

Balazs (2024) What Do Sea Turtles Mean To You? Letter to Civil Beat.

What Do Sea Turtles Mean To You? I am 81 years old and for most of my adult life I have studied sea turtles and promoted their conservation. Since I retired from NOAA in 2017, I have voiced my strong views that a provision under the USA law must be created for the sustainable use of turtles for cultural and traditional purposes by the indigenous people controlled (colonized) by the USA government. At this latter stage of life my energies (and perhaps my time) are limited. But I will continue to do what I feel is Right. And it is Wrong for the people in NOAA, as an arm of the USA government, to not speak out for what is Right. If they did speak out, their superiors in Washington DC would listen. If anyone working in NOAA or in the US Fish & Wildlife Service (both of these agencies control sea turtles) tells you that they are helpless, they cannot do anything to help you achieve a cultural harvest or other traditional use, they are not telling you the truth.