

MARK O. HATFIELD
MARINE SCIENCE CENTER



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

2030 South Marine Science Drive · Newport, Oregon 97365-5296

Telephone 503-867-0100 Fax 503-867-0138

Internet: HMSCdizo@ccmail.orst.edu

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Mr. George Balazs
NMFS/SWFSC
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear George,

By now you must be back from what I hope was a very successful trip to French Frigate Shoals. I do hope you were able to attach the transmitters easily, and to the turtles you had been hoping to get. I really enjoyed the trip to Hawaii and especially the chance to work with you. Even now, in my minds eye, I see you pouncing on those turtles at Kaneohe Bay. Amazing!! Thank you for a great experience. I was also delighted to meet Russ and Sean, you are lucky to have such fine people working for you. I must also complement you on Christian, what a really nice kid.

Were you able to test your tags, or did Telonics want you to buy their uplink receiver? I am still curious as to what data your tags are collecting, or are the 32 bits ARGOS requires just zeroed out? If you tag again you might consider going ahead and collecting some dive information since these 32 bits are required anyway; the data would be "free" from your point of view.

It's amazing that the second tag we put on came out ok. Taking them off shouldn't be any trouble at all. They will fall off naturally in time, but you could use a small bone saw around the silicone to get the tag off and then sand down the remaining resin. Richard is the expert on getting these things off. So you might ask him if Steve gets worried.

I'm glad you took the chance on those silicone goos. I have been planning to try and publish my attachment methods poster in the Journal of Wildlife Management, if you don't mind, I'd like to include what we did at Sea Life Park. I would be honored if you would consent to join Ed, Richard and me on the publication as an author.

I'm looking forward to hearing how it went at FFS!

Best regards,