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Dear George,

Thanks for the newspaper cuttings. Frazer show gets around doesn't he. It will be interesting to see what the Reunion ranching work shop was about - I haven't heard of it before.

Apart from preparing for this summers work - and it looks like being one of the very big green turtle nesting years - I'm trying to influence the PNG thinking on the need for reducing / controlling subsistence hunting in their Western Province. This is the area involved in the current PNG - Australian treaty negotiation which includes fishing rights. Unfortunately because I'm not employed by the right Govt. department it seems I have been excluded from the discussions. I'll eventually get there but I hope not too late. I'm becoming more and more convinced that the international harvest of the green (and perhaps loggerhead and hawksbill) from Australian rookeries is now excessive. Unfortunately many of the major rookeries haven't been tagged and I can only guess at where the females come from. At least our Barrier Reef tagging data looks good - about 150 migration recaptures of greens - 3 rookery areas involved each with different feeding ground dispersal.

Re your "debris" paper ^{out of total tagged?} and the Mon Repos Caretta stomach contents. I defy anyone to describe a normal

has given a different ~~at~~ prey composition. When
one ^{turtle} gives gut contents that are 100% holothurian, another
almost 100% sea urchin, others mostly portunid crabs, others
bivalves — some 100% jellyfish etc. In at least 1 non
trawling area I have recorded fish being eaten (uncommonly).
What I'm getting at is that in this particular area off Mon
Repos which is the interesting refuge for the rookery the
turtles may choose to eat fish, prawn, crab gorgonian
etc. It may be that they are picking up the discarded
bicatch — it may not be. Their guts were not
packed with food like ~~some~~ turtles from feeding grounds.
Typical of interesting females generally (from both trawling
and non trawling areas) they contained reduced volumes
of gut content. I only sampled gut content — not
intestine, ~~so no~~ ^{so no} further comment there. Be assured though
that loggerheads will eat almost anything if its
there so they would certainly eat ^{debris and} offal — I have
records of them eating fish baits on hand held
lines. That's more debris for you.

Must close
all the best.

Col.

P.S. I leave for Mon Repos and Heron on about 23 Nov for
about 3 months +

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