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SURVEY OF RADIOACTIVITY IN THE SEA AND
IN PELAGIC MARINE LIFE WEST OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS, SEPTEMBER 1-20, 1956

By
Allyn H. Seymour
Edward E. Held
Frank G. Lowman
John R. Donaldson
Dorothy J. South

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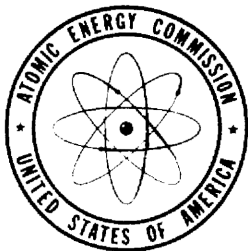
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Allyn H. Seymour
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Applied Fisheries Laboratory
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Seattle, Washington

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ABSTRACT

A survey of the radioactivity in the sea in the region of the North Equatorial Current from the Marshall Islands to the Marianas Islands was made in September 1956. The expedition was sponsored by the United States Atomic Energy Commission, Division of Biology and Medicine, and carried out by the Applied Fisheries Laboratory, University of Washington, with the support and cooperation of the United States Navy.

Plankton samples were taken by oblique tows from 200 meters and water samples were taken from the surface, 25, 50, 100, and 150 meters at 74 stations. The general pattern of distribution of radioactivity shows a sharp decrease east of Bikini and a gradual but irregular decrease west of Eniwetok. A slight degree of contamination is indicated as far to the west as Guam, the western extremity of the survey. Non-fission products account for a large proportion of the radioactivity in plankton and fish samples.

CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Plans, Equipment and Operations at Sea | 6 |
| Collection and Preparation of Samples | 9 |
| Methods of Analyses | 10 |
| Results of the Survey | 11 |
| Plankton | 11 |
| Water | 13 |
| Continuous Monitoring | 24 |
| Fish | 26 |
| Discussion of Survey Data | 30 |
| Results and Discussion of Radionuclide Analysis | 37 |
| Summary | 49 |
| Appendix | 53 |

SURVEY OF RADIOACTIVITY IN THE SEA AND IN PELAGIC MARINE
LIFE WEST OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS SEPTEMBER 1-20, 1956

INTRODUCTION

The amount of radioactivity in the sea and in pelagic marine life during and following weapons tests at the Pacific Proving Ground has been the subject of reports by United States and Japanese laboratories.

Following the 1954 test series, the Japanese survey ship, Shunkotsu-Maru, made a general survey of the amount and distribution of radioactivity in sea water and in some of the marine life in the region west of the Marshall Islands. The report of the Japanese survey¹ indicated that measurable amounts of radioactivity were to be found in the sea even as late as the spring of 1955.

Operation Troll² was conducted during the spring of 1955 to measure the level of radioactivity in the sea and the movement of the water mass containing the radioactivity. This was a joint operation of the New York Operations Office, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Scripps Institute of Oceanography,

University of California, and the Applied Fisheries Laboratory, University of Washington.

The findings of Operation Troll, the 17,419 mile cruise of the Taney from February 25 to May 3, 1955, were summarized as follows:

1. Sea water and plankton samples show the existence of widespread low-level activity in the Pacific Ocean. Water activity ranged from 0-570 d/min/liter and plankton from 3-140 d/min/g wet weight.
2. There is some concentration of the activity in the main current streams, such as the North Equatorial Current. The highest activity was off the coast of Luzon, averaging 190 d/min/liter down to 600 m (April 1, 1955).
3. Analyses of fish indicate no activity approaching the maximum permissible level for foods. The highest activity in tuna fish was 3.5 d/min/g ash, less than 1 percent of the permissible level.
4. Measurements of plankton activity offer a sensitive indication of activity in the ocean.
5. Similar operations would be valuable in assessing the activity from future tests and in gathering valuable data for oceanographic studies.

The Division of Biology and Medicine of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission requested the Applied Fisheries Laboratory of the University of Washington to conduct surveys of the open sea during 1956 to determine "(a) the levels of introduced radioactivity resulting from the tests in the water, plankton, and fish, and (b) how far the activity extends westward in the North Equatorial current."

The first of the two surveys was operating at sea, June 11-21, 1956, during the weapons testing program. The results of this survey are summarized in UWFL-46³. The summary of this report states:

A survey to determine the amount of radioactivity in the waters about Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls was made during the period June 11 to 21, 1956.

A grid of stations about 45 miles apart covering 78,000 square miles of ocean between 10° 15' N to 14° N and 159° to 166° E was covered by the survey. The distance traveled was 3,300 miles.

Radioactive materials were found in the plankton samples from every station. The highest plankton counts, 1,100,000 d/m/g (wet weight) were obtained near Bikini Atoll, and the lowest, 1,300 d/m/g, in the northwestern part of the survey area.

The average value for plankton was 71,000 d/m/g which was 7,100 times the average surface water value.

Water samples were collected at surface and at depths of 25, 50, 75 and 100 meters.

The average radioactivity of water was 10,000 d/m/l at the surface and 3,900 d/m/l at 100 meters.

The second survey of the 1956 series was conducted during September, about six weeks after the termination of the weapons testing program, during which time decay and dispersion of the radioactivity had taken place. As in the first survey, the U. S. Navy assigned a naval vessel, in this case the USS Marsh (Destroyer Escort 699), to be used as the survey ship. This

survey operated from the Marshall Islands westward to Guam between 9° N and 15° N.

The findings of this second survey are reported on the following pages.

Acknowledgements

The success of the oceanographic surveys is attributable to the support and cooperation of many organizations and individuals. This cooperation was especially evident in both the Walton and Marsh surveys during and following Operation Redwing.

The Division of Biology and Medicine, of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, particularly Dr. W. R. Boss, helped greatly in the planning and coordination of the program.

Units of Joint Task Force Seven, especially Task Group 7.3 (Navy), were particularly helpful.

The Atomic Energy Commission Resident Engineer, Mr. Thomas Hardison, and members of his staff provided invaluable support during and following the surveys.

The Navy can well be proud of the work of Commander Wilfred G. Chartier, Captain of the USS Marsh, and of the officers and crew who made possible the radiobiological-oceanographical survey from a ship not designed for such work.

PLANS, EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS AT SEA

The amount of radioactivity in the sea water and in marine life in the region near Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls during and following the 1956 atomic testing program, as well as the movement and dispersal of the radioactivity after completion of the test program, was evaluated by two radiobiological-oceanographic surveys. The first survey, made from the Walton in June 1956, covered fifty-three stations in an area between 11° N and 14° N, 180 miles west of Eniwetok and 30 miles east of Bikini (UWFL-46)³.

The second survey, made from the Marsh, covered 74 stations in an area bounded by 9° N and 15° N and approximately 145° E and 166° E (Fig. 1). This area is within the North Equatorial Current, which flows westward. In planning the track for this survey it was necessary to consider the areas of fallout, the direction and rate of drift of the North Equatorial Current (taken as ten miles per twenty-four hours for planning purposes), the fuel requirements of the ship and refueling facilities, which were available only at Kwajalein and Guam.

Installation of equipment aboard the Marsh was started at Eniwetok August 28 and the survey started September 1. The first leg, from Eniwetok to Guam, was completed on September 7. Marine organisms were collected from the reef on the eastern side of Guam to supplement the oceanic collections. The second leg, from Guam to Kwajalein, covered the period from September 9 to September 17. This period was interrupted for twenty-four hours begin-

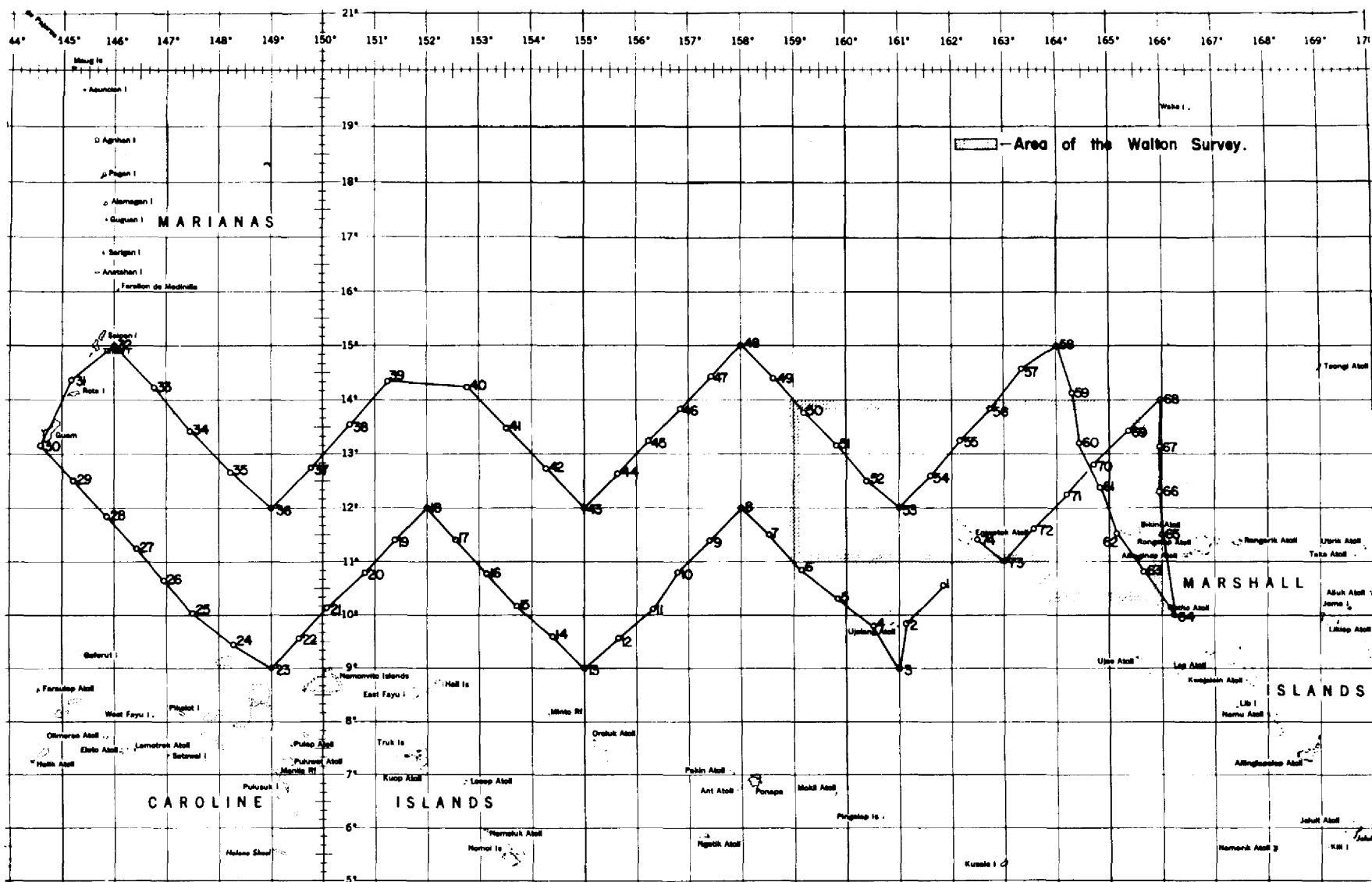


Fig. 1. Track of the Marsh and area of the Walton survey.

ning September 10 while the Marsh was engaged in a sea-air rescue mission. The third leg, from Kwajalein to Eniwetok, was started September 17 and completed September 20.

Equipment

The collecting equipment used on the Marsh was the same as that used on the Walton. Installation was approximately the same. Photographs of the major items of equipment installed aboard the Walton appear in UWFL-46.

Space below decks for quarters and equipment consisted of the after compartments for officers' quarters, chief petty officers' quarters and crew's berthing.

The major items of equipment were

1. A continuous surface water monitoring probe with tank and water connections, a unit designed and constructed by the Health and Safety Laboratory of the New York Operations Office.
2. A power winch feeding a 3/16-inch steel cable over an A-frame and davit for use with plankton nets and water sampling bottles.
3. A steel platform extending two feet over the portside of the ship under the davit to provide space for work with nets and water sampling bottles.
4. A temporary chemistry laboratory.
5. Three nuclear radiation detection instruments.
6. A bathythermograph which was part of the ship's equipment.

Operation of the Ship

"One boiler operation was maintained during the survey, to ensure maximum fuel-economy, except while entering and leaving port. Speeds between stations . . . were as follows: first leg twelve knots, . . .; second leg fifteen knots, . . .; third leg eleven knots, . . ."* The ship's speed was gradually reduced when coming on station during which time the bathythermograph drop was made. When the speed was one to two knots and the ship was headed with the wind off the port bow the portscrew was stopped and the plankton net was dropped. A speed of about one knot was maintained during the plankton haul. The vessel came to a dead stop while the water bottle casts were made. Cruising speed was gradually resumed following completion of the collections.

COLLECTION AND PREPARATION OF SAMPLES

Plankton, water and fish samples and continuous measurements of the activity in the surface water were taken. These samples and their preparation were the same as for the Walton survey with the following exceptions.

Water samples were taken from the surface, 25, 50, 100 and 150 meters to make certain that at least the deepest bottle would be below the thermocline. The plankton volumes were determined

* Quoted from letter from Commanding Officer, USS Marsh (DE 699) to CTG 7.3, 23 September 1956.

by using a 100/110-ml cassia volumetric flask instead of a graduated cylinder. All samples except fish were processed aboard ship immediately after being collected. Fish were frozen aboard ship, dissected and dried at the Eniwetok Marine Biological Laboratory, and ashed and counted at the University of Washington.

The water supply for the probe tank for continuous monitoring, instead of being taken from the fire mains as on the Walton, was supplied by a Marlow Centrifugal Pump, Model No. 12, HEL-9, operated at its full capacity of 50 gallons per minute. Chemical pumps of lesser capacity which had been furnished with the tank were tried but were inadequate. One and one-half-inch pipe was used for intake and discharge. The pipe was welded to the deck and hull of the ship and the free end of the intake pipe was held against the force of the water by a chain leading to a stanchion on deck. Even with these precautions and generally good sailing conditions, the pipe broke on the last day of the cruise.

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

All counting, with the exception of fish samples, was done aboard ship within a few hours after the time of collection.

Counting Equipment. Samples were prepared on $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch stainless steel plates and counted with 2-inch Anton tubes in a 3-inch lead Anton pig with Nuclear-Chicago Model 181 scalers. Background varied from 17.3 to 37.1 c/min.

Correction Factors. The same correction factors were used as for the Walton data, the details of which are given in UWPL-46.

DEPT. OF ARCHIVES

The total correction factors to convert counts per minute to disintegrations per minute were 3.5 for plankton, 4.0 for water, and 3.3 for filter papers. Negative values are given wherever the count was less than background. No correction was made for decay since the counting was done essentially immediately after collection and the values given are as of the time of collection. Decay curves are shown in Figure 2.

Gamma Ray Spectra. Gamma ray spectra were run at the University of Washington laboratories in Seattle on a single channel, automatic advance, gamma spectrometer. The spectrometer consists of a Nuclear-Chicago Model 1810 radiation analyzer, a Nuclear-Chicago Model DS-3 scintillation well counter, a Tracerlab Superscaler, a Nuclear-Chicago Model C-111 printing timer, and an automatic baseline advance device built at Seattle.

Spectrum ranges of 0.5, 2.0, and 4.0 MEV were used.

RESULTS OF SURVEY

Plankton

The highest value of radioactivity in plankton, 21,000 d/m/g wet, was found at station 55 about 80 miles north of Eniwetok and the lowest value, 27 d/m/g, was found immediately south of Guam. This lowest value was slightly lower than the value obtained near the same station during Operation Troll (39-61 d/m/g), indicating that Guam was near the westernmost extremity of the radioactive contamination which resulted from Operation Redwing. A slight degree of contamination is indicated by comparison with plankton samples from Puget Sound and off the Queen Charlotte

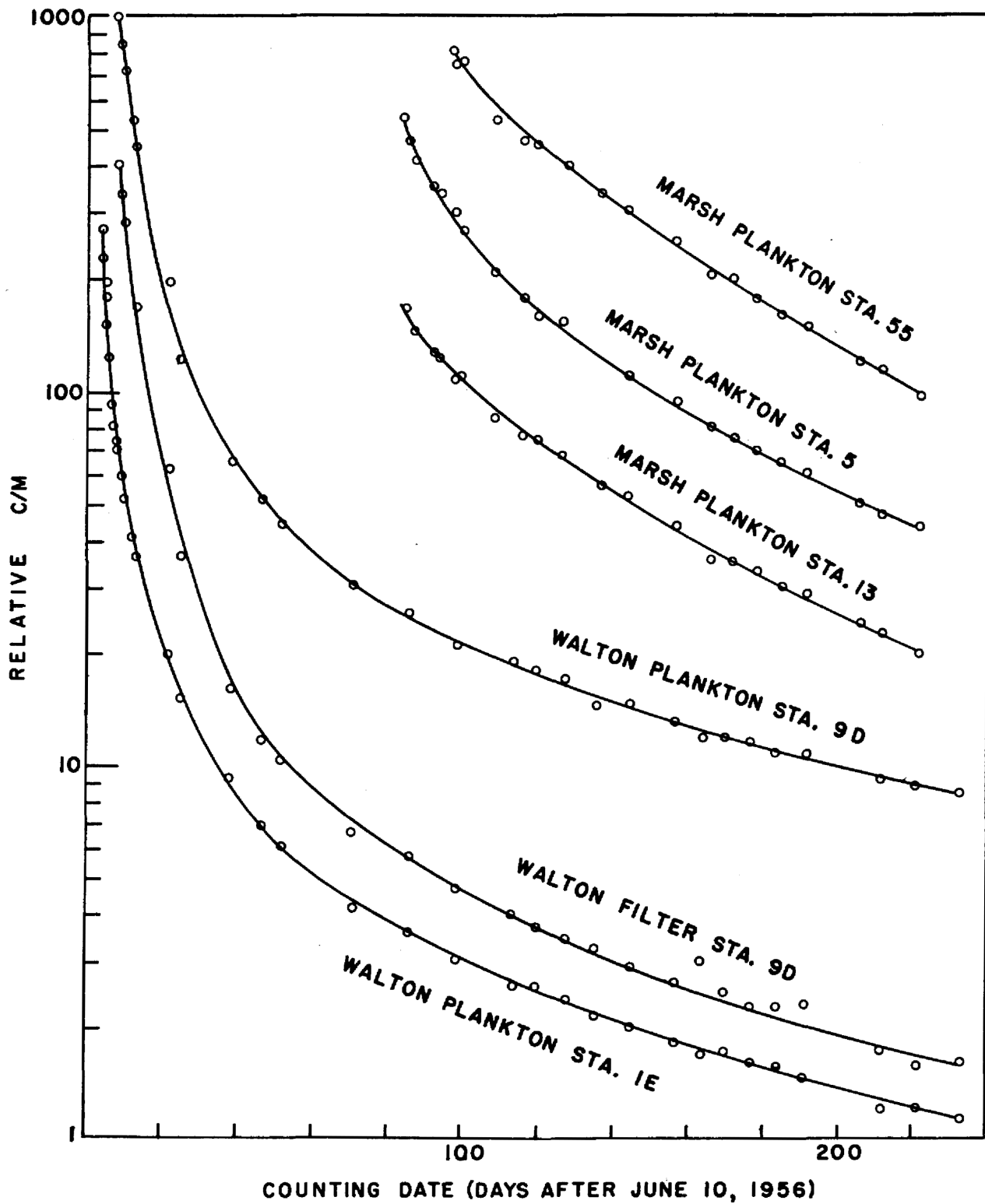


Fig. 2. Decay of Marsh and Walton samples.

Islands, which ranged from 0-16 d/m/g. Activity in the water, however, immediately south of Guam was about three times higher at the time of the Marsh survey than during Operation Troll.

The distribution of plankton activity is shown in Figure 3 and Table 1. Figure 4 is a graphic presentation of the data from Table 1. There is a sharp decrease in activity east of Bikini and a gradual but irregular decrease west of Eniwetok. Activity levels in plankton samples from immediately east of Bikini are about the same as those in the vicinity of Guam.

The plankton tows were made to a depth of about 200 meters, which assured complete sampling of the stirred layer. It is generally accepted that the stirred layer exists only above the thermocline, a region in which temperature decreases rapidly with increase in depth. Bathythermograph casts were made at each station to determine temperature changes with depth. Unfortunately the only bathythermograph which was operable at stations 1 - 30 was only able to measure temperatures to a depth of 200 feet. This situation was remedied at Guam and from that point on temperature measurements were available to 400 feet. From the later data and the results of the Walton and Troll surveys it is evident that in general the upper level of the thermocline was just below 100 meters.

The average of the ratios of plankton activity to water activity was 2500; possible reasons for variations in this value are discussed on pages 27-33.

Water

The activity of the water from all depths is presented in

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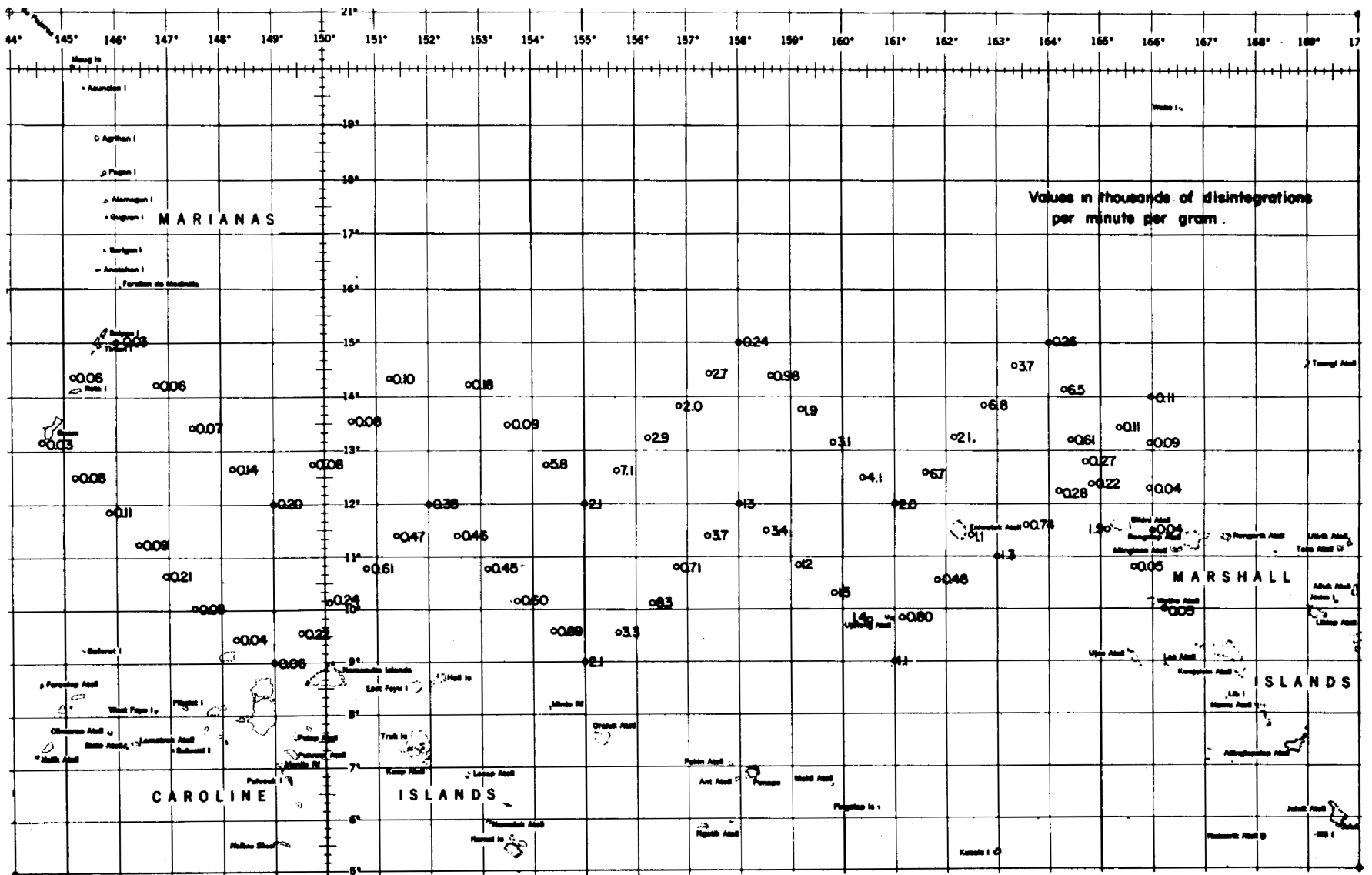


Fig. 3. Distribution of plankton activity.

Table 1. Radioactivity of Marsh Samples

Plankton values in disintegrations per minute per gram of wet sample
 Water " " " " " " liter
 Filter paper " " " " " " for the residue from 1 liter of water

| Stn. | Surface | | 25m | | 50m | | 100m | | 150m | | 400m | | Plankton |
|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|----------|
| | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | |
| 1 | 14356 | 2459 | 1766 | 277 | 302 | 98 | 1306 | 35 | 692 | 27 | 252* | 44* | 483 |
| 2 | 10838 | 8022 | 404 | 59 | 226 | 35 | 166 | 29 | 136 | 1 | | | 796 |
| 3 | 5140 | 3117 | 286 | 54 | 168 | 21 | 58 | 4 | 12 | 74 | | | 1065 |
| 4 | 6706 | 1510 | 294 | 12 | 126 | 9 | -- | -- | -56 | -6 | | | 1448 |
| 5 | 6552 | 588 | 2080 | 124 | 5310 | 370 | 1228 | 306 | 298 | 46 | | | 14788 |
| 6 | 8064 | 453 | 3738 | 281 | 4346 | 261 | 472 | 48 | 178 | 96 | | | 11683 |
| 7 | 634 | 1581 | 1112 | 88 | 666 | 46 | 140 | 27 | 156 | 40 | | | 3426 |
| 8 | 5460 | 1343 | 3020 | 218 | 5172 | 276 | 552 | 128 | 308 | 30 | | | 12604 |
| 9 | 1786 | 2096 | 1184 | 158 | 1252 | 93 | 388 | 41 | 174 | 50 | | | 3692 |
| 10 | 3072 | 1323 | 664 | 36 | 284 | 18 | 186 | 10 | 122 | 18 | | | 713 |
| 11 | 1834 | 548 | 164 | 27 | 188 | 10 | 106 | 20 | 88 | 10 | | | 8348 |
| 12 | 2926 | 329 | 598 | 42 | 648 | 22 | 106 | 31 | 72 | 18 | | | 3313 |
| 13 | 3286 | 779 | 672 | 47 | 670 | 46 | 104 | 34 | 90 | 20 | | | 2065 |
| 14 | 1650 | 2353 | 468 | 47 | 214 | 22 | 100 | 16 | 110 | 22 | | | 886 |
| 15 | 1886 | 256 | 528 | 59 | 434 | 31 | 234 | 15 | 84 | 27 | | | 596 |
| 16 | 1824 | 502 | 250 | 24 | 248 | 15 | 194 | 1 | 122 | 3 | | | 450 |
| 17 | 1450 | 214 | 190 | 16 | 200 | 18 | 112 | 14 | 36 | 7 | | | 459 |
| 18 | 1606 | 380 | 250 | 22 | 160 | 18 | 56 | 14 | 16 | 8 | | | 382 |
| 19 | 1354 | 108 | 238 | 17 | 294 | 18 | 68 | 6 | -8 | 2 | | | 466 |
| 20 | 1378 | 5428 | 222 | 38 | 302 | 62 | 82 | 11 | 66 | 4 | | | 612 |

* Sample from 500m

Table 1. (continued)

| Stn. | Surface | | 25m | | 50m | | 100m | | 150m | | 400m | | Plankton |
|------|---------|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|----------|
| | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | |
| 21 | 1304 | 1924 | 250 | 37 | 270 | 20 | 34 | 8 | 56 | 8 | | | 236 |
| 22 | 1932 | 352 | 216 | 58 | 164 | 19 | 64 | 4 | 94 | 3 | | | 215 |
| 23 | 734 | 562 | 118 | 14 | 84 | 11 | 112 | 9 | 40 | 13 | | | 60 |
| 24 | 814 | 321 | 70 | 3 | 114 | 0 | 62 | -2 | 68 | 2 | | | 43 |
| 25 | 406 | 341 | -4 | -3 | 66 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 36 | 10 | | | 78 |
| 26 | 2504 | 359 | 140 | 12 | 92 | 0 | 22 | -1 | 16 | 7 | | | 208 |
| 27 | 1238 | 342 | 58 | 15 | 48 | 0 | 60 | 3 | 48 | -- | | | 93 |
| 28 | 1642 | 398 | 128 | 22 | 110 | 7 | 20 | 7 | 60 | 3 | | | 108 |
| 29 | 310 | 410 | 138 | 18 | 38 | 12 | -2 | 3 | 90 | 7 | | | 82 |
| 30 | 672 | 499 | 110 | 13 | 62 | 11 | 40 | 7 | 58 | 8 | | | 27 |
| 31 | 546 | 90 | 226 | 11 | 58 | 6 | 126 | 4 | 106 | 6 | | | 63 |
| 32 | 116 | 128 | 84 | 17 | 152 | 7 | 24 | 11 | 112 | 6 | | | 30 |
| 33 | 176 | 38 | 128 | 6 | 96 | 6 | 72 | 3 | 112 | 7 | | | 60 |
| 34 | 170 | 25 | 134 | 11 | 80 | 6 | 24 | 6 | 58 | -7 | | | 68 |
| 35 | 214 | 16 | 62 | 2 | -- | -- | -16 | 0 | -26 | 3 | | | 140 |
| 36 | 122 | 42 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | | | 197 |
| 37 | 132 | 23 | 104 | 11 | 78 | 5 | -26 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | 77 |
| 38 | 34 | 56 | 118 | 26 | 94 | 40 | 82 | 1 | 34 | 0 | | | 78 |
| 39 | 74 | 48 | 108 | 13 | 130 | 14 | 150 | 1 | 94 | 3 | | | 104 |
| 40 | 226 | 62 | 66 | 82 | 60 | 11 | -8 | 6 | 10 | -1 | | | 176 |
| 41 | 154 | 12 | 90 | 7 | 54 | 5 | 30 | 0 | 80 | 4 | | | 85 |
| 42 | 4860 | 320 | 4590 | 312 | 4608 | 264 | 426 | 22 | 214 | 36 | | | 5816 |
| 43 | 178 | 100 | 188 | 9 | 190 | 16 | 78 | 9 | 94 | 6 | | | 2100 |
| 44 | 2638 | 542 | 1848 | 132 | 1786 | 131 | 208 | 16 | 98 | 10 | 890* | 479* | 7060 |
| 45 | 1684 | 256 | 1378 | 73 | 1202 | 56 | 106 | 13 | 130 | 59 | | | 2891 |

* Sample from 450m, top of this bottle did not close

* Sample from 450m, top of this bottle did not close

Table 1. (continued)

| Stn. | Surface | | 25m | | 50m | | 100m | | 150m | | 400m | | Plankton |
|------|---------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|----------|
| | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | w. | fp. | |
| 46 | 2490 | 163 | 1672 | 116 | 1956 | 98 | 98 | -4 | 92 | 7 | | | 2012 |
| 47 | 276 | 24 | 136 | 18 | 238 | 7 | -10 | -5 | -40 | 4 | | | 2656 |
| 48 | 274 | 30 | 250 | 12 | 228 | 7 | -22 | -1 | 48 | -4 | | | 240 |
| 49 | 742 | 110 | 564 | 32 | 50 | 23 | -34 | 8 | 36 | 10 | | | 984 |
| 50 | 1654 | 78 | 1266 | 62 | 1144 | 61 | 78 | 10 | 104 | 34 | 84 | 7 | 1925 |
| 51 | 944 | 76 | 772 | 44 | 1426 | 61 | 70 | 0 | 118 | 3 | 44 | 7 | 3112 |
| 52 | 278 | 62 | 514 | 21 | 1176 | 64 | 98 | 12 | 224 | 25 | 92 | 63 | 4112 |
| 53 | 936 | 46 | 784 | 42 | 632 | 38 | 254 | 15 | 202 | 10 | 72 | 14 | 2006 |
| 54 | 2708 | 160 | 2494 | 106 | 2562 | 108 | 540 | 54 | 440 | 290 | 208 | 34 | 6674 |
| 55 | 1466 | 83 | 1310 | 64 | 3208 | 148 | 780 | 58 | 296 | 22 | 126 | 7 | 20926 |
| 56 | 2854 | 152 | 2586 | 160 | 2680 | 120 | 202 | 14 | 540 | 22 | 202 | 129 | 6839 |
| 57 | 420 | 16 | 444 | 14 | 512 | 11 | 82 | 9 | 132 | 2 | 122 | 9 | 3734 |
| 58 | 244 | 24 | 226 | 20 | 272 | 11 | 88 | 0 | 92 | 10 | | | 260 |
| 59 | 4408 | 216 | 3896 | 156 | 3864 | 145 | 654 | 69 | 168 | 12 | | | 6503 |
| 60 | 50 | 16 | 142 | 8 | 160 | 4 | 126 | 1 | 74 | 3 | | | 612 |
| 61 | 126 | 5 | 162 | 9 | 152 | 5 | 62 | 13 | -4 | 1 | | | 224 |
| 62 | 1256 | 70 | 134 | 4 | 134 | 9 | 758 | 47 | 106 | 7 | 283 | 43 | 1925 |
| 63 | 112 | 13 | 100 | 3 | 144 | 5 | 84 | 1 | 92 | 4 | | | 53 |
| 64 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | | | 50 |
| 65 | 190 | 9 | 22 | 9 | 132 | 12 | 146 | 12 | 74 | 8 | | | 39 |
| 66 | 104 | 10 | 32 | 3 | 108 | 11 | 96 | 10 | 86 | 0 | | | 35 |
| 67 | 42 | 6 | 16 | 6 | 76 | 9 | -42 | 6 | 34 | 3 | | | 94 |
| 68 | 134 | 21 | 130 | 13 | 770 | 42 | 58 | 0 | 20 | 4 | | | 150 |
| 69 | 68 | 4 | 68 | -1 | 116 | -4 | 80 | 1 | 88 | -2 | | | 107 |
| 70 | 84 | 19 | 54 | 5 | 96 | -1 | 50 | 10 | 118 | 8 | | | 272 |
| 71 | 520 | 21 | 580 | 23 | 268 | 9 | 18 | -1 | 52 | 11 | | | 280 |
| 72 | 188 | 14 | 284 | 7 | 952 | 37 | 176 | 16 | 118 | -6 | | | 743 |
| 73 | 74 | 10 | 110 | 8 | 142 | 4 | 1340 | 63 | 96 | 4 | | | 1253 |
| 74 | 62 | 18 | 116 | 14 | 242 | 8 | 756 | 27 | 232 | 11 | | | 1145 |

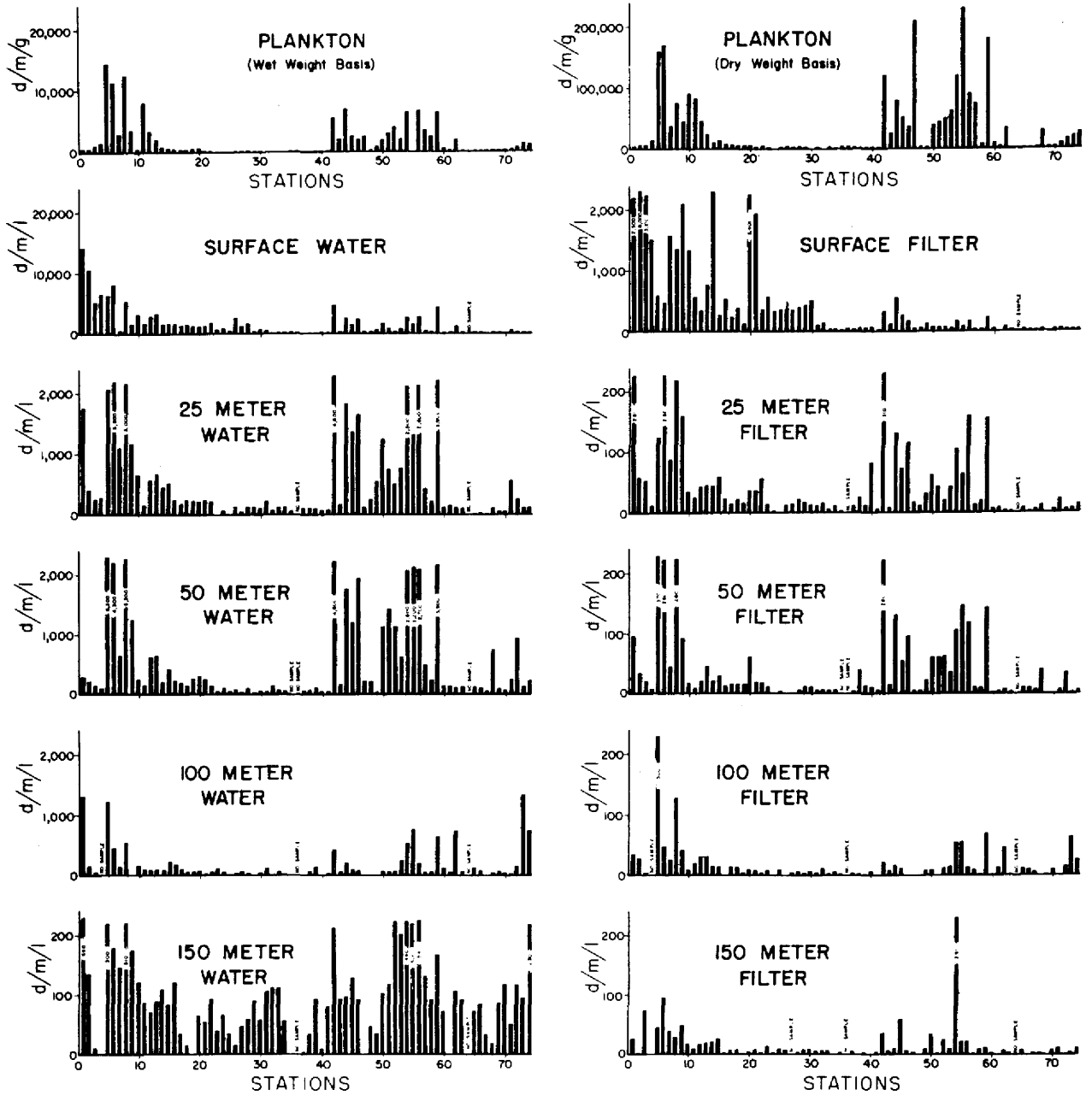


Fig. 4. Graphic presentation of the data.

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Table 1. The sums of the values of activity of the residue from one liter of sea water and of the filtered water, less K^{40} , for each station and depth are given in Table 2. Figure 4 is a graphic presentation of the data from Table 1 along with the plankton values. It is evident from this figure that although the absolute values for the various depths or kinds of samples are different, the general pattern of horizontal distribution of activity is approximately the same. The distribution of activity in the surface water samples is plotted in Figure 5.

The highest levels of total activity in the surface water (residue on filter paper plus filterable portion, less K^{40}) were found between Eniwetok and Ujelang, and the lowest value northeast of Bikini. These values were 19,000 d/m/l and 48 d/m/l. Values in the vicinity of Guam are 4 to 20 times the lower value, indicating that some contamination from Operation Redwing had reached this far. Possible interpretations of the relationship between water and plankton activity are discussed on pages 27 - 33.

At every depth sampled the particulate matter retained on the filter had lower levels of activity than did the filterable fraction; this was true also for the Walton samples with the exception of the surface water, in which the particulate matter contained 58 percent of the activity. The average values of radioactivity in the two fractions and the percentages from both the Marsh and Walton data are presented for comparison in Table 3. In both sets of data the particulate matter contributes about three times as much of the total activity in the surface

Table 2. Radioactivity of Water (filter + water, less K^{40})
 (Values in disintegrations per minute per liter)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 100m | 150m | 400m |
|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| 1 | 16815 | 2043 | 400 | 1341 | 719 | 296 (from 500m) |
| 2 | 18860 | 463 | 261 | 195 | 137 | |
| 3 | 8257 | 340 | 189 | 62 | 86 | |
| 4 | 8216 | 306 | 135 | -- | -62 | |
| 5 | 7140 | 2204 | 5680 | 1534 | 344 | |
| 6 | 8517 | 4019 | 4607 | 520 | 274 | |
| 7 | 2215 | 1200 | 712 | 167 | 196 | |
| 8 | 6803 | 3238 | 5448 | 680 | 338 | |
| 9 | 3882 | 1342 | 1345 | 429 | 224 | |
| 10 | 4395 | 700 | 302 | 196 | 140 | |
| 11 | 2382 | 191 | 198 | 126 | 98 | |
| 12 | 3255 | 640 | 670 | 137 | 90 | |
| 13 | 4065 | 719 | 716 | 138 | 110 | |
| 14 | 4003 | 515 | 236 | 116 | 132 | |
| 15 | 2142 | 587 | 465 | 249 | 111 | |
| 16 | 2326 | 274 | 263 | 195 | 125 | |
| 17 | 1664 | 206 | 218 | 126 | 43 | |
| 18 | 1986 | 272 | 178 | 70 | 24 | |
| 19 | 1462 | 255 | 312 | 74 | -6 | |
| 20 | 6806 | 260 | 364 | 93 | 70 | |
| 21 | 3228 | 287 | 290 | 42 | 64 | |
| 22 | 2284 | 274 | 183 | 68 | 97 | |
| 23 | 1296 | 132 | 95 | 121 | 53 | |
| 24 | 1135 | 73 | 114 | 60 | 70 | |
| 25 | 747 | -7 | 70 | 14 | 46 | |
| 26 | 2863 | 152 | 92 | 21 | 23 | |
| 27 | 1580 | 73 | 48 | 63 | 48 | |
| 28 | 2040 | 150 | 117 | 27 | 63 | |
| 29 | 720 | 156 | 50 | 1 | 97 | |
| 30 | 1171 | 123 | 73 | 47 | 66 | |
| 31 | 636 | 237 | 64 | 130 | 112 | |
| 32 | 244 | 101 | 159 | 35 | 118 | |
| 33 | 214 | 134 | 102 | 75 | 119 | |
| 34 | 195 | 145 | 86 | 30 | 51 | |
| 35 | 230 | 64 | -- | -16 | -23 | |
| 36 | 164 | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| 37 | 155 | 115 | 83 | -23 | 9 | |
| 38 | 90 | 144 | 134 | 83 | 34 | |
| 39 | 122 | 121 | 144 | 151 | 97 | |
| 40 | 288 | 148 | 71 | -2 | 9 | |

100-30-11175

Table 2. (continued)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 100m | 150m | 400m |
|---------|---------|------|------|------|------|-------------------|
| 41 | 166 | 97 | 59 | 30 | 84 | |
| 42 | 5180 | 4902 | 4872 | 448 | 250 | |
| 43 | 278 | 197 | 206 | 87 | 100 | |
| 44 | 3180 | 1980 | 1917 | 224 | 108 | *1369 (from 450m) |
| 45 | 1940 | 1451 | 1258 | 119 | 189 | |
| 46 | 2653 | 1788 | 2054 | 94 | 99 | |
| 47 | 300 | 154 | 245 | -15 | -36 | |
| 48 | 304 | 262 | 235 | -23 | 44 | |
| 49 | 852 | 596 | 73 | -26 | 46 | |
| 50 | 1732 | 1328 | 1205 | 88 | 138 | 91 |
| 51 | 1020 | 816 | 1487 | 70 | 121 | 51 |
| 52 | 340 | 535 | 1240 | 110 | 249 | 155 |
| 53 | 982 | 826 | 670 | 269 | 212 | 86 |
| 54 | 2868 | 2600 | 2670 | 594 | 730 | 242 |
| 55 | 1549 | 1374 | 3356 | 838 | 318 | 133 |
| 56 | 3006 | 2746 | 2800 | 216 | 562 | 331 |
| 57 | 436 | 458 | 523 | 91 | 134 | 131 |
| 58 | 268 | 246 | 283 | 88 | 102 | |
| 59 | 4624 | 4052 | 4009 | 723 | 180 | |
| 60 | 66 | 150 | 164 | 127 | 77 | |
| 61 | 131 | 171 | 157 | 75 | -3 | |
| 62 | 1326 | 138 | 143 | 805 | 113 | 331 |
| 63 | 125 | 103 | 149 | 85 | 96 | |
| 64 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | |
| 65 | 199 | 31 | 144 | 158 | 82 | |
| 66 | 114 | 35 | 119 | 106 | 86 | |
| 67 | 48 | 22 | 85 | -36 | 37 | |
| 68 | 155 | 143 | 812 | 58 | 24 | |
| 69 | 72 | 67 | 112 | 81 | 86 | |
| 70 | 103 | 59 | 95 | 60 | 126 | |
| 71 | 541 | 603 | 277 | 17 | 63 | |
| 72 | 202 | 291 | 989 | 192 | 112 | |
| 73 | 84 | 118 | 146 | 1403 | 100 | |
| 74 | 80 | 130 | 250 | 783 | 243 | |

Bottle did not close.

11117.5

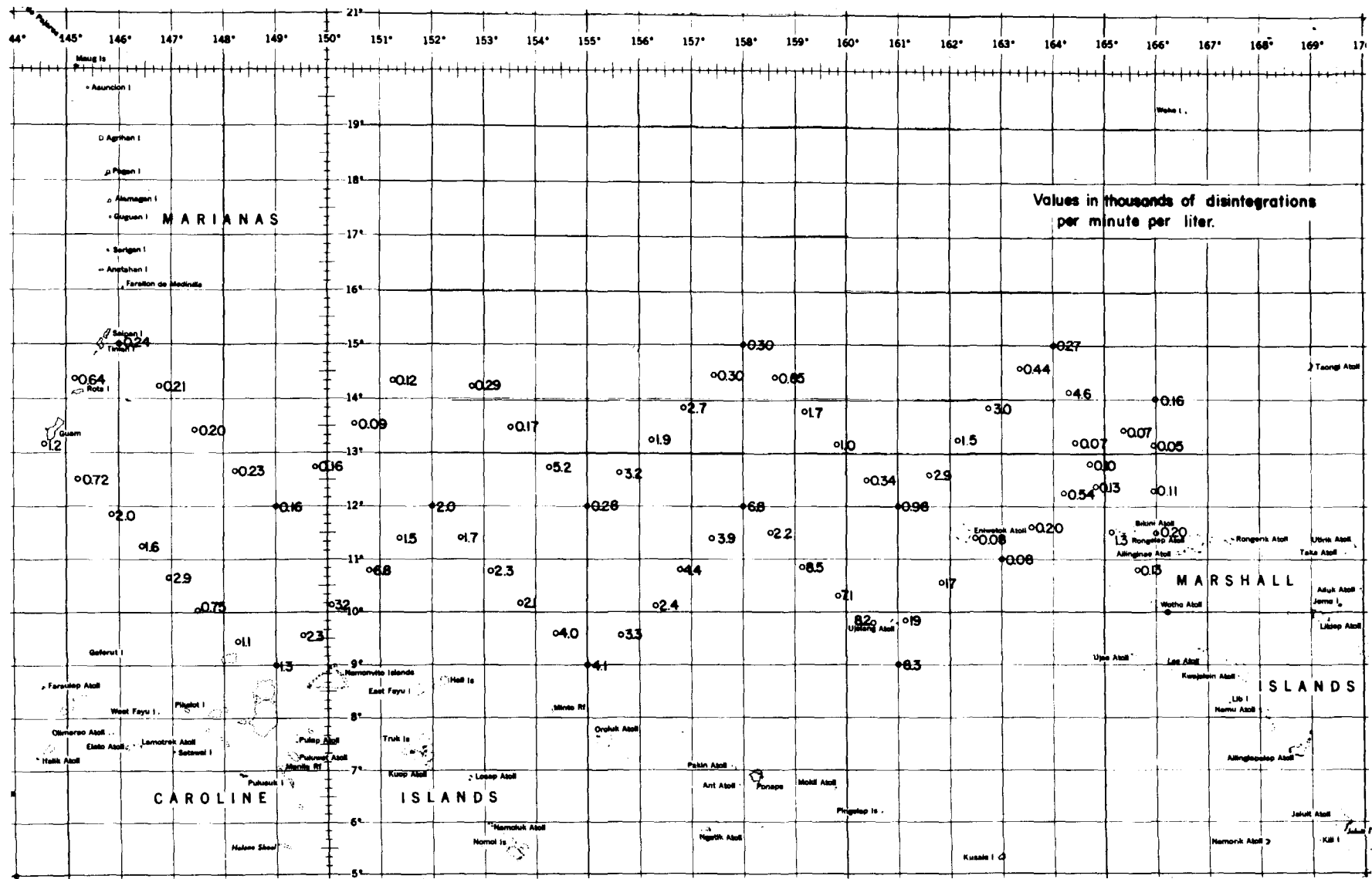


Fig. 5. Radioactivity of surface water.

Table 3. Average Value for All Stations for Plankton
Residue from Water, and Filtered Water (less K^{40})
as of Date of Collection

(Marsh Samples September 1-20, 1956; Walton Samples June 12-21, 1956)

Marsh

| Depth in Meters 0-200 | Plankton d/m/g (wet) 2126 | | Filtered Water | | Total d/m/l |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Residue from Water d/m/l | per cent of total | d/m/l | per cent of total | |
| 0 | 838 | 32 | 1745 | 68 | 2583 |
| 25 | 49 | 7 | 658 | 93 | 707 |
| 50 | 45 | 6 | 765 | 94 | 810 |
| 100 | 19 | 9 | 196 | 91 | 215 |
| 150 | 17 | 13 | 111 | 87 | 128 |
| 400* | 36 | 19 | 149 | 81 | 185 |

Walton

| Depth in Meters 0-200 | Plankton d/m/g (wet) 71,000 | | Filtered Water | | Total d/m/l |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Residue from Water d/m/l | per cent of total | d/m/l | per cent of total | |
| 0 | 5900 | 58 | 4200 | 42 | 10000 |
| 25 | 280 | 4 | 6500 | 96 | 6800 |
| 50 | 1800 | 19 | 7800 | 81 | 9600 |
| 75 | 1300 | 19 | 5500 | 81 | 6800 |
| 100 | 1000 | 26 | 2900 | 74 | 3900 |

Ten stations only.

water as it does at greater depths. This greater concentration in the surface layer, where phytoplankton is most abundant⁴, coupled with the facts that plankton has a higher specific activity than water and that a few samples of microplankton taken during Operation Troll showed an even higher specific activity than the macroplankton suggests that the microplankton may be the principal source of the radioactive particulate matter.

The activity in the particulate matter was measured from surface samples taken every half-hour (approximately every 8 miles) while approaching and leaving station 62 off the western end of Bikini. Water for these samples was taken from the outlet of the tank for continuous monitoring. The results (Fig. 6) indicate that some radioactive materials are being eluted from Bikini Atoll to the northwest. However, these materials probably add only an insignificant amount to the total activity in the area between Bikini and Eniwetok. The discrepancy between the activity in the sample taken from the tank and that taken from the water bottle at the station off Bikini is probably largely due to a lag in passage of water through the tank.

Continuous Monitoring

The scintillation probe used is successful for the determination of levels of activity in contaminated sea water during the first few weeks following the detonation of a nuclear device; however, on the basis of our limited experience, the probe is not of sufficient sensitivity for the measurement of low levels of γ activity in sea water as late as two months following

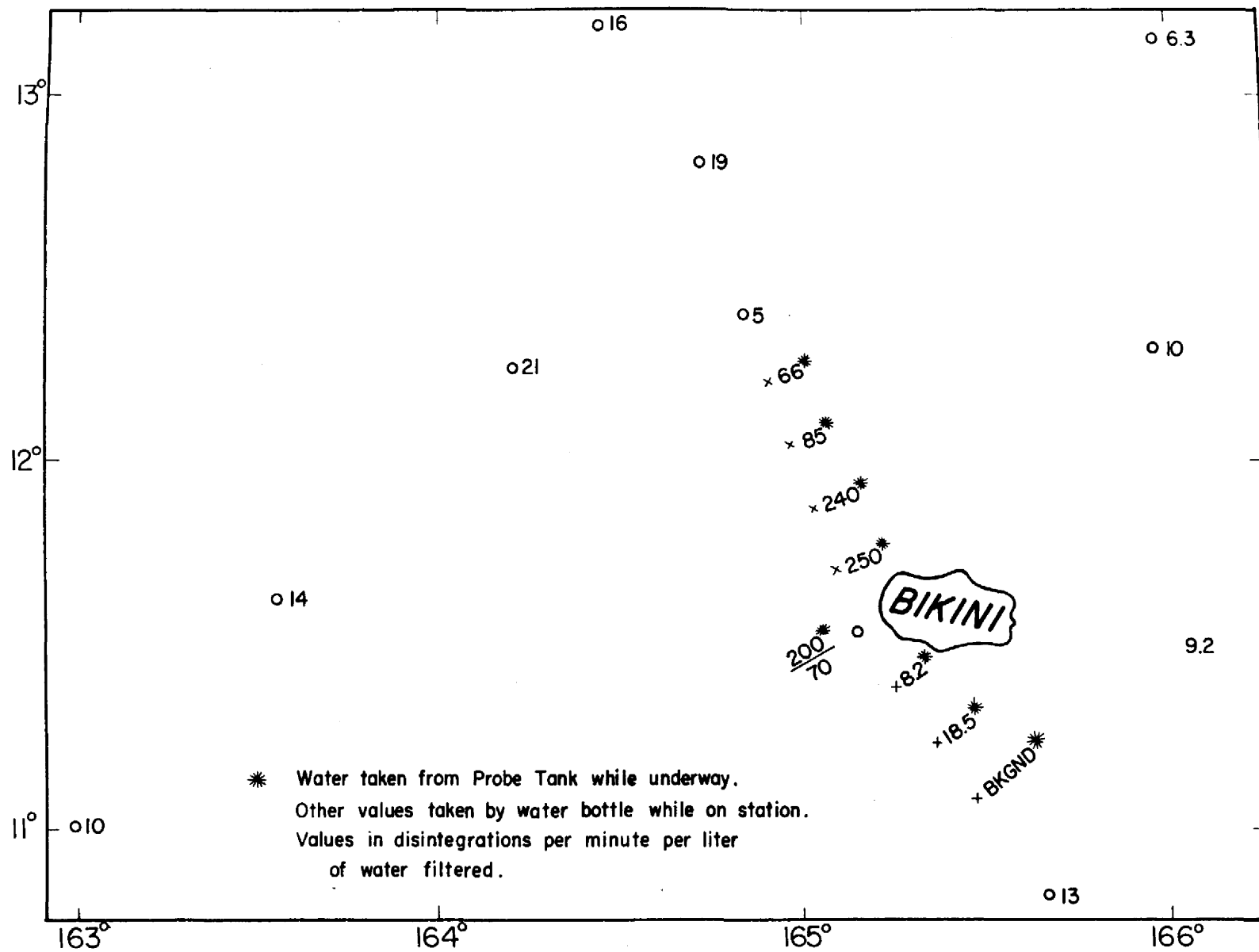


Fig. 6. Radioactivity of filters in the vicinity of Bikini Atoll.

detonation.

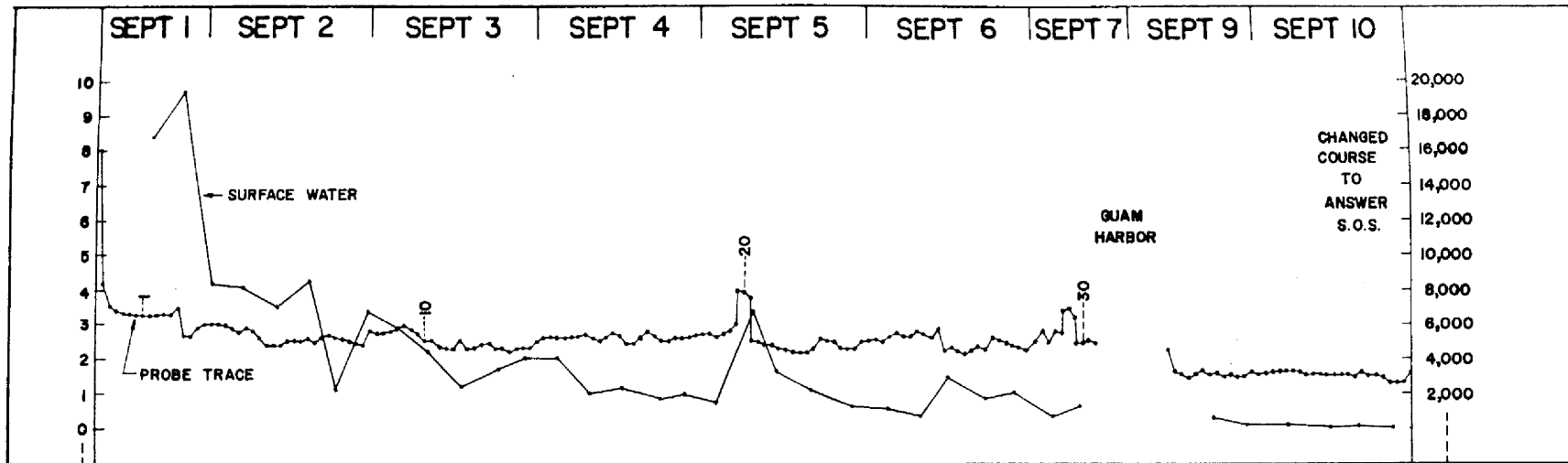
Little, if any, correlation exists between the probe values and the actual levels of radioactivity present in sea water as determined from samples taken during the Marsh expedition (Fig. 7). The lack of sensitivity might possibly have been due to faulty "A" and "B" batteries in the probe assembly although this is not likely. The instrument was sensitive to a γ source inserted into the calibration port several times throughout the duration of the trip.

Although the instrument, in its present form, cannot be used for detecting low levels of contamination the following modifications might be made to increase its sensitivity and usefulness.

1. Incorporate suitable voltage stabilization circuits in the filament, B+, and high voltage supplies (the ship-line supply fluctuates from 80 v to 135 v).
2. Replace the present crystal and photomultiplier with a 7-inch diameter unit.
3. Rebuild the water tank to minimize vibration effects on the scintillation probe and increase the volume of water around the probe.
4. Incorporate intermediate ranges into the control box with the following ranges: 5, 30, 50, 300, 500 and 3000 microcentgens.

Fish

Levels of radioactivity in fish tissues are given in Table 4. They are remarkably uniform in the three skipjack taken near station 23; the liver has the highest level of activity, 186 d/m/g



--- PROBE TRACE IN ARBITRARY UNITS

--- SURFACE WATER ACTIVITY D/M/L

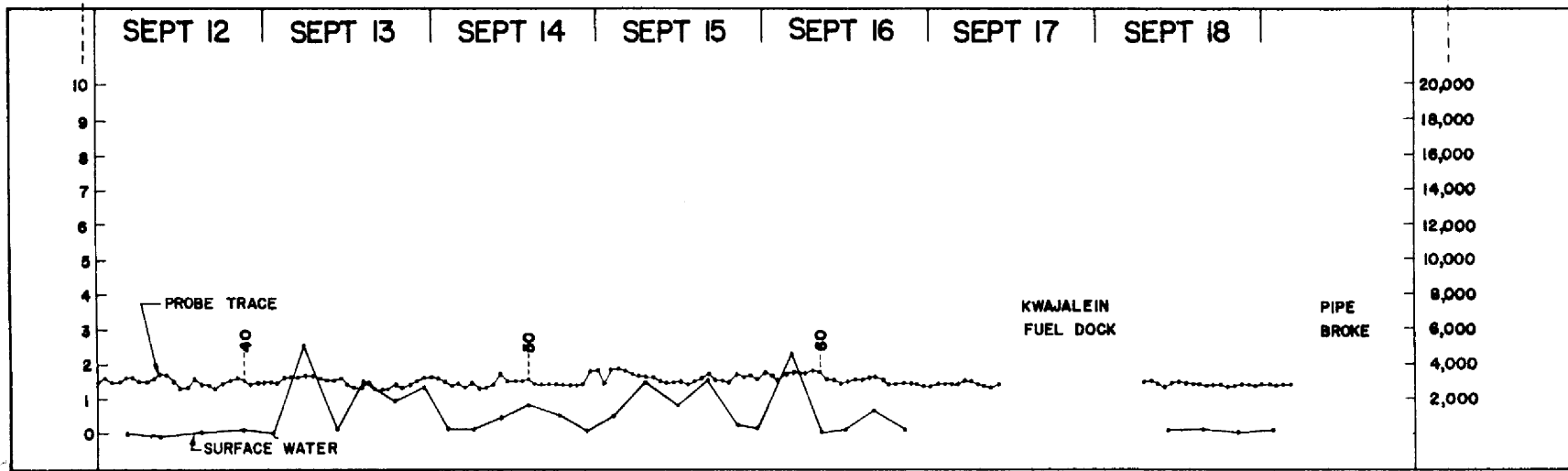


Fig. 7. Probe trace and surface water values.

Table 4. Radioactivity of Fish Caught on the Marsh Survey
d/m/g (wet)

Skipjack Taken Near Station 23:

| | <u>Light Muscle</u> | <u>Dark Muscle</u> | <u>Liver</u> |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Specimen "A" | 93 | 139 | 188 |
| " " "B" | 74 | 109 | 170 |
| " " "C" | 80 | 137 | 200 |
| Average | <u>82</u> | <u>128</u> | <u>186</u> |

Flying Fish Taken from Stomach of Skipjack (Specimen "A" above):

| <u>Muscle</u> | <u>Liver</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| 119 | -- |

Flying Fish Taken Near Station 54:

| <u>Muscle</u> | <u>Liver</u> |
|---------------|--------------|
| 360 | 7460 |

Homogenate of Tissues from Fifty Reef Fish Taken at Guam:

| | <u>Muscle</u> | <u>Liver</u> |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Aliquot 1 | 70 | 167 |
| " 2 | 105 | |
| " 3 | 156 | |
| Average | <u>110</u> | <u>167</u> |

(wet), which is higher than dark muscle by a factor of about 1.5 and than light muscle by a factor of about 2. A flying fish taken from the stomach of one of the skipjack had about the same level of activity in muscle tissue as did the skipjack. Reef fish taken from the eastern shore of Guam had about the same levels of activity as did the skipjack taken approximately 350 miles to the southeast. A single flying fish taken approximately 60 miles northwest of Eniwetok had about 40 times as much activity in the liver, as did the skipjack and Guam reef fish, and about 3 times as much activity in the muscle.

The activity in fish tissues from Guam was greater than that found in fish from the same area in 1955² by a factor of 1.3 for liver and 6.9 for muscle, an indication there had been some additional radioactive contamination since the time of Operation Troll. The levels are low even though they are several times those found in fish from Puget Sound in 1955².

No radiochemical analyses were made because the activity levels were too low for accurate determinations. It is clear from previous analyses of fish from contaminated areas in the Pacific that it is not likely strontium-90 would contribute any of the activity, and at most two percent of the total β -activity.^{5,2}

A diagram of the γ spectrum of the flying fish liver is shown in Figure 11, page 40; the presence of Ce^{144} - Pr^{144} , Zr^{95} - Nb^{95} , Co^{58} , Co^{60} and Zn^{65} is indicated.

DISCUSSION OF SURVEY DATA

The ratio of the radioactivity in plankton to that in water on a basis of equal weights is highly variable from station to station and from collection date to collection date.

Some of the variability is probably due to inaccuracies in water sample values. A single value for water is probably less reliable than a single value for plankton because of the method of sampling and the lower level of activity in the water; when the water value is based on the average of several observations the comparison is fairly reliable, but a comparison based on a single water value is less reliable. The average of ratios for all stations of the Marsh survey was 2500 (minimum 29, maximum 18,000). The average ratios for the Walton and Troll surveys were 7,000 and 300 respectively.

Several factors may enter into the reduction of the plankton-water ratio with time. One factor may be that selective uptake by the plankton is less evident from relatively fresh fallout material, where a wide spectrum of radioisotopes is available. A decreasing ratio with time after fallout, evident from comparing the Walton, Marsh and Troll data, supports this possibility. Furthermore, the western stations (14 - 42) of the Marsh survey, which would tend to have older fallout material than the eastern stations, have a lower ratio of plankton activity to water activity than do the eastern stations. The values and their standard errors are 475 ± 98 and 3716 ± 754 respectively.

There is, however, another factor which appears to be of considerable importance. This is the effect of distribution of activity in the water with depth on the activity in the plankton sample. The plankton sample is taken from a water layer at a depth of 200 meters to the surface. The water samples are taken at discrete depths down to 150 meters. The following uncertainties are therefore inherent in the sampling method. First, there is not a uniform decrease of activity with depth (Figs. 8 and 9). There are, indeed, changes with depth which range from a sharp decrease from the surface to 25 meters to the other extreme where there are sharp increases at a depth of 100 meters. Secondly, since the water samples are taken at discrete intervals of 25 to 50 meters, the present data do not permit ruling out the possibility that extremes of activity in narrow regions distort the total picture at a given station either by being missed completely or being overemphasized. And thirdly, there is no guarantee that the plankton is uniformly distributed throughout the depth which is sampled by the plankton net. There is, for example, some evidence that a change in the vertical distribution of the plankton population occurs from hours of daylight to hours of darkness. The diurnal-nocturnal difference in ratio of activity in surface plankton (material on filter papers) to that in the surface water is significant at stations 1-30, which for the most part show a sharp decrease in activity in the water from the surface to 25 meters, and no subsequent increase. No such significant difference was found at the remaining stations,

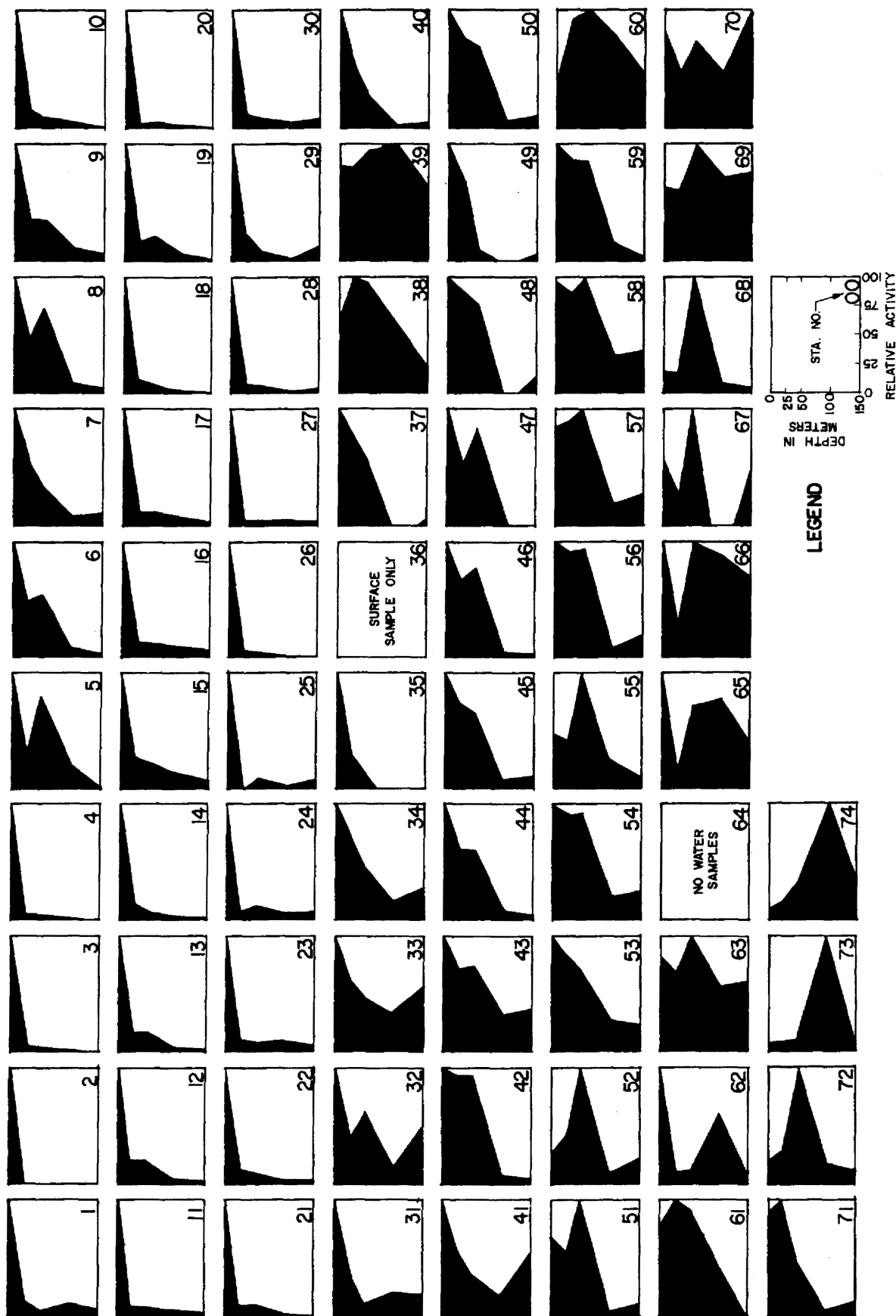


Fig. 9. Relative radioactivity of water filter and filterable fraction (less than 40 micrometers) at each depth sampled.

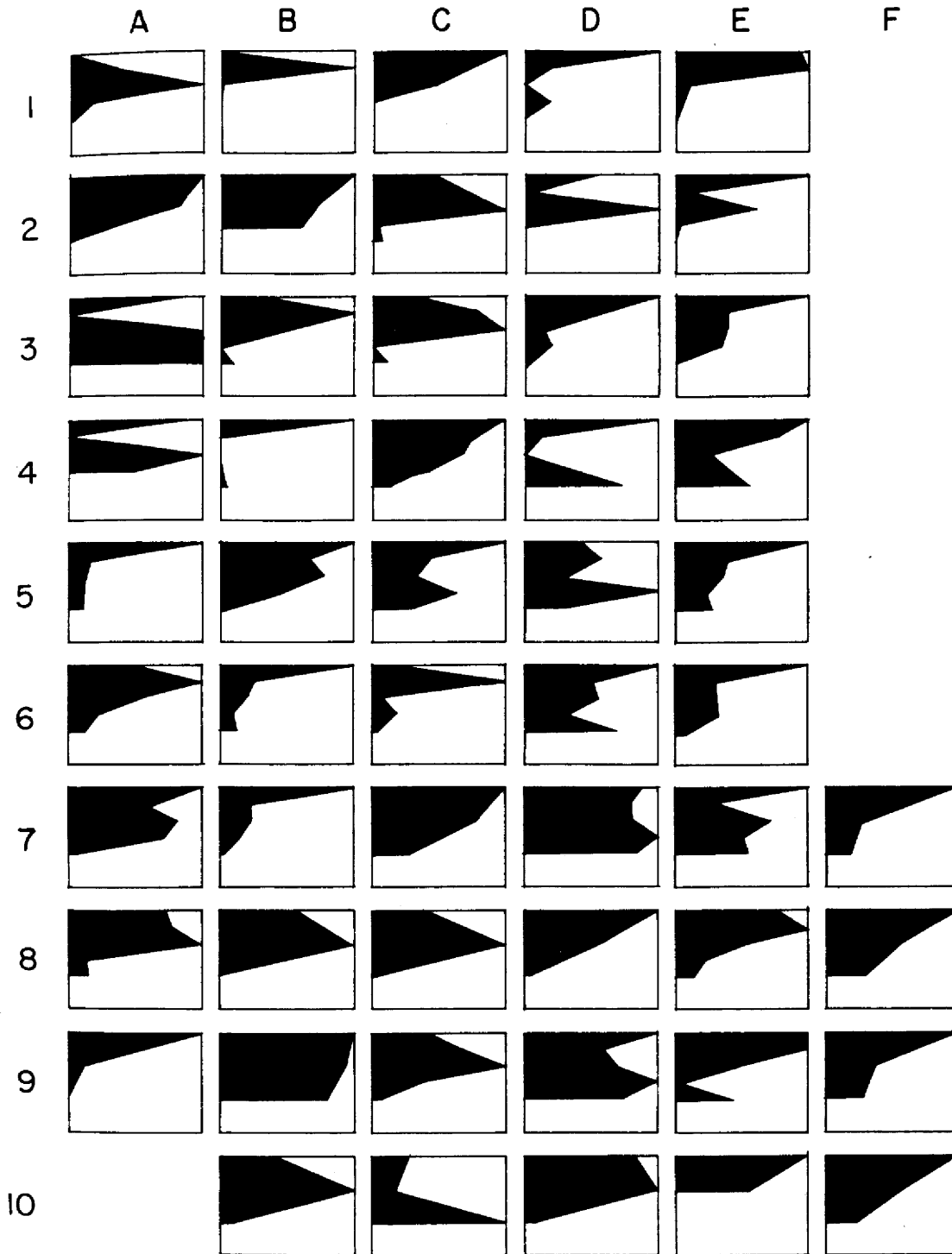


Fig. 8. Relative radioactivity of water (filter and filterable fraction less K^{40}) at each depth sampled. Maximum value at each station taken as 100. Marsh samples.

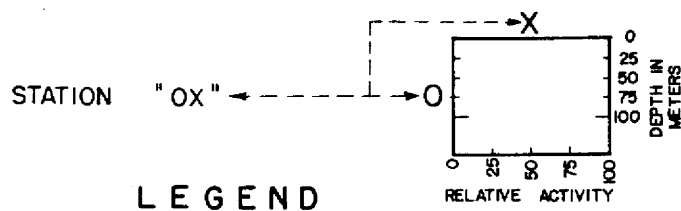


Fig. 9. Relative radioactivity of water (filter and filterable fraction, less K^{40}) at each depth sampled. Maximum value at each station taken as 100. Walton samples.

where variable levels of activity with depth would mask any diurnal-nocturnal variation that might exist.

The change of relative radioactivity of the water with depth is variable but appears to fall into regional patterns. It is likely that at the time of the Marsh survey those regions containing the highest relative activity levels in the deeper layers were regions primarily affected by fallout, while those regions having the bulk of the radioactive materials in the surface layer were regions to which the radioactive materials in solution had been carried by surface currents. It would follow that by the time of the survey vertical mixing had not taken an important part in redistribution of the radioactive materials; possible exceptions may occur in the immediate vicinity of the Marshall and Marianas Islands.

This interpretation which is based on the assumption that most of the radioactive material went into either a true solution or a suspension of very small colloidal particles soon after fallout is supported by the fact that most of the activity passes through a Millipore filter (Table 3). However, differences in specific gravity of the particles would result in the same type of distribution. It is possible that relatively higher values near the surface for stations to the westward are accounted for, in part, by fallout of lower specific gravity than that of fallout nearer the test site. The particles of lower specific gravity would be assumed to have gone into complete solution while still near the surface.

Figure 8 represents the activity at each of the five depths sampled relative to the highest activity at each station of the Marsh survey, and Figure 9 represents the same thing for the Walton survey.

In general, the presence of relatively higher levels of activity at greater depths at the Walton stations corresponds to the situation at the Marsh stations except in the area south and west of 12° N and 157° E, where the Marsh stations had a marked preponderance of activity in the surface water. The Walton survey was made during the test series when radioactive materials in the water had had only a few days or at most, a few weeks, to be moved by ocean currents from the area of fallout. In addition, the bulk of the activity was found to the north and northwest of the test site. Barnes⁶ reports that the surface layers in this region move about three times faster than the layers at 300 meters, and Yoshida⁷ shows the westward velocity of the surface water as about $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the velocity at 40 meters at 17° N. It seems possible, therefore, that the Marsh stations south of 12° N and west of the test site represent, for the most part, a region which received its radioactivity via the ocean currents. Stations 4 to 9 are exceptional in this region but they are also stations with high levels of activity (Figs. 3 and 5, and Table 1), probably due to fallout from tests made after the completion of the Walton survey.

There are unusually high levels of radioactivity at depths of 50 m to 100 m at the three stations immediately east of Eniwetok and at station 68 which is about 2° N of Bikini. The

unusual condition at these stations may be due to sampling. If the condition is real, some of the factors which may be involved include differences in rate and set of currents adjacent to the atolls, turbulence, and eddies north of Bikini.^{6,8}

Careful analysis of the bathythermograph records would be required before any possible relationship between the distribution of activity and the thermocline could be determined. It appears, however, that 100-m samples were taken below the thermocline at most, if not all, stations. Samples were taken at 400 m or 500 m at ten stations east of 159° E and had levels of activity comparable to those at 100 m and 150 m at the same stations (Table 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF RADIONUCLIDE ANALYSIS

Fission product separations (see UWFL-33 for techniques)⁹ and gamma spectrometric determinations were made on plankton samples collected during the Walton and the Marsh surveys. Plankton samples collected from the Walton in June 1956 were analyzed chemically June 30 and August 29 of the same year. Similar samples collected from the Marsh in 1956 were analyzed both for fission products and certain radioactive non-fission product isotopes during the last week of December 1956 and the first week of January 1957.

In addition to the chemical analyses, gamma spectrum curves were made on two Walton plankton samples, one of which was collected just north of Bikini Atoll (station 9D), and the other in the open sea (8C) about 65 miles northwest of Bikini Atoll.

In general, the observed percentages of total beta activity contributed by the various fission products, corresponded approximately to those expected on the basis of the Hunter and Ballou curves.¹⁰

Of the Walton samples, chemical analyses were made on plankton from nine stations: 1E, 3A, 4D, 7D, 8A, 9A, 9C, 9D and 10B (Table 5). Variation in isotope percentages is great between samples and no definite pattern of variation is evident between the different collecting areas. If the averages of all samples are compared with the expected percentages (based on an average 30-day interval following detonation), the results are as follows:

Table 5. Percent Contribution of Fission Products to Total β -Activity in Plankton Collected June 1956 on the Walton and Analyzed July 30 and August 29, 1956 (Values as of date of analysis)

| Sample number | Zr ⁹⁵ | Ru ¹⁰³ Ru ¹⁰⁶ Rh ¹⁰⁶⁺ | Ba ¹⁴⁰ | Ce ¹⁴¹ Ce ¹⁴⁴ Pr ¹⁴⁴⁺ | Trivalent rare earths | Total | Insoluble ⁽⁵⁾ in HNO ₃ | Soluble ⁽⁶⁾ residue ⁽⁷⁾ | Total | d/m/g of wet plankton |
|---------------|------------------|--|-------------------|--|-----------------------|-------|--|---|-------|-----------------------|
| 1E (1) | 12 | 15 | 4.8 | 27 | 20 | 79 | 11 (3) | - | - | 1,800 |
| 4D (1) | 0 | 33 | 4.5 | 23 | 22 | 82 | 13 (3) | 5.1 | 100 | 12,200 |
| 8A (1) | 5.5 | 17 | 2.2 | 20 | 25 | 70 | 15 (3) | 4.3 | 89 | 11,700 |
| 9D (1) | 10 | 21 | 1.1 | 20 | 17 | 69 | 12 (3) | 2.1 | 83 | 158,000 |
| 3A (2) | 8.9 | 12 | <8 | 28 | 25 | 82 | 8.4 (4) | 15 | 105 | 882 |
| 7D (2) | 12 | 19 | 2.5 | 34 | 17 | 84 | 6.2 (4) | 10 | 100 | 6,740 |
| 9A (2) | 11 | 18 | 2.4 | 32 | 15 | 78 | 11 (4) | 12 | 101 | 3,680 |
| 9C (2) | 8.9 | 12 | 0.6 | 25 | 9.5 | 56 | 5.7 (4) | 14 | 76 | 56,400 |
| 10B (2) | 11 | 16 | 1.7 | 29 | 12 | 70 | 8.4 (4) | 21 | 99 | 12,100 |

No measurable radiostrontium or radiocesium were found.

(1) Analyses of July 30, 1956.

(2) Analyses of August 29, 1956.

(3) Residue insoluble in HNO₃ after dry ashing at 600°C.

(4) Residue after wet ashing with HNO₃ and H₂O₂.

(5) Gamma ray spectrograph indicates this was a mixture of Ce¹⁴⁴-Pr¹⁴⁴, Zr⁹⁵, Ru^{103,106}-Rh¹⁰⁶.

(6) Residual solution after completion of analyses.

(7) Gamma ray spectrograph indicates this solution was a mixture of Ce¹⁴⁴-Pr¹⁴⁴, Zr⁹⁵, Ru^{103,106}, Rh¹⁰⁶, Zn⁶⁵.

| Isotope | Observed percent | Expected percent | Ratio $\frac{\text{observed percent}}{\text{expected percent}}$ |
|---|------------------|------------------|---|
| Zr ⁹⁵ | 8.8 | 8.2 | 1/1 |
| Triv. R.E. | 18.0 | 19.5 | 1/1 |
| Ru ^{103,106} , Rh ¹⁰⁶ | 18.0 | 5.7 | 3/1 |
| Ce ^{141,144} , Pr ¹⁴⁴ | 26.0 | 13.2 | 2/1 |
| Ba ¹⁴⁰ | 3.1 | 10.8 | 1/4 |

In addition to the great individual variation, differences were also observed in the total amount of activity accounted for. At stations 9C and 9D, both of which are within 45 miles of Bikini Atoll, only about 80 percent of the total beta activity was accounted for as fission products. On the basis of a gamma spectrum run on sample 9D about 5 percent of the total gamma activity was Zn⁶⁵. No evidence of cobalt isotopes was found. On the other hand, in the gamma spectrum curve of plankton from station 8C, 65 miles northwest of Bikini, the non-fission product isotopes Co^{58,60}, Zn⁶⁵ and possibly Co^{57*}, accounted for more than 50 percent of the total gamma activity on November 26, 1956**.

(Fig. 10).

Of the Marsh samples, chemical separations for fission products and zinc and cobalt were made on plankton from stations 5, 42 and 55 (Table 6).

* The chemical and resin column data indicate the possible presence of Co⁵⁷. The gamma spectra made on the separations, however, indicate that the isotope is V⁴⁹ rather than Co⁵⁷.

** The techniques employed for identifying the different cobalt isotopes involve the use of chemistry, ion exchange resin columns, beta energy determinations, and gamma spectrometry. The techniques and results obtained for various biological samples will be published in a later paper.

(7) Gamma ray spectrophotograph indicates this solution was a mixture of Ce
 Ru^{103,106}, Rh¹⁰⁶, Zn⁶⁵

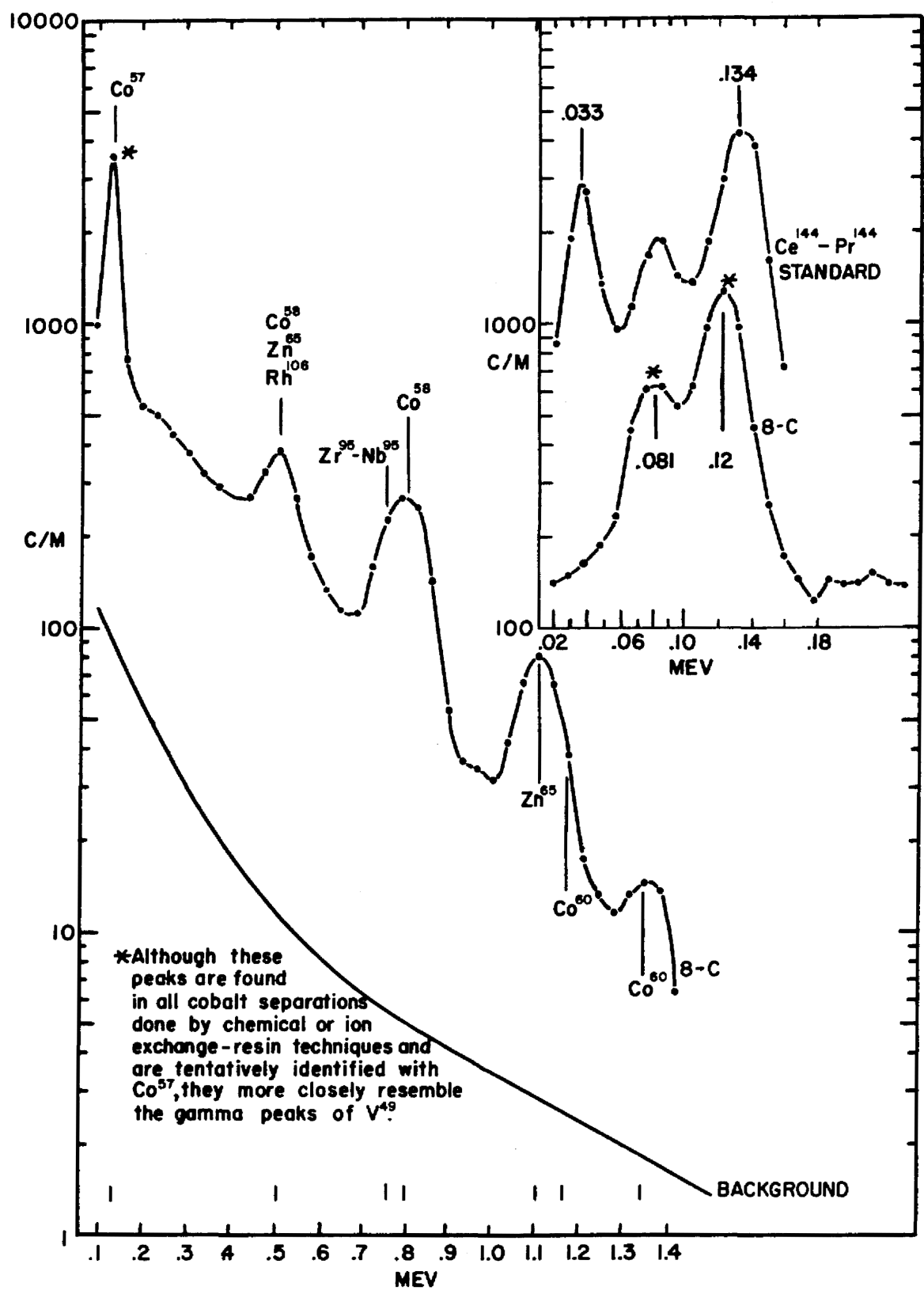


Fig. 10. Gamma spectrum of Walton plankton sample 8-C.

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Table 6. Radiochemical Analysis Made December 1956-January 1957
on Selected Marsh Plankton Samples

| Sample number | d/m in each aliquot used | Sr | Cs | Ba | Ce | -Pr | Triv. R. E. | Ru | Zr | Co | Zn | Nb | Insol. | Total |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|----|----|--------|-------|
| | | ^{89,90} | ¹³⁷ | ¹⁴⁰ | ¹⁴⁴ | ¹⁴⁴ | ¹⁰⁶ | ⁹⁵ | ^{65**} | ^{95*} | | | | |
| 5 | 1,722 | 0 | <1 | <1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 3 | 0** | 47 | 1 | 93** | |
| 42 | 3,289 | 1.5 or <1.5 | 0 | <1 | 20 | 5.1 | 3 | 21 | 31 | 6 | 40 | 8 | 136 | |
| 55 | 2,245 | 0 | 0 | <1 | 8.4 | 5 | 3.5 | 31 | 3 | 2** | 59 | 1 | 113** | |
| Expected | | 6.4 | <1 | <1 | 16 | 15 | 4 | 12 | - | - | 23 | | 77.4 | |

* Based on zirconium count.

** The zinc separations were not satisfactory. On the basis of gamma spectrometry, (see Figs. 11 and 12), a large part of the total gamma activity was contributed by zinc.

Station 5 is located 160 miles southwest of Eniwetok and station 55, 90 miles due north of Eniwetok (Fig. 1). Plankton from stations 5 and 55 yielded similar radiochemical analytical results and in addition have almost identical gamma spectra, which are essentially the same as that of the plankton samples from one of the neighboring stations, 54 (Fig. 11).

Station 42 was taken 470 miles west of Eniwetok. The isotopic content of plankton from this station was clearly different from that of stations 5, 54 and 55 on the bases of both chemical and gamma spectrum analysis.

Comparisons of the relative activity of the different isotopes from plankton at stations 5, 55 and 42 as determined by chemical analysis with the expected activity based on the Hunter and Ballou¹⁰ curves are as follows:

| Isotope | Expected percent * | Observed percent at stations 5 and 55 | at station 42 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sr ^{89,90} | 7.5 | 0 | 1.5 |
| Cs ¹³⁷ | < 1. | 0 | 0 |
| Ba ^{137,140} | < 1. | < 1. | < 1. |
| Ce ¹⁴⁴ - Pr ¹⁴⁴ | 16. | 8.2 | 20. |
| Triv. R.E. | 15. | 4.5 | 5.1 |
| Ru ¹⁰³ , Ru ¹⁰⁶ - Rh ¹⁰⁶ | 5.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Zr ⁹⁵ | 12.5 | 28. | 21. |
| Co ^{57,58,60} | 0 | 3.0 | 31. |
| Zn ⁶⁵ | 0 | ~ 1.** | 6.0 |

* Based on an average 8-month interval following detonation.

** According to the gamma spectrum, Zn⁶⁵ accounts for approximately 50 percent of the total activity at stations 5 and 55.

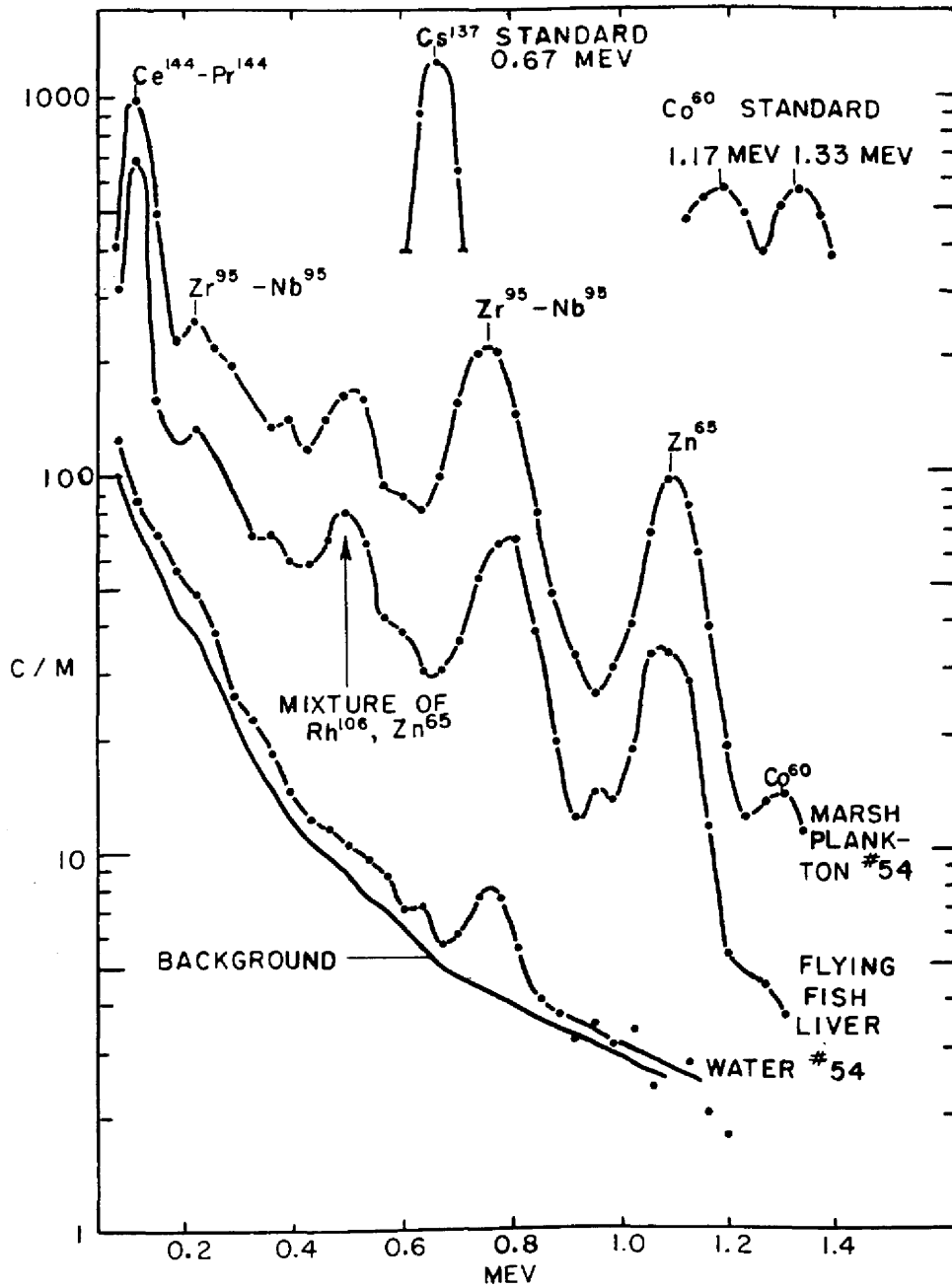


Fig. II. Gamma spectra of samples of sea water, plankton, and flying fish liver from Marsh station 54.

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The results of the analysis of the radionuclides in samples from station 42 differ from those at stations 5 and 55 in that the levels of $Ce^{144}-Pr^{144}$ and $Co^{57,58,60}$ are respectively 2.5 and 10 times higher at 42; $Sr^{89,90}$ is absent at 5 and 55, but present at 42 at a level of about 20 percent that expected from the Hunter and Ballou¹⁰ curves. On the basis of the gamma spectrum curves, however, the apparent radiochemical determination of $Ce^{144}-Pr^{144}$ in sample 42 is too high.

In plankton from all three stations the trivalent rare earths are present at about 30 percent and Ru^{103} , $Ru^{106}-Rh^{106}$ at about 50 percent of the expected levels. Zr^{95} , on the other hand, is present at a level about twice that expected.

The total recovered activity in the chemical separations is greater than that usually found. This may be due to error in counting the original sample introduced by the presence of appreciable amounts of Co^{57} , Co^{58} , Co^{60} and Zn^{65} , all of which emit relatively low energy beta particles in comparison to those from mixed fission products.

The gamma spectra of plankton from Marsh stations 5, 54 and 55 indicate a low percentage of cobalt isotopes, but a high level of Zn^{65} (approximately 50 percent of the total gamma emission) along with $Ce^{144}-Pr^{144}$, $Zr^{95}-Nb^{95}$ and $Ru^{106}-Rh^{106}$ (Fig. 11)

At station 54, gamma spectra were obtained for sea water after filtration through a Millipore filter, for plankton, and a flying fish liver (Fig. 11). The curves for the plankton and fish liver are similar. All of the detectable gamma activity in the water, however, was contributed by $Zr^{95}-Nb^{95}$.

Gamma spectra were determined on plankton from station 42 and on portions of this sample including the formalin preservative filtrate, the $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3$ scavenge from the ashed plankton sample, and the cobalt separation on the same specimen (Fig. 12). The total plankton sample has a lower Zn^{65} component than that found in sample 54. In addition Ce^{144} - Pr^{144} , Ru^{106} - Rh^{106} and Zr^{95} - Nb^{95} contributes little of the total gamma radiation (Fig. 12). The major part of the gamma activity is contributed by Co^{57} , Co^{58} and Co^{60} ; also a limited amount of Fe^{59} is present.

The cobalt in plankton sample 42 is partly soluble in neutral formalin and is found in high amount in the filtrate. Although some evidence of the Ce^{144} - Pr^{144} peaks are present in the plankton curve on the low MEV range, the curve on the filtrate gives only the Co^{57} peak (Fig 12, inset). This peak is also shown by the cobalt separation from plankton sample 42 in the same figure.

In summary, the gamma-spectra findings on non-fission products in both the Walton and Marsh plankton samples are as follows:

| Station | Levels of non-fission product isotopes | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | Zn^{65} | Cobalt isotopes | Fe^{59} |
| <u>Walton</u> 8-C | + + | + + | n.d. |
| 9-D | low | n.d. | n.d. |
| <u>Marsh</u> 5 | + + | low | n.d. |
| 54 | + + | low | n.d. |
| 55 | + + | low | n.d. |
| 42 | + | + + | + |

+ + very high
 + high
 n.d. not detected

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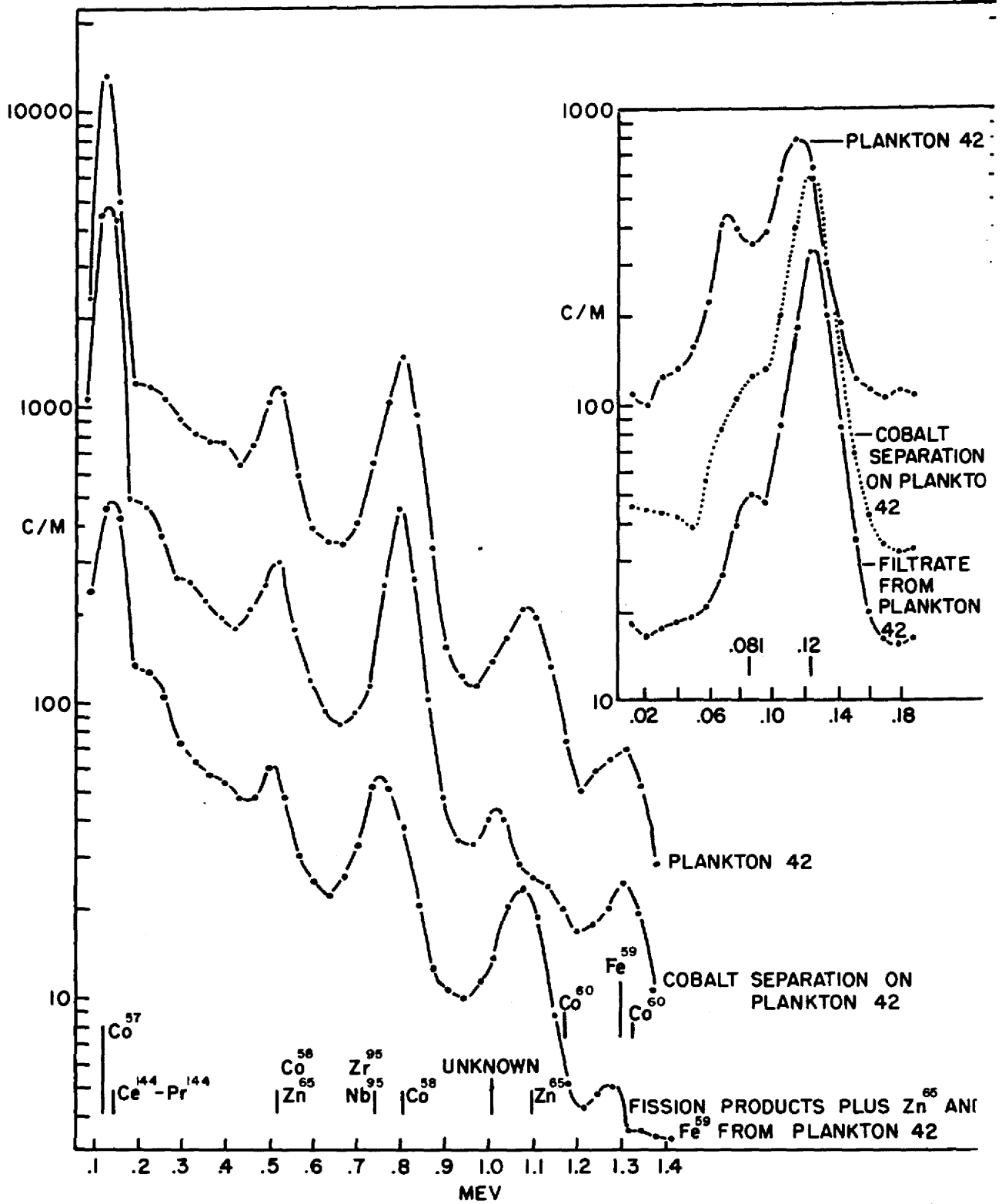


FIG. 12. Gamma spectra of Marsh plankton sample 42 and its chemically separated fraction

In both the Walton and Marsh plankton samples, marked variation in ratios of the different fission and non-fission radioisotopes is evident and cannot be explained on the basis of present evidence. However, at least two factors may be contributing to the variation and each of the two could mask the possible effect of the other. These factors include, (1) heterogeneity in composition of the plankton collected at the various stations, and (2) variation in available isotopes in given areas due to local fallouts from different types of nuclear devices, and from differences in time of firing.

Plankton is composed of many types of organisms including dinoflagellates, diatoms, protozoa, copepods, ostracods, euphausiids, amphipods, coelenterates, siphonophores, worms, pteropods, heteropods, primitive chordates, and the eggs and larvae of fish. The fraction of the total mass contributed by any one group can vary widely in different areas. It is known that species differences in uptake of isotopes do occur. Yoshii (1956)¹¹ observed that radioactive isotopes in copepods and primitive chordates collected in the spring of 1954 in the vicinity of the Marshall Islands, differed both in beta energy and rate of decay, and Kawabata (1956)¹² stated "Although the mechanisms of the accumulation of radioisotopes in planktons and their action in the organisms are still vague, it is, by all means, of importance that certain planktons selectively accumulate specific radioactive elements of minute amount in the sea water in their bodies."

Future plankton work at the Pacific Proving Ground should include studies on the different species comprising the samples, especially with regard to differential uptake of isotopes.

SUMMARY

1. A survey of the radioactivity in the sea water, plankton and fish was made in September 1956 in an area bounded by 9° N and 15° N and approximately 145° E and 166° E.
2. The general pattern of distribution of activity in the sea shows a sharp decrease in activity east of Bikini and a gradual but irregular decrease west of Eniwetok.
3. Plankton appears to be the most sensitive indicator of radioactivity in the sea; the average of ratios of plankton activity to sea water activity was 2,500.
4. The highest value of radioactivity in plankton, 21,000 d/m/g wet, was found about 80 miles north of Eniwetok and the lowest value, 27 d/m/g, near Guam.
5. The highest value for water activity, 19,000 d/m/l, was found between Eniwetok and Ujelang and the lowest value, 48 d/m/l, northeast of Bikini.
6. Sea water filtered through millipore filters had higher levels of activity than the residue on the filter paper.
7. Microplankton is probably the principal source of the radioactive particulate matter.
8. The change of relative radioactivity of the water with depth is variable but appears to fall into regional patterns.

Summary (continued)

9. Some radioactive materials are being eluted from Bikini Atoll but their addition to the total activity in the area between Bikini and Eniwetok is probably insignificant.
10. Reef fish from Guam and skipjack taken approximately 350 miles to the southeast had about the same levels of activity; 136 d/m/g wet (β activity) in skipjack livers was the highest level found in that area.
11. A single flying fish taken approximately 60 miles northwest of Eniwetok had a total β -activity of 7,500 d/m/g wet in the liver and 360 d/m/g wet in the muscle.
12. Plankton was found to contain $\text{Sr}^{89,90}$, $\text{Ba}^{137,140}$, Ce^{144} , Pr^{144} , Ru^{103} , Ru^{106} , Rh^{106} , Zr^{95} , $\text{Co}^{57,58,60}$, Zn^{65} , Fe^{59} , and trivalent rare earths.
13. There is a difference in isotopic content of plankton collected 90 miles north of Eniwetok and plankton collected 470 miles west of Eniwetok.
14. The liver of a flying fish collected about 90 miles north of Eniwetok contained Ce^{144} , Pr^{144} , Zr^{95} , Nb^{95} , Co^{58} , Co^{60} , and Zn^{65} .
15. A scintillation probe for continuous monitoring of levels of γ activity in the sea water was found to have insufficient sensitivity to discriminate between stations in areas of low activity.

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APPENDIX

Appendix Table 1. Marsh Oceanographic Survey Positions
 (All positions: "North Latitude"- "East Longitude")

| Number | Latitude | | Longitude | | Number | Latitude | | Longitude | |
|--------|----------|----|-----------|----|--------|----------|----|-----------|----|
| | ° | ' | ° | ' | | ° | ' | ° | ' |
| 1 | 10 | 34 | 161 | 50 | 38 | 13 | 33 | 150 | 31 |
| 2 | 09 | 51 | 161 | 18 | 39 | 14 | 20 | 151 | 15 |
| 3 | 09 | 00 | 161 | 00 | 40 | 14 | 14 | 152 | 46 |
| 4 | 09 | 48 | 160 | 31 | 41 | 13 | 29 | 153 | 31 |
| 5 | 10 | 19 | 159 | 50 | 42 | 12 | 44 | 154 | 16 |
| 6 | 10 | 51 | 159 | 09 | 43 | 12 | 00 | 155 | 00 |
| 7 | 11 | 30 | 158 | 32 | 44 | 12 | 38 | 155 | 38 |
| 8 | 12 | 00 | 158 | 00 | 45 | 13 | 15 | 156 | 14 |
| 9 | 11 | 24 | 157 | 24 | 46 | 13 | 51 | 156 | 51 |
| 10 | 10 | 48 | 156 | 47 | 47 | 14 | 26 | 157 | 26 |
| 11 | 10 | 07 | 156 | 19 | 48 | 15 | 00 | 158 | 00 |
| 12 | 09 | 34 | 155 | 39 | 49 | 14 | 24 | 158 | 37 |
| 13 | 09 | 00 | 155 | 00 | 50 | 13 | 46 | 159 | 12 |
| 14 | 09 | 36 | 154 | 24 | 51 | 13 | 10 | 159 | 49 |
| 15 | 10 | 10 | 153 | 42 | 52 | 12 | 30 | 160 | 23 |
| 16 | 10 | 47 | 153 | 08 | 53 | 12 | 00 | 161 | 00 |
| 17 | 11 | 23 | 152 | 33 | 54 | 12 | 36 | 161 | 36 |
| 18 | 12 | 00 | 152 | 00 | 55 | 13 | 15 | 162 | 10 |
| 19 | 11 | 24 | 151 | 23 | 56 | 13 | 50 | 162 | 45 |
| 20 | 10 | 47 | 150 | 48 | 57 | 14 | 35 | 163 | 21 |
| 21 | 10 | 08 | 150 | 05 | 58 | 15 | 00 | 164 | 00 |
| 22 | 09 | 34 | 149 | 32 | 59 | 14 | 08 | 164 | 18 |
| 23 | 09 | 00 | 149 | 00 | 60 | 13 | 12 | 164 | 26 |
| 24 | 09 | 27 | 148 | 17 | 61 | 12 | 23 | 164 | 50 |
| 25 | 10 | 02 | 147 | 30 | 62 | 11 | 32 | 165 | 08 |
| 26 | 10 | 39 | 146 | 57 | 63 | 10 | 49 | 165 | 39 |
| 27 | 11 | 15 | 146 | 26 | 64 | 10 | 00 | 166 | 14 |
| 28 | 11 | 51 | 145 | 52 | 65 | 11 | 30 | 166 | 00 |
| 29 | 12 | 31 | 145 | 13 | 66 | 12 | 18 | 165 | 57 |
| 30 | 13 | 10 | 144 | 35 | 67 | 13 | 09 | 165 | 58 |
| 31 | 14 | 22 | 145 | 10 | 68 | 14 | 00 | 165 | 59 |
| 32 | 15 | 00 | 146 | 00 | 69 | 13 | 26 | 165 | 22 |
| 33 | 14 | 14 | 146 | 46 | 70 | 12 | 48 | 164 | 43 |
| 34 | 13 | 26 | 147 | 27 | 71 | 12 | 15 | 164 | 12 |
| 35 | 12 | 40 | 148 | 13 | 72 | 11 | 37 | 163 | 34 |
| 36 | 12 | 00 | 149 | 00 | 73 | 11 | 00 | 163 | 00 |
| 37 | 12 | 45 | 149 | 46 | 74 | 11 | 25 | 162 | 30 |

Appendix Table 2. Relative Radioactivity with Depth at Each
Marsh Station
 (Highest value at each depth taken as 100)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 100m | 150m |
|---------|---------|------|-----|------|------|
| 1 | 100 | 12 | 2.4 | 8.0 | 4.3 |
| 2 | 100 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 1.0 | .73 |
| 3 | 100 | 4.1 | 2.3 | .75 | 1.0 |
| 4 | 100 | 3.7 | 1.6 | -- | -.75 |
| 5 | 100 | 31 | 80 | 21 | 4.8 |
| 6 | 100 | 47 | 54 | 6.1 | 3.2 |
| 7 | 100 | 54 | 32 | 7.5 | 8.8 |
| 8 | 100 | 48 | 80 | 10 | 5.0 |
| 9 | 100 | 35 | 35 | 11 | 5.8 |
| 10 | 100 | 16 | 6.9 | 4.5 | 3.2 |
| 11 | 100 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 5.3 | 4.1 |
| 12 | 100 | 20 | 21 | 4.2 | 2.8 |
| 13 | 100 | 18 | 18 | 3.4 | 2.7 |
| 14 | 100 | 13 | 5.9 | 2.9 | 3.3 |
| 15 | 100 | 27 | 22 | 12 | 5.2 |
| 16 | 100 | 12 | 11 | 8.4 | 5.4 |
| 17 | 100 | 12 | 13 | 7.6 | 2.6 |
| 18 | 100 | 14 | 9.0 | 3.5 | 1.2 |
| 19 | 100 | 17 | 21 | 5.1 | .41 |
| 20 | 100 | 3.8 | 5.3 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| 21 | 100 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 1.3 | 2.0 |
| 22 | 100 | 12 | 8.0 | 3.0 | 4.2 |
| 23 | 100 | 10 | 7.3 | 9.3 | 4.1 |
| 24 | 100 | 6.4 | 10 | 5.3 | 6.2 |
| 25 | 100 | -.94 | 9.4 | 1.9 | 6.2 |
| 26 | 100 | 5.3 | 3.2 | .73 | .80 |
| 27 | 100 | 4.6 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| 28 | 100 | 7.4 | 5.7 | 1.3 | 3.1 |
| 29 | 100 | 22 | 6.9 | .14 | 13 |
| 30 | 100 | 11 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 5.6 |
| 31 | 100 | 37 | 10 | 20 | 18 |
| 32 | 100 | 41 | 65 | 14 | 48 |
| 33 | 100 | 63 | 48 | 35 | 56 |
| 34 | 100 | 74 | 44 | 15 | 26 |
| 35 | 100 | 28 | -- | -7.0 | -10 |
| 36 | 100 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 37 | 100 | 74 | 54 | -15 | 5.8 |
| 38 | 62 | 100 | 93 | 58 | 24 |
| 39 | 81 | 80 | 95 | 100 | 64 |
| 40 | 100 | 51 | 25 | -.67 | 3.1 |
| 41 | 100 | 58 | 36 | 18 | 51 |
| 42 | 100 | 95 | 94 | 8.7 | 4.8 |
| 43 | 100 | 71 | 74 | 31 | 36 |
| 44 | 100 | 62 | 60 | 7.0 | 3.4 |
| 45 | 100 | 75 | 65 | 6.1 | 9.7 |

Appendix Table 2. (continued)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 100m | 150m |
|---------|---------|-----|-----|------|------|
| 46 | 100 | 67 | 77 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| 47 | 100 | 51 | 82 | -5.0 | -12 |
| 48 | 100 | 86 | 77 | -7.6 | 14 |
| 49 | 100 | 70 | 8.6 | -3.1 | 5.4 |
| 50 | 100 | 77 | 70 | 5.1 | 8.0 |
| 51 | 69 | 55 | 100 | 4.7 | 8.1 |
| 52 | 27 | 43 | 100 | 3.9 | 20 |
| 53 | 100 | 84 | 68 | 27 | 22 |
| 54 | 100 | 91 | 93 | 21 | 25 |
| 55 | 46 | 41 | 100 | 25 | 9.5 |
| 56 | 100 | 91 | 93 | 7.2 | 19 |
| 57 | 83 | 38 | 100 | 17 | 26 |
| 58 | 95 | 87 | 100 | 31 | 36 |
| 59 | 100 | 38 | 87 | 16 | 3.9 |
| 60 | 40 | 91 | 100 | 77 | 47 |
| 61 | 77 | 100 | 92 | 44 | -1.8 |
| 62 | 100 | 10 | 11 | 61 | 8.4 |
| 63 | 84 | 69 | 100 | 57 | 64 |
| 64 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 65 | 100 | 16 | 72 | 79 | 41 |
| 66 | 96 | 29 | 100 | 89 | 72 |
| 67 | 56 | 26 | 100 | -42 | 44 |
| 68 | 19 | 18 | 100 | 7.1 | 3.0 |
| 69 | 64 | 60 | 100 | 72 | 77 |
| 70 | 82 | 47 | 75 | 48 | 100 |
| 71 | 90 | 100 | 46 | 2.8 | 10 |
| 72 | 20 | 29 | 100 | 19 | 11 |
| 73 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 10 | 100 | 7.1 |
| 74 | 10 | 17 | 32 | 100 | 31 |

DATE 10/11/75

Appendix Table 3. Relative Radioactivity with Depth at Each
Walton Station

(Highest value at each depth taken as 100)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 75m | 100m |
|---------|---------|-----|-----|------|------|
| 1 A | 3.6 | 44 | 100 | 17 | 1.4 |
| B | 1.6 | 100 | 0 | 0.86 | -- |
| C | 100 | 74 | 47 | 0 | 0 |
| D | 100 | 19 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| E | 94 | 100 | 8.1 | 3.9 | 0 |
| 2 A | 100 | -- | 81 | -- | 0 |
| B | 98 | 100 | 71 | 62 | -- |
| C | 49 | 74 | 100 | 4.7 | 5.8 |
| D | 50 | 3.3 | 100 | 3.3 | -- |
| E | 100 | 13 | 63 | 5.4 | 0 |
| 3 A | 78 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| B | 31 | 100 | -- | 0 | 8.6 |
| C | 34 | 80 | 100 | 0 | 12 |
| D | 100 | 59 | 15 | 18 | 4.4 |
| E | 100 | 41 | 39 | 34 | 4.1 |
| 4 A | 83 | 0 | 100 | 50 | -- |
| B | 100 | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 3.8 |
| C | 100 | 73 | 69 | 45 | 12 |
| D | 100 | 11 | 0 | 32 | 71 |
| E | 100 | 76 | 26 | 39 | 55 |
| 5 A | 100 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 11 |
| B | 100 | 67 | 78 | 47 | 2.3 |
| C | 100 | 42 | 31 | 61 | 24 |
| D | 44 | 56 | 31 | 100 | 12 |
| E | 100 | 40 | 35 | 24 | 28 |
| 6 A | 49 | 100 | 54 | 21 | 12 |
| B | 100 | 24 | 18 | 8.5 | 12 |
| C | 18 | 100 | 7.7 | 19 | 4.5 |
| D | 100 | 52 | 55 | 34 | 66 |
| E | 100 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 9.0 |
| 7 A | 100 | 62 | 33 | 73 | 8.1 |
| B | 100 | 23 | 23 | 15 | 3.2 |
| C | 100 | -- | 81 | -- | 29 |
| D | 89 | 77 | 82 | 100 | 85 |
| E | 100 | 30 | 71 | 52 | 55 |
| F | 100 | -- | 26 | -- | 18 |
| 8 A | 74 | 79 | 100 | 14 | 13 |
| B | 57 | -- | 100 | -- | 1.1 |
| C | 42 | -- | 100 | -- | 1.1 |
| D | 100 | -- | 59 | -- | 4.9 |
| E | 79 | 100 | 55 | 24 | 14 |
| F | 100 | -- | 56 | -- | 29 |

Appendix Table 3. (continued)

| Station | Surface | 25m | 50m | 75m | 100m |
|---------|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 9 A | 100 | -- | 12 | -- | 0 |
| B | 100 | -- | 95 | -- | 80 |
| C | 43 | 70 | 100 | 39 | 6.4 |
| D | 100 | 60 | 70 | 100 | 75 |
| E | 100 | 98 | 48 | 6.2 | 43 |
| F | 100 | -- | 38 | -- | 28 |
| 10 A | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| B | 41 | -- | 100 | -- | 8.1 |
| C | 29 | -- | 19 | -- | 100 |
| D | 83 | -- | 100 | -- | 5.4 |
| E | 100 | -- | 58 | -- | -- |
| F | 100 | -- | 57 | -- | 24 |