

Mr. Doyle Gates
National Marine Fisheries Service
P. O. Box 3830
Honolulu, HI 96812

Dear Doyle:

We are having a problem in one of our fishponds at Kalahuipuaa, Puako, Hawaii. The fishponds are owned by Maunalani Resort and Alika Cooper & Sons, Inc., Manages, stocks and cares for the entire fishpond complex. The problem is, a limu (seaweed) that the duck brought in.

Traditionally, we kept turtles in our fishponds for several reasons. One is to control limu and grass growth, secondly to stir up the shallower area and thirdly to fertilize the ponds. This is a traditional practice that has always been done.

I am asking that I can catch a few turtles to put in the pond to solve this problem.

You realize Doyle, that all the aboriginal populace of the Western Pacific can catch turtles to eat. I can't understand why the aborigine people of Hawaii cannot catch and eat turtle, this has always been done and I feel is part of our aboriginal rights. Turtle is one of the best eating reptiles, for there is no fat in the flesh. We have always had turtle in our fishponds, and used turtles for our survival.

There are a lot of turtles in the Hawaiian archipelago. They breed throughout our island chain and lay their eggs in the Leeward Islands. Turtles are plentiful here on Hawaii.

This turtle matter has been brought to your attention years ago and you (N.M.F.S.) has done nothing about it. I brought it up several times at the W.P.R.F.M.C. Your own lawyer from N.M.F.S. said probably a letter to Washington is all that is needed since the green sea turtle is not endangered in the Hawaiian archipelago.

I hope you are going to get on this matter soon. If you don't, as I told you before, a group of us, including an ex-W.P.R.F.M.C. member will catch some turtles and you can have us arrested. I can guarantee you that it will never get

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to court and the N.M.F.S. will have egg all over their faces again.

I'll give you 30 days to respond positively to this letter. If I don't hear from you in 30 days, I'll catch the turtles needed for the traditional fishpond problem and also a few to eat.

Aloha A Nui Loa Kakou,

Alika Cooper

Alika Cooper

cc: Mr. Susumo Ono
Mauna Lani Resort, Inc.