

December 31, 1958

Dr. John N. Wolfe, Chief
Division of Biology and Medicine
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear John:

Rather than send the information about the Rongelap fish in a TWX we thought there would be less chance for error by calling you directly. For your record the information that was dictated to Patt by telephone on December 31 is as follows:

The average gross beta values for Rongelap fish in terms of microcuries per kilogram of wet tissue are as follows:

1. March 1958, Kabelle Island reef fish

muscle - 0.026
whole fish - ~ 0.10

2. March 1958, Rongelap Island reef fish

muscle - 0.006
whole fish - ~ 0.010

3. August 1958, Rongelap Island reef fish - (average maximum value)

muscle - 0.005

(This is an average of a group of fish for which the values from earlier collections have been a maximum).

4. Current average values are as low as or lower than values from any of the previous collections.

Isotopic composition of samples:

1. The estimated amount of K^{40} in muscle is approximately .003 $\mu\text{c}/\text{kg}$.
2. Zn^{65} is the principal gamma emitter in fish muscle. Maximum value from the August 1958 collection is 0.2 $\mu\text{c}/\text{kg}$.

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3. Traces of Co^{60} are also present.
4. The only other isotope expected in measurable amounts in fish muscle would be Fe^{55} .
5. Sr^{90} has not been found in fish muscle from samples collected in 1956 or 1957.

Also, while talking to Patt I discussed the next visit to Washington. Subject to your approval and convenience with your schedule, I shall plan on being at Germantown on January 14, 15 and 16 and will proceed with travel arrangements for this schedule unless I hear from you to the contrary.

The people concerned with the Rongelap program are meeting on Friday, January 2nd. After review of the accomplishments of the program a list of possible papers for presentation at the Montreal meeting will be promptly submitted for your selection.

Also, a draft of a program for marine biology and oceanography for the Alaska Harbor Project will be submitted prior to the ACBM meeting on January 9 and 10.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Allyn H. Seymour
Assistant Director

AHS:mb

Dec. 16, 1958

MEMO

To: Lauren R. Donaldson from Allyn H. Seymour

Notes - Washington trip, December 10-12.

Rad-Safe data, Rongelap - Al Klement provided a file copy of the Public Health Service records of survey meter readings made at all weather stations. Al gave us a copy which Ed now has.

Weather data, Rongelap - Al Klement did not have complete data on hand. These data have been compiled and the information as to where the reports can be obtained has been given to Ed.

Nuclear detonations - Al Klement provided a draft of paper on all reported nuclear detonations of the U. S., U. K., and U. S. S. R. This is on file in our laboratory.

Rongelap fish - A TWX was received stating that a "station AEC scientist" had proved to the Rongelapese that the reef fish at Rongelap are poisonous. Also the coconut trees are dying because of fallout. No name or dates were given and this information has been requested. A copy of the TWX is attached.

Beta scintillants - Herb Talkin provided a file report of a contractor (The Borden Co.) on "The Preparation and Evaluation of Plastic Scintillators for the Detection of Radiation." This copy is also for our files.

Chemical methods for Bioassay - Hal Hollister has provided a copy of a paper just completed on methods in routine use for bioassays which includes procedures for plutonium, polonium, radium, thorium, tritium, uranium and radiostrontium.

Eniwetok rat program - A proposal from Davis at John Hopkins and Christian from Naval Medical Research Institute has been received. Both Bob Boss and I were only lukewarm in our recommendation for the project. John Wolfe is to talk with Davis and if anything is done Davis will be asked to contact you in order that there will be no duplication of effort.

notes continued - page 2.

Montreal meeting - John has asked that we supply him within the next couple of weeks with people and subjects suitable for the meetings. Radiation needs to be tied into the subject. From this list he will select suitable subjects and then extend an invitation to the author of the paper to participate.

Kimmel - PSQ forms for a "Q" clearance are now here along with the fingerprint cards and are ready to be submitted to Hanford. A letter from John to you has been mailed and states what Jim's Ohio State status is. Jim will work here but will receive graduate credit from Ohio State. Jim will arrive in early January.

Plowshare - This is on again, off again and right now is in an in between stage. The Alaska Harbor program is now fifth on the list. There will not be a full-fledged discussion of the Alaska Harbor Project at the next ACBM meeting. However, a program in Alaska for next summer is still a possibility.

Rehoboth Report - NMRI - The report by Duckworth, Chapman et al., has been reviewed by classification and all except for five figures showing the track of the Rehoboth following the event has been declassified. The report has been mailed to the laboratory.