

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service
Woods Hole, Mass.

OBSERVANCE OF THE CENTENARY OF CONSERVATION

BY THE
WOODS HOLE FISHERIES LABORATORY

The Fisheries Research Laboratory of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at Woods Hole, Mass. will celebrate the 100th birthday of the U. S. Department of the Interior on September 3, 1949. As a part of the nationwide observance of the 100 years of conservation denoted by this anniversary, the laboratory will be open to the public on September 3. The various activities of the laboratory will be outlined and displayed. The marine aquarium, which has been a public attraction in Woods Hole and throughout Cape Cod for many years, will have living examples of the local marine life on display. Photographs, drawings, and actual examples of the biological research of the New England fishing banks, carried on by the North Atlantic Fishery Investigations unit of the laboratory, will be on exhibit. The Shellfish Investigations will show examples of shellfish research, pearl oyster shells from all over the world, paintings of various shells from Panama, and living shellfish.

The ALBATROSS III, only large fishery research vessel operated on the East Coast of the United States, will be open to inspection. This 180-foot vessel is engaged in research on the commercial fishing areas of the Atlantic coast.

Examples of the work of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, a private organization engaged in the study of the oceans, will also be available for examination at the Fisheries Laboratory.

Woods Hole Laboratory
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Woods Hole has long been one of the major localities for fishery research in the United States. It was the first summer headquarters of the U. S. Fish Commission in 1871. The two main buildings were commenced on the present location in 1881. Since this date the laboratory and hatchery have been of great importance to the development of Woods Hole as a scientific community. For many years it served as summer headquarters of the U. S. Fish Commission and the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, both predecessors of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Many distinguished scientists, both in fishery and other biological research, were members of the laboratory during these years. The station was visited by one United States President and by many prominent members of both the United States and foreign governments. The results of researches carried on, at least in part, at this laboratory fill many volumes of published material.

Many of the early experiments in hatching and rearing marine fish were started here. These activities were continued until the recent war. Lobsters, flounders, and cod were the principal types hatched. Many of the important vessels of the fishery investigations of the United States have been based here. Foremost of these was the ALBATROSS I. In amount of work accomplished during her commission, she was probably the greatest oceanographic explorer in the world. ALBATROSS II, her successor, began the extensive investigations of the New England fishing banks and operated exclusively from Woods Hole.

During World War II, the station was taken over by the United States Navy and served as base for several patrol vessels.

Since the war, the operations of the hatchery have been discontinued and the station has been used exclusively for biological research. The laboratory is permanent headquarters for the North Atlantic Fishery Investigations under the direction of Dr. William F. Royce, the Clam Investigations under Mr. John B. Glud, and as summer quarters for shellfish investigations of Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff. It is also the base for the ALBATROSS III. These investigations employ a staff of about 55 persons.

William F. Royce
Chief
North Atlantic Fishery Investigations

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