

34 Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Paul B. Pearson

FROM : N. Edward Tolbert *NET*

SUBJECT: APPLIED FISHERIES LABORATORY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

DATE: May 23, 1951

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I spent most of May 7, 1951 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 1955. Attached is an outline of the Laboratory activities as of December 1950 and a list of personnel. One will note that their work is divided into (1) basic research on fish and plankta (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 1950 nor at this time is any contemplated in 1951. Survey work on radioactivity in the Columbia River now consists mainly of consultation to the Hanford group. Dr. Donaldson reports considerable dissatisfaction amongst his staff who are specialists in various fields dealing with Pacific fish and flora. This summer Dr. Donaldson needs to ascertain whether further surveys in the Pacific are expected, or whether the activity of his staff should be re-directed.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED
BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC

REVIEWED BY: DATE
CARL WILSON 10-15-84

Jose Diaz 7-19-85
By: Dick Koogler 6-5-87

Dr. Donaldson himself believes that there should be a survey of both Bikini and Eniwetok in the summer of 1951. 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 staff that the natives should be returned to the Bikini area after another survey. I asked Dr. Donaldson what justification there was for another survey of these areas in view of the fact that previous reports had indicated no substantial danger or damage had resulted from previous tests. His answer to this is that they are not only interested in radioactive damage in these areas, but that they have accumulated a large amount of knowledge on various species of fish and plant life in and around these islands which from a purely scientific viewpoint should be pursued. In addition, they would be interested in fallout on the down-wind islands at Eniwetok from the shots during Operations Greenhouse.

In the above respect, I have received letters from Dr. Sparrow at Brookhaven, and Dr. Biddulph at Washington State College requesting samples of tumorous growth from plants exposed to radioactivity from the Greenhouse tests. Dr. Sparrow has observed this growth in experiments with gamma radiation, and Dr. Biddulph has reported a collection of such samples from plants at Bikini. Dr. Biddulph's collection of tumorous material in recent surveys of the islands is impressive and he has been studying their morphological characteristics.

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SUBJECT: 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.