

PART I

REPORTS, REVIEW, AND PUBLICATIONS

REPORT OF THE CALCOFI COMMITTEE—1980

CalCOFI Reports is an annual publication, presenting papers on the physical and chemical environment of the California Current and its living resources. The scientific contributions are reviewed in order to maintain the quality of scholarly communication. Symposia of interest to CalCOFI member institutions also appear in the *Reports*. The CalCOFI Committee is especially grateful to the contributors and reviewers of this volume, and to Alex MacCall who graciously served as symposia reviewer.

The symposia included in this volume have in common a recognition of the relations of living things to each other and to the environment in which they live. In particular, the papers by Ainley, by Anderson et al., and by Hunt and Butler demonstrate how dramatically the increase or decrease of one stock can affect another. The papers on climate and ecological regimes emphasize the tremendous importance of collecting and maintaining data files of long duration and justify the concepts of the founders of CalCOFI.

Research that requires investment in a long-term data base is often hard to defend when compared with short-term programs that may yield more immediate, though limited, results. Relationships within the California Current system, which are just now being understood and

appreciated, could not have been determined or even foreseen without the present data base; for example, the long-term correlation of sardine to anchovy abundance, seen both through the sedimentary record and through catch data; relationships between North Pacific sea-surface temperature and Arizona tree-ring width; the importance of storms in the spawning area to success of the anchovy year class.

A long-term data base is very useful to managers, since it may be employed to develop predictive and utilization models. Portions of the archived data base may become very valuable as the questions now being asked begin to change, as new technologies develop, and as needs evolve. The CalCOFI Committee pledges itself to the maintenance of the CalCOFI record and to its continuing quality and adequacy.

We note the deaths last year of Carl Hubbs and Elbert Ahlstrom, two of those who took prominent parts in the establishment of CalCOFI, and who planned for the long-term collections of physical, chemical, and biological data. Their labors, their wisdom, and their foresight will long be remembered.

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