

タイマイの輸入は今年いっばいの打ち切りが決まっているが、ワシントン条約を変更すれば、輸出国政府の許可書付まで取引ができる事も決まっている。このため日本への甲斐会は、現地で資源調査や放流事業を行い、タイマイの捕獲と自然保護が両立することを証明、世論に訴える作戦をとっている。同協会の田中誠文会長（長崎市）は「タイ



捕獲

保護

への甲斐会の材料となるタイマイの資源の可能性を探る「海鳥専門家国際会議」が十四日、三日間の日程で名古屋中川区の名古屋国際会議場で開催された。世界の生き残りをかけた日本への甲斐会の主催で、京都でのワシントン条約の国際会議に出席した世界のウミガメ学者約二十人が参加した。

べっ甲業界、生き残りかけ「両立を」

十五、十六日は、このテーマをもとに学者たちがタイマイ資源に関し討論する。参加者には国際自然保護連合の種の保存委員会(SSC)の委員を務める人も多く、タイマイ取引を主張するキューバ政府とのやりとりも予想される。名古屋会議は「いっばい取引をおねぐだるが、この調査が問題意識になればいい」と話している。

例えは甲斐の長さ七十センチ以上成長したカメを年に四千四百ずつ捕れば、子供のカメも補っている令より捕獲回数は減るものの重量は変わらず、自然保護の資源量は「五分ほど増える」。土井さんは「限られた資源量の程度まで使うのが問題。保護政策と資源調査を組み合わせれば、資源の有効利用は可能と思う」と述べた。

タイマイをどう増やすかを考えるのが、今の世界の最大目標。将来的には取引再開を望みたいが、まだそれを口に出す段階ではない」と慎重な口ぶりだ。会議に参加したのは、タイマイの産地キューバやインドネシアの研究者、政府関係者のほか、米国やオーストラリアの学者、べっ甲関係者約三十五人。ウミガメ研究の権威で今秋オーストラリアを去る名古屋海鳥専門家の内田誠一郎氏が進行役をこめていている。名古屋で開催したのは、内田会長がいるのと、京都に近いことから。初日の十四日は、横浜市で開催が会社で働く経営者、土井さんなどがキューバでの資源調査結果を発表。土井さんはキューバ漁業者の協力で計四回現地に出かけ、タイマイの捕獲回数や繁殖率、漁獲量を細密に調べ、捕獲のいくつかのモデルを提示した。

THE MARINE TURTLE SPECIALIST INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN NAGOYA

1992年(平成4年)3月15日(日曜日)

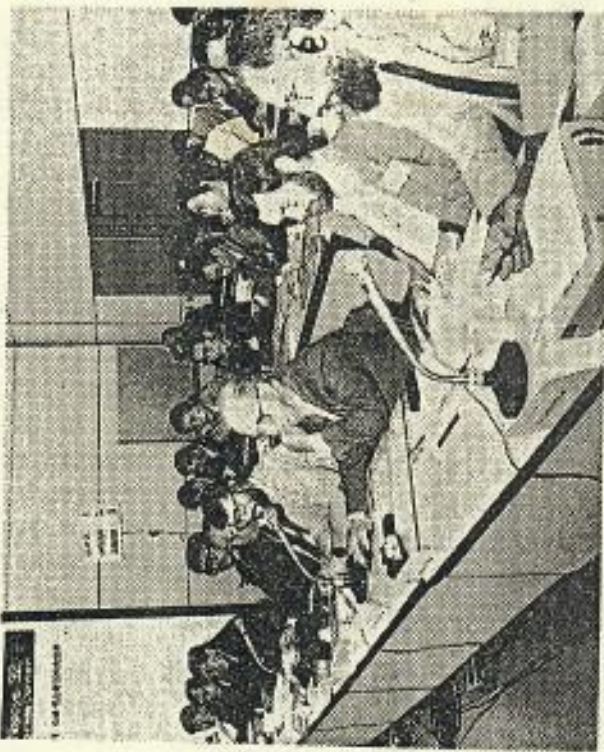
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ウミガメ学者
国際会議スタート

名古屋



名古屋で開催された「海亀専門家国際会議」に名古屋国際会議場で14日午後

Japan Yields to U.S. Pressure, Will Halt Trade in Endangered Turtles

■ **Environment:** Tokyo's eleventh-hour decision to end importation of hawksbills by a 'date certain' stalls a ban on importation of all its animal products.

By RUDY ABRAMSON
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—Averting an imminent showdown with the United States, the Japanese government bowed Friday to pressure from Washington and announced that it plans to end its trade in endangered hawksbill sea turtles, whose shells are used to make jewelry and eyeglass frames.

The action came after months of negotiations and just hours before the Bush Administration planned to impose a ban on the import of all animal products from Japan. Administration sources said that the eleventh-hour decision evidently was prompted by Japan's concern about the loss of lucrative pearl exports to the United States.

While environmentalists cheered the action, announced in Tokyo, Administration officials noted that the Japanese government did not specify exactly when the turtle imports would cease—stating only that trade would be halted by a "date certain." Environmentalists who have been in contact with Japanese officials said that the date probably will be about 1994.

After officially receiving the Japanese statement Friday, President Bush informed Congress that he will take no action "pending an assessment within 30 days of the adequacy of Japan's actions. . . ."

Administration officials said, however, that the United States will insist on an end to the trade no later than next March, when the signatories to an international accord on endangered species gather in Kyoto, Japan, to discuss its status.

Interior Department spokesman Steven Goldstein said that the Administration will give Tokyo 30 days to announce the date for ending the trade and to provide information on how many of the turtles Japan expects to import between now and the termination date.

Considered the most beautiful of all the threatened and endangered sea turtles, the hawksbills are believed by some biologists to be within several years of extinction

THE ENDANGERED HAWKSBILL



■ The hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, is the source of "tortoise shell," or carey, valued for ornamental uses. Its eggs are also prized. It ranges widely through the tropical seas and oceans. In the Atlantic, it may be seen as far north as Massachusetts; in the Pacific, it is not found north of Mexico. Hawksbills generally have shells about three feet in diameter and weigh about 100 pounds.

unless the slaughter for their exquisite shells is ended.

"The hawksbill turtle, like the African elephant, has been pushed to the brink of extinction by ruthless over-exploitation for its products," said Michael Bean, an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, an advocacy group. "When Japan's promised action takes effect, the hawksbill will face a more hopeful future."

Found in the Pacific and Indian oceans and the warmer waters of the Atlantic, the hawksbill, whose shell grows to about three feet in diameter, is protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as well as by the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Of the 107 nations that have signed the international trade pact, Administration sources said, only two have remained out of compliance because of trade in the hawksbill turtle—Japan, as the major importer, and Cuba, which has continued to export.

Although there are no credible estimates of the number of surviving hawksbill turtles, it is believed that 15,000 to 25,000 females leave the ocean to nest on sandy beaches each year.

Since 1970, Japan is believed to have imported the shells of 1.2 million adult hawksbills, and an untold number of juveniles, from around the world.

After long, fruitless negotiations with Japanese officials, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and Commerce Secretary Robert A. Mosbacher formally certified to Presi-

dent Bush last March that Japan's hawksbill trafficking was undermining the international agreement. That set the stage for the invocation of U.S. sanctions.

Sources privy to Administration negotiations with Japanese officials in Washington said that Japan resisted the demand to stop the trade on several grounds, citing the impact on Japanese workers, including elderly and handicapped jewelry makers.

About 1,400 Japanese are said to be employed by 113 "tortoise shell" businesses.

One apparent factor in Japan's decision to relent is the scheduled meeting next year in Kyoto at which Japanese whaling and fishing practices are expected to be fiercely debated. Japan's imports of hawksbill turtles had generated sentiment among some environmental groups for moving the convention to another country.

Although Administration officials and U.S. environmentalists said that they would prefer to see the trade end immediately, the Japanese promise to quit by a certain date was taken as a major step by a country constantly criticized for the activities of its fishing and whaling fleets.

"This is a banner day for worldwide sea turtle conservation," said Robert Irwin, counsel for the National Wildlife Federation. "If the ban takes effect soon, Japan will have taken a giant leap toward becoming a responsible environmental citizen in the community of nations."