



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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TWO FISHERY BIOLOGISTS GET CITATIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Scientific reports on studies in the California Current and in the waters off the South Atlantic States have resulted in awards for 1959 fishery biological research for the authors, the Department of the Interior reported today.

In addition to the citations, cash awards of \$500 and \$250 respectively for first and second winners were made. The awards were made by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, after careful analysis of 198 scientific and popular articles published by Bureau biologists during 1959.

Winner of the top scientific award was Dr. Elbert H. Ahlstrom, Director of the Bureau's Biological Laboratory at La Jolla, California, for his work on the vertical distribution of fish eggs and larvae in the California Current System. The California Current is slow-moving current some three or four hundred miles wide flowing southward off the Pacific Coast and turning southwestward off the coast of Lower California. It originates in the Japanese current which flows eastward across the Pacific Ocean and divides into north and south bound streams several hundred miles west of Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Ahlstrom's work deals with the vertical distribution of 46 kinds of fish larvae and eight kinds of fish eggs. Explorations were as deep as 262 meters but most of the eggs and larvae of the important food fishes were found in the upper 125 meters.

The study is described in the citation as "the most comprehensive study of its kind ever made anywhere. Back of it stands an impressive series of investigations that have led to the identification of all the important fish larvae of the area".

Second award went to Mr. Fred Berry, then staff biologist at the Bureau's Biological Laboratory at Brunswick, Georgia. He is now with the La Jolla laboratory. Mr. Berry's work was an extensive study of the jack family which is an

important group of forage and predatory fishes. Some members of this family, such as the blue runner and common jack crevalle, are valued as sport fish. The citation declared that Mr. Berry's work is an "outstanding contribution to the knowledge of an important group of fishes" and a "thoroughly competent" descriptive study of the species of jackfish which occur in the Atlantic Ocean off the southeastern States.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries hopes to make a small number of awards annually, based upon rigid standards of excellence.

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