

December 18, 1978

Mr. Bobby Amaral
P. O. Box 26
Lanai City, Hawaii 96763

Dear Bobby:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for giving the large turtle stomach and intestines to Lanai game wardens, Pete Connally and Albert Morita. This material was recently sent to my laboratory for analysis of the dietary components. In addition to finding several different kinds of limu, it was very interesting to note the presence of numerous bunched-up plastic bags throughout the digestive tract. Apparently the turtle ate these items at the surface thinking they were jellyfish or other edible marine animals.

It would be very helpful if you would provide me with some further details on this turtle.

1. Where was the turtle captured? A chart has been enclosed for marking and return.
2. What was the turtle doing when first seen (sleeping, feeding, etc.)?
3. Did the turtle appear healthy and strong?
4. Were any abnormalities present (tumors, injured, missing limbs, etc.)?
5. Were any tags present?
6. Did you take any pictures of the turtle?

Any information that you can provide on these matters will be greatly appreciated.

Best regards for the holidays to you and the family.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist