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# Marine Turtle Newsletter



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## EDITORIAL

This is the last issue of the Marine Turtle Newsletter to be produced by your present editor. At the same time he is happy to announce that it has been possible to find not only a new editor but also funds to enable him to start off in good financial health. Dr. Nat Frazer will be taking over the editorship. He has already contributed by preparing the index which rounds out this issue. The Fish and Wildlife Service (USA) have been very supportive and helpful, and have encouraged the continuation of the newsletter. Some funds have been promised by the Cayman Turtle Farm (1983), with contributions coming without any conditions about editorial policy. Other money from a conservation organization had strings attached and was sent back by an intermediary. Your editor certainly hopes his successor will introduce changes and improvements, but he is also confident that the newsletter will continue to reflect a variety of approaches to conservation.

A change in editorship is a good time to look back as well as forward. Starting with a distribution of less than 100 in 1976, the circulation of the Marine Turtle Newsletter climbed rapidly to around 800, spread over some 80 different nations. In some of these places conservationists, game wardens, biologists and government officials lack access to good libraries and work on meagre budgets. By sending out the newsletter free of charge it has been possible to provide up to date information to some of those who most need it but are least likely to be able to afford it. This has been largely possible because of donations from Dr Judith Mittag and her family. World Wildlife Canada have provided considerable support on various occasions. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge useful unsolicited contributions from a number of individuals.

Many of our readers have also helped by responding to calls for letter writing. Through such campaigns the Marine Turtle Newsletter has supported conservation initiatives in Mexico, India and Ascension Island. Its items have been taken up by other media. The editorial advisors have played a significant part in all these activities.