

PRELIMINARY OUTLINE FOR A PACIFIC ISLANDS' WORKSHOP ON
THE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH OF SEA TURTLES

by

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Pacific Island nations which comprise Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia still possess viable populations of sea turtles that are nutritionally and culturally important to the native people. Due mostly to inadequate knowledge and cooperation in the management of these resources, it is doubtful that such sea turtles will be in existence for traditional usage by future generations. An urgent need therefore exists to convene a working conference on the status, problems and possible solutions associated with sea turtle management and research in the Pacific Islands. The workshop could be held under the auspices of the South Pacific Commission, with financial support and scientific advice provided in part by the National Marine Fisheries (USA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Invitations for attendance could be extended to a wide array of sea turtle biologists and managers working both within and outside of the Pacific basin.

Some major topics for discussion:

1. Status of the various populations
2. Status of knowledge on the life history of the various species
3. Existing management practices and research programs
4. Methods for improving intraregional cooperation
5. Training programs in management and research practices
6. Turtle tagging and turtle tags

Nations that are either known or thought to control important aggregations of feeding or nesting sea turtles in the Pacific are as follows:

1. Australia
2. Cook Islands
3. Fiji
4. French Polynesia
5. Gilbert Islands
6. Hawaii (USA)
7. New Guinea
8. New Hebrides
9. Phoenix Islands (UK and USA)
10. Solomon Islands
11. Tonga
12. Trust Territory of the Pacific
13. Tuvalu
14. Western Samoa

At least one representative from each of these areas should be in attendance.

Possible participants who have potential for providing useful information:

- S. Spring - New Guinea
- D. Brandon - formerly Cook Islands
- U. Raj - Fiji
- R. Stone - Fiji
- W. Travis - Fiji (formerly W. Samoa)
- M. McCoy - Trust Territory of the Pacific

G. Balazs - Hawaii
C. Limpus - Australia (Torres Strait)
R. James - Solomon Islands
V. Matagi - W. Samoa
S. deSilva - Sabah/international
A. Carr - international
H. Hirth - international
N. Mrosovsky - international
R. Grandperrin - SPC

The Peacesat communications system of the University of Hawaii could serve as a vehicle for laying the groundwork for this workshop. Peacesat has already been used during 1976 for several Pacific-wide roundtable discussions on sea turtles.