

1988 by

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

YOU WERE CALLED BY
 (Administration)
 PLEASE PHONE
 (If waiting to see you)
 IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
 WISHES AN APPOINTMENT
 RETURNED YOUR CALL
 MESSAGE

YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED, NOR SHOULD
 YOU GO OUT AT NIGHT WHEN ITS RAINING,
 WAIT TILL THE RAINS/TOWER COMPLETELY
 PASSES, IF IT RAINS HARD ON AND OFF
 FREQUENTLY ALL NIGHT JUST SKIP THAT NIGHT,
 GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP INSTEAD!

THREE TIMES

ANIGHT WILL BE ADEQUATE
 ONCE YOU BECOME EXPERIENCED,
 MORE THAN FOUR TIMES A NIGHT
 IS UNNECESSARY AND, IN FACT, CAN
 BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND EVEN
 HARMFUL BY PUTTING TOO MUCH
 PRESSURE/DISTURBANCE ON THE
 TURTLES, MONK SEALS & SEABIRDS
 TOO.

OBJECTIVES OF YOUR
TURTLE WORK AND
METHODS TO USE
AND DETERMINE THE NUMBER
AND IDENTITY OF FEMALES
NESTING EACH NIGHT ON
EAST ISLAND.

I.

THE FEMALES UP TO NEST ON ANY ONE
 NIGHT WILL CONSIST OF TWO COMPONENTS:
 a.) TURTLES THAT I HAVE "HANDLED"
 ALREADY THIS SEASON AND MARKED
 WITH EITHER YELLOW OR GREEN PAINT,
 AND b.) TURTLES THAT I HAVE NOT
 HANDLED AND THEREFORE, ARE BEING
 SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME NESTING
 THIS SEASON.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE,
 YOU MUST ALLOW FOR NESTING
 ACTIVITY THREE OR FOUR TIMES
 EACH NIGHT BY WALKING AROUND
 THE ISLAND / RECORDING TURTLES
 PRESENCE, AND "HANDLING" THOSE
 THAT FALL UNDER "b" CATEGORY
 ABOVE. SUGGESTED TIMES TO GO
 OUT ARE 9:30 pm, 12:30 am,
 3:30 am and if needed 6 am.
 EACH TRIP OUT WILL LAST 45 MIN TO
 1 1/4 hours, depending how many

Turtles are present, nesting
is light this year. "O".
ONE NIGHT I HAD "O".
THE BEST NIGHT I HAD 8.
TURTLES THAT HAVE BEEN
PREVIOUSLY MARKED WITH YELLOW
OR GREEN PAINT NEED ONLY
BE RECORDED, NOT HANDED.
IF ~~YOU~~ THE NUMBER IS LEGIBLE
RECORD IT. IF NOT, JUST WRITE
THE COLOR AND PERHAPS YOUR
"BEST GUESS" as to what the number is.
IF THE TURTLE HAS NO

VISIBLE PAINT, IT NEEDS TO
BE HANDED, BY YOU, THIS IS
BY FAR, THE MOST IMPORTANT
PIECE OF YOUR WORK. FIRST,
IF THE SMELL IS STRONG ENOUGH,
USE YOUR IVORY PAINT TO
PUT AN ALPHABET LETTER ON
EACH SIDE. NEXT, CHECK
FOR THE PRESENCE OF A TAG OR
TAGS USING ONLY THE ONE-CELL
(AA) FLASHLIGHT PROVIDED. THIS
WORKS EXCELLENT BY HOLDING
IT IN YOUR MOUTH, WHEN
NEEDED. YOU ONLY NEED TO
READ ONE TAG WITH CERTAINTY,

IF SEVERAL TAGS ARE PRESENT.
HOWEVER, IF IT'S EASY TO DO
SO (MEANING THE TURTLE "LETS YOU
READ THEM"), READ AS MANY
TAG NUMBERS AS YOU CAN.
THEY ARE RARELY CONSECUTIVE
NUMBERS. IF YOU CAN ONLY
READ ONE NUMBER, THEN NOTE
HOW MANY TAGS THE TURTLE
HAS TOTAL. WE NEED THIS
INFO TO COMPUTE TAG
SHEDDING RATES. IF YOU
CAN'T READ ANY OF THE TAG
NUMBERS BECAUSE ENCRUSTING CORALINE
ALSO ALGAE OR OTHER FOREIGN MATERIAL
ON THE TAG, USE THE POCKET KNIFE
PROVIDED, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE
METAL OBJECT, TO SCRAPE THE
TAG AND EXPOSE THE NUMBER.
NOTE - THERE IS A LOT OF
BEHAVIORAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
TURTLES. SOME WILL SIMPLY
NOT LET YOU FOOL AROUND
WITH THEIR TAGS, THEY WILL
RESPOND IN A WILD MANNER.
JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN
WITHOUT GETTING YOURSELF HURT
BY THE TURTLE. WATCH THAT

THEY DON'T GRIND THEIR SHELL AND FLIPPERS AGAINST YOUR ANKLES AND FEET (NOTE BANDAGES ON MY LEGS (NOW FROM NOT HEEDING THIS WARNING!) TO HELP IN READING TAG NUMBERS ACCURATELY, I SUGGEST YOU FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH (HOW EACH NUMBER IS FORM (THEIR STYLE). STUDY NUMBERS AS THEY ARE PRINTED ON THE NEW TAGS.

IF NO TAGS ARE PRESENT ON THE TURTLE, THEN AT LEAST ONE, AND IDEALLY TWO, NEED TO BE APPLIED. IT TAKES PRACTICE TO DO THIS CORRECTLY, QUICKLY AND SAFELY. DEMONSTRATION AND INSTRUCTION WILL BE GIVEN 6/23-6/24 ON EAST. AGAIN, THE EASE OF TAGGING DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE BEHAVIORAL DISPOSITION OF THE TURTLE. THE KEY THOUGHT IS ALWAYS SAFETY TO YOURSELF. THEY ARE STRONG, POWERFUL ANIMALS THAT ARE CAPABLE OF DOING

DAMAGE WITH THEIR FLIPPERS AND BODY. ALSO, FLIPPER CAN AND DO THROW SAND WITH INCREDIBLE STINGING FORCE. A "BLAST" IN THE FACE AND EYES IS AN UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE (I KNOW!).

IF YOU SIMPLY CAN'T GET A TAG ON AN ANIMAL, DON'T BE OVERLY CONCERNED. THE PAINTED NUMBER FOR OUR NIGHTLY CENSUS WORK IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS TAGGING. AND I AM SURE YOU WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO APPLY THE PAINT WITH NO PROBLEMS.

IF ANY TAGS TEAR OUT ON YOU OR FOR SOME OTHER REASON ARE RUINED, PLEASE DON'T THROW THEM AWAY. RECORD THE NUMBERS IN THIS BOOK AND RETURN THEM TO ME. THE STAGE OF NESTING THAT THE TURTLE IS INVOLVED IN WILL ALSO, TO A LARGE EXTENT, DETERMINE HOW EASY IT MAY BE TO TAG. THE "BEST" TIME TO AT IS WITHIN 5-15 MINUTES AFTER THE EGGS HAVE BEEN

DEPOSITED AND THE HAND
IF FLIPPERS ALONE ARE PULLING
AN SAND OVER THEM. SAFE
AS IS THE LEAST IMMUNE
BA TO DISTURBANCE AT THIS
FRO TIME, I NEVER APPLY THE
T. TAGS WHILE EGGS ARE BEING
NO DROPPED. THIS COULD CAUSE
YO HER TO "SHUT-DOWN" AND
LH LEAVE. HOWEVER, IT IS AN
CI EXCELLENT TIME TO APPLY
AS PAINT WHILE EGG LAYING IS
NO HAPPENING. ALSO, TO INSPECT
ON HER OVER/ CARE FULLY WITH
L. THE SINGLE-CELL LIGHT LOOKING
NO ESPECIALLY FINE;

- T. Temp on the eyes,
COI neck front flippers
DI close to the body, chin,
WI or anywhere else, visible,
EY (2) Any signs of fresh
TI amputations or mutilation
TI (usually from shark attacks),
TI (3) Any signs of healed
TI and completely healed
TI amputations.
TI (4) Anything else that
seems not worthy to
document.

NOTE - THE SINGLE-CELL FLASHLIGHT
BATTERY MUST BE CHANGED FAIRLY
REGULARLY (APPROX. EVERY 3RD NIGHT) AS
IT DRAINS FAST, MAKING IT TOO
DIFFICULT TO SEE THINGS YOU NEED
IT FOR (IE: TAG NUMBERS).

WHILE THE TURTLE IS LAYING
EGGS (ACTUALLY DEPOSITING THEM), IT IS
ALSO AN EXCELLENT TIME TO
MEASURE THE CURVED CARAPACE
LENGTH WITH THE TAPE PROVIDED.
SINCE YOU MAY NOT
ENCOUNTER TURTLES VERY
OFTEN ~~BEFORE~~ THAT ARE
RIGHT IN THE PROCESS OF LAYING
EGGS, I DON'T EXPECT YOU
TO, MEASURE VERY MANY
TURTLES. IT IS VERY HARD
TO MEASURE A TURTLE WHEN IT IS
OUTMOVING AROUND.

MONITORING A FULL
NIGHT'S NESTING
IS A PRIME OBJECTIVE. TO
GO OUT JUST ONCE OR
TWICE TO CHECK ON TURTLES
UP NESTING CAN PROVIDE GOOD
INFORMATION, BUT THIS IS NOT

NEAR AS VACABLE AS
"COMPLETE COVERAGE" (3 or 4 TIMES
OUT, SPARED PROPERLY) OF A NIGHT'S
NESTING. ALSO, CONSECUTIVE
NIGHTS OF COMPLETE COVERAGE
MONITORING ARE OF GREATER
VALUE. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR
SCHEDULE COULD BE 4 OR
5 CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS ON EAST
IS. DOING COMPLETE COVERAGE
AND THEN 2 OR 3 NIGHT BACK
AT TERN IS. RESTING UP, GETTING
A SHOWER, AND EATING SLIGHTLY
BETTER FOOD. YOU DEVISE THE
SCHEDULE THAT SEEMS BEST FOR
YOUR WORKING ABILITIES. ALTHOUGH
THE USE OF THE BOAT IS
PRIMARILY FOR ACCOMPLISHING
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE
MONK SEAL RESEARCH HOWEVER
THESE SHOULD BE SOME
ACCOMMODATION OF YOUR NEEDS
AND WISHES.
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN STAY ON
EAST IS. ALONE, WHEN THE
OTHER TWO GO BACK TO TERN
IS. FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS.
HOWEVER, TO DO THIS YOU

MUST PLAN AHEAD AND BRING
AN EXTRA HAND-HELD RADIO SO
YOU CAN MAKE 8 AM RADIO CHECKS
WITH TERN IS, WHILE ALONE. SEE
RICK. MAKE SURE THE RADIO IS
FULLY CHARGED (IE. RADIO ON THE
CHARGER FOR SEVERAL HOURS - AND
PREFERABLY FOR OVERNIGHT. NOTE THE
RED AND GREEN INDICATOR LIGHTS
ON THE CHARGER DON'T WORK. A RED
LIGHT MAY BE ON, ~~THE~~ BUT THE RADIO
WILL NEVERTHELESS BE FULLY CHARGED
IF IT HAS BEEN ON LONG ENOUGH,
SEE RICK).

CONCERNING OCCASIONAL TRIPS
THE SEAL PEOPLE WILL BE MAKING
TO DISTANT ISLANDS (SHARK, DISAPPEARING
AND GINS) TO COUNT SEALS:
I WOULD PERSONALLY RECOMMEND
AGAINST YOUR GOING. IN MY
VIEW, THERE ARE SAFELY CONSIDERATION
IN FAVOR OF NOT GOING, UNLESS
YOU FEEL YOU ARE VERY WELL
SKILLED IN SMALL BOAT HANDLING
AND RELATED MARINE ~~AND~~ TALENTS.
FOR ONE THING, THREE PEOPLE
IN THE BOAT, VERSUS TWO,

DISAPPEARING IS 16 MILES SOUTH TERN, N.
VERY SOUTHERN LIMIT OF THE ATOLL.

TAKE MORE GASOLINE. AND
GASOLINE IS NOT IN
ABUNDANT SUPPLY HERE.
ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT IF
A BIG PROBLEM OCCURS (I.E.
MOTORS WON'T WORK, BOAT
DRIFTS OUT TO SEA) TWO
PEOPLE ADRIET WITH LIMITED RESH
WATER IS A BETTER SITUATION
THAN THREE PEOPLE ADRIET.
USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT
IN THIS MATTER, BUT THAT'S
MY ADVISE TO YOU.

(ALL OF THE ECOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY FOUND AT FRENCH
FRIGATE SHOALS IS REPRESENTED
ON TERN WHALE-SKATE
AND EAST ISLAND.
DISAPPEARING, SHAKEL AND GINS
VIRTUALLY BARREN SAND BARS.
YOU SHOULD AND WILL
BE VISITING WHALE-SKATE. IT
IS USUALLY STOPPED AT FOR
SEAL WORK WHEN TRAVELING
EITHER TO OR FROM EAST IS.
WHALE-SKATE IS AN ATTRACTIVE,
INTERESTING ISLAND WHICH YOU
WILL ENJOY SEEING.

WHEN THE SEAL PEOPLE GO TO
THE DISTANT ISLANDS, PLEASE ASK
THEM TO TELL YOU THE NUMBER
OF TURTLES SEEN BASKING ASHORE
AND ALSO IF PAINT IS PRESENT
ON ANY OF THEM. RECORD THE
INFORMATION IN THIS BOOK.

OBJECTIVE

2.

TO COUNT AND RECORD
THE IDENTITIES OF
TURTLES BASKING ALONG
THE SHORELINE OF EAST
ISLAND (WHALE-SKATE TOO, WHEN
YOU VISIT THAT ISLAND).

The best time to do this count
is between 3 pm and 6 pm, but
other times as scheduled
permits will be O.K. Most
turtles on East bask at
the Southeast end of the
island. An occasional one will
haul out elsewhere. Take
45 minutes to walk around the
island to do this census.
RECORD IN THIS BOOK THE DATE,
TIME AND NUMBER SEEN. ALSO
ENTER THE PAINTED NUMBERS SEEN,
OR THE PRESENCE OF PAINT AND COLOR.

MALES, AS YOU KNOW, HAVE A VERY LONG, LARGE, TAIL. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH THEM, RECORD AS SUCH. NORMALLY THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT GETTING VERY CLOSE AND BEHIND THEM. YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS. WHEN WALKING AROUND THE ISLAND YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO CLOSE TO BASKING TURTLES AS TO DISTURB THEM, CAUSE THEM TO MOVE AND RETURN TO THE SEA. AT TIMES THERE EYESIGHT SEEMS VERY GOOD OUT OF WATER. MUCH BETTER THAN WHAT IT'S REPORTED TO ^{BE} IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE. ONE COUNT OF BASKING TURTLES PER DAY WILL BE FINE WELL YOU ARE ONE EAST ISLAND. IF YOU WANT TO DO TWO PER DAY, THAT WILL BE FINE, TOO.

YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT

TO TAG OR READ TAGS ON BASKING TURTLES. ALSO NOTE THAT IT IS NOT UNCOMMON FOR A TURTLE OR TWO TO "BASK" ALONG THE SHORE AT NIGHT. DO NOT CONFUSE SUCH ANIMALS WITH THOSE OUT TO NEST. BASKING TURTLES NEVER GO MUCH ABOVE THE HIGH TIDE MARK. BASKING TURTLES STAY IN ONE PLACE MOTIONLESS FOR LONG PERIODS. TURTLES HAULING OUT TO NEST ARE ~~ALSO~~ ALMOST CONSTANTLY IN-MOTION OR ON THE MOVE.