

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230

NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC
ADMINISTRATION

NOAA 94-R

Contact: Jean Fitch
301-713-2370

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11/17/94

**NOAA AWARDS BRONZE MEDAL
TO GEORGE H. BALAZS**

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has awarded its Bronze Medal to George H. Balazs of the National Marine Fisheries Service for outstanding scientific achievements and leadership in the formulations of research programs vital to the survival of marine turtles in the North Pacific Ocean.

Balazs, who serves as the leader of the marine turtle research program for the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, was presented the award today by NOAA Administrator D. James Baker and other high-ranking NOAA officials during a ceremony at NOAA's headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.

Balazs was commended for scientific achievements and leadership concerning the welfare and survival of marine turtles in the North Pacific Ocean. His work has resulted in the formulation of creative research programs for investigating an often fatal marine turtle disease, and for assessing marine turtle hooking mortality in commercial fisheries.

Balazs received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in animal sciences from the University of Hawaii. He now resides in Honolulu, Hi., with his wife, Linda, and their three children.

The Bronze Medal is NOAA's highest honorary award granted by each operating unit for significant contributions to that unit.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Fisheries Science Center
P.O. Box 271
La Jolla, California 92038-0271

November 1, 1994

F/SWC

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/SWC2 - George Balazs
FROM: F/SWC - Mike Tillman
SUBJECT: Bronze Medal Award

Michael F. Tillman

I am proud to offer my congratulations to you on being awarded the Department of Commerce's Bronze Medal Award for 1994. You and Sam Pooley were cited for your team effort and superior scientific achievements and leadership in formulating research programs vital to the survival of marine turtles in the North Pacific Ocean. Your work in heading the marine turtle fibropapilloma workshop in 1990 and your scientific leadership in planning, organizing and conducting the workshop of international marine turtle experts to develop a research plan to assess marine turtle hooking mortality were especially noteworthy.

Please know that I appreciate your proactive approach to marine turtle research and management, George, and your dedication to marine turtle survival in our region and in other areas of the world. I am glad to see you receive such prestigious and well-deserved recognition.

cc: R. Michael Laurs





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Washington, D.C. 20235

F6/RBR

October 2, 1978

Mr. George Balazs
Assistant Marine Biologist
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of August 22, 1978, regarding sea turtles. I apologize for the tardy response, however, the Cayman Turtle Farm, Ltd., has requested us to reconsider the decision to not exempt their products from importation. Both agencies (FWS and NMFS) agreed to do so, therefore not holding up implementation of the listing regulations on September 6, 1978. Presently those regulations are in effect except for the restriction against importation of turtles or turtle products from Cayman Farm. I would expect a decision on this matter within the next two or three weeks.

I read with interest your comments on allowing Hawaii to conduct a subsistence fishery for sea turtles. In earlier correspondence on the subject, you were not in favor of such action and, of course, we had to use the "record" in making our decision. I am interested in Hawaii's comments on the matter but to date they have not made any statements to NMFS. Perhaps we should reconsider the whole subsistence issue for the future in light of new information such as you have submitted. We do appreciate your comments.

I really have not taken the time to thank you for participating in the plan exercise. Please accept my deepest gratitude for helping us to lay out our sea turtle program. My thanks also for sending me the publications on Hawaiian seals and turtles. I really enjoyed reading through them. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Roe, Acting Director
Office of Marine Mammals and Endangered Species





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southwest Fisheries Science Center

P.O. Box 271

La Jolla, CA 92038-0271

December 7, 2001

Dr. George Balazs
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Honolulu Laboratory
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear George,

I'd like to offer my congratulations on being awarded National Marine Fisheries Service Employee of the Year Award for the Professional (GS-13 and above) Category. You were recognized for your extensive cutting-edge research on marine turtles and serving as a consultant to many sea turtle projects around the world, and your pioneering work on the population status of the green sea turtle that resulted in the protection of the species through legislation.

I very much appreciate your dedication and the quality that you bring to your work, George, and I am glad to see you receive such a prestigious and well-deserved recognition.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Tillman, Ph.D
Science Director
Southwest Region

cc: Richard A. Neal





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*Roth GMB
W.S.G.
KX
G.W.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
P.O. Box 271
La Jolla, CA 92038-0271

November 7, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Michael Laurs
Director, Honolulu Laboratory

FROM: Michael P. Tillman *Michael P. Tillman*
Science and Research Director, SW Region

SUBJECT: Promotion of George Balazs

Your recommendation for promotion of George Balaz, Zoologist, from the GS-12 to the GS-13 level was evaluated and recommended to me for approval by a panel of five scientific experts in accordance with established Center procedures. Of particular note, is that George is recognized to be a strong administrator in implementing the newest techniques for the management and recovery of Hawaii green turtles, that he is a world recognized turtle expert and is sought after for professional interaction and this reflects well on NMFS and the Center. It was also noted that George has a weak publication record and it is recommended that he be encouraged to get on with his publication as first author.

Clearances have been received from NMFS Headquarters for grade authorization. The paperwork has been forwarded to WASC Human Resources to complete the classification of the new position; however, they cannot effect the promotion until the hiring freeze is lifted. You will be notified as soon as we receive a date that the promotion can be effected.

Please convey to George my appreciation for his excellent scientific contributions and my congratulations on a promotion that is well deserved!



2001 NMFS Employee of the Year Awards

CLERICAL / SECRETARY

Anne Bergstrom AKR
Sally Clement NWC
Cathy Noonan NEC
Dodie Pickle AKC
Ty Stuckey HQ
Jann Bluett SWR
Joyce Mochrie SER
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Peggy Solomon SER

PROFESSIONAL - GS 12 or III and below

Jennifer Anderson NER
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Christina Faby SWR
Douglas Harper SEC
Steve Lewis AKR
Elizabeth Pritchard HQ

PROFESSIONAL - GS 13 or IV and above

George Balazs SWC
Tina Chang HQ
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Gregory Power NER
Peter Thompson SEC
Galen Tromble AKR
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Russell Nelson AKC
James Weaver SER
James Bybee SWR
John Ferguson NWC
Karin Forney SWC
Thomas Minello SEC
Michael Tehan NWR

Congratulations to All!

2001



**Employees
of the
Year**

National Marine Fisheries Service

**“All Hands”
&
Awards Ceremony**

NOAA Auditorium
Silver Spring, Maryland

December 19, 2001



Welcome

John Oliver
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Operations

Introduction of the Executive Board

Rebecca Lent, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Programs

Address to Employees

William Hogarth, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Presentation of the Awards

Closing

National Marine Fisheries Service

Employee of the Year Awards

to honor individuals

"For contributions to the Nation

towards the stewardship of living marine

resources as recognized by your

National Marine Fisheries Service peers."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOAA AWARDS CEREMONY 1994



NOVEMBER 17, 1994
NOAA AUDITORIUM & SCIENCE CENTER

PROGRAM

WELCOME

ROBERT F. FAGIN
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

VIDEO SHORT: PRECIOUS REALMS

ADDRESS

DR. D. JAMES BAKER
UNDER SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE

GUEST SPEAKER

DR. JOHN W. TOWNSEND, JR.
FORMER ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
FORMER DIRECTOR, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION,
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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UNDER SECRETARY FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE
LINE/ STAFF/ PROGRAM OFFICE DIRECTORS

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NOAA AWARDS 2000



Years

OF EXCELLENCE AT NOAA

October 19, 2000
The Inn and Conference Center
University of Maryland University College
College Park, Md.

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Armed Forces Color Guard

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

U.S. Marine Quintet

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Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

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George Balazs

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