

In Memoriam

Elbert Halvor Ahlstrom
15 February 1910 – 27 August 1979

We are all saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend and honored colleague, Dr. Elbert Halvor Ahlstrom, on 27 August 1979, for on that day one of the world's outstanding fisheries scientists was no longer with us.

As a fishery biologist and Senior Scientist for more than 40 years with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and its previous titles the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Dr. Ahlstrom's role was instrumental in developing a means of assessing stocks of marine fishes by systematically sampling the ocean for fish eggs and larvae. Through his strict discipline, extreme dedication and creativity, discovering and describing abundance and distribution of larval pelagic fishes and of spawning adult fish populations from ichthyoplankton surveys became a fundamental scientific tool and a foundation upon which the CalCOFI program was built.

Scientists from the world's fisheries and marine biological laboratories have come to the Southwest Fisheries Center to obtain ideas and information from Dr. Ahlstrom. He devoted much time to teaching formal courses in larval fish identification to students from various countries. Through his efforts, the Center now has the most extensive larval fish reference collection in the United States.

In 1959 Dr. Ahlstrom became the first director of the Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla. In this position the scope of his influence widened greatly. It was during his tenure as director of the Center that CalCOFI matured from a multi-agency group, with each smaller entity tugging to achieve somewhat different goals, to the truly cooperative and highly productive unit that it has become.

In 1965 Dr. Ahlstrom received the highest award of the U.S. Department of the Interior, its Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of more than 25 years of outstanding service in fisheries research and oceanography. In 1973 he won the U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal, their highest honor, for contributions of major significance to the Department and the nation.

He has authored about 80 scientific papers, which have been widely read and quoted. Together with co-author H. Geoffrey Moser, Dr. Ahlstrom received The Wildlife Society award for the outstanding publication of 1971 for their monograph on the development of lanternfishes in the California Current.

Dr. Ahlstrom was much more than an outstanding scientist. Ahlie, as his friends called him, was a warm, affectionate, sincere human being who loved classical

Carl Leavitt Hubbs
18 October 1894 – 30 June 1979

Carl Hubbs was at the 1947 meeting at Stanford of fisheries representatives and scientists who created CalCOFI. He was at almost every sardine conference for many years, where, as always at meetings, he offered judicious suggestions and served as a catalyst in bringing together people whose work he knew. He was on hand when the Isaacs-Kidd midwater trawl was being designed and tested, and it was at his urging that one of the first free-vehicle instruments was a fish trap.

Born in Williams, Arizona, raised in southern California, educated at Stanford University, Hubbs became established in science at the University of Michigan, where from 1920 to 1944 he enlarged the fish collection, organized the Institute of Fisheries Research, and pursued studies on systematics of fishes, on their distribution, on hybridization between species, and on relict fish faunas of the arid West. His publication output was prodigious.

Hubbs was enticed to Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1944, where the Pacific Ocean beckoned. To his earlier projects he added studies of marine fishes and began the logarithmic increase in the institution's fish collection. Interest in distribution of fishes led him to taking ocean-temperature surveys along the rugged coast of Baja California, Mexico, which led to researches on past climates. Into that work he incorporated studies on aboriginal habitations in southern California and Baja California. Interest in the increasing numbers of gray whales migrating annually within his view led him to voicing conservation measures for those and for several other scarce marine mammals.

Often honored, always admired, was Carl Hubbs, a forthright man, dedicated to science. The breadth of his interests is represented in his bibliography of 700 publications and in his library of 80,000 catalogued entries, now the Hubbs Collection in the Scripps Institution Library.

Elizabeth N. Shor

music, fine wines, and good food, and numbered many different people as friends. To many of us, Ahlie and his charming wife, Marge, were close friends, wonderful traveling companions, excellent hosts, and delightful company. We will sorely miss Ahlie. To his wife go our love and our deepest sympathy.

We are both saddened and honored to dedicate this volume to the memory of Dr. Elbert Halvor Ahlstrom.

John Radovich