

SECTION II
THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

OSCAR E. SETTE

From the evidence that has been put before us from the fields of meteorology and oceanography, it appears clear that there has occurred during the past year, a substantial modification of ocean conditions, at least in the eastern part of the Pacific. We have been looking at this physical evidence, trying to understand the nature of the physical changes, their extent and their possible causes.

We are now about to look at the biological evidence, to try to find out whether the organisms that live in the sea reacted to these changes, and if so, in what way,—how they, rather than we, looked at the physical changes, if you please.

The able organizer of this meeting, Professor Isaacs, has programmed a series of papers well covering the biological field. He also, at the opening of the meeting, introduced the speakers. For biology they bring evidence from the phytoplankton, from the zooplankton, and from the fishes, both as to their distribution as adults, and as to their most important life process, that of reproduction.

I hope the speakers will not mind if we continue in the informal style, inviting discussion from participants whenever a point needs clarification, or whenever additional evidence or an additional thought can be offered.

Unfortunately our first contributor could not be here, but fortunately, Dr. Haxo, who is thoroughly familiar with the material, will relate Dr. Balech's findings to us.

