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Saving a Pacific-Traveling Species at Bird's Head Seascape, Papua Barat – Indonesia

Presentation · January 2018

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1 author:



Ricardo Tapilatu

University of Papua, Manokwari - Indonesia

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Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Pacific leatherback and Global climate change [View project](#)

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Ricardo Tapilatu from Indonesia will be presenting the following lecture:



Leatherback Turtles: Saving a Pacific-Travelling Species at Bird's Head Seascape – Papua Barat Indonesia

January 25th, 2018 3:30 pm

Nevada State College

Location: TBD

Dr. Ricardo F. Tapilatu is the head of the Research Center for Pacific Marine Resources at the University of Papua (UNIPA), Manokwari – Papua Barat Indonesia. The research center is a state education and research institution that helps to understand and conserve the pristine ocean life throughout the Bird's Head Seascape,

an epicenter of marine biodiversity and marine megafauna in the Western Pacific. He is also a faculty member in the Fisheries and Marine Science departments (<https://fpik.unipa.ac.id/profil/staf-pendidik/jurusan-ilmu-kelautan/>) at the same university. Ricardo studies the ecology and conservation of marine megafauna and most of his research has been on the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in the Bird's Head Seascape. This area is one of the last remaining strongholds for leatherback nesting in the entire Pacific Ocean. Recently, with Fulbright Visiting Program in the US, he has been focused on the development of a marine biodiversity and habitat components to help index the health status of the ocean in Indonesia. This index will be essential to guide decision makers toward the sustainable use of the ocean and its resources in Indonesia.

Contact Dr. Kayla Bieser with any questions.

This presentation is conducted through the Fulbright Scholar Program's Outreach Lecturing Fund (OLF). OLF enables Visiting Scholars to share their research interests, speak about their home country, and exchange ideas with U.S. students, faculty, and community organizations. Through these lectures, universities forge relationships with the Fulbright Scholar Program, Visiting Scholars, and the Visiting Scholar's home and host institutions.



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CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL



December 14, 2017

Nevada State College
School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
1300 Nevada State Drive LAS 252
Henderson, NV 89002

Re: J-1 Permission for Ricardo F. Tapilatu

To Whom it May Concern:

Ricardo Tapilatu is currently doing a Fullbright Fellowship on the Ocean Health Index at Conservation International' Center for Oceans as Visiting Scholar, and is currently holding valid J-1 Status. On January 25, 2018, Ricardo will be giving a research talk entitled: "Leatherback Turtles: Saving a Pacific-Traveling Species at Bird's Head Seascape – Papua Barat Indonesia" at the Nevada State College. We understand that Ricardo will be reimbursed for his local lodging and meals and possibly for his roundtrip transportation. As this visit is in keeping with the mission of our program, we grant permission for this visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Erich J. Pacheco
Director, Ocean Governance and Policy
Center for Oceans
Conservation International

Arlington, 18 December 2017

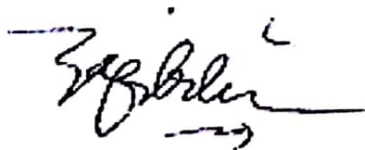
Scholar and Student Exchanges
Institute of International Education
1400 K Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is to state that Ricardo Tapilatu, the head of the Research Center for Pacific Marine Resources at the University of Papua (UNIPA), Manokwari - Papua Barat Indonesia, is currently doing an internship on Ocean Health Index at Center for Oceans at Conservation International as Fulbright Visiting Scholar and is currently holding valid J-1 Status. He has been focused on the development of a marine biodiversity and habitat components to help index the health status of the ocean in Indonesia. This index will be essential to guide decision makers toward the sustainable use of the ocean and its resources in Indonesia.

While undertaking the internship, Ricardo will be giving a research talk entitled: "Leatherback Turtles: Saving a Pacific-Travelling Species at Bird's Head Seascape - Papua Barat Indonesia on January 25, 2018 at the Nevada State College, Henderson - NV. Ricardo will be reimbursed for his local lodging and meals and possible for his roundtrip transportation.

Sincerely,



Ricardo F. Tapilatu
Fulbright Visiting Scholar
Indonesia - 2017

Leatherback Turtles: Saving a Travelling Species of Sea Turtles at Bird's Head Peninsula – Papua Barat



Ricardo F. Tapilatu^{1,2)}

- 1). Marine Science Dept, The University of Papua (UNIPA) Manokwari – Papua Barat Province, INDONESIA
- 2). Research Center for Pacific Marine Resources - The University of Papua (UNIPA) Manokwari – Papua Barat Province, INDONESIA

SEA TURTLE SPECIES IN INDONESIA Four species distribute at Bird's Head



Green



Flatback



Hawksbill

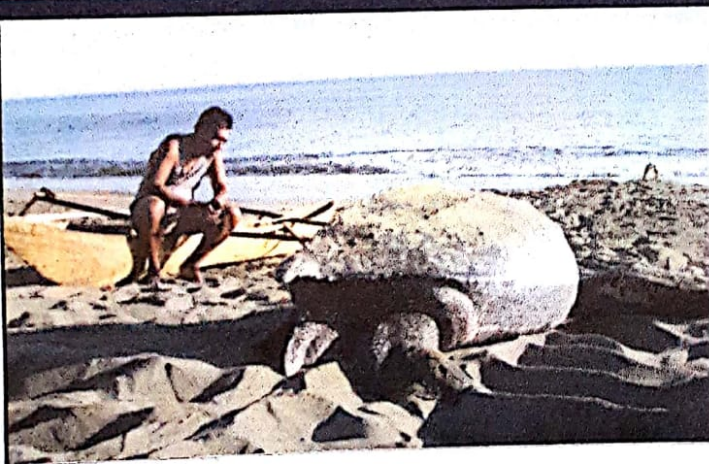


Loggerhead



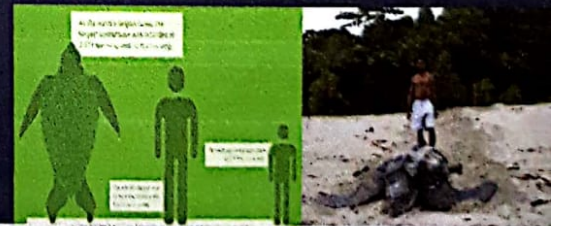
Olive-ridley

Iconic Marine species: Leatherback sea turtle



Leatherback Turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*

- Largest turtle in the world (up to 2 m and between 800-2,000 lbs)
- Highly vascularized cartilage, relatively high growth rate



Leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*

- Deepest diving reptile:
~ to 1200m
- Gigantotherm

Leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*

- Adapted for open ocean existence
- Gelatinous zooplankton specialist
- Nest every 2-4 years
- Multiple clutches/nesting season (3-12)

Foraging regions: boreal vs austral summer nesters

(modified from Benson et al, 2011)

Leatherbacks foraging grounds based on stable isotope analysis ($\delta^{13}\text{N}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$)

Sources:
Seminoff et al. 2012
Lontoh, 2014