

DAILY LOG

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

400282

Locality Elmer - Bikini Date October 19, 1955 - Wednesday
Personnel Bonham Held Weather Rain squalls early morning
Lowman Seymour Water conditions then fair

Radiation level(s) _____

Operations:

0730 left Elmer for Fred to pick up flight to Bikini where will board the LST on Thursday for the Rongelap trip.

Left Fred about 0900 in a C-47 for Bikini (Nan).

After an early lunch accompanied Bob Taft on a trip to Bikini Island (HOW) via M boat then Jeep to collect plankton, water and soil samples. The plankton tow was taken one mile off the center of Bikini Island. A $\frac{1}{2}$ -meter net of #6 silk was towed for 30 minutes. This was a used net but was washed out before using. The water sample was taken 50 yards offshore at the boat landing.

All the coconut palms other than the very low ones, less than ten feet, were dead with very few exceptions. Only the trunk remains on most of the palms. See photograph. Very occasionally on the south $\frac{1}{4}$ of the island there would be a palm bearing a few live fronds but even these were in bad shape. See photograph. A search was made for coconuts but not a one was to be seen. The papayas and arrowroot on the other hand were extremely abundant. Both the fruit bearing and nonfruit bearing papayas were in blossom. See photographs. There was also a large bush found occasionally that was unfamiliar to us with a large blossom somewhat similar to "cup of gold." Most of the grasses and low bushes and shrubs were growing luxuriantly[?] but the naked palms gave the island a ghostly appearance.

Ed caught a 2 line mackerel on the way up (not saved) and a bonito (Euthynnus yaito) on the way back (saved). Also took samples of papaya and soil.

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