

TONY TUCKER and KATHY HALL

Georgia Sea Turtle Cooperative Research Program, Institute of Ecology,
University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 USA and Department of Marine Sciences,
University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, PR 00708

INFORMATION ON BASKING SEA TURTLES SOUGHT

Little information is available on basking sea turtles for locations other than the Hawaiian Islands. Anyone having information on sea turtles basking (particularly those crawling up onto ramps in captivity) please contact: Steve Kaiser, Curator of Fishes, c/o Sea Life Park, Makapuu Point, Waimanalo, HI 96795 USA.

MYSTERY TAG FOUND IN HAWAII

A light-weight aluminum tag, embossed with the number "EL82678", was found on the beach at Laysan Island in the northwestern Hawaiian Island chain. No such tags have been used in Hawaii for turtles, seals, fishes or whales. Anyone having information on the possible origin of this tag, please contact: George Balazs, NMFS, P.O. Box 3830, Honolulu, HI 96812 USA.

SEA TURTLE WORKSHOP

The 5th Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation will be held at the Georgia Episcopal Conference Center in Waverly, Georgia (USA), February 14-16, 1985, hosted by the Georgia Sea Turtle Cooperative Research Program. For further information, contact: Dr. J. I. Richardson, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 USA.

VIMS SEA TURTLE AGE STUDY

The following tag series are from 57 juvenile loggerheads and 4 ridleys caught and released in the Chesapeake Bay (USA) during the 1983 and 1984 season. These turtles have been injected with oxytetracycline. The study will verify the presence of annuli due to bone growth. If a stranded turtle with any of these tag numbers is seen, please call Jack Musick or RuthEllen Klinger at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA 23062 USA -- telephone (804) 642-7322 -- as soon as possible. Those researchers with Federal Permits to salvage sea turtle parts, please save the head and humerus from these turtles. Tag Numbers: K2008, K2163, K2715-K2752, K2779, K3041-3050, K3076-3077, K3082, K3085-K3087, K3092-K3100, K4001, K4501-K4504, K4601-K4624, K4626-K4643, K4646-K4649, K4651-K4700.

WIDECAST MEETS IN PANAMA

The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle (WIDECAST) Recovery Team held its fourth meeting at the University of Panama, October 15-18, 1984, hosted by the University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The Team is composed of 11 non-governmental sea turtle scientists and conservationists and is supported by a WIDECAST Network of over 100 individuals and organizations

Marine Turtle Newsletter



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Editor: Nat B. Frazer

Editorial Advisors:

Marine Policy Center
Woods Hole Oceanographic
Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543 USA

Peter C. H. Pritchard
Anders G. J. Rhodin
Harold F. Hirth
N. Mrosovsky

EDITORIAL

The previous editor founded the MTN and built its circulation to more than 800 recipients in over 80 countries throughout the world. He made the MTN a vehicle for the expression of a variety of opinions and for the rapid dissemination of information on all aspects of the biology, management and conservation of sea turtles. Under his editorship, the MTN became a source document of inestimable value to all who study sea turtles -- so much so that it is difficult to believe that anyone could ever hope to maintain a current understanding of sea turtle biology and conservation without regularly reading the MTN. We all are fortunate to have had the benefit of Nicholas Mrosovsky's leadership as editor over the past 8 years (August 1976 - August 1984) and he deserves our heartfelt thanks for his service to us, his colleagues. His will be a difficult act to follow as editor; fortunately, he will continue to provide us with the fruit of his experience by remaining on as Editorial Advisor.

For the immediate future, I plan no substantial changes for the MTN. I hope to continue to provide rapid dissemination of information and the expression of a variety of opinions on sea turtle biology and conservation. Although the financial future of the MTN appears to be secure for the next few issues, I will continue to seek additional support. In no case, however, will I accept funds from any individual or organization that places restrictions on content. I will make the MTN available for the expression of a variety of well-worded, responsible opinions on all aspects of sea turtle conservation; I will not use it merely for my own proselytizing. As we address the biological and political problems surrounding sea turtle conservation, each of us would do well to recall the conclusion reached by S. C. Stearns in a recent paper on life history evolution, a conclusion that is also applicable to the study, management and conservation of marine turtles: "The problem is not to establish who is right, because no one is, but to identify the portion of truth perceived by each, and to discover how to connect those portions." If the MTN continues to be a thread connecting the truths perceived by each of us, then my editorship will be a successful one.

N. B. F.