



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory  
2570 Dole St. • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822-2396

April 16, 1990 F/SWC2:GHB

Dr. Philip Helfrich  
Director  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
P.O. Box 1346  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Dear Dr. Helfrich:

It's that time of the year again to remind our colleagues at the University of Hawaii that the Inconel alloy sea turtle tags we use here at the National Marine Fisheries Service continue to be inscribed:

WRITE HIMB  
UNIVERSITY  
HAWAII 96744

As you know, there are both historical and practical reasons for using this simple return address. Over the years, dating back to 1977, it has repeatedly proven to be a successful "non-governmental" inscription that is easily understood, and apparently foolproof for postal delivery at the Kaneohe Post Office.

A recent tag order we have made for several thousand more tags, including ones made of blue and brown plastic, will eventually be distributed to workers in several Pacific island nations. In addition, observers on foreign driftnet vessels may soon be using these tags on sea turtles capture alive and released on the high seas. There is good potential for exciting new information on sea turtle life history to result from this work.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to also thank you for allowing me the periodic use of HIMB's Boston Whalers for our work on turtles in Kaneohe Bay.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs  
Zoologist

