

Editor's Comment: Bruce Jalldagian, of Greenpeace, has provided the following addresses to which you may wish to send your thoughts on the Greek loggerhead matter:

Mr. Kouloumbis
Ministry of Environment
Athens, GREECE

Admiral Dounis
Ministry of Merchant Marine
Athens, GREECE

CHINESE TURTLE RESOURCES SURVEY

A meeting was held in Haikou City, Hainan Island, Guangdong Province on 21 & 22 March 1987 concerning the survey of the Southsea turtle resources. Methods of conserving the Southsea turtle resources were discussed and a plan was worked out to investigate and research sea turtles in the Xisha Islands. A base will be built in the Xisha Islands to conserve sea turtles, and preparations are being made for the breeding and rearing of sea turtles there.

HUANG CHU-CHIEN, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, 7 Zhongguancun Lu, Haitien, Beijing, CHINA.

MARINE TURTLE PROTECTION IN BRAZIL

The Brazilian Marine Turtle's Preservation Project, TAMAR, of the Department of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves, began in 1980. TAMAR is attached to the Brazilian Institute for Forest Development (IBDF) and managed by the Brazilian Foundation for the Conservation of Nature (FBCN). Our main aims are the appraisal of the marine turtles' status along the Brazilian coastline and oceanic islands and the effecting of an action plan to guarantee the preservation of these endangered species in our country.

After a detailed search, the following eight nesting areas were designated at which our efforts will be concentrated in order to reach our proposed aims: Praia do Forte and Condomínio Interlagos, State of Bahia; Praia de Comboios, State of Espírito Santo; Praia de Santa Isabel, State of Sergipe; Lençóis Maranhenses, State of Maranhão; Atol das Rocas, State of Rio Grande do Norte; Arquipélago de Fernando de Noronha; Ilha de Trindade, State of Espírito Santo.

By means of the survey, five species of sea turtles were verified as nesting in Brazil: *Caretta caretta*, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, *Lepidochelys olivacea*, *Dermochelys coriacea*, and *Chelonia mydas*. The nesting season varies from place to place and from species to species, lasting generally from September to March on the mainland and from December to May on the oceanic islands.

Since the beginning of the fieldwork in 1982 until 1986, some 158,982 eggs were protected, which generated 90,459 hatchlings [62,354 *Caretta* ; 13,973 *Lepidochelys* ; 2,722 *Eretmochelys* ; 6,345 *Chelonia* ; 970 *Dermochelys* ; 4,095 unidentified]. The hatching rates averaged 57%, and 999 adult females were tagged [810 *Chelonia* ; 114 *Caretta* ; 46 *Lepidochelys* ; 12 *Dermochelys* ; 6 *Eretmochelys* ; 1 not identified]. The relocation of eggs was used as a preservation method. The eggs are transferred to a protected beach hatchery, exposed to both sunlight and rain. On the oceanic islands, the nests remain in their original place and the total number of eggs and hatchlings is not estimated. On these islands the project involves only tagging and general observation.

Thanks to the tagging program, several aspects of nesting behavior could be observed. Adult females emerge onto the beach from 3 to 7 times in a season, at periods of from 9 to 17 days,

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Editor: Nat B. Frazer

Editorial Advisors:

Department of Biology
Mercer University
1400 Coleman Avenue
Macon, GA 31207 USA

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

ECUADOR TAKES A GIANT STEP BACKWARDS

After successfully closing the very destructive offshore olive ridley fishery that operated in Ecuador, it seems that the Ecuadorians have now taken a giant step backwards in sea turtle conservation. Reliable sources in Ecuador have informed your Editor that at least two turtle-processing plants have been reopened at Manta and turtle product exports to Mexico have apparently been authorized by the Ecuadorean Minister of Industry. The Minister is Sr. Ricardo Novoa Bejarano, who we are told was the one who signed the authorization for the exports while he was Vice-Minister of Fishing (i.e., just before he became Minister of Industry). The authorization, we are told, is in open violation of the Ecuadorean ban on fishing and trade in turtle products, a legally-binding measure taken jointly by the Ministries of Industry (including "fishing") and the Ministry of Agriculture (including "wildlife") at an earlier date. We are also informed that the authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture are surprised and saddened to see the new authorization reopening the trade. Our sources expressed the hope that the Agriculture authorities will initiate an inquiry as to how the wholesale butchering of turtles was allowed to resume (apparently, the main motive is money for the tanners rather than revenue from meat or shell products).

Readers may wish to write to Sr. Ricardo Novoa Bejarano, Ministerio de Industrias, Quito, Ecuador, expressing their dismay at the reopening of the turtle processing plants and the resumption of exports to Mexico.

GREEK LOGGERHEADS STILL NEED YOUR HELP, TOO

[The Editor encourages readers to write to Mr. Kouloumbis and Admiral Dounis at the addresses given below in support of the recommendations given by Greenpeace at the end of this article.]

The New Ministerial Decision

In December, last year, it was reported in the Greek national press that a Presidential Decree