

Symposium scheduled by SIO--"Man's Chemical Invasion of the Ocean: An Inquiry"

January 24, 1969

A symposium concerned with man's pollution of the ocean has been scheduled by Scripps Institution of Oceanography-UCSD on Monday, February 24, in Sherwood Hall, La Jolla.

Scientists from research and educational institutions, and government agencies, and representatives of industrial and conservation groups, will participate in the symposium, which has been designated a part of the City of San Diego's 200th anniversary observance. Formal title of the conference is "Man's Chemical Invasion of the Ocean: An Inquiry."

"This symposium will delineate those areas in which man is significantly altering the chemical properties of the marine environment to such levels, or potentially to such levels, that valuable resources may be lost," Dr. William A. Nierenberg, director of Scripps, said in announcing the conference.

"The problem of the effect of such contaminants as pesticides, radioactivity, lead, carbon dioxide, and other inputs on marine life will be the primary consideration."

Symposium co-chairmen will be Dr. Edward D. Goldberg, professor of chemistry, and Dr. William A. Newman, assistant professor of biological oceanography, both of Scripps.

The morning session will consider municipal wastes, petroleum products, lead, and chlorinated hydrocarbons. Afternoon topics include the interaction between life in the environment, the effects of molybdenum on a food chain, the role of mortality in population dynamics as learned from nuclear tests, and the effect of chlorinated hydrocarbons in avian and phytoplankton reproduction.

On February 25, in a closed session, a group of environmental scientists will attempt to seek answers to a series of questions arising from Monday's discussions, including the following:

Is the present monitoring of chemical inputs to the marine environment adequate? With our present knowledge, can we define a stable marine community and monitor alterations to it, with time; e. g., the nuclear power plant? How should we document effects of pollutants to alert policy makers? Finally, what basic researches should universities be concerned with in response to these general problems?

Dr. Goldberg presides during these discussions. Dr. John L. Buckley, Office of Science and Technology, Executive Office of the President, Washington, will offer final observations and orientation.