

8 September 1984

TO: BILL

FROM: GEORGE

SUBJECT: Suggested checklist of some sea turtle research activities to initiate or accomplish during FY 85-- items for discussion.

1. Maui electric plant turtle aggregation- capture and tagging assessment; thermal physiology (Whittow).
2. Molokai turtle tagging/assessment and growth studies- accompany fisherman Ed Medieros on netting trips.
3. Na Pali coast basking turtles- 3-4^{day} study visit via Harter Helicopter.
4. Midway^{turtle} mortality and shortterm dive assessment- 2-3day visit.
5. Bellows Oahu turtle aggregation- 1-2 day monthly net sampling.
6. Johnston Atoll- agreement with FWS &ACE; funding and field schedule. *HEAVY METAL DATA SENT?*
7. Write report for Big Is. NMFS/Sea Grant/MOP FY 84 turtle project.
8. Write paper and make presentation on turtles at debris workshop.
9. Train scuba designees on Kauai in capture and tagging techniques (currently on State sci. collecting permit).

12 December 1984

TO: Bill

FROM: George Balazs

There are several things that could easily be done to help improve the status of Hawaiian sea turtles. I've verbally suggested the following on several occasions to the appropriate people. While agreement was given that these are good ideas, nothing ever happened.

1. Get the word out to the commercial dive shops that their customers shouldn't be encouraged to catch and ride sea turtles-- especially when their ads don't even say the animals are protected! (see attached).
2. Get the enforcement branch telephone number for turtle and marine mammal protection into the "hotline" columns of the free tourist newspapers (see attached).
3. Get sea turtles formally and visibly included in the stranding network WPPO recently set up on all the outer islands. I had a rubber stamp made for their posters, told them it was here for their use, but to date no one has asked to use it.
4. Issue periodic press releases on the protected status of sea turtles. Take advantage of dramatic enforcement cases that come up. For example, the case of a live hawksbill and green turtle found in a backyard in Palolo. Enforcement seemed to think this was an excellent case to publicize, but nothing happen.
5. Find out the status of the 5-year "status" review and the review of subsistence take for sea turtles. The subsistence review was to have been completed about one year ago this month. At least that's what WPPO people told those in attendance at the public meetings held on each of the Hawaiian islands in April-May 1983. Confidence in government workers is adversely affected when things like this are allowed to drag on and on. And this happens in the minds of both conservationists and fishermen inclined to eat turtles.