

CABLE ADDRESS :

"SOUTHPACOM" NOUMEA

TELEPHONE : 26.20.00

TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

ADRESSE TELEGRAPH...

"SOUTHPACOM" NOUMEA

TELEPHONE : 26.20.00

TELEX : SOPACOM 139 NM

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

POST BOX D 5

NOUMEA CEDEX

NEW CALEDONIA

COMMISSION DU PACIFIQUE SUD

BOITE POSTALE D 5

NOUMEA CEDEX

NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE

5 February, 1980

In reply, please quote PRO 7/14

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Grandperrin
Head Fisheries Adviser

Mr. George Balazs
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
P.O. Box 1346
Coconut Island
KANEŌHE
Hawaii, 96744 USA

Dear George,

I spent last Sunday 3 February on a small island called Ilot Konduyo located on the western coast of New Caledonia, about 70 km north west of Noumea (see copy of the map). This island is visited during the week by people living in La Foa, the closest village. There is a kind of house made of all sorts of material which provides shade and shelter. It belongs to friends of mine. I remember having visited this island one or two years ago and at that time I had noted one track on the beach. From memory it was in November because the water was cooler than now.

When we arrived there the other day, I saw a little girl playing with a hatchling. It was one out of 14 which had emerged at 5 p.m., the previous evening from below the fire the people had made, close to the house (see figure). I had no camera so I could not take any picture. I think they were green turtles. I have arranged to have a photo of a spawning female taken some time ago. The people visit this island almost every week end (weather permitting) and report that a lot of turtles come each year to spawn there as well as on beaches on other islands around. Some of the nests are dug but not all of them.

Then I decided to go around the island. I counted approximately 32 pits, obviously several weeks old and no track. In the bottom of some of the pits, I noted several dried broken egg shells. I had a swim in the lee of the island where there is a large turtle grass area. A friend of mine saw a big turtle, probably a green.

Access to this island is very easy. There is no breaking coastal reef. I did not swim on the weather coast as the wind was blowing at 30 knots.

George, that is all I had to report. I hope this could be interesting. Personally I think that there are more spawning beaches in the lagoon than we saw during the aerial survey. From discussion I had with several persons, the Southern part of the lagoon is full of turtles.

Regarding the survey of the Navy ship to Huon, I was invited for lunch by the Captain of the boat. He promised to do his best. The medical doctor on board will take care of the observation. He is keen to do it. I will let you know the results as soon as I get there.

Best personal regards,

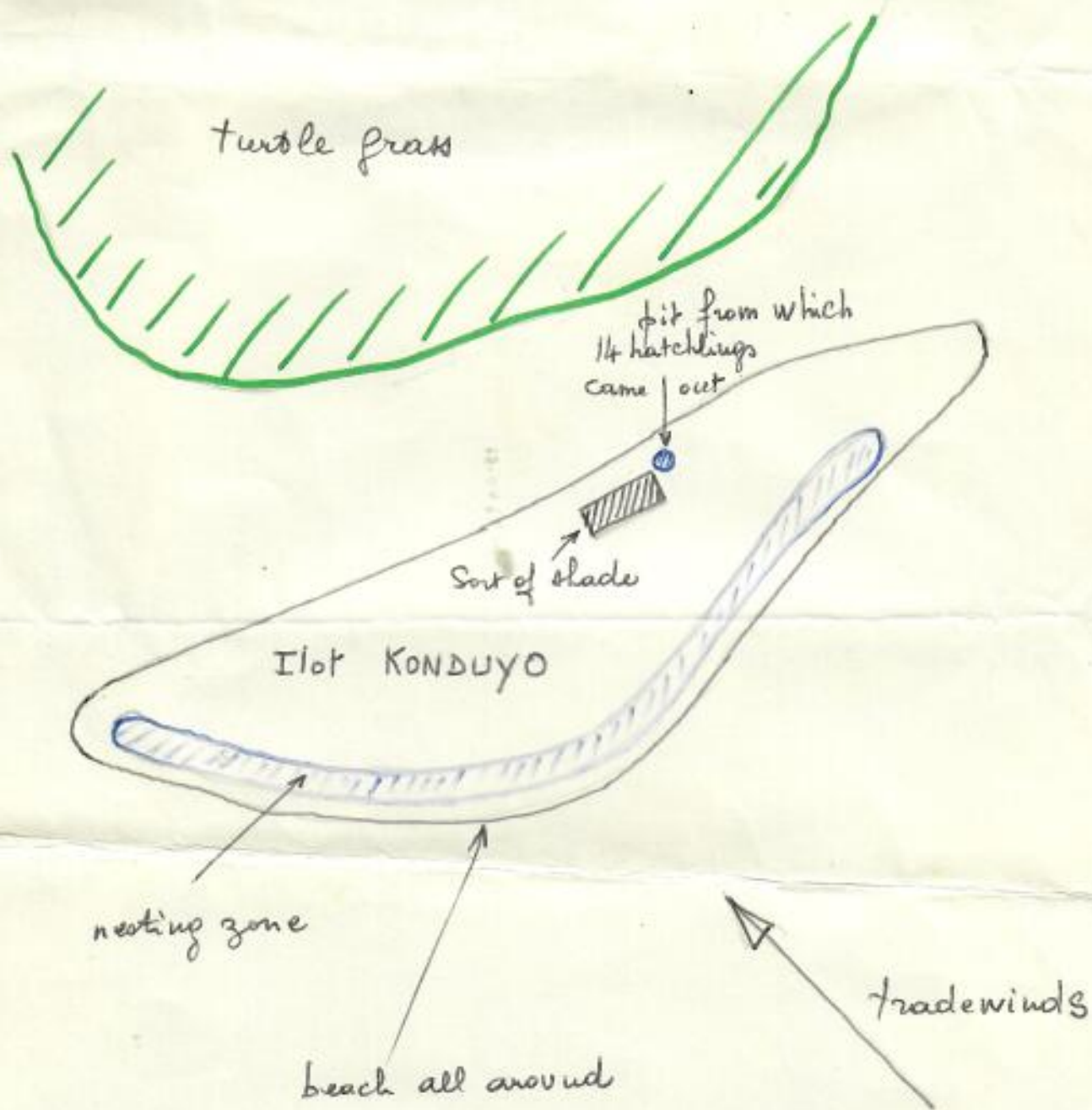
Yours sincerely,



René Grandperrin
Fisheries Adviser

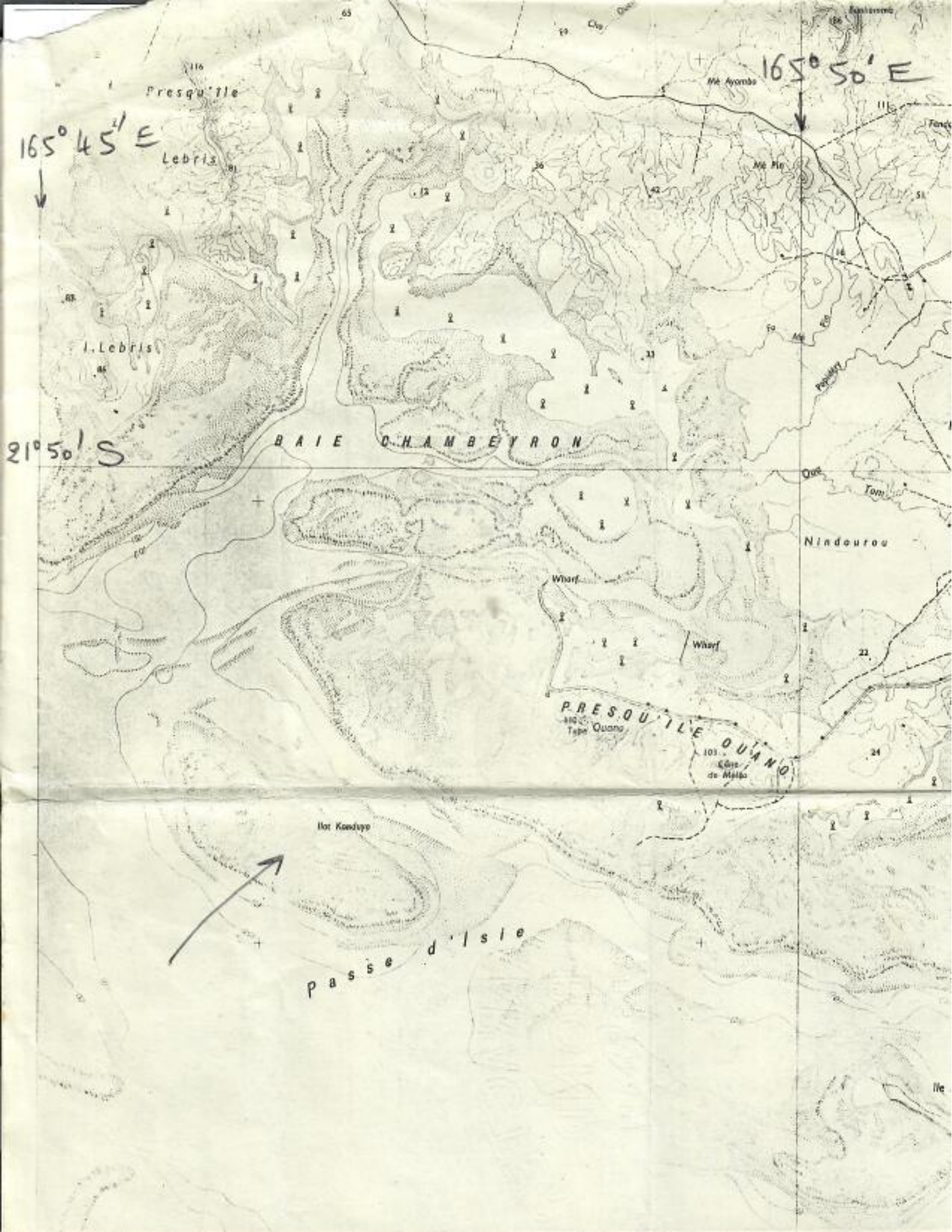
cc: Mr. Richard Shomura
Director
South West Fisheries Center
P.O. Box 3830
HONOLULU
Hawaii, 96812 USA

RG/vmr.



Western Coast of New Caledonia

(reported by GRANDPERRIN
 SPC Tréher's Advisor
 3/2/1950)



McC Kowdys

Passo d'Isie

de Jave

Gand River

S 155° 18'

