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July 28, 1955

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

FISH MONITORING - OPERATION WIGWAM

Note by the Secretary

The attached letter from the General Manager to the Chairman, JCAE, is circulated for the information of the Commission.

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W. B. McCool
Secretary

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

July 18, 1955

Honorable Clinton P. Anderson
Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Congress of the United States

Dear Senator Anderson:

In connection with the WIGWAM operation, the Division of Biology and Medicine established a system for the monitoring of ~~commercial fish~~ under the direction of Dr. Willis R. Boss, of the Biology Branch. All shipments of fish, shark livers and shark fins brought to the West Coast from the general region off California and Mexico were monitored by the combined use of automatic devices operating on conveyor lines and hand monitoring at other points of the process line. From May 12 to June 18 a total of over 29 million pounds of fish has been monitored as shown by the following table.

Type	Locations monitored		Total
	Terminal Island, Los Angeles	San Diego	
Anchovia	203,500 lbs.	0	203,500 lbs.
Mackerel	1,003,205 "	11,000	1,014,205 "
Shark livers	54,400 "	0	54,400 "
Shark fins	8,000 "	0	8,000 "
Tuna	10,450,000 "	6,796,000	17,246,000 "
(Caught before test but monitored after announcement)			
Tuna	9,399,250 lbs.	1,461,500	10,860,750 "
(Caught after test and monitored)			
		Total	29,386,900 "

Hand monitoring was discontinued on July 7 and the automatic monitoring will be terminated in August, 1955. We estimate that the time the operation is finished we will have monitored approximately 55 million pounds of fish.

No radioactive fish from the WIGWAM area have been encountered to date. Four fish in a shipment from Japan were found to be slightly radioactive from the CASTLE operation and are now being subjected to careful radiochemical analysis.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

K. E. Fields
General Manager

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BJ: JCB

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secret

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[Faint signature]

K. E. Fields
General Manager

Department of Energy
Historian's Office
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