

State or Country: Off Mexico Field No. H50-107

County: _____ Map: _____, 1.

Locality: Pacific Ocean (en route from Clipperton
Is. to bank off Manzanillo)

Lat. ca 16° 50' N., Long. 106° 45' - 47' W.

Water: clear, salt

Vegetation: _____

Bottom: _____

Cover: _____ Temp.: _____

Shore: _____ Current: _____

Dist. offshore: _____ Stream width: _____

Depth of capture: _____ Depth of water: ?

Collected by Albert W. Steel, navigator on "Viking"

Tide: _____ Date: IV: 1950

Method of capture: observation + hook (paper nautilus dip-netted)

Orig. preserv.: _____ Time: _____

On IV:28:1950 Mr. Steel, through contact with Capt. Robert H. Baker came to Scripps Inst. to report great abundance of life encountered earlier in month at location indicated above. The concentration was observed over about 40 miles. Log was to be copied to give fuller and more accurate information at other points. The feed consisted largely of vast numbers of paper nautilus, forming numerous brown patches. Sharks and tunas were churning around these patches, feeding on the nautilus. No sharks were caught but a few tuna that took the hook contained nautilus (not over 1 ton caught). 2 nautilus shells of 5 cleaned and donated. Skipper's father, along on trip, worked some in olive oil & vinegar to preserve his claim that they tasted good. In addition to fishes and the nautilus, other life abounded.

Birds - Sea birds were abundant and just led ship to location. Man o' War Bird were recognized. There were a few "Boobys" near the ship at all times over the area, but they had also been with ship all way from Clipperton Is.; they were like the dark gannets of California but had dark backs and white underparts [obviously Laysan Albatross]. Small birds [no doubt petrels] were common.

AMMOC: "Spotted" and "Spinner" porpoises
were common in area, also "Blackfish."
Also large whales, with D. Fin.

Carcharias sp. ?? - 4'-8' sharks
abounded, thrashing water and apparently
feeding in swarms of paper nautili.
Some groups covered area of a city block.

1. Seriola sp. ?? - "A type of yellowtail,"
apparently from California but chiefly in
sharper snout, same type as seen
at Clipperton, staid under boat, but
didn't come up to bait.

Coryphæna sp. "fin. dolphin" common.

3. Neothunnus macropterus? common, but
usually refused hook. Only about
100 caught. Considerable nos. of
2 to 5 lb. taken, but mostly shaken
off to avoid killing. A few brought
back and eaten. Large & small
females shoaled separately.

Katsuwonus pelamis? Shipjack
fairly common, including some over
4 - 4 1/2 inches long.

Makaira sp. ?? Marlin rather
common, pinning and jumping.

Memo written up for distribution to
Mclugh, Allstun, Mann, Schaefer,
State Fish Lab.