

California State Fisheries Laboratory Library: 1919-1994

by

Joan Parker, MLML/MBARI Librarian
December 2003

Brief History of CSFL

- Created as a division with Fish & Game agency to conduct scientific investigations of fisheries.
- N.B. Scofield, W.F. Thompson and a cast of distinguished scientists.
- 1918 began collecting individual boat catch for each variety of commercial fish.
- “Work worth doing is worth reporting.”

Brief History of CSFL

- 1922 began collecting biological statistics for sardines and albacore.
- 1932 interested boat captains kept special shiplogs for tuna tagging experiments.
- Godsil went along on southern voyage with commercial tuna boat.
- 1938 R/V Scofield launched.

CSFL Library

- Collection depended on exchange and donations.
- By 1938 collection had grown to 2000 bound volumes and 30,000 “pamphlets”
- Occupied most of second floor ~ 800 square feet

CSFL to MTIC

- Pat Powell's retirement in 1976.
- 1990's Administrative decision to not replace retiring librarian.
- Started shopping collection.
- Work began in Monterey Bay in 1996.

Unintended Consequences

- 120 linear feet of DFG archive.
- Hundreds of potential data surprises.
- More collections and opportunities.

Digital Future

- Rescuing more than data.
- Institutional repository model.
- Unique items will be catalogued and included in repository.
- File formats for text, images and data.
- Volunteer begins in January.

Challenges

- Verification of publication.
- Data in separate file?
- Lack of funding.