. I don't know whether this could be done in what remains of the current season, but I wish it could be. Kim ought to mark off a manageable section of Tulola by placing conspicuous, numbered posts on the upper beach, and then resume tagging there, consistently patrolling the entire study section every night, taking overall carapace lengths of the turtles tagged, and recording their location on the beach. Only turtles known to have completed nesting should be tagged. It made me drool to see all those untagged, easy-to-tag turtles nesting there the night we visited Tulola. They really ought to get careful attention. We spoke of the diverse reasons why they ought to be tagged, and I'll expatiate again if you want me to. To do so in the way I suggest would produce data directly applicable to the conservation and management of *agassizi*.

The other important data-gathering opportunity that is not being fully realized is that of making periodic aerial track counts along the whole black turtle shore section - some 40 miles. Since Kim has the Audubon airplane there I wish he would at once begin making weekly, or preferably twice-weekly, early-morning flights along all the separate beaches on which black turtles nest, recording the numbers of fresh tracks on each. We are trying to do this

Dr. Russell Train
December 10, 1981
Page 2

with NMFS support all around the Caribbean, because it is one of the only approaches to population estimates. In conjunction with the systematic, nightly ground patrols on Tulola, these surveys would yield the first trustworthy approximation of the actual numbers of females that nest in Michoacan, which is the principal remaining reservoir of the species on mainland America.

Data from both the aerial surveys and the tagging patrols ought to be sent regularly to Rene Marquez at the Instituto, and you or Carlos should talk with Rene about the scientific aspects of the work, explaining exactly what Kim is doing and pointing out that the project should be joined by young Mexican counterparts who could continue the tagging after Kim's exercise is phased out. Explain also that Pesca ought by rights to be sending Kim notification of any tags put on by his people and sent in to the Instituto. Only thus will Kim have any way of knowing, or reporting, what his tagging is accomplishing.

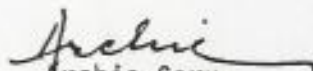
I was so struck by the opportunity of advancing knowledge of black turtle ecology at Tulola that if Kim were not working there, and if there were prospects of getting the necessary permit from Pesca, I would try to find funding to set up a protracted, seasonal tagging camp there. It is the best opportunity for such work anywhere in the East Pacific.

I can't foresee what the future of Kim's operation will be, but he deserves vast credit for having done a spectacular job, which few others could have accomplished. I wish there were a way to attach him permanently to some international conservation group, as a storm trooper who could be sent out on critical enterprises, demanding extraordinary guts, energy, tact, dedication, and an ability to live smoothly with any kind of people. Kim is worth a great deal to wildlife conservation. Think over possibilities.

I enjoyed the chance to be in the field with you, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to visit the fabulous, tormented Michoacan shore.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC/ljw

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group
FROM: Archie Carr, Chairman *AC*
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group
SUBJECT: Reappointment to Membership

I am pleased to invite you to serve for another term of three years as a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group. Plans for a Group meeting at an as yet undetermined date are underway. You will be notified as they materialize. I hope you will be willing to continue your membership in the Group, and that you will be willing to keep this office in touch with events important to sea turtle survival in your area.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

December 16, 1981

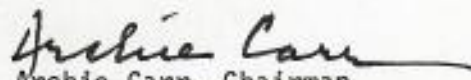
Mr. Mike A. McCoy
Yap Institute of Natural Science
c/o Micronesian Maritime Authority
P.O. Box D
Kolonia, Ponape
Eastern Caroline Islands 96941

Dear Mr. McCoy:

I am writing to invite you to become a member of the Marine Turtle Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The Group is composed of members widely dispersed throughout the world. A principal purpose of the organization is to establish a system of communication among members that will disseminate understanding of the biology and survival positions of the sea turtles of the world, and will provide a means of mobilizing rapid and effective intervention in their behalf. In order to improve coordination of our efforts, and promote Group understanding of local conditions, please let us know of special turtle conservation problems that you may recognize in your area. I hope also that you will send this office copies of any recent publications by yourself or colleagues. The titles and authors of proposals for sea turtle research now under way or in preparation there would also be helpful.

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you to membership in our Group, and I sincerely hope you will find the association rewarding.

Sincerely yours,


Archie Carr, Chairman
Marine Turtle Specialist Group
IUCN

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
223 BARTRAM HALL
904-392-1107

17 December 1981

Dear George:

I haven't had much time to write lately, and now there's too much to cram into one letter. A few things: Concerning your Pacific tag return data, I thought you might be interested to know that we handled one (Tonga→Fiji) return, but never got exact tagging data. We aren't even sure what species was involved, as they tag both hawksbills and greens in Tonga. I corresponded with the present fisheries people and they couldn't track down the tagging records. By correspondence we have here, I think it was used after 1975. There's a possibility that a former administrator has the records. Do you want to pursue it? If so, I'll send you his name and copies of our correspondence to date.

Dr. Carr got another letter from Mrosovsky about his IUCN proposal being rejected. Dr. Carr was wondering if you know why it was rejected. He doesn't think it ever reached the reviewal stage. The manner in which Scott gave him the news was pretty wretched--perhaps you got a carbon. It was just penciled in on Mrosovsky's letter, not accepted, or something to that effect.

We finally got ^{out} our invitations to MTG members about new terms. It has been like pulling teeth around here. We never resolved the Bustard/Hendrickson issue--just went ahead with the old members. Dr. Carr sent letters of invitation to McCoy and Hurtado of Ecuador, too. You should get carbons of these.

Postcard news: I asked the woman in the Florida State Museum "Collector's Shop" if she would be interested in selling some. She doesn't usually sell cards (except with FSM on them), but she is willing to try a few if you will break them up into units of less than 100. She would like:

50 green turtle with monk seal (if available)
25 Chelonia mydas
25 Eretmochelys imbricata

I know that's a drop in the bucket, but if they sell well, I'm sure she will want more. Let me know if you want to do this, and I'll put her in touch with you. Dr. Carr had asked me to order 50 of the greens and hawksbills to use in tagging correspondence when your shipment arrived. They are much appreciated. I guess there was some mix-up on the legends for the postcards. I was a little sad to see the caption you asked me to write for the hawkbill credited to Dr. Carr. No big deal, of course, but I would have like to have been associated with it. I guess you forgot whom you asked what! I wouldn't mention it at all, but that type of thing happens all the time. Guess it's the price you pay for working with a well-known person like Dr. Carr.

I guess you have heard that Jim McVey has changed departments. His tagging data on the ridleys is now being taken over by Thane Wibbels of NMFS Galveston Lab. Do you know him? I hope that doesn't mean a Tong delay in the publishing of the headstart-release data.

Some left-overs from previous letters: No, I can't remember seeing corroded

tags that also had barnacles or algae. My comments must not have been very clear. I can't remember what I was getting at.

Did I tell you Karen and I finally sent off two manuscripts to Biological Conservation on results of the tagging project at Melbourne Beach, FL? We did a 2-part set: aspects of nesting biology, and tag return data. We are hoping they will accept them and publish them consecutively in the same issue. (Have your cake and eat it, too.)

News on the home front-- Peter and I bought a new (old) house yesterday! We are thrilled to death. It's out in the country, on an acre of land, with 60 acres of woods around. Fireplace, stream in front yard, about 2 blocks from Payne's Prairie. You'll have to come stay with us! Family included!

Have a good holiday. I have to go Christmas-shop and start thinking about moving. Wish the days were longer.

Best regards,

Anne

not
ours! →