

an increased period of breeding was indicated in the spring. This is in contrast to some records from northern waters where breeding appears to be more seasonal with periods when little or no breeding takes place.

There is a northward movement of water along the Gulf Coast which helps distribute the chaetognaths along the coast. This drift of water apparently does not interfere with the persistence of water of reduced salinity in the inshore areas.

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## **A Survey Of The Present Knowledge Of The Gulf Of Mexico: A Progress Report**

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Abstract

THE NEED for a comprehensive survey of our knowledge of the Gulf is great. While few oceanographic expeditions have been conducted in the Gulf, there is a wealth of information on the geology, physical oceanography, meteorology and marine biology of that body of water. This information is not readily available, but appears in periodicals, in Government reports and in various special publications. It is the goal of the proposed treatise to assemble these scattered results and to present them in summary form.

The tentative outline comprises 14 chapters, covering the history, submarine geology, meteorology, and oceanography, together with the various phyla of marine plants and animals, the biology of fishes, and the effects of pollution. The material is divided among 40 authors, each an expert in his respective field. At present the following completed articles have been received:

Trematoda of the Gulf of Mexico by H. W. Manter

Free-living Flatworms of the Gulf of Mexico by L. H. Hyman

Nemertean of the Gulf of Mexico by W. R. Coe

Occurrence of *Limulus* and *Phoronis* in the Gulf of Mexico by

J. W. Hedgpeth

Utilization of Mineral Resources of the Sea by C. M. Shigley

Bacteria and Fungi of the Gulf of Mexico by C. E. ZoBell

It is expected that the majority of the papers will be sent to the Editor within the next three months.

Bibliographical research conducted in the Library of Congress with the assistance of Mr. Nicholas Gregg covered primarily the early explorations of the Gulf, cartography and physical oceanography. Of considerable historical interest are the old Spanish and French records some of which give interesting data on the configuration of the coastal line and depth of water. Occasionally, these records contain references to the flora and fauna of the Gulf. The collection of bibliographical cards consists, at present, of about 500 author and 800 subject cards. Because of the absence of clerical help and the discontinuation, on August 25, of the part-time employment of Mr. Gregg, the progress in bibliographical research was slow.