

Fw: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's sea turtles- 與 George 夏博士的討論

Putting Dr XIA's statement both Chinese & English (together) from the emails into a pdf

From: 海之夏 <450123161@qq.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2025 4:52:47 AM

To: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's sea turtles- 與 George 夏博士的討論

家恩、乔治，老朋友好！收到你们的来信和意见及建议，非常感谢你们对中国大陆海龟保护工作的指导和帮助！

请保持联系，谢谢！

中荣 于中国海龟湾

海之夏

450123161@qq.com

中国海龟湾

Greetings to Connie and George, old friends! Thank you very much for your guidance and help in the protection of sea turtles in Chinese mainland!

Please stay in touch, thank you!

Zhongrong in Turtle Bay, China

Summer of the sea

450123161@qq.com

Turtle Bay, China

原始邮件

发件人: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

发件时间: 2025 年 11 月 24 日 07:37

收件人: Connie Ng <kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com>, 海之夏 <450123161@qq.com>

主题: Re: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's sea turtles- 與 George 夏博士的討論

Dr. XIA's statements are all worthy of discussion. I am very interested to learn.

About a rebuttal article that I suggested earlier, after greater consideration on my part, I wish to withdraw my suggestion. I no longer think it's a good idea. Why not? Because it will be unfriendly 'back-and-forth' words that will be unproductive in bringing people together with mutual understanding. And, because journal policy regarding rebuttals always allows the authors of a paper being criticized (rebutted) to have... the last word. So, for these reasons, please accept my withdrawal of the idea.

I presume Dr. XIA received the message I sent out last night. Dr. XIA, please can you confirm? Let us now await to see if any of the recipients send a message expressing their viewpoint. Best Regards, George

From: Connie Ng <kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 23, 2025 4:07 AM

To: 海之夏 <450123161@qq.com>; honu world GB <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's sea turtles- 與 George 夏博士的討論

Dear George and Dr. Xia,

I compiled and attached below our conversation and **Dr. Xia's comments on Nov 20** (in Chinese and the translated English version). I suggest in the interest of time, we can feel

free to share the opinions in Chinese/ English, and use the translation tools to help the communication (I tried and it worked well for communication).

George, please share with us your thoughts on responding to this opinion paper.

夏博士，請你在電郵表達，用中文也可以，因可以用軟件翻譯，這樣可更快捷我們一起溝通交流。

Dr. Xia, please express it in email, in Chinese, because it can be translated by software, so that we can communicate together more quickly.

Best,

Connie

Comments from Dr. Xia on Nov 20

- 1.人工繁育是短期最快速扩增种群规模的方法，圈养母龟产的卵应移植到自然产卵场地孵化(目前已这样做)；
- 2.繁育出来的稚龟不要全部收集起来人工养殖，而要立即让大部分(>50%)回归自然海域，另一小半也只能养殖 1~2 年，在经过 3 个月野化后放流大海，不建议长年累月养殖海龟！因为长期养殖野生动物并不是真正意义的生态保育工作！
- 3.海龟只有归海才能发挥其生态位的重要价值:维持海洋生态系统的健康与动态平衡。
- 4.人工养殖的海龟中可以留下极小部分用于对公众的自然教育和生态旅游工作。
- 5.用于人工繁育的成年海龟仅 100 只左右，亲本部分来自海龟湾养殖种群，部分来自野外救护。
- 6.保护区是从 2010 年开始逐步重视并准备人工繁育工作的，在 2017 年成功实现突破绿海龟繁育工作。

Translated version:

1. Captive breeding is the fastest method to rapidly increase population size in the short term. Eggs laid by captive female turtles should be transplanted to natural nesting sites for hatching (this is already being done).

2. The hatchlings produced should not all be collected for captive rearing; instead, the majority (>50%) should be released back into the sea immediately. A smaller portion can be raised for 1–2 years, but only after undergoing a three-month acclimatization before being released into the ocean. Long-term captive rearing of sea turtles is not recommended, as prolonged captivity of wildlife does not constitute true ecological conservation.
3. Sea turtles can only fulfill their ecological role by returning to the ocean, maintaining the health and dynamic balance of marine ecosystems.
4. A very small portion of captive-bred sea turtles can be kept for public education and ecotourism purposes.
5. Only about 100 adult sea turtles are used for captive breeding, with some parents sourced from the breeding population in the reserve and others from wildlife rescue efforts.
6. The protected area began gradually emphasizing and preparing for captive breeding in 2010 and successfully achieved breakthroughs in green sea turtle breeding in 2017.

Connie Ng <kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com> 於 2025 年 11 月 19 日 週三 上午 8:42 寫道:

夏博士早,

在文章需要重點回應是:

1. 人工繁殖作為保育手段是不會成功的觀點，當然不能單靠這方法，但只有這方法才能在未有有效管理海洋資源時，保護中國剩下的種群。保育工作需要同步有序地進行
2. 負評惠東保護區的人工繁殖及沒有母龜產卵的說法
3. 國家在保護海洋及海龜的工作，以我所知國家不僅成立了保護區、放流活動，漁業從業員會把誤捕海龜放掉或給保護區照料等。現在措施不是單靠人工繁殖。當然仍然有更多工作需要做，如妥善減少誤捕情況、打擊非法貿易。
4. 他們建議把國家政策中人工繁殖的內容移除，但承上的話內容就不應被移除

這以上是大約我和 George 討論過的看法，因你的豐富經驗及直接在保護區工作，需要依賴你來支持論點。期待你分享看法與觀點。

家恩

Dr. Xia,

The key points that need to be addressed in the opinion paper are:

1. The view that artificial breeding as a conservation method will not succeed. Of course, this method cannot be relied upon alone, but it is the only way to protect China's remaining populations when there is no effective management of marine resources. Conservation work needs to be carried out in a synchronized and orderly manner.
2. Negative comments about artificial breeding in the Huidong Reserve and the claim that there are no female turtles laying eggs.
3. The country's efforts to protect the ocean and sea turtles. As far as I know, the country has not only established protected areas and conducted release activities, but fishery practitioners also release accidentally caught sea turtles or send them to protected areas for care. Current measures are not solely based on artificial breeding. Of course, there is still more work to be done, such as properly reducing accidental captures and combating illegal trade.
4. The authors suggested removing the content about artificial breeding from national policy, but based on the above, that content should not be removed.

These are roughly the views I discussed with George. Because of your extensive experience and direct work in protected areas, I need to rely on you to support these arguments. I look forward to your opinions and perspectives.

Connie

On 18 Nov 2025, at 12:28 PM, 海之夏 <450123161@qq.com> wrote:

家恩，您好！

George 與你认为该文章存在失實描述、说法有些激进，那么打算从哪些方面来纠正呢？请说说您的具体反驳意见，谢谢！

请代我向 George 问好！

中荣

海之夏

450123161@qq.com

中国海龟湾

Hello Connie!

George and you think the article is misrepresented and the statement is a bit radical, so what do you plan to correct it? Please tell us about your specific rebuttal, thank you!

Please say hello to George on my behalf!

Dr. Xia

原始邮件

发件人: Connie Ng <kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com>

发件时间: 2025 年 11 月 16 日 00:01

收件人: 海之蓝 <450123161@qq.com>, honu world GB
<itsahonuworlindhawaii@hotmail.com>

主题: Fwd: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's critically endangered sea turtles. Nature Review Biodiversity.

Dear George,

I forwarded your message to the active email address of Dr Xia. I communicated with Dr Xia by WeChat on the same issue and he rightly pointed out a few key flaws in the article.

夏博士, George 與你寫電郵, 提出了我與你在微信討論, 關於文章內有關惠東保護區的失實描述。我們認為需要出一篇文章糾正說法。

家恩

Dr. Xia, George wrote an email to you about the misrepresentation of the Huidong Conservation Area in the article that I discussed with you on WeChat. We think an article needs to be published to correct the statement.

Connie

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Date: 15 November 2025 at 1:33:34 PM GMT+8

To: XIA Zhong-rong <xzxzr@163.com>

Cc: Ka-yan gmail NG <kayan.ng.connie@gmail.com>

Subject: Lin, Crowder & Shi (2025) Comment: Captive rearing and breeding are unlikely to save China's critically endangered sea turtles. Nature Review Biodiversity.

Dear Dr. XIA cc Connie- I read this 'paper' today. It's really not a science paper but rather is a "Comment" as the title says. Anyway, please know, and I am very sorry to say, that I don't agree with the way China's turtle conservation program is being portrayed. It's a distorted view. With inaccuracies and omissions. With biases.

A rebuttal comment letter should be written to the journal. Best Regards, George