



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southwest Fisheries Center
Honolulu Laboratory
P. O. Box 3830
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Ms. Barbara A. Schroeder
Southeast Fisheries Center
Miami Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Dear Barbara,

Thank you for sending me a copy of the letter you recently wrote to Lew Ehrhart concerning records of tumors on stranded turtles.

If there is any possible way that the incidence of tumors on stranded turtles can be extracted from your network data, I would certainly encourage you to undertake this task. As I reported at the Georgia workshop, in 1985 29% of our stranded turtles in Hawaii had fibropapillomas (a specific type of tumor). We are very concerned about this occurrence, particularly in view of the fact that many of our resident fishermen feel certain an increase has taken place in recent years. For comparative purposes, as well as a status report on disease in your own region, it would certainly be worthwhile to know the magnitude of this problem in your area.

If there is any way I can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

George H. Balazs
Zoologist

cc: Lew Ehrhart
Fred Berry
Joseph Powers -
Larry Ogren
Paul Raymond