

**Marston Sargent  
1906–1986**

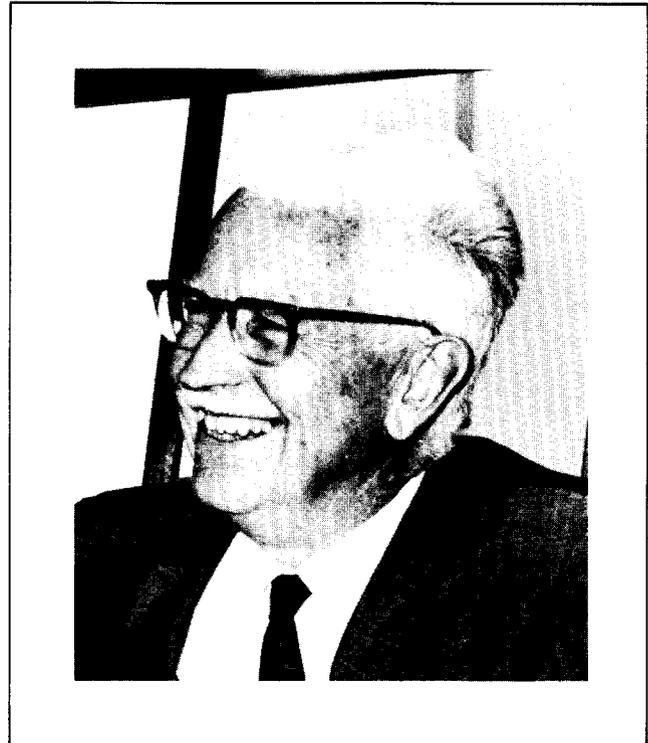
Marston C. Sargent, CalCOFI Coordinator from 1971–74, died on August 28, 1986, at age 80.

Sargent was associated with Scripps Institution of Oceanography for more than 40 years, during which time he primarily investigated photosynthesis and the growth requirements of marine planktonic algae. Sargent received his A.B. degree in biology from Harvard University in 1929 and his doctoral degree in biophysics from the California Institute of Technology in 1934. He was a research assistant at Caltech for three years before joining Scripps as a biology instructor in 1937.

Sargent served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946, during which time he was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Navy's Bureau of Ships. He helped coordinate oceanographic research to support Navy needs, chiefly through development and operation of underwater sound equipment. He rose to the rank of lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

In 1946 he returned to Scripps as an assistant professor. That same year, during the biological studies associated with the atomic bomb test in the Bikini Atoll, Sargent and Thomas S. Austin of Scripps made the first measurements of organic production on a coral reef. From 1951 to 1955, Sargent was head of training at the Navy Electronics Laboratory, after which he became an oceanographer and scientific liaison officer with the Office of Naval Research (ONR). For the following 15 years he was located at Scripps, except for a two-year stint in the ONR branch office in London. He served as scientific liaison for the Office of Naval Research with all West Coast oceanographic organizations during 1955–70.

Sargent was appointed CalCOFI Coordinator in early 1971. Under his guidance, CalCOFI began its



longstanding and fruitful relationship with Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Pesca. This relationship has produced many cooperative fisheries investigations cruises in U.S. and Mexican waters, training courses and workshops on marine science methods and techniques, and many joint meetings in the U.S. and Mexico. By 1972, the annual CalCOFI conferences for sharing research ideas and results were conducted with simultaneous Spanish-English, English-Spanish translations. Dr. Sargent resigned from his post on July 1, 1974. He continued as a research associate with the Marine Life Research Group at Scripps until 1980.

*George Hemingway*