



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/RF

February 21, 1975

Mr. George Baalazs
University of Hawaii
Hawaiian Institute of Biology
Coconut Island, P.O. Box 1346
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear George:

Thanks for keeping me posted relative to your work on the Green Sea Turtle. I was somewhat surprised to hear that you intend to terminate studies on French Frigate Shoals. I had the distinct impression that your studies would continue for a number of years, until you gained a thorough understanding of the population dynamics of that group of animals.

You are undoubtedly experiencing budget cuts, as we all are, and your research priorities may be turning in other directions. When you get a chance, I would appreciate your filling me in on what your activities are at the present time and what you will be doing in the future.

With regard to your questions about notches in the plates of turtles at French Frigate Shoals, I don't ever remember seeing anything of that nature. Many turtles had shark bites, but I trust the kinds of notches you refer to were distinct notches cut into the marginal plates.

I talk with Palmer and Gene now and then and it appears that things are still moving. Gene has the Endangered Species Program and Palmer pretty much runs the refuge from what I gather.



Save Energy and You Serve America!

It certainly has been a pleasure working with you, George, and I feel that any time that we can have the academic community working on our national wildlife refuges to help us better understand some of the resource problems we have, it is to our benefit. As a result of too many administrative problems we spend too little time working on our specific resource problems and this is the area where the academic community can help out.

Best wishes to you in your future studies George and keep me posted with respect to what you are doing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave", written in a cursive style.

Dave Olsen