

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
ASSEMBLY OF MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20418

OCEAN SCIENCES BOARD
(202) 389-6986

April 15, 1977

LETTER TO OCEANOGRAPHERS:

Dear Friends:

Has it really been 19 years since we exchanged letters? Nineteen years! That covers the entire span of my service as Executive Secretary for first NASCO, then the Ocean Affairs Board, now the Ocean Sciences Board of the National Research Council. It's easy to glance back and wonder how those years were filled. In many ways, I'm doing now what I was doing then. That time span encompasses an awful lot of meetings, more than half a million air miles, thousands of letters, hundreds of reports, barrels of beer, and gallons of gin!

A few names and faces have changed. What you became used to calling NASCO, for the NAS Committee on Oceanography, has been reorganized and renamed twice. In 1970, under the leadership of John Calhoun, NASCO became the Ocean Affairs Board -- a process that involved both a change in name to recognize the breadth of NASCO's concerns and a change in structure to provide for an emphasis on ocean science, another on ocean policy, and a mixture of these within the socio-economic-political arena that has come to be understood as ocean affairs. By the end of 1975, the OAB experiment ended with the transfer of its Ocean Policy Committee to another unit in the National Research Council -- the Commission on International Relations; the creation of the Ocean Sciences Board from the Ocean Science Committee of the OAB; and a move from the Commission on Natural Resources where the OAB had been housed to the Assembly of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. If all of this sounds a bit bureaucratic and more than you care to know about the internal workings of our part of the NRC, I'm not surprised or offended. It all boils down to an attempt by a small group of volunteers, primarily concerned with ocean science, to match its scope of concerns with the broadening arena of ocean matters also being considered by a growing assemblage of other groups with other interests. Now our *raison d'être* is clearly back to the health and vitality of ocean science -- an emphasis that provides a welcome focus for me.

Although my personal contacts with you and our other colleagues (Wib Chapman's "ocean" people) is the most rewarding feature of my work, next comes the satisfaction of a specific job well done. Most of these tasks have resulted in reports that may have aided in the growth of our field during the past two decades. I'm particularly proud of Oceanography: 1960-1970 (often credited as the catalyst that started the growth of the 1960's), Ocean Wave Spectra (I still have a few copies tucked away that I will donate to worthy causes -- e.g., impoverished graduate students or overseas libraries), the series of reports on radioactive waste disposal, the series of directories of oceanographers, the mid-60's review of progress -- Oceanography 1966: Achievements and Opportunities, the report that helped set the framework for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration -- An Oceanic Quest, the basic work -- Radioactivity in the Marine Environment, the early warning on ocean pollution -- Marine Environmental Quality, the case


Those of you that have been back around SIO know that the campus is much different from that when there were three main buildings and the clusters of summer houses that were there in 1946. The old G.W. Scripps Hall where we had classes has been declared "unsafe" and the University plans to have it torn down. It turns out, however, that it is apparently the oldest building in the US, which has been in continuous use for marine studies. So, there has been a small, but active, group at SIO who have been investigating the possibility of saving the building through reconstruction and restoration. This would require rounding up outside gifts or grants totaling around \$300,000. I, personally, hope that it can be saved.

When we last exchanged letters in 1967, I was about a year or so into a "pilot project" to test the feasibility and to develop methods and procedures for using XBT's from merchant ships, as one method for ocean monitoring. Like the non-profit corporation (not intended, but that's the way it turned out) my pilot project turned into a continuing time-series, which is almost 11 years old. No Dept of Natural Resources emerged or a part of NOAA stepped forward to mount a marine monitoring service analogous to weather observations. Our long time series is on the San Francisco - Honolulu ship route, but under IDOE we also got ^{several} years on the Los Angeles - Honolulu and the Seattle - Honolulu routes, plus a fair sampling of two trans-equatorial routes in 1972 - 75. The Fisheries Center has continued to furnish me with office space, even since my retirement, because the project has been a joint one with NMFS at Monterey.

Ten years on the same project is too long. In this time I became too service oriented and am now attempting to remedy my weak record of refereed articles in scientific journals. My present grant was budgeted through October 1977, and I have not applied for a renewal of my part. (Monterey will keep the time-series going on the San Francisco route.) The future will depend upon what I can accomplish in the next several months. I would somehow like to maintain my association with Scripps.

Whether I get another grant, take on jobs when someone needs some short-time help, or retire completely and work on regaining my old golf game, Mary and I will be staying in this area. With our boys gone from home we have a whole upstairs suite (2 bedrooms, bath, and family room) which we have found to be very popular with visiting friends. We do enjoy having them stay with us. We hope to see some of you.

With best personal regards,


Ted Saur

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Institute for Marine Studies HA-35
11 April 1977

Professor Dale F. Leipper
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Dear Dale:

I shall try to answer your letter of 20 January, although I am appalled that nineteen years has passed since the last compilation. In 1958, I had just returned from a year in Peru, and it seems that most of my life has taken place since then.

To be brief, I spent two and a half years in Paris from early 1961, as Director of the Unesco Office of Oceanography and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. This allowed me to see a lot of Europe and some other parts of the world and, more importantly, to gain some understanding of the the problems of international cooperation and organizations.

In 1963, I returned to Scripps and spent the next ten years there, often as Chairman of the Graduate Department and at the end, for a year or two, as Director of the Center for Marine Affairs. Having spent 26 years with Scripps (some of the time on leave), I felt the need for change, and in the late summer of 1973, went to Miami as Dean of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. This was a fascinating and enlightening experience, but after a few years we decided to look for a more hospitable climate. In late May, 1976, we headed for Seattle where I took an appointment as Professor of Marine Studies, Fisheries, and Oceanography.

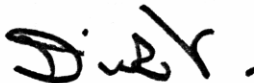
The University of Washington continues to have a remarkably strong program in marine sciences and related matters scattered among a number of departments, colleges, institutes and laboratories; I am one of the few faculty members with a foot in three of the major elements. My base of operations is the Institute for Marine Studies, where I am teaching a course in fishery oceanography and engaged in work on law of the sea and other aspects of marine affairs. Membership on NACOA and the NAS Ocean Policy Committee is related to such matters. I have recently taken on the chairmanship of the Steering Committee for Post-IDOE Planning which is helping Feenan Jennings look at how IDOE might be continued in the 1980's.

study -- Understanding the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the more recent reports -- The Ocean's Role in Climate Prediction, Assessing Potential Ocean Pollutants, Petroleum in the Marine Environment, Biological Oceanography, and Numerical Models of Ocean Circulation. These are only the most obvious of the barrage of missiles launched into our literature by NASCO and its successors. Others have ranged from letters on civil service pay raises for oceanographers to a letter on the need to obtain all-weather, sea-surface temperature data from SEASAT-A. Many of you worked on or contributed to these reports. Thank you.

Has it all been worth it? It's impossible to demonstrate that this or that report, letter, or meeting was the key to a change that improved oceanography. We are only one of the many voices crying in this wilderness, but with your help and participation, I believe that we have had a positive -- if unmeasurable -- effect.

Clearly, the next 19 years will see more growth in oceanography and more than one more exchange of these letters. So, until the next exchange -- I look forward to hearing from you, seeing you when I'm at your lab or when you're in the Washington, D.C. area.

Best wishes,



Richard C. Vetter
Executive Secretary

There doesn't seem to be much oceanography in all this, although I do keep in touch with what is going on in the Department of Oceanography here. I am trying to work in the area between oceanography and fisheries and am attempting to understand how changes in the ocean environment affect the abundance of fish. This is a throw back to my early years on the sardine program at Scripps. There are some advantages to having been educated at Scripps in the late 1940's and early 1950's when one was exposed to such a wide range of fascinating ocean problems.

Polly and I have a house overlooking Lake Washington, and we are finding Seattle a fascinating place to live. Our oldest daughter, Sue, is married and living in British Columbia. Dan is working on a masters degree at the University of Guam. Dana, our younger daughter, is a junior at the University of California in La Jolla.

I should add that I haven't lost touch with international affairs, am an officer of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and am still active in SCOR. Ocean science and ocean affairs remain the most interesting way to make a living that I know of, and I intend to stay active at it for another decade (or whenever I am forced to retire!)

Yours sincerely,



Warren S. Wooster

No letters from
these in
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