

SOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA FISHERIES AT ARCHIVES OF THE SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

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Narrative:

While SIO's interest in ichthyology goes back to 1903, its interest in fisheries dates largely from 1947 and CalCOFI (California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations). CalCOFI is an oceanographic study of California fisheries (especially sardine) funded by the California Legislature.

In order to participate in CalCOFI, SIO created the Marine Life Research Program, later subsumed under the Institute for Marine Resources (IMR). John Isaacs headed both of those organizations, and he built strength in fisheries research within IMR. Milner Baily ("Benny") Schaefer, an internationally known fisheries expert, joined SIO in 1951. He headed the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, which had its headquarters at SIO until 1970. Schaefer and other IMR staff expanded SIO's interest in fisheries to pelagic fisheries including tuna and salmon.

Primary Sources at Archives of Scripps Institution of Oceanography related to California Fisheries

American Tunaboat Association.

Records, 1929-1982
AC 40
294 linear feet

These are records of the tuna fisherman's association in San Diego and includes documentation of specific ships, crews, fishing techniques (including the issue of dolphins killed in tuna nets), access to fishing grounds in Latin American nations, and fishermen's unions. SDHS also has ATA records. Collection unprocessed; rough box list only.

Burnett, Julian G.

Papers, 1948-1960
Accession 2000-16
1 cubic foot

Fisheries expert. Papers of a high ranking federal fisheries scientist and chair of the Marine Research Committee which organized CalCOFI in the 1940's and 1950's. Collection unprocessed.

California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigation

Records, 1954-1966
Accession 83-73
1 cubic foot

CalCOFI records generated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Reuben Laskar). Includes CalCOFI proposals, reports, and records of Marine Research Committee. Collection unprocessed; box list only.

California. Marine Research Committee

Minutes, April 28, 1948-June 29, 1978
Accession 81-8
4 volumes

This is a master, bound set of minutes of the MRC, which was created to oversee CalCOFI. Collection unprocessed.

Hubbs, Carl Leavitt

Papers, 1920-1979

MC 5

87 cubic feet.

Ichthyologist/biologist. Hubbs was SIO's chief ichthyologist from 1945 until his death in 1979. The collection includes encyclopedic files on fish and marine life around the world, with strength in west coast marine life. The collection includes significant information on CalCOFI and information on Pacific fisheries including tuna and salmon. The collection includes many photographs and original negatives of fish specimen. The collection is fully processed; a guide is on OAC.

Isaacs, John Dove

Papers, 1943-1980

MC 1

97 cubic feet

Oceanographer. Isaacs worked as a fisherman before becoming a prominent oceanographer. His papers include significant material on marine life and fisheries, including the Monster Camera stills and moving images of marine life taken in the deep ocean around the world, including images of ocean life off California. Collection unprocessed; preliminary folder list only.

Life on the Abyssal Floor, 1970

Film

MC 1

16mm sound color 25 minutes

This is the best of several films Isaacs made from the best footage of his Monster Camera project. Copyright held by UC Regents/National Science Foundation.

Meet the Professor, 1963

Film

MC 5

16mm b/w, sound, 1 hour

This film showed Hubbs conducting a class at sea aboard R/V SPENCER F. BAIRD. Copyright held by ABC News/National Education Association.

Schaefer, Milner Bailey

Papers, 1929-1970

MC 2.

5 cubic feet.

Fisheries biologist. Papers of the world renown American fisheries expert. Includes material on IATTC and other fisheries organizations. Contains significant material on California marine resources including fisheries. The collection is fully processed; a guide is on OAC.

S.I.O. Office of the Director (Sverdrup)

Records, 1936-1948

AC 34.

1.25 linear feet.

Records of the third director of SIO who moved the institution into fisheries research. The collection includes correspondence documenting the origin of CalCOFI. The collection is fully processed; a guide is on OAC.

S.I.O. Photographic Laboratory

Original Negatives and Prints, 1949-2000

Accession 85-8

Est. 25,000 images

These are the central negative files of the S.I.O. PhotoLab, which include many images of fish, most of which are b/w images of dead specimens. The collection is processed, but with a paper index only.

University of California. Marine Life Research Group

Records of the Director (Isaacs), 1948-1980

AC 20

8 cubic feet

This collection documents SIO's role in CalCOFI. Collection unprocessed; preliminary folder list only.

University of California. Institute of Marine Resources

Office of the Director, 1951-1970

AC 3

9 cubic feet

These are the earliest records of IMR, including material on fisheries and CalCOFI. The collection is fully processed; a guide is on OAC.

University of California. Institute of Marine Resources

Office of the Director, 1953-1990

Accession 91-10

63.75 linear feet

These are the records generated by IMR directors Isaacs, Spiess and Fenical. Collection unprocessed; preliminary folder list only.