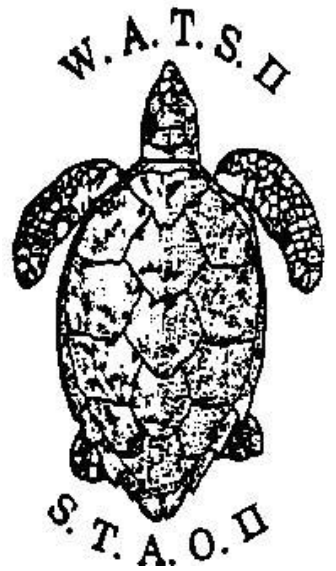


WATS II REPORT / DATA SET

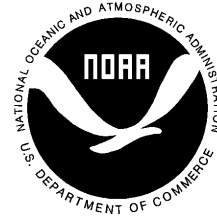


National Report to WATS II for St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Kerwin Morris

12 October 1987

WATS2 071



With a grant from the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, WIDECAST has digitized the databases and proceedings of the **Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS)** with the hope that the revitalized documents might provide a useful historical context for contemporary sea turtle management and conservation efforts in the Western Atlantic Region.

With the stated objective of serving “as a starting point for the identification of critical areas where it will be necessary to concentrate all efforts in the future”, the first Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium convened in Costa Rica (17-22 July 1983), and the second in Puerto Rico four years later (12-16 October 1987). WATS I featured National Reports from 43 political jurisdictions; 37 presented at WATS II.

WATS I opened with these words: “The talks which we started today have the multiple purpose of bringing our knowledge up to date about the biological peculiarities of the marine turtle populations of the western Atlantic; to know and analyse the scope of the National Reports prepared by the scientific and technical personnel of more than thirty nations of the region; to consider options for the orderly management of marine turtle populations; and in general to provide an adequate forum for the exchange of experiences among scientists, administrators, and individuals interested in making contributions for the preservation of this important natural resource.”

A quarter-century has passed, and the results of these historic meetings have been lost to science and to a new generation of managers and conservationists. Their unique importance in providing baseline data remains unrecognized, and their potential as a “starting point” is neither known nor appreciated.

The proceedings document what was known at the time concerning the status and distribution of nesting and foraging habitat, population sizes and trends, mortality factors, official statistics on exploitation and trade, estimated incidental catch, employment dependent on turtles, mariculture operations, public and private institutions concerned with conservation and use, legal aspects (e.g. regulations, enforcement, protected areas), and active research projects.

Despite the potential value of this information to agencies responsible for conducting stock assessments, monitoring recovery trends, safeguarding critical habitat, and evaluating conservation successes in the 21st century, the National Reports submitted to WATS II were not included in the published proceedings and, until now, have existed only in the private libraries of a handful of agencies and symposium participants. To help ensure the legacy of these symposia, we have digitized the entire proceedings – including National Reports, plenary presentations and panels, species synopses, and annotated bibliographies from both meetings – and posted them online at <http://www.widecast.org/What/RegionalPrograms.html>.

Each article has been scanned from the original document. Errors in the scan have been corrected; however, to be true to the original content (as closely as we can discern it), potential errors of content have not been corrected. This article can be cited (with the number of pages based on the layout of the original document) as:

Morris, K. 1987. National Report to WATS II for Bermuda. Prepared for the Second Western Atlantic Turtle Symposium (WATS II), 12-16 October 1987, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Doc. 071. 11 pages.

Karen L. Eckert
WIDECAST Executive Director
June 2009

WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM II

MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO

SEPTEMBER 11-16, 1987

NATIONAL REPORT FOR THE COUNTRY OF

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

PRESENTED BY

KERWYN MORRIS

**Chief Fisheries Officer
Ministry of Trade Industry and Agriculture**

St. Vincent and The Grenadines

Information on sea turtles still remains difficult to obtain, though for a different reason now: the New Fisheries Act and the subsequent regulations. These pieces of legislation have had the effect of slowing down the flow of information since the questionnaires required information relevant to activity during the closed season.

The questionnaires showed that among fishermen it is believed that sea turtle populations have declined at least since the last two decades. Most of the animals are taken by hand during nesting, in the water by gillnets, spear guns, and by hand while trolling off-shore for large pelagics. The data were obtained by visits to beaches, interviews with fishermen, hoteliers, restaurant owners, house wives, fish vendors, and visits to fish markets.

It would appear that there is no concentration of nesting by any of the species common to our area and seldom are sea turtles seen in groups comprising more than three individuals foraging. There is no turtle fishery per se and apart from gill netting most catches at sea are incidental.

Dermochelys coriacea

This species is sighted at sea. Numbers are not large but size indicates that they are adults. Sightings have been made on the Atlantic as well as on the Caribbean side of the island, at distances of up to fifty miles from land.

Caretta caretta

This species has been sighted largely in the Atlantic Ocean very often in close association with flotsam, between the months of January and June. It is not known if it is present during the latter half of the year since the sightings are made by fishermen whose activities are limited to the continental shelf during those months.

Chelonia mydas

From questionnaires returned and interviews held with fishermen, reports seem to indicate smaller numbers in the foraging areas.

Eretmochelys imbricata

This species is by far the most commonly sighted particularly in the Grenadines where it is known to nest. It is heavily hunted mainly for its meat and eggs. There is a significantly reduced trade in its shell due largely to new regulations and the country's recent membership in CITES.

All beaches along the west coast of St. Vincent are suitable as a nesting habitat.¹ In the Grenadines most beaches are likely habitats. On the mainland of St. Vincent the hawksbill is the predominant nester emerging on nearly every stretch of beach. In the Grenadines the hawksbill is the predominant nester using almost all beaches on all the islands.² As on the mainland the green turtle nests only rarely, and the loggerhead occasionally. There exists only one record of leatherback nesting in Richmond Beach, Union Island.

The shelf around St. Vincent with the exception of the southeast coast offers little foraging habitat for sea turtles. Hawksbill and greenback turtles of all sizes are sighted foraging all year round on the west coast, though not in substantial numbers. It is believed that the hawksbill is more numerous than the green turtle. Small leatherbacks and loggerheads are not seen in the area.

From the data gathered, green turtles are far more common in the Grenadines than on the mainland and their prevalence may be attributed to the existence of large areas of shallow water with excellent forage.

¹ See Map # 1: St. Vincent

² See Maps # 2 & # 3: St. Vincent Grenadines North Sheet and St. Vincent Grenadines South Sheet

Editor's note (2009): These maps could not be located.

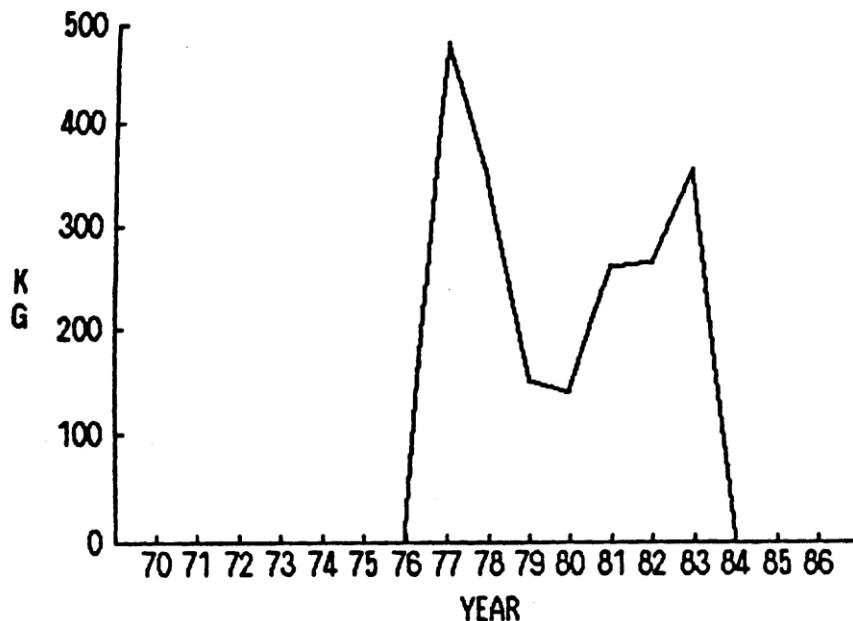


Figure 63. Japanese imports of bekko from St. Lucia 1970-1986.
(Source: Japanese Customs Statistics)

Existing regulations call for a closed season from 1st March to 31st July. Nests are protected and trade and export are prohibited.³ Consequently there are no export figures though the meat is marketed in Barbados illegally. There have also been reports of an existing trade in hawksbill shell to St. Lucia and Japan.⁴

Japanese dealers reported no trade from St. Lucia between 1984 and 1986, which corresponds with Customs data, and no data on the average weight of bekko per animal are available. However, one dealer provided an estimate of 1.03 kg, based on previous imports (Table 1). If all trade from St. Lucia is analyzed accordingly, an estimated 2,900 hawksbills comprised Japanese bekko-imports since 1970.

Tortoiseshell

A total of 434 kg of tortoiseshell was received from St. Lucia in 1979 and 1980, according to Japanese Customs data (Appendix 2).

ST. VINCENT

Bekko

St. Vincent supplied Japan with a total of 2,235 kg between 1970 and 1986 (Appendix 1). Modest trade levels of 130 kg to 250 kg were maintained between 1973 and 1978, with no subsequent trade until 1982, when low-volume importation again resumed. However, the 1986 figure reached 470 kg, the greatest volume in the data (Figure 64). This might reflect increased reliance upon St. Vincent, a non-Party to the Convention, to move bekko shipments obtained elsewhere in the region to Japan.

³ See fisheries Regulations 1987, Section 17, and Schedule 10.

⁴ See Japanese Sea Turtle Trade, 1970-1986. Tom Milliken and Hiaemi Tokunaga, July 1987, pp 94-95

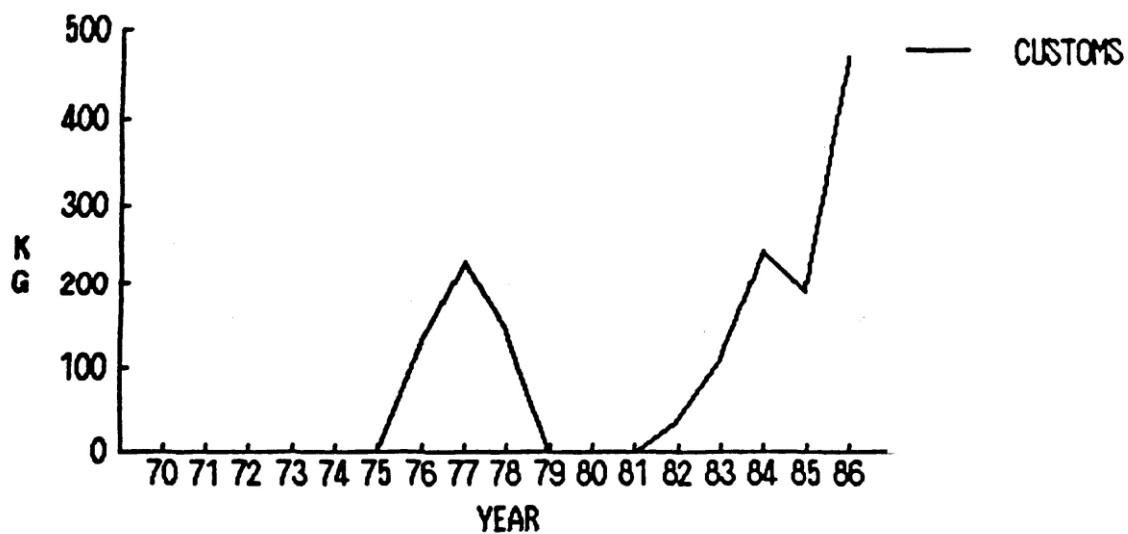


Figure 64. Japanese imports of bekko from St. Vincent 1970-1986.
(Source: Japanese Customs Statistics)

Dealers' data showed very good correlation with Customs statistics, with only slightly larger volumes reported by the dealers in 1985 and 1986 (Figure 65).

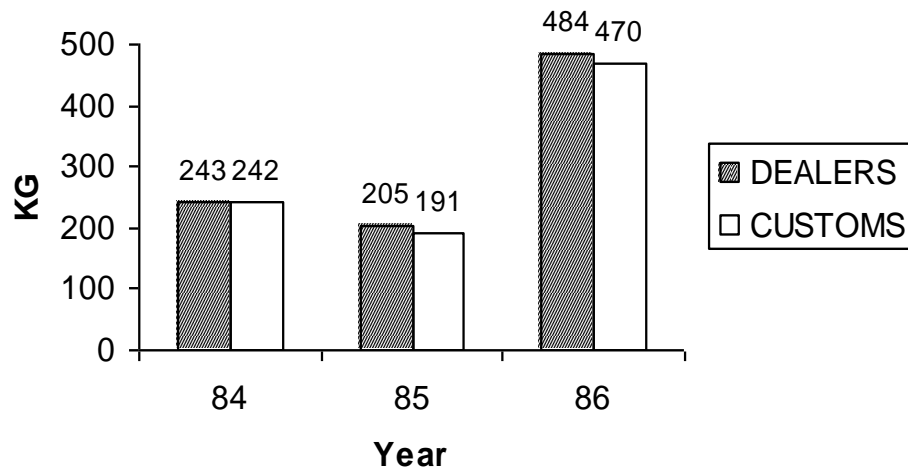


Figure 65. Comparison of Dealers' Data for St. Vincent with Customs Statistics 1984-1986.

The average weight of bekko per animal, declared by the dealers, was between 1.10 kg and 1.20 kg during the period examined (Table 1). On the basis of those data, it is estimated that 1,800 to 2,000 hawksbills were required to sustain St. Vincent's bekko trade to Japan since 1970.

ST. VINCENT ISLAND			
Name of Beach	Length in Km	Species Nesting (use abbreviations)*	Months of Recorded Nesting
1. Richmond Beach	0.40	D, E	March-September
2. Chateau Belair Bay	0.30	E	March-September
3. Petit Bordel Bay	0.50	E	March-September
4. Troumaca Bay	0.30	E	March-September
5. Cumberland Bay	0.20	E	March-September
6. Wallilabou Bay	0.15	E	March-September
7. Kearton's Bay	0.08	E	March-September
8. Peter's Hope Bay	0.10	E	March-September
9. Mount Wynn Bay	0.30	E	March-September
10. Lowman's Bay	0.20	E	March-September
11. Cablehut Bay	0.15	E	March-September
12. Brighton Bay	0.30	E	March-September
13. Stubbs Bay	0.30	E	March-September
14. Mount Pleasant Beach	0.10	E	March-September
15. Biabou Bay	0.30	E	March-September
16. North Union Bay	0.35	E	March-September
17. Georgetown Bay	0.55	E	March-September
18. Orange Hill Bay	1.12	E	March-September
19. Sandy Bay	0.28	E	March-September
20. North Bay (Bal.)**	0.10	E	March-September
21. Pasture Bay (Must)***	0.15	E	March-September
22. Obsidian Bay (Must)***	0.12	E	March-September
23. Mahault Bay (Can)****	0.15	E	March-September
24. L'Anse Guyac Bay (Can)****	0.03	E	March-September
25. South Glossy Bay (Can)****	0.32	E	March-September
26. Dallis Bay (Can)****	0.15	E	March-September
27. Carenage Bay (Can)****	0.1	E	March-September
28. Petit Tobac (Tob Cays) *****	0.13	E	March-September
29. Bloddy Bay (Un Is) *****	0.10	E	March-September
30. Chatham Bay (Un Is) *****	0.20	E	March-September
Species:			
* Cc = <i>Caretta caretta</i> ; Cm = <i>Chelonia mydas</i> ; D = <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> ; E = <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> ; Lk = <i>Lepidochelys kempj</i> ; Lo = <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>			
Location:			
**	Bal = Baliceaux		
***	Must = Mistique		
****	Can = Canouan		
*****	Tob Cays = Tobago Cays		
*****	Un Is = Union Island		

PART VI FISHERY CONSERVATION MEASURES

LOBSTER

16. (1) In this Regulation "undersize" means:
- (a) less than 25 centimetres (9 inches) in length when laid flat and measured from immediately behind the rostral horns to the rear edge of the telson or a carapace length of less than 95 millimetres (3 1/2 inches) measured from immediately behind the rostral horn to the maximum concavity of the rear edge of the carapace;
 - (b) less than one and a half pounds (680 grams) in weight; or
 - (c) having a tail weighing less than 200 grams.
- (2) No person shall harm, take, have in his possession, sell or purchase:
- (a) any lobster carrying eggs; or
 - (b) any lobster which is undersize; or
 - (c) any lobster which is moulting.
- (3) No person shall capture any lobster other than by hand, loop, pot or trap.
- (4) No person shall have in his possession or sell any lobster that has been speared, hooked or otherwise impaled.
- (5) No person shall remove the eggs from a lobster, or have in his possession, sell or purchase a lobster from which the eggs have been removed.
- (6) The close season for lobsters is 1st April to 31st October.
- (7) No person shall fish for lobster during the period of a close season for lobsters.
- (8) No person shall land from a fishing vessel any lobster that is not whole.
- (9) The sale of lobster is prohibited during the period of a close season for lobsters except that during the first fourteen days of that period, hotels and restaurants may sell lobster.

TURTLE

17. (1) In this Regulation "undersize" means less than the weight specified for that species in Schedule 10.
- (2) No person shall:
- (a) disturb, take, sell, purchase or have in his possession any turtle eggs;
 - (b) interfere with any turtle nest; or
 - (c) take, sell, purchase or have in his possession any undersized turtle;
 - (d) sell, purchase or have in his possession any turtle or part thereof during the period of a close season for that species of turtle.
- (3) The close season for turtles is 1st March to 31st July.

CONCH

18. (1) No person shall take sell or purchase or have in his possession any immature conch.
- (2) The minister may by Notice published in the Gazette declare any period as a closed season for conch.
- (3) No person shall fish for conch during the period of a closed season for conch.
- (4) In this Regulation immature conch means:
 - (a) a conch the shell of which is smaller than 7 inches (18 centimetres) in length; or
 - (b) a conch shell of which does not have a flared lip; or
 - (c) a conch with a total meat weight of less than 8 ozs (225 grams) after removal of the digestive gland.

CORAL

19. No person shall take or collect coral from the fishery waters except with the written permission of the Chief fisheries Officer in accordance with such conditions as he may specify.

AQUARIUM FISH

20. No person shall import, sell or export any aquarium fish except with the written permission of the Chief fisheries Officer and in accordance with such conditions as he may specify.

FURTHER CONDITIONS

Signature of the Minister or his Delegate

SCHEDULE 9 (Regulation 14)

FEES FOR FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

For fish processing establishment of any Kind 500 dollars

SCHEDULE 10 (Regulation 17)

TURTLES

1. Leatherback turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) minimum weight: 350 lbs
2. Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) minimum weight: 180 lbs
3. Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) minimum weight: 85 lbs
4. Loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) minimum weight: 160 lbs

SCHEDULE 11 (Regulation 20)

CONSERVATION AREAS

BEQUIA

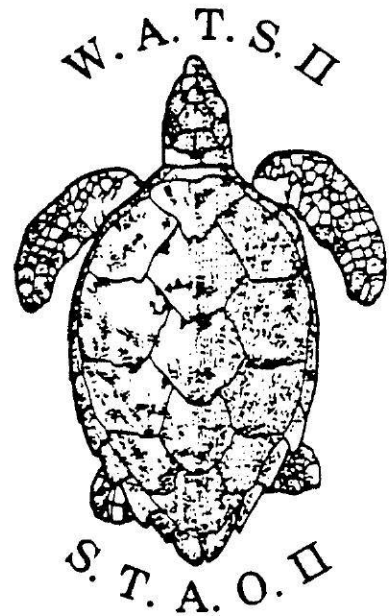
- (a) The North Eastern Coast of Bequia between Latitudes 13° 00.8'N and 13° 01.65'N and between Longitudes 61° 12.66'W and 61°13.9'W.

WATS II REPORT/DATA SET

National Report to WATS II for St. Vincent &
The Grenadines

Kerwin Norris

12 October 1987



WATS2 071

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HGH

WESTERN ATLANTIC TURTLE SYMPOSIUM II
MAYAGUEZ, PUERTO RICO
SEPTEMBER 11 - 16, 1987

NATIONAL REPORT FOR
THE COUNTRY OF
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

PRESENTED BY
KERWYN MORRIS
CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER
MINISTRY OF TRADE
INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

1. Information on Sea Turtles still remains difficult to obtain though for a different reason now - the New Fisheries Act and the subsequent regulations. These pieces of legislation have had the effect of slowing down the flow of information since the questionnaires required information relevant to activity during the close season.

The questionnaires showed that among fishermen it is believed that sea turtle populations have declined at least since the last two decades. Most of the animals are taken by hand during nesting, in the water by gillnets, spear guns, and by hand while trolling off-shore for large pelagics. The data were obtained by visits to beaches, interviews with fishermen, hoteliers, restaurant owners, house wives, fish vendors, and visits to fish markets.

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From the data gathered green turtles are far more common in the Grenadines than on the mainland and their prevalence may be attributed to the existence of large areas of shallow water with excellent forage.

1. See Map #1, ST. VINCENT
2. See Maps #2, & #3 St. Vincent Grenadines North Sheet and St. Vincent Grenadines South Sheet.

Existing regulations call for a close season from 1st March to 31st July. Nests are protected and trade and export are prohibited.³ Consequently there are no export figures though the meat is marketed in Barbados illegally. There have also been reports of an existing trade in hawksbill shell to St. Lucia and Japan.⁴

3. See Fisheries Regulations 1987 Section 17, and schedule 10.

1970-1986

4. See Japanese Sea Turtle Trade, ~~July 1987~~

Tom Milliken & Hiyeomi Tokunaga

July, 1987, P. 94, 95.

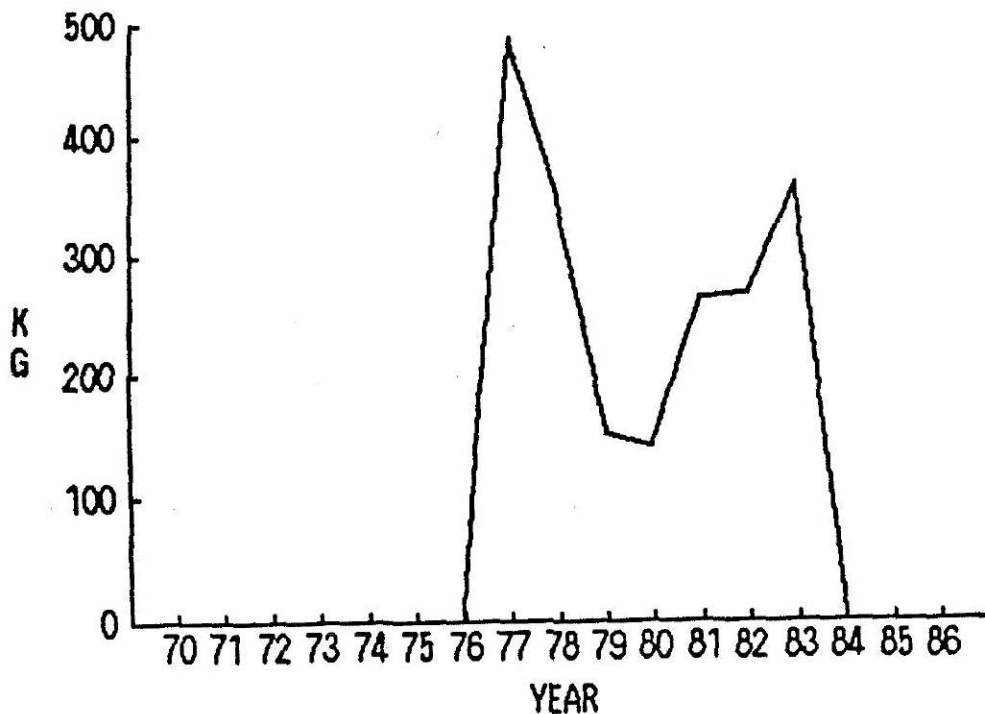


Figure 63: Japanese Imports of Bekko from St. Lucia
1970-1986

Source: Japanese Customs Statistics

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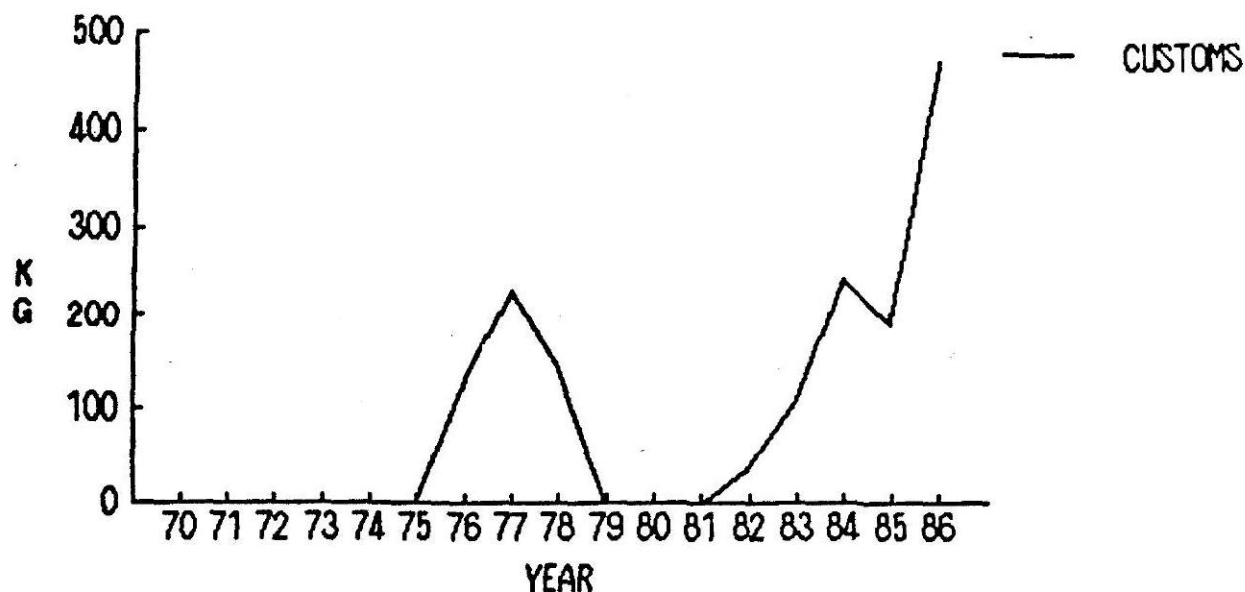


Figure 64: Japanese Imports of Bekko from St. Vincent
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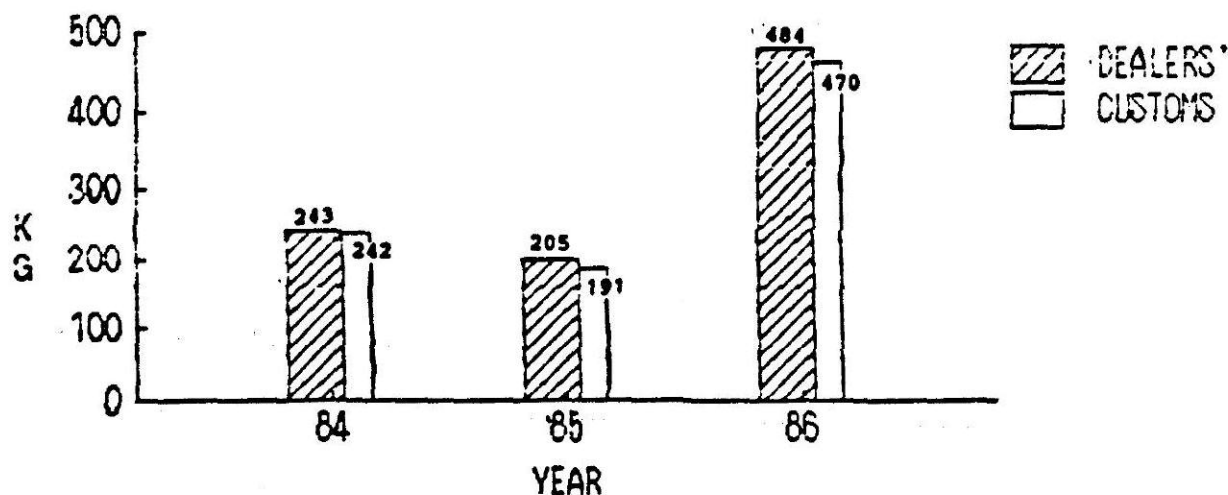


Figure 65: Comparison of Dealers' Data for St. Vincent with Customs Statistics 1984-1986

The average weight of bekko per animal, declared by the dealers, was between 1.10kg and 1.20kg during the period examined (Table 1). On the basis of those data, it is estimated that 1,800 to 2,000 hawksbills were required to sustain St. Vincent's bekko trade to Japan since 1970.

ST. VINCENT ISLAND

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN K	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations)*	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
1. RICHMOND BEACH	.4	E, D	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
2. CHATEAUBELAIR BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
3. PETIT BORDEL BAY	.5	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
4. TROUMACA BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
5. CUMBERLAND BAY	.2	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
6. WALLILABOU BAY	.15	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
7. KERTON'S BAY	.08	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
8. PETER'S HOPE BAY	.1	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
9. MOUNT WYNN BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
10. LOWMAN'S BAY	.2	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER

Species Abbreviations:

<u>Caretta caretta</u>	Cc
<u>Chelonia mydas</u>	Cm
<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	D
<u>Eretmochelys imbricata</u>	E
<u>Lepidochelys kempi</u>	Lk
<u>Lepidochelys olivacea</u>	Lo

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN KM	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations) *	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
21. PASTURE BAY (Must) *	.15	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
22. OBSIDIAN BAY (Must) *	.12	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
23. MAHAULT BAY (Can.) **	.15	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
24. L'ANSE GUYAC BAY (Can.) **	.03	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
25. SOUTH GLOSSY BAY (Can.) **	.32	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
26. DALLIS BAY (Can.) **	.15	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
27. CARENAGE BAY (Can.) **	.1	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
28. PETIT TOBAC (Tob. Cays) ***	.13	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
29. BLOODY BAY (Un.Is) ****	.1	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
30. CHATHAM BAY (Un.Is) ****	.2	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER

*Mustique

**Canouan

***Tobago Cays

****Union Island

Species Abbreviations:

Caretta caretta Cc

Chelonia mydas Cm

Dermochelys coriacea D

Eretmochelys imbricata E

Lepidochelys kempi Lk

Lepidochelys olivacea Lo

ST. VINCENT ISLAND

NAME OF BEACH	LENGTH IN KM	SPECIES NESTING (Use abbreviations)*	MONTHS OF RECORDED NESTING
11. CABLEHUT BAY	.15	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
12. BRIGHTON BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
13. STUBBS BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
14. MT. PLEASANT BEACH	.1	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
15. BIABOU BAY	.3	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
16. NORTH UNION BAY	.35	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
17. GEORGETOWN BAY	.55	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
18. ORANGE HILL BAY	1.12	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
19. SANDY BAY	.28	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER
20. NORTH BAY (Bal.)*	.1	E	MARCH - SEPTEMBER

(* Bal.) Baliceaux

Species Abbreviations:

<u>Caretta caretta</u>	Cc
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<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	D
<u>Eretmochelys imbricata</u>	E
<u>Lepidochelys kemp</u>	Lk
<u>Lepidochelys olivacea</u>	Lo

PART VI FISHERY CONSERVATION MEASURES

LOBSTER

16. (1) In this Regulation "undersize" means:
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 - (b) less than one and a half pounds (680 grams) in weight; or
 - (c) having a tail weighing less than ²⁰⁰~~7035~~ grams
- (2) No person shall harm, take, have in his possession, sell or purchase:
- (a) any lobster carrying eggs; or
 - (b) any lobster which is undersize; or
 - (c) any lobster which is moulting.
- (3) No person shall capture any lobster other than by hand, loop, pot or trap.
- (4) No person shall have in his possession or sell any lobster that has been speared, hooked or otherwise impaled.
- (5) No person shall remove the eggs from a lobster, or have in his possession, sell or purchase a lobster from which the eggs have been removed.
- (6) The close season for lobsters is 1st April to 31st October.
- (7) No person shall fish for lobster during the period of a close season for lobsters.
- (8) No person shall land from a fishing vessel any lobster that is not whole.
- (9) The sale of lobster is prohibited during the period of a close season for lobsters except that during the first fourteen days of that period, hotels and restaurants may sell lobster.

TURTLE

17. (1) In this Regulation "undersize" means less than the weight specified for that species in Schedule 10.

FURTHER CONDITIONS

—

—

Date _____

Signature of the Minister
or his Delegate

SCHEDULE 9 (Regulation 14)

FEES FOR FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

For fish processing establishment of any Kind 500 dollars

SCHEDULE 10 (Regulation 17.)

TURTLES

1. Leather back turtles (*Dermochelys — coriacea*)
minimum weight — 350 lbs
2. Green turtle (*Chelonia-mydas*)
minimum weight — 180 lbs
3. Hawks Bill turtle (*Eretmochelys-imbricata*)
minimum weight — 85 lbs
4. Logger Head turtle (*Caretta—caretta*)
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CONSERVATION AREAS

BEQUIA

- (a) The North Eastern Coast of Bequia between Latitudes $13^{\circ} 00.8'N$ and $13^{\circ} 01.65'N$ and between Longitudes $61^{\circ} 12.66'W$ and $61^{\circ} 13.9'W$.