

**Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives  
Processing Record**

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California Marine Research Committee

California Marine Research Committee Records, 1935-1977

Physical Description: 3 mss; 1 half size L mss

Arrangement: This collection is arranged in original order. Legal sized items were removed from original letter sized folders, flattened and placed in legal sized folders. The collection included several oversize commissions, maps and drawings. Separation sheets were prepared and placed in the folders to indicate where these items were removed. The oversized items were then flattened and moved to oversize storage.

Description: The collection consists of records collected and created by Julian G. Burnette, first chair of the Marine Research Committee (MRC) from April 28, 1948 until his resignation on February 28, 1967. The records are dated 1935 to 1977, although the bulk of the material is dated 1947-1964. These records include Burnette's notes, correspondence and industry reports on the depletion of the sardine and efforts by fishing industry experts to persuade the California Legislature to address the problem. Some files in this collection predate the establishment of the MRC. For instance, the collection includes correspondence exchanged by Burnette and Oscar O. Sette which discussed what kind of scientific studies might be undertaken to address the problem, and the cost of such studies.

Burnette was one of the industry representatives who formed an ad hoc Sardine Advisory Committee which first met on January 6, 1948 to discuss the problem. Burnette, who was representing the San Francisco Sardine Association at that meeting, proposed legislative action. He suggested that the group approach the California Legislature for regulation of the fishery and for funds to establish a commercial fisheries commission. Assembly Bill 1468 was introduced, and the Sardine Advisory Committee lobbied the legislature on behalf of the bill. The collection includes Burnette's files on the Sardine Advisory Committee. These files include correspondence between Burnette and Richard S. Croker, chief of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and other scientists. Between 1946 and 1947, fishing industry representatives reached out to scientists in California to form a coalition to address the problem of the depletion of the sardine and to reach a consensus on action. At the same time, Burnette corresponded with colleagues in the fishing industry, with legislators in Washington, D.C. and western states and with national scientific organizations and fisheries groups to discuss fisheries issues in general and the sardine depletion problem specifically. The collection includes correspondence documenting these interactions. This material includes correspondence exchanged with Wilbert MacLeod Chapman, California Governor Earl Warren, and other high ranking public officials and industry experts.

The collection includes documentation of the work of the MRC's Technical Committee. This committee was organized in 1948 to undertake the scientific work necessary to study the sardine depletion problem. The Technical Committee was chaired by ichthyologist Robert C. Miller of the California Academy of Sciences. Members included Oscar E. Sette of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harald Ulrik Sverdrup, oceanographer and director of the SIO, and Richard S. Croker of the California Division of Fish and Game. The work of the technical committee during its first decade is documented in the correspondence and MRC minutes and reports. There are also several files specifically related to the Technical Committee which document its work in 1957.

While this collection includes documentation of the scientific program which became known as the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI), the collection is stronger in the area of program policy and administration than the actual conduct of scientific research. However, the collection does document differences between CalCOFI scientists who favored an applied research program focused specifically on the sardine and scientists who favored a broader multidisciplinary ecological approach.

This collection offers significant material documenting the fisheries industry in California in general and specifically the sardine fishery. The collection documents relationships between the industry and government in California specifically, but also in other west coast states and nationally. The collection will be useful to scholars interested in the history of oceanography, ichthyology and fisheries, to those interested in the SIO and other California scientific organizations, and to those interested in the relationship of science and government.

Provenance: Julian G. Burnette stored these records in Long Beach, California with the National Marine Fisheries Service. When the Marine Region South at Long Beach ceased to operate in 2000, Rick Klingbeil, Project Manager, sent these files to Deborah Losey, Librarian at National Marine Fisheries Service in La Jolla, California. Losey offered the files to Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives on August 22, 2000, and the collection was accepted on that date.

**Related Collections:** Material documenting the participation of SIO administrators in the formation of the MRC and in the CalCOFI can be found among the records of the Office of the SIO Director during the administrations of Harald Ulrik Sverdrup, and Roger Revelle. SIO established the Marine Life Research Program (MLRP) in 1948 to undertake those parts of the CalCOFI assigned to SIO. In 1951, the MLRP became part of the University of California Institute for Marine Resources (IMR), a state wide institute with headquarters at the SIO. Consequently, records of the MLRP and the IMR include documentation of the CalCOFI. A Guide to the Records of the University of California Institute of Marine Resources, Office of the Director, 1951-1970, describes this record group. The records of a number of individual scientists at the SIO also include documentation of MRC and CalCOFI. Ichthyologist Carl Leavitt Hubbs and oceanographer John Dove Isaacs were actively involved in CalCOFI, and their papers at the SIO Archives include documentation on MRC and CalCOFI.

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Accession No. 2000-16

<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER #</b>	<b>FOLDER TITLE</b>
1	1	<b>Sardine Advisory Committee, n.d.</b>
	2	<b>1935</b>
	3	<b>1947</b>
4	1L	<b>1948</b>
1	4	<b>January-February 1948</b>
	5	<b>March-April 1948</b>
	6	<b>May 1948</b>
	7	<b>June 1948</b>
	8	<b>July-August 1948</b>
4	2L	<b>Sardine Control and Research, Prior to Marine Research Committee, n.d.</b>
1	9	<b>1946</b>
	10	<b>January-March 1947</b>
	11	<b>April 1947-1948</b>
4	3L	<b>Sardines, Marine Research Committee, 1948-1949</b>
1	12	<b>March-April 1948</b>
	13	<b>May-November 1948</b>
	14	<b>January-March 1949</b>
	15	<b>April-July 1949</b>
	16	<b>August-December 1949</b>
	17	<b>Marine Research Committee, Commissions, 1955-1963</b>
	18	<b>Marine Research Committee, Budget Data, 1959-1960</b>
	19	<b>1960-1961</b>

<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER #</b>	<b>FOLDER TITLE</b>
1	20	<b>Marine Research Committee, Correspondence, 1950</b>
	21	<b>1954</b>
	22	<b>January-March 1955</b>
	23	<b>April-June 1955</b>
	24	<b>July-December 1955</b>
	25	<b>January-May 1956</b>
	26	<b>June-December 1956</b>
2	1	<b>January-April 1957</b>
	2	<b>May-August 1957</b>
	3	<b>September-December 1957</b>
4	4L	<b>October 1957</b>
2	4	<b>1958</b>
	5	<b>1959</b>
	6	<b>January-April 1960</b>
	7	<b>May-August 1960</b>
	8	<b>September-December 1960</b>
	9	<b>January-March 1961</b>
	10	<b>April-December 1961</b>
	11	<b>January-May 1962</b>
	12	<b>June 1962</b>
	13	<b>July-December 1962</b>
	14	<b>January-March 1963</b>
	15	<b>April-May 1963</b>
	16	<b>June 1963</b>
	17	<b>July 1963</b>

<b>BOX</b>	<b>FOLDER #</b>	<b>FOLDER TITLE</b>
2	18	<b>Marine Research Committee, Correspondence, August 1963</b>
3	1	<b>September 1963</b>
	2	<b>October 1963</b>
	3	<b>November-December 1963</b>
	4	<b>1964</b>
	5	<b>Marine Research Committee Minutes, 1948-1949</b>
	6	<b>1950</b>
	7	<b>1951</b>
	8	<b>1952-1953</b>
	9	<b>1954-1955</b>
	10	<b>December 18, 1957, Data for Meeting</b>
	11	<b>July 15, 1977, Reporter's Transcript re Proceedings re Minutes of Meeting of the Marine Research Committee, taken at Department of Fish and Game</b>
	12	<b>Marine Research Committee, Photos, n.d.</b>
	13	<b>Marine Research Committee, Special Technical Committee, January-May 1957</b>
	14	<b>June-August 1957</b>
	15	<b>September-December 1957</b>
	16	<b>Marine Research Committee, Wilbert Chapman's letter of introduction and answers to it, with other pertinent papers, August-September 1960</b>
	17	<b>October-December 1960</b>
	18	<b>1961</b>
	19	<b>Replacement of M/V Yellowfin, June-July 1956</b>
	20	<b>August-September 1956</b>
	21	<b>October-December 1956</b>
	22	<b>1957</b>