

Ocean floor charts

August 4, 1960

Detailed maps of the ocean floor from southern California to northern Chile and several hundred miles seaward are being compiled for the benefit of the tuna fleet by the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, San Diego, and The University of California's Institute of Marine Resources.

The maps are based upon millions of echo soundings made in the region by research vessels, mostly during the past 10 years. Much of the data have not been generally available before.

"Frequently tuna are found in greater abundance around seamounts and deeper protuberances rising above the sea floor than in the surrounding waters," says Gerald V. Howard, Director of the Biological Laboratory. "The accidental discovery of Shimada bank, off the west coast of Mexico, and the ensuing large catches of yellow-fin tuna was largely instrumental for the initiation of the project to analyze and plot the large amount of sounding data collected during the past decade by research vessels of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and other agencies."

A series of 24 charts covering the area from 35 degrees North latitude to 24 degrees South, and 600 to 700 miles offshore will be issued. Two charts have been distributed and the remainder will be issued on the average of once each month until completion of the series. They are available free to interested parties from the Biological Laboratory, P. O. Box 6121, Pt. Loma Station, San Diego 6.

"The charts were drawn under the supervision of Henry W. Menard, Associate Professor of Geology at the Institute of Marine Resources and the Scripps Institution.