

WOODS HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS, CENTER OF MARINE SCIENCE

In the small town of Woods Hole on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, there are three important marine laboratories. They are: The U.S. FISHERIES LABORATORY, the MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY and the WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION.

Annually thousands of visitors come to this town and it is, therefore, not feasible to open the laboratories to the public. Scientists would find it impossible to get their work done if a constant stream of visitors passed through their rooms. Therefore, a public exhibition has been arranged in the room next to the aquarium in the U.S. Fisheries Laboratory. The exhibition is open during the summer months, including holidays from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.

WHY ARE THE LABORATORIES IN WOODS HOLE?

Due to the varied coast line the area is unusually abundant in sea animal and plant life. There are numerous bays and capes, sand and mud flats, open water and protected inlets. A major fishing ground, "Georges Bank", is nearby and the open ocean is only a few miles away.

WHAT DO THE THREE LABORATORIES DO?

The WOODS HOLE FISHERIES LABORATORY is a federal institution and is part of the U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. Founded in 1871 as the summer headquarters of the U.S. Fish Commission, it is engaged primarily in studies to aid the fisheries. With the research vessel ALBATROSS III it investigates the North Atlantic and makes checks of the population of commercially valuable fish. Research on oysters, clams and other shellfish is also conducted. The buildings were severely damaged during the hurricanes of 1938 and 1944 and have not been rebuilt completely. The outside basin, where sharks and seals were kept, has not yet been repaired.

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

This is a private institution, founded in 1888 to provide a place for the study of biology during the summer months when universities are closed. Working space, laboratory supplies and living marine specimens are provided to the investigators. Its library has perhaps the largest collection of marine scientific books and

publications in the world. Hundreds of students come here every summer to study marine forms at first hand and receive training in scientific methods of investigation. Courses in zoology, embryology, physiology and botany are also given during the summer months. The Supply Department collects living forms of sea-life for the investigators and sells preserved and live marine forms to educational institutions.

THE WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

Also a private laboratory, the Oceanographic Institution founded in 1930 studies the ocean; its currents, bottom, waves, beaches and living inhabitants. A fleet of eight ships is used to collect information to be studied and compiled in the laboratory. The largest of the ships are the 142 foot ketch ATLANTIS and the 97 foot ketch CARYN.

Oceanography is a composite science, including physics, geology, biology and chemistry. The answer to such questions as: how much does the ocean influence the climate and weather on land, how and why do currents run, how can we predict waves, how can we draw more raw material from the sea and how much and in which way does the ocean support life, will benefit all mankind.

During recent years, contracts with the U.S. Navy, private industries, scientific institutions and the State of Massachusetts have made the solution of many problems nearer.