

Paul B. Pearson

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May 43, 1961

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I spent most of May 7, 1961 in the Applied Fisheries Laboratory at the University of Washington at Seattle. The annual support for this Laboratory from the Division of Biology and Medicine is \$90,000 and they have a five year contract which has been renewed through 1965. Attached is an outline of the Laboratory activities as of December 1960 and a list of personnel. One will note that their work is divided into (1) basic research on fish and plants (2) Bikini and Eniwetok surveys (3) Columbia River contamination problems. In parts 2 and 3 the Applied Fisheries Laboratory has rendered the Atomic Energy Commission very substantial information. Dr. Donaldson, concerned with the future work of the Laboratory, has asked the Division of Biology and Medicine for a statement of our plans for further utilization of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory. This request seems justified in view of the following facts. Personnel of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory were not utilized in Operation Greenhouse. No survey in the Pacific was made in 1960 nor at this time in any country later in 1961. Survey work on radioactivity in the Columbia River has consisted mainly of consultation to the AEC group. Dr. Donaldson reports considerable dissatisfaction among his staff who are specialists in various fields dealing with Pacific fish and flora. This summer Mr. Donaldson needs to ascertain whether further surveys in the Pacific are expected, or whether the activity of his staff should be re-directed.

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Dr. Donaldson himself believes that there should be a survey of both Bikini and Eniwetok in the summer of 1961. If it is the intention of the Atomic Energy Commission to use the Eniwetok area for future tests, it is the opinion of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory that if the natives should be returned to the island after another survey. I asked Dr. Donaldson what justification there was for another survey of those areas in view of the fact that previous reports have indicated no substantial danger or damage has resulted from previous tests. His answer to this is that they are not only interested in radioactive exposure in those areas, but that they have accumulated a large amount of knowledge on various species of fish and plant life in and around those islands which from a purely scientific viewpoint should be pursued. In addition, they would be interested in fallout on the town-sized island at Eniwetok from the most recent Operation Greenhouse.

In the above respect, I have received letters from Dr. Marrow at Brookhaven and Dr. Bidwell at Pennsylvania State College requesting samples of tumorous growth from plant exposed to radioactivity from the Greenhouse tests. Dr. Marrow has observed this growth in experiments with some radiation, and Dr. Bidwell has reported a collection of such samples from plants at Bikini. Dr. Bidwell's collection of tumorous material in recent surveys of the island is impressive and he has been successful in identifying them morphologically as cancerous.

Pearson

May 13, 1951

Tolbert

APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON (continued)

I suggest that a meeting be held in Washington in June of 1951 with Dr. Warren and Dr. Donaldson to indicate to Dr. Donaldson approximately what the plans of this Division are for utilization of the Applied Fisheries Laboratory. If a follow-up survey of Eniwetok is to be made, Dr. Donaldson would like to do so in August of 1951. Dr. Donaldson had been asked by the Navy to head up a biological survey for a proposed experiment in the Aleutian Islands. Donaldson's group might well be used in some way in future tests.

Dr. O. Biddulph of Washington State College has been in the past the botanist who has accompanied Dr. Donaldson's group. He is quite interested in the tumorous growth in plants on the shot islands and would like to have more samples collected. This is best done about one year after a shot. Both Dr. Biddulph and Dr. Donaldson stressed that their previous work did not include any data on the uptake of radioactivity in plants and fish immediately after a shot, such as the amount of radioactive calcium uptake which in turn may produce the tumorous growth noted later. They feel that this early data should be obtained to complete their story.

Dr. Sturges of the Hanford Operations Office discussed the fact that they rely upon Dr. Donaldson to collaborate with them on their Columbia River Project and that his comments are respected by conservation and sporting organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

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