

\$763,800 National Science Foundation grant

September 29, 1970

The University of California has received a Sea Grant institution award of \$763,800 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for education, training, research, and public advisory service in the utilization of the oceans.

This announcement was made today (September 29) in Berkeley by Cong. George P. Miller, Alameda, and UC Pres. Charles J. Hitch. Congressman Miller is chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, which has jurisdiction over the National Science Foundation.

"In the present stage of scientific advancement on the nation's campuses, studies in oceanography provide the data necessary for the preservation of the coasts of California and the ocean resources that lie offshore," Congressman Miller said. "Such studies also aid the fisheries of this state and related industries, and add to the economy of California.

"This NSF grant will prove important to the future of the state and to all Californians. It emphasizes the kinds of vital activities in which a major university can engage, and I am pleased that the National Science Foundation selected the University of California for this highly important project."

As one of two Sea Grant institutions in the state, the University has mapped a far-ranging program of teaching, research, and public service in marine sciences to be carried out by several organizations in California, Hitch said.

These are the University's San Diego campus, including its oceanographic arm, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; the University-wide Institute of Marine Resources, headquartered at Scripps; the La Jolla Laboratories of the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries; and the San Diego State College Foundation.

The other Sea Grant institution in the state is the University of Southern California.

President Hitch said he has designated Dr. William A. Nierenberg, director of Scripps Institution, as his personal representative for Sea Grant activities throughout the University. Dr. Nierenberg will be assisted by a coordinating committee consisting of members from all UC campuses and public representatives.

Existing Sea Grant programs within the University are headed by Dr. George G. Shor, associate director of Scripps, at UC-San Diego, and Dr. Robert W. Holmes, associate professor of marine biology, at UC-Santa Barbara.

The associated program at San Diego State College is headed by Dr. Glenn A. Flittner, director of SDSC's Bureau of Marine Sciences.

Under the National Sea Grant College and Program Act of 1966, NSF was authorized to establish Sea Grant colleges to carry out education, training, and research in marine science, engineering, and related disciplines, and to encourage the utilization and conservation of the resources of the oceans.

Hitch said that NSF funds for UC's Sea Grant program will be matched by University and San Diego State College Foundation funds and facilities.

With the new NSF funding, Hitch said public service advisory activities will be expanded to assist other Sea Grant institutions, to help fishermen off the California coast, to aid local public agencies dealing with coastal problems, and to help organizations exploring mineral resources throughout the world.

Scientists will also explore the possibility of harnessing the vast heat of large power plants, now generally considered a pollutant, to create artificial upwelling of deep, nutrient-rich waters of the ocean and also to use the warm waters from the power plants directly for aquaculture.

Among other goals of the program will be the expansion of graduate instruction in applied sciences and in the applied aspects of marine biology and biological oceanography.

Funds will also provide opportunities for on-the-job technical training for undergraduates in marine science and improve oceanography and ocean engineering programs carried out through the University's Extension Division in the San Diego area.

Research will lead to an understanding of factors controlling the degradation, preservation, and enhancement of the nearshore environment and to the expansion of existing research on the utilization of fisheries resources of the California Current System.

The program is expected to expand research and education in diving physiology, to protect and use the environment and resources of coastal zones, and to improve the technology for improved utilization of the resources of the high seas.

Other projects include the study of improved methods for predicting sea-surface temperatures, primary and secondary instructional programs in oceanography, the support of albacore advisory service radio broadcasts, and investigations of useful pharmaceuticals in starfish, gorgonians, and other marine sources.

Also planned is establishment of a geophysical and geological data center for information on petroleum resources, the establishment of an information center on marine sciences, and new applied marine developments.

Currently proposed for San Diego State College are investigations into the raising and ecology of lobsters and studies of ocean-floor engineering.