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[CTURTLE] U.S. Postal Stamps

1 message

Barbara Schroeder <aphelocomajay@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 9:24 AM
Reply-To: Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation <CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu>
To: CTURTLE@lists.ufl.edu

I am very excited to let you know that the United States Postal Service will issue commemorative sea turtle stamps in 2024. The stamps commemorate the six species found in US waters and encourage their protection. This is a project I worked on over the last year of my career with NOAA. Thank you to Jeff Seminoff for his assistance. The US joins many nations that have previously honored sea turtles with postal stamps. The exact 2024 issue date for the stamps has not yet been released, they will be "Forever" stamps so will be valid for First Class letters in perpetuity. They will be issued as a pane of 18 stamps. You can view the stamps below and at THIS LINK -- scroll down through the other 2024 stamp issues to get to the sea turtles. These are the first U.S. stamps dedicated solely to sea turtles. In 2004 a hawksbill turtle was included in a commemorative Pacific Coral Reef pane, and there is a sea turtle silhouette in the semipostal Save Vanishing Species stamp commemorating (and raising funds for) the USFWS Multinational Species Conservation Funds (of which the Marine Turtle Conservation Act funds are a part).

In early 1980, Dr. Archie Carr, in a LETTER to the U.S. Postmaster General, requested consideration of commemorative sea turtle stamps. This effort was supported by most of the leading sea turtle figures of the time, including and especially George Balazs. George has compiled many of THOSE LETTERS on his website. Thanks to George for saving and sharing this treasure trove.

Good things come to those who wait. In this case, 50 years after the first sea turtles were protected under the newly enacted U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, and many decades after Dr. Carr's initial letter.

Best regards,

Barbara Schroeder

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