

Part I

REPORTS, REVIEW, AND PUBLICATIONS

REPORT OF THE CALCOFI COMMITTEE FOR 1982

This year the egg production method was improved for anchovy biomass assessment, and the anchovy management plan was rewritten based on this newly instituted procedure. Adoption by the Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled for 1983.

Warm-water conditions typical of an El Niño event were detected in July 1982 off the coast of South America, and off Mexico and California in November. The last major warm-water event off California took place in 1957-58 and was documented in *CalCOFI Reports*, Volume VII, 1960. In February 1983, scientists aboard R/V *Townsend Cromwell* measured the physical, chemical, and biological parameters associated with this event on a transect from Hawaii to California, following CalCOFI line 90 to the coast.

CalCOFI has committed its resources for 1984, including R/V *New Horizon* and R/V *David Starr Jordan*, to a full-scale 7-cruise survey of the California Current. In 1983, the Marine Life Research Group will use R/V *Ellen B. Scripps* to make monthly transects across the Southern California Bight; weekly measurements of sea level, salinity, temperature, and phytoplankton are to be made from the Scripps Pier. These activities are intended to fully document the biological effects of the current El Niño condition.

In October 1982 the CalCOFI Conference was held once again in Idyllwild, California, at the University of Southern California's conference center in the San Bernardino mountains. A symposium entitled "The Larger Pelagic Fishes of the California Current" was convened by Alec MacCall. The symposium papers, reprinted in this volume, make a valuable, up-to-date record of fishes rarely discussed in a conference of this kind. The CalCOFI Committee was pleased to provide the forum for presenting much new information. Forty-three research papers and nine posters were presented at the conference and were highlighted by a special Peruvian section on anchovy, sardine, and hake. Peruvian scientists are applying the egg production method for anchovy biomass assessment to the Peruvian anchoveta, chiefly with the help of Paul E. Smith of the Southwest Fisheries Center.

The CalCOFI Committee continued to solicit new ideas and directions for the CalCOFI program. Scientists participating in a September 1982 workshop on "Future Directions for CalCOFI" included John McGowan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dud-

ley Chelton, Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Edmund Hobson, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); Richard Klingbeil, California Department of Fish and Game; Barbara Hickey, University of Washington; Alec MacCall, NMFS; Richard Methot, NMFS; Willard Bascom, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project; Gregor Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory; and Robin LeBrasseur, Pacific Biological Laboratory, Nanaimo, Canada. Douglas DeMaster of NMFS led the discussion.

In 1982 we published *CalCOFI Atlas No. 30: Vertical and Horizontal Distributions of Seasonal Mean Temperature, Salinity, Sigma-t, Stability, Dynamic Height, Oxygen and Oxygen Saturation in the California Current, 1950-1978*, by Ronald Lynn, Kenneth Bliss, and Lawrence Eber.

We regretfully report the death in 1982 of John Fitch. John was a scientist for the California Department of Fish and Game and contributed greatly to our understanding of California fishes. He was known best for his pioneering work on the otoliths of fishes and for his editorial excellence on the journal *California Fish and Game* during the 1960s. We will all miss him.

As this volume was going to press we learned of the death of Julian C. Burnette on January 28, 1983. Mr. Burnette was the first chairman of the Marine Research Committee (MRC), the state agency governing CalCOFI. Mr. Burnette also was spokesman for the entire sardine industry at a time when the sardine fishery was a major business in California. In his long-time capacity as MRC chairman, Mr. Burnette helped guide and support the research for which CalCOFI is now noted. Although he retired from MRC in 1967, his efforts have left their mark and are reflected in the approach CalCOFI takes today.

This is the last of two issues of *CalCOFI Reports* (Volumes XXIII and XXIV) for which Reuben Lasker, as CalCOFI Coordinator, had responsibility. We would like to thank him and Julie Olfe, who edited this volume, for their excellent work.

The CalCOFI Committee:
Izadore Barrett
Herbert Frey
Joseph Reid