

1982-1983 HMB 8

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

G. H. BALAZS

December 9, 1982

Fish and Wildlife Service
Reference Service, Unit 1
3840 York Street
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of the report entitled "St. Croix population of the leatherback turtle - Recovery Plan" (Region 4 office - dated 1981).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

December 9, 1982

Dr. S. T. Garnett
Dept. Trop. Vet. Science
James Cook University
Townsville, Queensland
AUSTRALIA 4810

Dear Dr. Garnett:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article
entitled "Farm Management and Nutrition of the Green Turtle."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

December 9, 1982

Dr. J. S. Glazebrook
Dept. Trop. Vet. Science
James Cook University
Townsville, Queensland
AUSTRALIA 4810

Dear Dr. Glazebrook:

I would greatly appreciate receiving reprints of your articles entitled "Diseases of Farmed Sea Turtles" and "Pathological Changes Associated with Cardiovascular Trematodes in a Green Sea Turtle."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GRB:ec

December 9, 1982

Dr. Steve Stancyk
B. W. Baruch Institute of
Marine Biology
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Steve:

If reprints are still available, I would appreciate receiving a copy of your article entitled "Nesting activity of the loggerhead turtle in South Carolina" (No. I and II).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

December 9, 1982

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

Dear Dale:

Last month I saw a brief article in the Washington Post that mentioned a list of "Special Emphasis Species" recently designated by the Fish and Wildlife Service. If available from your office, I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of this list along with descriptive information on the new management effort it represents. I am, of course, interested to learn if any of the species of sea turtles are included on the list.

The enclosed article appeared in this month's issue of Hawaii Fishing News. I thought that you might not have seen it.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure

December 9, 1982

Dr. D. C. Stonaburner
National Park Service
Cooperative Research Unit
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dan:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Observation on Caretta caretta: a record interesting migration in the Atlantic" (Herp. Review 12:66).

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

December 9, 1982

Dr. I.N.S. Naitja
Ocean Research Institute
University of Tokyo
Minamidai, Nakano-ku
Tokyo 164
JAPAN

Dear Dr. Naitja:

If copies are available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Preliminary studies on the growth and food consumption of the juvenile loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) in captivity" (Aquaculture 27:157-160).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

December 9, 1982

Dr. N. B. Frazer
Institute of Ecology
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602

Dear Dr. Frazer:

If copies are available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "The survival rate of juvenile loggerhead sea turtles (Caretta caretta) necessary to maintain a stable population size" (ASE Bulletin 29).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

December 9, 1982

Dr. R. K. Thompson
Camarons Hatchery Co. Ltd.
Union Vale
Mauritius, Indian Ocean

Dear Dr. Thompson:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "Nesting of the green sea turtle, Chelonia mydas, in Mauritius."

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

December 9, 1982

Dr. Dave Owens
Department of Biology
Texas A & M University
College Station, TX 77843

Dear Dave:

If copies are available, I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "The imprinting hypothesis and sea turtle reproduction" (Herpetologica, 38:124-135).

Best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

August 10, 1982

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

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your letter of July 30th asking for my views on the question brought up in Steve Cornelius' letter of July 19th. I am sorry for this hurried response, but your letter just arrived and I am now in the process of leaving for a one-week study visit to Kauai.

Briefly stated, I feel that an agency like WWF-U.S. should remain completely neutral on a question such as whether or not egg harvesting should be conducted, when such harvesting is proven to be biologically defensible. The decision, in my opinion, should be left entirely up to the biologist, conservationists and resource administrators that are citizens of the country in question. Legitimate human needs and economics would obviously be a central part of such a decision. After having stated this, I want to emphasize that, according to Steve's letter, egg harvesting on these beaches has not yet been proven to be biologically defensible (note page of letter ". . . suspicion. . .", and ". . . if (my emphasis) production data show. . ."). Consequently, I believe that WWF-U.S. should be opposed to egg harvest until such a time that it is "biologically defensible," and at that time assume a neutral position that allows the people of the country to make their own decision.

I hope that these comments will be helpful.

Best regards,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

December 20, 1982

Chelonia Institute
P. O. Box 9174
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Chelonia Institute:

I would appreciate receiving the American Zoologist Volume 20 (Behavior and Reproductive Biology of Sea Turtles) that was advertised in the December issue of Marine Turtle Newsletter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl. (HFN article for Mr. Rob Truland)

December 20, 1982

The Honorable John B. Breaux
Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries
and Wildlife Conservation
and the Environment
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Breaux:

I am writing to request a complete copy of the record of the hearing held on October 4, 1982 relating to importation of turtle products from the Cayman Islands. I understand that this record includes testimonies submitted by the U.S. Administration, the Government of the Cayman Islands, the environmental community, Cayman Turtle Farm, and other specialists.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

s/ George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

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

November 29, 1982

Mr. John Forehan
Stockbrands Co. Pty. Ltd.
P. O. Box 80
Mt. Hawthorn
Western Australia 6016

Dear Mr. Forehan:

Thank you very much for your letter of 1 November 1982 providing clarification on the trial use of titanium tags in the United States.

You quoted a price of about 80¢ each for the smaller tags like the sample you sent. Is there a minimum number that must be ordered to receive this price? Could I, for example, order 200 tags at 80¢ each?

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

12 November 1982
NMFS- Box 3830
Honolulu 96812
or
HIMB- Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dr. Bob Scott
Executive Officer IUCN/SSC

Dear Bob:

I received your telegram asking if I would be interested in a four month consultancy in Bali/Indonesia. Four months is simply too long for me to leave my wife and son, and too short a time for the cost and trouble of moving them to Indonesia. Was your telegram really suppose to read four months? This seems like quite a long consultancy period for evaluating and recommending. If the focus is on Bali, it would seem to me that a hard working individual could get the fieldwork portion done in 3 weeks at the most. Especially with the help of a capable biologist interpreter. The report writing could be done back at home, where all of the reference literature exists.

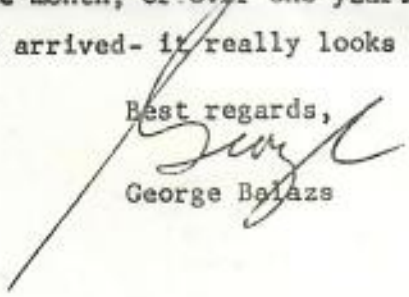
Harold Hirth has always been excellent at these consultancies- I would certainly recommend you try him. Also, both Dr. Karen Bjorndal and Anne Meylan are showing themselves to be true "experts" in this field. These are the only three I would feel comfortable recommending right at the moment. However, I am sure there are others who would do well.

It may be of some use for you to know that a young lady by the name of Fransine B. Manginsela (Bogor baru bII/54, Bogor, Indon.) has just recently finished up a college research project on the morphometrics of Bali green turtles. I haven't seen the thesis, so can't really say how it all turned out. I know that she made a couple trips to Bali, and has now graduated. She got my name and address from somewhere and we have corresponded several times. Also she has sent a number of photos of herself along side butchered-up Bali greens. Her written English is good. Perhaps there is some way that she can help out in the IUCN project, since I know that she is now out looking for a job.

Please think of me again for a consultancy if you ever have anything for under one month, or over one year.

The RDB just arrived- it really looks great.

Best regards,


George Balazs

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LT
UNIHAW
KANEQHE(96744)

ATTN GEORGE BALAZS MARINE BIOL. WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED AND AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR FOUR MONTHS CONSULTANCY UNDER REVISED PROJECT INDONESIA YOU SAW BEGINNING ABOUT JAN 83 MAINLY EVALUATING AND RECOMMENDING RE BALI TURTLE SITUATION WITH HELP OF BIOLOGIST-INTERPRETER BUT ALSO COUNSELING ON TURTLE RESEARCH IN JAVA AND

COL KANEMHE(96744) 83

JACC2301 UNIHAW PAGE 2/18

PRELIMINARIES FOR NATIONAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAM? IF NOT CAN YOU SUGGEST OTHER EXPERT NAMES?
R. SCOTT XO IUCN/SSC

11/10

Nat'l Fisheries
~~247 6631~~ geri
146-2181

Reply via RCA: call 637-2521

Reply via RCA: call 637-2521

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University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

November 15, 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Dear Nancy:

This letter responds to your request of 25 October asking for my review comments on proposals submitted by D. Robinson and S. Cornelius. My comments will be fairly brief, because I don't feel I'm the best person to be doing the review for these particular topics. I strongly recommend that you ask Dr. David Ehrenfeld to advise you on the proposals. His address is: Dept. of Biology, Cook College, Rutgers University, P. O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

Incidence of fungus . . . by S. Cornelius

This certainly seems like a worthy project for the few dollars being requested. However, quite frankly I am unable to follow the chain of egg and embryo survival described in 2.2 and illustrated in Appendix I. There must be a better way to explain this to the reader. Perhaps by writing the percentages and impacting factors right on the pie graphs? And also having "E" and "I" stay E and I instead of turning into "F" and "J". Also, the reader needs to know what conservation programs have fungal infection of eggs as a "common problem" (I.8.). None are listed. In 2.3a, the use of the word "feral" always makes me think of "domestic gone wild." To avoid confusion for people like me, I would replace "feral" with "wild", since "wild" is what he really means.

Investigations of possible olfactory imprinting . . . by D. Robinson

In 2.1 I believe the wrong kind of "Background Information" is being supplied. Isn't it supposed to be for the research topic? How many hatchlings will be consumed? Does WWF have any history of funding this sort of physiological work? I'm also troubled by the last sentence in 2.5.

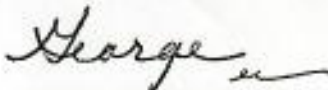
Ms. Nancy E. Hammond
November 15, 1982
Page 2

Sex determination . . . by D. Robinson

I really don't understand just what this project is intended to do. The "Abstract" left me even more confused. Please get a professional evaluation of this proposal from David Ehrenfeld, or someone with equivalent knowledge of the subject.

Sorry that I can't be of more help this time around. Best regards.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

October 28, 1982

Dr. Robert Scott
Executive Officer
IUCN/SSC
1196 Gland
SWITZERLAND

Dear Bob:

In the recent July-Sept. 1982 issue of IUCN Bulletin I was interested to see that IUCN has been contracted by Saudi Arabia to provide assessments of various environmental issues for the Arabian Peninsula. From what we know, this area still contains important rookeries for several species of sea turtles. Hopefully the sea turtle stocks are included in the planned assessments. Would you please confirm this point for me, and let me know who is actually conducting the sea turtle component of the assessment.

Earlier this year, I carried out correspondence with Dr. John Burchard, one of the few marine biologists who has ever studied Saudi sea turtles. I'm not certain if I previously sent you copies of these letters, so a set has been enclosed for your background information. We were fortunate because only a couple months ago John was able to pass through Honolulu and discuss these various matters with me in person. The conclusions that I drew from our talk were: 1) there is a potentially very serious problem of foreign fishing boats impacting Saudi sea turtles, 2) the turtles are in need of study, 3) John has a sincere, enthusiastic, and capable interest in the conservation of the stocks, and 4) he needs, and would welcome, outside expertise in order to improve the situation.

I hope that the meeting in Bali went well.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec
Encls.

September 20, 1982

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

Dear Nancy:

I am writing this short letter to ask if the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific, and specifically the Marshall Islands, still fall within your area of jurisdiction for the direct funding of projects. I recall that Peter Pritchard received a grant from WWF-U.S. back in 1976 to scout out sea turtles through the more readily accessible areas of the TT.

Probably the single most important rookery for green turtles left in the 2 million square miles of the TT is uninhabited Bikar Atoll in the northern Marshalls. No sea turtle researcher has ever set foot on the island, but in the late 1960's John Handrickson was on a military overflight and saw more beach tracks than reported elsewhere in the TT. Someone needs to take a good look at those turtles, both from the standpoint of turtle biology and native use. As you will recall, the people in the Marshalls have had a rough time in recent decades, what with being moved on and off various islands, and "rained" directly upon by fallout from ill-conceived nuclear testing. To the extent possible, I would like to help them out with their sea turtle resource. Bikar is the key site. The next breeding season starts about one year from now. I roughly estimate that a month-long expedition would cost \$4-5,000. Would you be interested in a proposal, assuming I can put together the logistics?

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biology

GHB:ec

September 20, 1982

Dr. James D. Lazell, Jr.
The Conservation Agency
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

Dear Dr. Lazell:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your privately printed report on the British Virgin Islands (1980) that was referenced in your recent paper in Copeia on marine turtle nesting in Indonesia.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

September 20, 1982

Professor K. Ronald
College of Biological Science
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
Canada N1G 2W1

Dear Dr. Ronald:

Many thanks for your letter of 8 August 1982. I was pleased to learn that articles and current information about Hawaiian monk seals can be included in your newsletter.

Concerning your request for the names of key people involved in the research of Hawaiian monk seals, I have sent a copy of your letter to William Gilmartin, the Leader of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team. I am sure that he will be contacting you at his earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: W. Gilmartin

September 20, 1982

TO: Jack R. Davidson
Director, UH Sea Grant College Program

FROM: George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

SUBJECT: Proposal for Sea Grant Year 16 (1983-84)

My research proposal entitled "Recruitment, Growth and Developmental Habitat Requirements of Green Turtles in Their Nearshore Foraging Pastures" is being respectfully submitted to your office for funding consideration during Sea Grant Year 16. Please note that the budget sheets do not presently show matching funds due to the fact that financial commitments have as yet not been received from the potential cooperators referenced in the text. It is hoped that such support will be forthcoming after the agencies have had the opportunity to scrutinize the full proposal, and come to recognize the need and significance of this work. I should also mention to you that there is some uncertainty whether the proposed project falls under "on campus" or "off campus" research. Consequently, for the time being, the overhead cost has been computed at the higher rate of "on-campus."

I have decided not to submit a full proposal at this time covering the assessment of sea turtle stocks and native usage in American Samoa. You will recall that earlier this year I sent a preproposal to your office on this subject. I am still quite interested in eventually undertaking this work in Samoa, but my proposed foraging pasture study here in Hawaii is simply more important at the moment. If a foraging pasture study is going to be launched in the Kau District, it should be done in a consecutive year following my past and present tagging work in Hawaii. The one-year (or more) gap caused by undertaking a project in Samoa during Sea Grant Year 16 would weaken my ability to achieve optimum results working in the pastures at a later date.

I would appreciate your continuing advice and guidance on these matters.

GHB:ec
Encis.

September 20, 1982

Mr. Michael Weber, Director
Sea Turtle Rescue Fund
Center for Environmental Education
624 - 9th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

Dear Michael:

The letter that you wrote to the Chief of Wildlife Refuges was perfect. Your quick action on this potentially important subject is to be commended. I will be interested to see a copy of the response that you eventually receive. Please keep me informed and I will help out in any way possible from this end. I should also take this opportunity to congratulate you on the excellent article you authored for Fish Boat.

I work closely with Larry Ogren on various matters, and recently he sent me a form letter sent to him from CEE signed by Thomas Grooms soliciting funds for "Operation Headstart." I am sorry to say that, in my view, the letter leaves something to be desired in properly portraying the desirability and proven worth of head starting. Have you received any other comments along these lines? I assume that you helped to write the letter, but possibly that was not the case. In any event, without being overly critical, I did want to mention this point to you for consideration.

A leatherback came ashore to nest on Maui a few weeks. This is the first such record that I know about for the Hawaiian Islands, although the species is regularly seen by fishermen 2-20 miles offshore.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 20, 1982

Dr. Robert F. Scott
Executive Officer
IUCN/SSC
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I'm sorry for the delay in responding to your good letter of 23 August. Lately all of my time has been taken up trying to find funds to remain active in Pacific sea turtle work after June of next year. My salary base has been on "soft money" for 11 years now, and this is becoming more of a problem each year, as government funding sources get cut back.

Your idea to have a mini-symposium on RDB categories at the Kuala Lumpur SSC meeting certainly sounds like a fine and timely undertaking. If Grenville and Wayne vigorously endorse the idea, then certainly it should take place. My only comment would be that I'm not convinced that quick publication by IUCN of the papers presented is really a good idea. I suggest that you reserve the option of publishing until everyone (mostly Group chairmen) can see what information/opinions are actually set forth.

With respect to persons who might be invited to speak or prepare a paper, I recommend that you consider Dr. Perran Ross (Division of Reptiles & Amphibians, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA 02138). Perran also actively corresponded with Brian Groombridge when the draft RDB sheets were sent out, and it became known that the categories for sea turtles would be down listed.

In closing, I should mention that I never did receive a reply to my last couple of letters on the RDB sea turtle sheets. Did the sheets go to press in June, as we were previously told they would? Were the categories downlisted? I don't know the answers to these questions, and I don't believe that Dr. Carr does either.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

September 27, 1982

Mr. Llewellyn Stone Thompson
P. O. Box 81
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am interested in collecting records of shark injuries to humans in order to eventually publish an update for an article that Alan Kam and I wrote last year (copy enclosed). Any help that you can give me with this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. On several occasions, I have found that minor injuries from sharks occurring on the neighbor islands are not reported in the Honolulu newspapers. It would therefore be very helpful to me if you would drop me a note about any such cases that come to your attention on the Big Island.

I should also mention that, in some instances, the victim of an apparent drowning will be found with evidence of shark wounds. As mentioned in the enclosed article, for such cases it is often impossible to determine if the shark actually contributed to the death, or if the wounds were made after death occurred. Nevertheless, I am interested in documenting these cases for the historical records, since they do indeed constitute shark/human interactions.

Thank you for any help that you can give me with this small project.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

September 27, 1982

Congressman John Brueaux
Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife
House Committee on Merchant Marine
and Fisheries
United States Congress
Washington, D. C. 20515

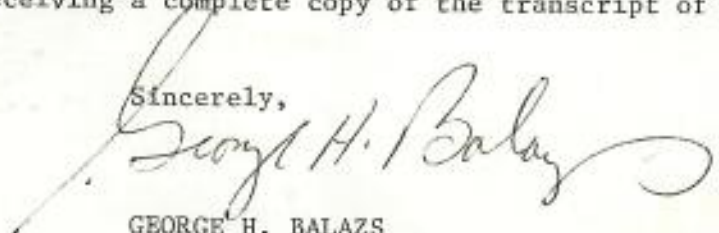
Dear Congressman Brueaux:

It is my understanding that the Subcommittee on Fish and Wildlife will be holding a hearing during early October on the question of foreign commercial sea turtle farms possibly being exempted from our Endangered Species Act and allowed to import and market their products in the United States. As a researcher of Pacific sea turtles for the past 11 years, and the current Deputy Chairman of the I.U.C.N. Marine Turtle Specialist Group, I am deeply interested in this subject and concerned about possible changes in the law that could adversely impact the conservation of wild sea turtles.

I do not know the circumstances leading up to the decision to hold a hearing, however, perhaps I can be of help to your efforts to gather together all of the current information on this complex subject. Earlier this year, a lengthy petition was submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by an organization known as the Pacific Legal Foundation. The petition asked that a trade exemption be granted for farmed sea turtle products, the very same topic you are planning to review in the forthcoming hearing. For several months now, the petition has been evaluated by some of the most qualified biologists and administrators within the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their findings and recommendations on this matter should be completed at the present time. Consequently, to insure that your subcommittee has the most comprehensive information available, I recommend that you immediately contact these two government agencies and request copies of their entire review and results.

I will be in Samoa for most of October, however, when I return to Honolulu I would greatly appreciate receiving a complete copy of the transcript of your hearing.

Sincerely,



GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

October 8, 1982

Dr. Don Moll
Associate Professor of Biology
Department of Life Sciences
Southwest Missouri State University
Springfield, Missouri 65802

Dear Don:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 15th and the various interesting reprints that you sent.

While in general I support the broad objectives that you mentioned for a proposed research program in the South Pacific, I am hesitant to write a formal letter of endorsement as an officer of the Marine Turtle Group. For one thing, my position in the Group is Deputy Chairman (assistant to Dr. Carr), not Co-Chairman as you wrote in your letter. Any endorsements under the title of the Group should therefore appropriately come only from Dr. Carr's office. Also, in my view, it would be better suited to obtain letters of support after you have composed a full draft proposal and sent it out for review to Dr. Carr and others. There is no question in my mind that you have superb credentials for research and publication, but I do think letters of support should be aimed at a written proposal that contains some detail of the objectives and methods. Especially in the case of a 2-3 year study.

I am writing this letter from Samoa, so am unable to send you copies of my three papers/reports that you requested. However, I will make copies and mail them to you just as soon as I return to Honolulu in a few weeks. I will not be attending the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, but hope to be at the WATS gathering in Costa Rica in July of next year.

I look forward to meeting you in person one of these days in the not-too-distant future so we can discuss all of our common interests in sea turtles.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs (M.S.)
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

September 10, 1982

Dr. Gerry P. Reyes
Assistant Director
Task Force Pawikan
Natural Resources Management Center
Triumph Building, 1610 Quezon Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippines

Dear Dr. Reyes:

I regret that I missed seeing both you and Dr. Ramos during your recent visit to Honolulu. Under separate cover, I am sending several reprints dealing with my recent research of sea turtles here in Hawaii. If there is any way that I can help the Task Force Pawikan, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O.Box 1346 • Coconut Island • Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Cable Address: UNIHAW
8 September 1982

Dr. Nicholas Mrosovsky
Department of Zoology
25 Harbord Street
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1

Dear Nicholas:

I appologize if I somehow offended you in my handwritten note that accompanied copies of Peter Pritchard's and Wayne King's letters. I did, in fact, mean that you sometimes don't particularly like the things Wayne does, and not that you don't like him personally. I'm sorry that this point was confusing to you. I had no idea that it would cause you to be distressed.

In 1978 you were responsible for getting money from IUCN/WWF so that a number of us could travel to Toronto for an ad hoc meeting. Because of this fact, I thought you would like to be informed about the views held by a fellow Turtle Group member (PP) and the Deputy Chairman of SSC (WK). What the Crocodile Group does in the way of handling travel to meetings is, of course, relevant to the workings of the Turtle Group, since we are all under the same umbrella. There was no thought of having you dragged into a debate.

I agree that Henry is a knowledgeable sea turtle person involved with a key rookery. However, there are (fortunately) a number of such individuals around the world, and somewhere along the line a decision has been made not to have everyone as a full member of the Turtle Group. Was Henry's name ever on your nomination's list when you served as co-chairman? In any event, your full thoughts on this subject should be sent directly to Archie since he is the chairman. I'm sure your ideas will be given full consideration. I've never heard anyone suggest that there are too many people from Gainesville on the Group.

A few weeks ago a leatherback nested on the island of Maui. It is the first known record for the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:le

cc Peter Pritchard

September 9, 1982

International Turtle and Tortoise Foundation
P. O. Box 125
8700 AC Bolward
The Netherlands

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to ask if you would be interested in publishing an article in your journal (or newsletter) that lists all known postage stamps that depict sea turtles. Dr. Edgardo Gomez and I will soon have this paper completed and we are looking for a suitable place to have it published.

We look forward to your response and helpful suggestions.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

August 24, 1982

Dr. Robert Scott
Executive Officer
Species Survival Commission
I.U.C.N.
Avenue du Mont Blanc
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

Dear Bob:

I am writing to you informally to ask for some guidance and advice for the Kingdom of Tonga to obtain WWF funding for a two-year sea turtle assessment and conservation program. As you know, a very successful project of this sort was recently accomplished in the Solomon Islands. On their own initiative, the Fisheries Division in Tonga has decided that urgent attention is needed to their sea turtle stocks. Apparently this interest extends all the way to the King. I have been asked by the Division to aid them in whatever way possible.

Would you please help me out with this important matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

August 9, 1982

Mr. Derek Green
Texas Memorial Museum
2400 Trinity
Austin, Texas 78705

Dear Derek:

Many thanks for your letter of July 30th. Yes, indeed, I would be pleased to serve as a reviewer for your Galapagos sea turtle monograph. My only request is that you give me sufficient time, two months or more, to do this for you. Thank you for asking me.

I was both surprised and disappointed to learn that your migration paper was turned down by Copeia. I can't imagine what the objection was, but if you want to send me the reviewers' and editor's comments I will try to give you some help. I strongly recommend that you modify the style, as appropriate, and send the manuscript off to Journal of Herpetology, Bulletin of Marine Science, Biological Conservation, or other similar journal.

My seasonal tagging work at French Frigate Shoals went really well this year. We had about 250 breeding females. My tag encounter rate was 40%, so there is no question in my mind about the superior nature of Inconel tags size 681. I have yet to find out that one shows signs of corrosion.

Best regards,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
(IPA contract with NMFS)

GHB:md

August 10, 1982

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

Dear Nancy:

Thank you for your letter of July 30th asking for my views on the question brought up in Steve Cornelius' letter of July 19th. I am sorry for this hurried response, but your letter just arrived and I am now in the process of leaving for a one-week study visit to Kauai.

Briefly stated, I feel that an agency like WWF-U.S. should remain completely neutral on a question such as whether or not egg harvesting should be conducted, when such harvesting is proven to be biologically defensible. The decision, in my opinion, should be left entirely up to the biologist, conservationists and resource administrators that are citizens of the country in question. Legitimate human needs and economics would obviously be a central part of such a decision. After having stated this, I want to emphasize that, according to Steve's letter, egg harvesting on these beaches has not yet been proven to be biologically defensible (note page of letter ". . .suspicion. . .", and ". . .if (my emphasis) production data show. . ."). Consequently, I believe that WWF-U.S. should be opposed to egg harvest until such a time that it is "biologically defensible," and at that time assume a neutral position that allows the people of the country to make their own decision.

I hope that these comments will be helpful.

Best regards,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

August 10, 1932

Professor K. Ronald
College of Biological Science
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario
Canada N1G 2W1

Dear Professor Ronald:

I appreciated receiving a copy of your most recent Monk Seal Newsletter. It is clearly a valuable contribution toward the protection of these endangered animals. Although there was no mention of the Hawaiian monk seal in this issue, I wonder if you would like to receive news items on this topic for inclusion in future issues? If so, I would be happy to help out.

I am interested in the attractive stamp that appeared on the cover of the newsletter. Do you know of anyone who has compiled a list of all postage stamps that depict monk seals? I have only casually come across two others (Bulgaria and Italy), but undoubtedly many more have been printed over the years. Perhaps this would be a worthwhile topic of interest for a future issue of the newsletter.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

s/George H. Balazs (ec)

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

March 23, 1983

Dr. Arthur Lyon Dahl
Regional Ecological Adviser
South Pacific Commission
P. O. Box D-5
Noumea, Cedex
New Caledonia

Dear Arthur:

Enclosed is a short article from Environment Newsletter that I had almost forgotten about in recent years. Can you please write and tell me if any further mention was made of this important subject in SPC circles. Did you receive many comments from island governments, as was requested?

It is my understanding that there are now 1-2 wrecked oriental fishing boats at Bikar in the Northern Marshalls. As you know, Bikar is (or at least was) the most important green turtle nesting site in the Marshalls, as well as much of the U.S. Trust Territory.

Thank you in advance for any up-date that you can give me.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Encl.

March 29, 1983

Mr. Jonathan Barzdo
Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit
219(c) Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL
United Kingdom

Dear Jonathan:

Many thanks for your letter of 14 March asking for my input on the directory listing all known ranching and farming operations of sea turtles and other species. The ones I can think of are almost certainly already known to you, that is Cayman Turtle Farm, Surinam, and Reunion. There is loose talk about ones possibly starting up in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Caroline Atoll, Tahiti, the Bonin Islands, and Mauritius. Undoubtedly, some of the financial backers here are waiting to see just how "loose" CITES international trade restrictions will be after the next meeting. Also U.S. laxity in the review of our import laws.

In your directory, I want to suggest that you also list sea turtle farms/ranches that have failed over the years for either biologic and/or economic causes. This would be consistent with the mention in your letter of recording "financial success" of an operation. Significant failures that you should include are Mariculture, Ltd. at Cayman Island, and the Torres Strait ranching endeavor in Australia. Two interesting case histories could indeed be shown here.

If I can be of added help, please feel free to contact me. I would appreciate receiving a copy of your directory when completed.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

cc: Archie Carr
Wayne King
Bob Scott

SAME LETTER TO: Mr. A.W. Whitehouse, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
Standard Oil Company of Ohio
Midland Building
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Mr. Robert O. Anderson
Chairman of the Board
Atlantic Richfield Company
515 S. Flower St.
Los Angeles, CA 90071

February 28, 1983

Mr. C. C. Garvin, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
Exxon Company
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Dear Mr. Garvin:

I recently read in the September 1982 issue of National Audubon Magazine about the potentially serious threat to marine turtles and their habitat from the new oil pipeline across Panama. A copy of the article has been enclosed for your information. It is my understanding that Exxon Company will be one of the principal users of this pipeline. I am therefore writing to you in my capacity as Deputy Chairman of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group to ask what specific efforts may now be underway, or planned for the immediate future, to monitor the environmental quality of Chiriqui Lagoon where the pipeline terminates in the Caribbean. The importance of this lagoon to marine turtles, and the lagoon's mostly pristine nature, are well-known. The future integrity of this ecosystem represents a legitimate concern for your company. I do hope that the necessary safeguards are being taken, and that long term periodic monitoring is being properly designed. I look forward to hearing from you on this subject at your earliest opportunity.

Our Specialist Group stands willing to provide scientific guidance in whatever way that may be appropriate.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

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Our Specialist Group stands willing to provide scientific guidance in whatever way that may be appropriate.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Deputy Chairman
IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

March 14, 1983

Editorial Office
Fish and Wildlife Service
Aylesworth Hall CSU
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Dear Sirs:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of your recent 1982 publication entitled "North American Tortoises: Conservation and Ecology" (Research Report No. 12, edited by R. Bruce Bury).

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

February 11, 1983

Lt. J. G. Donald Delikat
Staff Engineer
Merchant Marine Technical Div. (G-MUI)
Survival Systems Branch
U. S. Coast Guard Building
Washington, D. C. 20593

Dear Lt. Delikat:

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your article "IXTOC oil spill and Atlantic ridley survival." If you haven't done so already, I suggest that you also send a copy to:

Mr. Jack Woody
Endangered Species Specialist
Fish and Wildlife Service
P. O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Mr. Woody will undoubtedly be able to answer your questions about hatching success, and other recent data needed for your article update.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

February 11, 1983

Mr. Gren Lucas, Chairman
Species Survival Commission
c/o Royal Botanic Garden
Kew, Richmond
Surrey TW9 3AE, ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Lucas:

The copy of your letter to Dr. Archie Carr dated 14 January 1983 just now arrived here in Hawaii. Thank you for sending this material to me. Unfortunately I am writing to ask for some clarification on the list "6.2.2.21 Marine Turtles (Priority Group)." Most of the projects shown on this list are totally unfamiliar to me. Have the projects with dollar values for 1982 actually received funding? If so, I just didn't know that IUCN-funded marine turtle projects existed in India (6.2.2.21.6), Senegal (6.2.2.21.7), Mexico (6.2.2.21.9), French Guyana (6.2.2.21.10), and Thailand (6.2.2.21.12). I have no recollection of reviewing project proposals for these locations, however possibly decisions were made 4 or more years ago before I became actively involved. In any event, I need some additional guidance before I can provide constructive input for the requested review of priorities for marine turtle conservation.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:md

cc: Dr. Carr

February 1, 1983

-NOT FOR PUBLICATION-

Mr. Tim Cahill
Outside
Continental Bank Building
1165 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Mr. Cahill:

I was just recently able to read your article in the November 1982 OUTSIDE regarding "Part II" of Escobilla. First and foremost, I was pleased to learn of your continuing interest in, and concern for, sea turtles. As with your first article, this second one was extremely interesting to read and surely served to promote conservation awareness among your general readership. You clearly have gifted talent for putting the proper words together for this sort of thing. I do hope that some aspect of sea turtle conservation or biology will be a topic once again in a future story.

One part of the Suarez story that you may not have known about is that, following your first article, 12 of us traveled to Mexico City at our own expense to meet with Mr. Suarez. From there we were his guests for 3 days in Oaxaca. A short narrative of this "encounter" was subsequently written by Dr. Archie Carr and published in Marine Turtle Newsletter (copy enclosed).

If you are ever in Hawaii, please stop by and see me. It would be interesting talking to you in person.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist and
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Enclosure

January 13, 1983

Mr. Mohammed Amour Al-Barwani
Director of Fisheries Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P. O. Box 467
Sultanate of Oman

Dear Mr. Al-Barwani:

Thank you for your letter of 23 December 1982. It was indeed good to hear from you again, and learn that you are doing well.

As you may know, my principal focus of research deals with the ecology and life history of Hawaiian and other Pacific marine turtles. In order to bring you up-to-date on this work, I have enclosed several reprints. In addition, a longer report is being sent under separate cover. The information contained in these papers may help to give you ideas on what forms of rules, regulations, and monitoring are needed for marine reserves.

The person who is in the best position to help you is Grenville Lucas, Chairman of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. I am therefore sending him copies of our correspondence so he can make arrangements for you to receive the necessary advice.

I hope to hear from you again in the not too distant future.

With best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Grenville Lucas



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

January 13, 1983

Mr. Mohammed Amour Al-Barwani
Director of Fisheries Research
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
P. O. Box 467
Sultanate of Oman

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The person who is in the best position to help you is Grenville Lucas, Chairman of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. I am therefore sending him copies of our correspondence so he can make arrangements for you to receive the necessary advice.

I hope to hear from you again in the not too distant future.

With best regards,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec

Enclosures

cc: Grenville Lucas

January 17, 1983

E. K. Thompson
Consultant Biologist
Camarons Hatchery Co., Ltd.
c/o Mon Tresor Mon Desert S. E.
Union Vale
Mauritius (Indian Ocean)

Dear Rogene:

Many thanks for sending the reprint of your article about a green turtle nesting on Mauritius. It was very interesting. Yes, I recall that we did meet briefly way back in 1974. I am pleased to learn that your work with prawn diets is going so well. My studies in this field phased out in about 1975. It was a timely shift to more exciting work with wild populations of animals (sea turtles).

I really would appreciate hearing from you again if there are any further developments with sea turtles on Mauritius. Also, if you come across any current papers, reports or information on the Reunion project, I would welcome copies being sent to me.

Best regards for the New Year.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist

mk

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

January 24, 1983

Mr. S. Biswas
Zoological Survey of India
34 Chittaranjan Av.
Calcutta 700 012
INDIA

Dear Mr. Biswas:

I would greatly appreciate receiving a reprint of your article entitled "A Report on the Olive Ridley of the Bay of Bengal" which was recently published in Rec. Zool. Surv. India 79: 275-302.

Thank you for your kind assistance with this request.

Sincerely,

GEORGE H. BALAZS
Assistant Marine Biologist

GHB:ec



University of Hawaii at Manoa

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

January 24, 1983

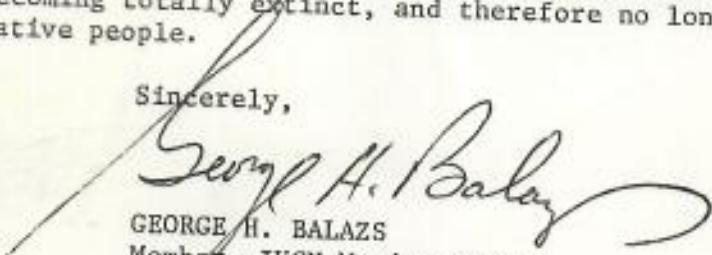
Letters
Pacific Islands Monthly
GPO Box 3408
Sydney 2001
Australia

Gentlemen:

It was good to read in the November 1982 PIM that the Solomon Islands has issued a new postage stamp featuring the Hawksbill sea turtle. Having endangered wildlife like this appear on stamps is an excellent way to attract public attention to the survival problems confronting these species. It is also a great way to generate national revenue, since wildlife stamps are usually very popular and sell well to stamp collectors around the world. I have seen the new Solomon Islands' Hawksbill stamp and can verify that it is exceedingly attractive.

As a marine biologist studying Hawaiian and other Pacific island sea turtles, there was one point in the PIM article that I want to correct. It was stated that plastics have now largely replaced the use of the Hawksbill's shell in the tortoise-shell industry. I'm sorry to report that this is by no means the case. A number of countries continue to be involved in the international commercial trade of real Hawksbill shell, and Japan is by far the major importer and consumer of this wildlife product. Published government statistics assembled by TRAFFIC, an organization of the World Wildlife Fund, show that between 1979 and 1981 alone Japan imported over 131,000 kg of raw Hawksbill shell. Each Hawksbill only provides an average of about 0.9 kg of shell, so it's little wonder that this beleaguered animal is now scarce in many areas. In 1979, the first World Conference on Sea Turtle Conservation formally urged Japan to stop being a major market for newly imported Hawksbill shell, and instead to preserve and recycle antique supplies and promote the use of synthetic substances. It is hoped that this reasonable recommendation will be implemented in time to prevent the turtle from becoming totally extinct, and therefore no longer available for local usage by native people.

Sincerely,


GEORGE H. BALAZS
Member, IUCN Marine Turtle
Specialist Group

GHB:ec

Describing an event known as the Stockmen's Race, the newspaper's racing reporter Bert Lillye wrote: "There was high drama even before the race began. The starter, who went to the barrier on a motor bike, sent the runners away by firing a gun.

"Unfortunately he put the gun behind his back before he pulled the trigger. The bullet blew a hole in the motor bike behind him and the petrol tank exploded

Praising the initiative of the Nadzab racing enthusiasts, Lillye writes: "For instance, when it was discovered that someone had forgotten to provide saddlecloth numbers . . . This problem was solved when Mrs Clift, the club president's wife, hurried home and brought back eight pillow slips from her linen supply.

"These were split down the centre and the numbers put on with special crayons."

Two Australian racing experts were impressed by the excellence of Nadzab's 1600-metre grass track, and with its heavy duty barrier stalls, built by local volunteers.

Another Australian visitor who broadcast the races was non-plussed when a helicopter landed on the racecourse and he found himself shouldered aside from the microphone by one of the volunteer local committeemen, who grabbed the mike and yelled into it: "You fellows at the gate, get over to that helicopter and get their money. Those blokes never pay their fare in."

Hawksbill turtle on S.I. stamp

To follow Sanford's Eagle and cater for a new heavy weight air parcel post service the Solomon Islands have hatched a high-value Hawksbill Turtle (\$10) stamp for the current definitive series.

Ousting the Estuarine Crocodile from its place as the previous top value (\$5), the Hawksbill has been portrayed by the same artist, Leslie Curtis, and is printed by Enschede en Zonen of Holland.

The Hawksbill is related to the Green Turtle and the Common Loggerhead, averaging about 33



Gary Cooper (right), managing director of Niue Products, who organised the bottle drive reported on this page. He was recently in Sydney selling Niue produce — including coconut cream and honey in the comb — to Australian importers. He talks here with Geoff Upton, one of the importers who showed interest.

inches in length. It is positively minute compared with an Atlantic Leatherback, which would weigh in at about a ton, and in turn completely outstrips the very smallest members of the family which are less than six inches long!

The Hawksbill must be one of the few creatures to really appreciate the invention of plastic, now that it has largely replaced the use of the Hawksbill's shell in the tortoise-shell industry. Turtle shells are incredibly strong. If nature had thought fit to provide a man with one, in proportion to his size, he would be able to support the weight of two elephants at least . . . at a pinch! The release date for the stamp was September 20, 1982. — *From Stangib, New York.*

Niue's Vailima bottle hunt

Youngsters on Niue spent much of their September school holidays combing the island for bottles — not just any sort of bottle but those that had contained Western Samoa's pride and joy, Vailima beer. Apparently, the

brewery is running short of bottles and no wonder: the beer is becoming one of Western Samoa's most liquid overseas assets. It's selling and being drunk all over the South Pacific.

Vailima's resident agent, Gary Cooper (see picture this page) wants all his bottles back so he's been running a two-week Find the Vailima Bottle contest, with four main prizes of \$10 each, to the top boy and girl collectors on the north side of the island and the top boy and girl on the south side, plus five cents for each bottle collected by all competitors.

Canoe plan holed by lack of funds

A canoe voyage to retrace the migration route of the Maori people to New Zealand may now never take place.

The epic voyage, hailed last year as perhaps the last great voyage of the 20th century, has gone aground in Tahiti because there is not enough money for the return trip.

Early last year, Matahi Whakataka Brightwell, a Masterton-born carver, had the twin-canoe hulls — which were carved out of totara logs — shipped to Tahiti.

In Tahiti the hulls were to be linked and sails woven for the voyage to New Zealand, using the ancient sea route from Raiatea, in the Society Islands, to the Cook Islands.

The voyagers intended to use

the Polynesian art of navigation.

The voyage should have been completed last February.

But Mr Brightwell and his canoe are still in Tahiti. And prospects do not look good.

Mr Brightwell said in Tahiti that he could not make the voyage to New Zealand because he could not get financial help from either his own country or Tahiti.

"The Maori Affairs Department did not want to finance our project," he said. "They even said that they would seize the canoe in New Zealand."

A spokesman for the Department of Maori Affairs, Neville Baker, said his department had been asked for about \$100,000 and the department did not have "that sort of money".

As to the suggestion of seizing the canoe, Mr Baker said: "I am not sure what the department would do with the canoe if it did seize it."

But a Wellington group hopes to raise \$50,000 in donations to finance continuation of the voyage.

A spokesman for the Friends of the *Hawaiki Nui* group, David Puterson, said that the voyage had been "financially disastrous" from the start.

But the group of about 15 Wellington people believed it could still be revived.

He believed the necessary finance could be found because the group had had some success with a similar appeal last year, boosting a \$30,000 government contribution.