

received
6-23-58
m-

Gordon Dunning, Chief, Radiation
Effects of Weapons Branch, DPM

June 19, 1958

A. H. Seymour, Marine Biologist,
Environmental Sciences Branch, DPM

410393

REPORT OF RECENT RONGELAP DATA

SYNOPSIS: WES:ARS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Your memo of June 18 to Dr. Dunning suggesting that he request a compilation of the Rongelap data from collections after 1956 is at hand and I agree with your suggestion for the need of the report. However, such a report was asked for in a letter to Dr. Held on June 17.

Since the next survey for Rongelap is scheduled for late August-early September, I suggested to Dr. Held that the report should include the results of the forthcoming survey plus the two other surveys since 1956, those of July 1957 and February-March 1958. A report should be available sometime in November and I expect to be on hand by that time to help with the report. Since practically all of the staff will be in the field this summer at some time or another and samples in addition to their own collections are being sent in for analyses from Japan, Guam, Palau and the Gulf of Siam, November would be the earliest time possible for a complete report.

Information on the results of the recent Rongelap surveys have been submitted by pieces as the work is completed, the last being the summary of June 13 of "Sr-90 in the Skeletons of Land Crabs Collected at Rongelap Atoll". Although this has not been done the present levels of gross activity could be predicted from decline curves based upon the levels of activity in the samples from collections dating back to 1954. This has been done for Naivetek samples and reported in extensive detail in USFL-53. For Rongelap the rate of decline, but not the absolute values, could be expected to be similar for samples that are alike in time, species and tissue. Radiochemical analyses of recent Rongelap samples include fish (USFL-55), soil (USFL-56) and Sr-90 in land crabs, rat bones and one pig bone. In general, the gross activity in Rongelap samples has declined at a steady rate except for a slight increase during Redwing while the Sr-90 level in crabs has remained constant or increased slightly.

Please return
in envelope and
mail to
Dr. Donaldson

Recent information on the radioactivity of organisms in the Eniwetok-Eikiui-Rongelap area is provided in seven reports in the University of Washington Fisheries Laboratory series that have been prepared during the last year. The reports are as follows:

- UWFL 49 Radioactivity In The Reef Fishes Of Belle Island Eniwetok Atoll April 1954 to November 1955, May 17, 1957, A. D. Welander
- UWFL 50 Land Crabs And Radioactive Fallout At Eniwetok Atoll, May 27, 1957, E. S. Held
- UWFL 51 The Occurrence And Distribution Of Radioactive Non-Fission Products In Plants And Animals Of The Pacific Proving Ground, June 12, 1957, Lowman, Palumbo, South
- UWFL 53 Radioactivity Of Invertebrates And Other Organisms At Eniwetok Atoll During 1954-55, January 6, 1958, Kelshaw Borden
- UWFL 54 Radionuclides In Plankton Near The Marshall Islands, 1956, February 14, 1958, F. C. Lowman
- UWFL 55 Radiobiological Studies Of The Fish Collected At Rongelap And Ailingine Atolls July 1957, March 5, 1958, A. D. Welander
- UWFL 56 The Occurrence Of Antimony-125, Zirconium-155, Iodine-131, And Other Radionuclides In Rongelap Atoll, March 7, 1958, Palumbo, South

cc: Dr. Zumbach
Dr. Shilling
Dr. Western
Dr. Wolfe

BMES

Seymour:pas