

SUMMARY REPORT ON A MEETING CONVENED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
TO FORMULATE A NATIONAL PLAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH OF
MARINE TURTLES

submitted by

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Dates of Meeting: 8 - 11 May 1978

Location: Southeast Fisheries Center
National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory
NSTL Station, Mississippi

Participants: Richard Roe
Acting Associate Director
Division of Marine Mammals and Endangered Species
(departed 9 May 1978)

Larry Ogren
Fishery Biologist
Southeast Region

Donald Ekberg
Program Manager for Sea Turtles
Southeast Region

Joseph Sylvester
Program Manager for Sea Turtles (as of 7/1/78)
Southeast Region

Thomas Vanselous
Southeast Fisheries Center
NSTL Station

Frank Whittman
Southeast Fisheries Center
NSTL Station

George H. Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Objective: The principal objective of the meeting was to assemble information relevant to the incorporation of the Southwest Region into the sea turtle program that is sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service. This program has been underway since FY 1976, but has thus far been confined to the Southeast Region.

Sea Turtle Problems in the SE Region:

1. Enforcement
2. Excessive predation on nests
3. Beach and marine habitat useage by humans
4. Shrimp trawling
5. Lobster trap/loggerhead interaction
6. Ground fish trawling
7. Gill nets
8. Absence of adequate biological and ecological information for management purposes

Approximate SE Region Budget:

FY 1976	\$70,000
FY 1977	\$380,000
FY 1978	\$350,000
FY 1979	\$450,000

all reprogramed personnel to date

Existing and Potential Problems in the SW Region:

1. Enforcement
2. Excessive predation on nests
3. Beach and marine habitat useage by humans
4. Purse seine and trawl fishing
5. Gill nets
6. Absence of adequate biological, ecological and sociological information for management purposes

Results: Revisions were made in the program plan for the SE Region in order to reflect national (SE and SW) problems and needs. The resulting document for a National Plan was to be forwarded to the NMFS in Washington, D. C. for further action.

Projects Suggested for the SW Region:

1. Population Survey and Assessment of the Hawaiian Islands, Johnston, and Wake - 5 years
2. Foreign Assistance to Pacific Island Nations - 5 years
3. Population Survey of Rose Atoll - 2 years
4. Population Survey of American Samoa - 1 year
5. Population Survey of Trust Territory, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas - 5 years

6. Population Survey and Assessment of Canton and Enderbury Islands
- 3 years
7. Population Survey of Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Palyra and Kingman
Reef - 3 years

Reference manuscript for the SW Region distributed at meeting:

Terrestrial Critical Habitat for Sea Turtles under United States
Jurisdiction in the Pacific Region by G. H. Balazs, March, 1978,
11 pp.