



Rudloe Shows Crab, Green Turtle
on airways of the country

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On National TV

Rudloe Defends Tiny Sea Creatures

PANACEA — Jack Rudloe, president of the Gulf Specimen Company who developers claim wants the Big Bend coastline preserved as his private laboratory, has taken on Barbara Waters on NBC's nationally televised Today Show.

"They may be slimy and disgusting animals to Barbara but to much of the world they are attractive interesting animals," Rudloe, author of a new book, *The Erotic Ocean — a Handbook Beachcombers*," said here Tuesday.

He was referring to Miss Waters' statements in 1968 when he appeared on the Today Show with his first book, "The Sea Brings Forth."

"While they were showing millions of viewers pictures of live bass, sea hares, and spiny boxfish, and I was explaining how interesting they were, Miss Waters was shivering and saying they were disgusting, slimy," Rudloe said.

Rudloe made a second appearance on the

Today Show and told the producer that if Miss Waters repeated her performance the studio would be picketed by the Audubon Society, American Littoral Society and the Sierra Club.

"These animals are in terrible danger of being destroyed by man's pollution and destruction of our bays and estuaries," Rudloe said.

He added it wouldn't help their plight if a well known figure like Barbara Waters reacts to them as "slimy and terrible."

"It's too important not to make a point of it," said Rudloe. "It's practically encouraging industry to continue polluting and developers to continue destroying the breeding grounds."

The battle did not ensue because Frank McChoe, not Miss Waters, interviewed Rudloe. He displayed "Little Green" a young green sea turtle that travels with Rudloe on his publicity trips as well as lobsters that splashed water on the set, and a puffer that gulped air and floated

on top of the water like a balloon.

Some of these animals are experienced travelers. Rudloe has displayed Little Green on Louisville television and two major network shows in Dallas.

In Houston he displayed the turtles and horseshoe crab on a popular afternoon news show and then showed them off before the Texas Dow Institute.

Then on Feb. 3, the animals, packed in styrofoam boxes and booked as personal luggage, were off to Cleveland where Rudloe appeared on the Alan Douglas Exchange, WGSU-TV. That night they were flown to Chicago where Rudloe did the Sig Sakowitz Show, and the next day they appeared on Today in Chicago, and stayed up for an all-night talk show on The Cromie Circle on WGN-TV. After doing Sunday in Chicago at the NBC Studio (WMAQ-TV), and Kennedy Kids & Company, WLS-CBS-TV, the

turtle was brought back to Florida. Some of the other animals were left at the Shedd Aquarium.

In every show we've had, the hostess has been delighted to hold up a scurrying horseshoe crab," Rudloe said. One woman, in Kennedy Kids & Company, actually held the horseshoe crab on her lap while interviewing another guest. No one had the Barbara Waters attitude that these are slimy and disgusting animals.

The traveling turtle and a number of other creatures are off to Los Angeles and then San Francisco on Saturday on a number of other television shows. When they return, Little Green will have traveled a total 15,000 air miles.

Rudloe's marine exhibits are gathered in the area from Steinhatchee to Apalachicola with the largest catches made in the marsh areas surrounding Panama and Carrabelle.