

Dr. John C. Bagher

August 29, 1952

Karl M. Wilbur

*FROM
NMB-N*

PERMANENT BIOLOGY PROGRAM FOR THE ENHETOK AREA

I thought you would be interested to know what steps were being taken by the Biology Branch following your suggestion that a permanent biology program be planned which would include the utilization of the Japtan installations.

Preparatory to the formulation of a program it has seemed wise to make inquiries concerning the interest of biologists in carrying out studies in that area. In order that we might have opinions from organizations sponsoring work in the Pacific, I have had informal discussions with Dr. Sidney Galler of the Biology Branch of ONR and with Mr. Harold Coolidge, executive director of the Pacific Science Board.

Dr. Galler pointed out the need for fundamental studies in marine biology and expressed considerable interest in an AEC program which might provide impetus and encouragement in this direction. ONR has set up an advisory committee on hydrobiology to consider research programs in this general field. Dr. Galler has offered the services of this committee if the need should arise. He has also furnished a list of persons in Pacific Coast laboratories who are carrying out research in marine biology.

Mr. Coolidge was also enthusiastic about the possibility of making available laboratory facilities for biologists working in the Pacific and felt confident that a considerable number of investigators would wish to make use of them. The Pacific Research Board was organized in 1946 by the National Research Council for the purpose of coordinating and sponsoring work in several research fields including oceanography, marine biology, and plant sciences and in providing information and administrative assistance to government agencies and other organizations carrying out research in the Pacific. Mr. Coolidge has expressed a willingness to cooperate in any way possible. Their committee on marine biology will meet at the Scripps Institute in October and a representative of this division will be invited to attend and will be welcome to discuss any matters which he might wish to present.

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Drs. Plough and Wilbur will attend the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences at Cornell on September 8 - 10 and expect to talk with biologists and oceanographers concerning their interests in the Kaitok area.

Within the next six weeks we expect to discuss the program with Dr. Douglas M. Whitaker, Vice president of Stanford University, who has long been associated with marine biology and who has participated in one of the Pacific tests.

cc: Dr. Pearson

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