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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MARINE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Note by the Secretary

The attached memorandum from the Director of Biology and Medicine is circulated for the information of the Commission by request of the General Manager.

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BOX No. 183 (NN3-326-93-010) Secretary
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By: T. Fehner
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3/21/56

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

MARINE BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Report to the General Manager
by the Director of Biology and Medicine

1. At Commission Meeting 1180 on Tuesday, February 28, 1956,
the following items were raised by Commissioner Libby:

a. Suggestion that Dr. Martinelli be contacted concerning the possibility of using his instrumentation techniques on proposed experiments at Operations REDWING by the Division of Biology and Medicine.

b. Suggestion that collating devices be developed to coordinate information on fallout and that REDWING water samples be returned to AEC laboratories for analysis.

c. Request that the Commission be advised of the response to certain questions placed by Dr. Takashi Mukaibo, Japanese Science Attache.

2. Immediately following the Commission meeting, the staff of the New York Operations Office were apprised of Commissioner Libby's suggestion that the AEC personnel responsible for the development of instrumentation for the forthcoming marine biological survey should contact Dr. Martinelli. It is our understanding that the NYOO staff will discuss the instrumentation with Dr. Martinelli.

3. The following samples collected on the June 10 and September 1 marine surveys will be sent to the Radiological Science Department, Biophysics Section, at the Hanford Atomic Products Operation.

a. Water samples taken at 0, 25, 50, 75, and below 100 meters.

b. Plankton taken at 25 and 100 meters.

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c. Fish samples, which will include skin, bone, muscle, (two areas), liver, thyroid, kidney, and gut.

4. The questions that Dr. Takashi Mukaibo, Japanese Science Attache, asked Dr. Boss, and his replies to the questions were:

a. Did the AEC plan to use the same maximum permissible levels for tuna fish as Dr. Walter Claus had cited at the November 15, 1954, Radiobiology Conference in Tokyo?

Reply: Dr. Boss replied that he could not answer the question at the time, but would discuss the question with Dr. Claus and contact Dr. Mukaibo at a later date.

b. Did the U.S. plan to monitor imported Japanese frozen tuna fish?

Reply: The AEC did not have any present plans to monitor tuna, although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration might have some plans, as after all such operations were their responsibility.

c. At what levels were the instruments set during the March to August 1955 west coast fish monitoring program. Second, what type of instrumentation was used?

Reply: We would show him photographs of the monitoring instruments and discuss the setting of the instruments at a later date, as the material was in central files. (Dr. Mukaibo had another appointment and did not wish to wait for the material. Arrangements have been made for a future meeting.)

d. What was the present Food and Drug Administration opinion as to a safe level of radioactivity in fish?

Reply: It was recommended that he contact Dr. Albert H. Holland, Jr., Medical Director of this agency.

e. What was Dr. Boss' opinion as to the feelings of the west coast canners?

Reply: The American canners were apprehensive that the section of the Japanese press that is unfriendly to the present Japanese government would publish emotional articles that would be picked up by the AP and UP, who would transmit them to this country, and in turn excite the American public. This would result in a downward trend in both wholesale and retail markets in the United States. Further, they were hopeful that the Japanese Government would publish the findings of their competent scientists, rather than publish only the remarks of the politicians.