

PEOPLE AND THE SEA
Coordinated Study
Fall-Winter, 1982-83

This program was about the marine resources of the Pacific Ocean and about the people who use them. Cultural comparisons were made of the peoples of the United States, Japan, and the Pacific Islands (Oceania). Marine resource topics were physical geography, biological resources, physical resources, ocean degradation, and coastal zone management. Topics of Japan's maritime activities and trade were also featured.

Members of the faculty were: Peter Taylor (Marine Studies), Coordinator; Eric Larson (Anthropology); and Mitsuharu Mitsui (International Trade and Maritime Transportation), visiting from Kobe University of Commerce.

Fall Quarter

The emphasis this quarter was an introduction to the geography and ocean resources of the Pacific area, and historical perspectives of the cultures of Japan, Oceania, and the American Pacific Coast.

Lectures - Lectures by P. Taylor were about physical geography and biological features of the Pacific Ocean, biological and physical marine resources, and Pacific salmons. E. Larson related views of the cultures of Oceania and introduced the methodology of ethnography. M. Mitsui presented topics of Japan's early history through 1867 and about Japanese culture. In addition, several films were viewed about Japan and about salmon fisheries. Invited speakers offered two special sessions: a film about the Marquesas Islands (G. Monahan, P. Larson and S. Nisbet); and seaweed aquaculture in Puget Sound and Japan (T. Mumford and Mr. Inayoshi). Texts for assigned reading relating to the lectures were: The Cultural Experience: Ethnography in Complex Society (J.P. Spradley and D.W. McCurdy), Opportunities and Uses of the Ocean (D.A. Ross), and Ocean Science - Readings from Scientific American (H. Menard).

Field Trips - Three field trips were conducted: (1) to Westport for views of the fishing industry (guided by D. Samuelson) and of coastal environments of Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay; (2) to Seattle's Fishermen's Terminal (guided by R. Hansen), and to the University of Washington's Burke Museum (Pacific Cultures exhibits); and (3) to the Port of Seattle for a tour and presentation by P. Burke about the Port's history.

Seminars - Seminars were held each week to discuss the following books: The Northwest Coast (J. Swan), The Explorations of Captain James Cook in the Pacific (A.G. Price, editor), Typee (H. Melville), Cannery Row (J. Steinbeck), The Water Link: History of Puget Sound as a Resource (D.J. Chasan), Nature's Economy (D. Worster), and Shōgun (J. Clavell).

Special Assignments - Each student was expected to develop a journal of field observations of coastal environments and people, interviews, and reflections on program activities, including seminar readings. Other specific assignments required written reports on (1) observation of a coastal environment; (2) interview of a person involved with the sea; (3) geographic comparison of three locations in Washington State (Westport), Japan (Kobe), and Oceania (Tikopia); (4) essay on personal maritime perceptions; and (5) a proposal developed for a research project for winter quarter, with sources of information.

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Winter Quarter Program Description

The scheduled activities this quarter featured the contemporary uses of the Pacific Ocean and its resources, and associated environmental problems and societal and economic affairs. Research projects provided students an opportunity to investigate topics of their choice individually.

Lectures - P. Taylor's lectures were about marine fisheries, mariculture, ocean management and the Law of the Sea, ocean health and pollution, and the coastal zone, usually with reference to the Pacific Area, but a global perspective for some topics. E. Larson talked about contemporary Kwakiutl (a North American Coastal Indian group) culture, about cultural impacts of certain foreign industries (whaling, phosphate mining) and trade with industrialized countries on native Pacific Islanders, and about further impacts of World War II on the Pacific Islands and on U.S. society. M. Mitsui presented the following topics with particular reference to Japan: fishing industries, aquaculture, seafood and whaling industries, maritime transportation (shipping), shipbuilding industries, oil resources and related industries, international trade and business, and modern Japanese economy and culture. Films were shown about U.S. fisheries and aquaculture and about pollution of the Mediterranean Sea. Invited speakers presented sessions on hatchery production of steelhead (J. Gearheard) and recreational fisheries enhancement (R. Buckley). Reading was assigned in the texts Opportunities and Uses of the Ocean (D.A. Ross), Ocean Science - Readings from American (H. Menard), and The Anatomy of Dependence (T. Doi).

Seminars - Two seminars were held each week, the first for various topics and activities elected by the group; and the second to discuss specific books. The books read this quarter were I Heard the Owl Call My Name (M. Craven), Highliners (W.B. McCloskey), Beautiful Swimmers (W.W. Warner), A Whale for the Killing (F. Mowat), Supership (N. Mostert), The Thin Edge: Coast and Man in Crisis (A.W. Simon), and The Woman in the Dunes (K. Abe).

Weekly Presentations - In a weekly series, each student gave a presentation (up to 30 minutes) on a personally selected topic relevant to the subjects of People and the Sea. They were based on books or articles, or on personal experience.

Field Trip - The group travelled to and resided at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories, San Juan Island, during a four-day period. Activities included examination of marine life at two intertidal sites and at the FHL waterfront (pier, floats and plankton), visiting the Whale Museum, and general observation of maritime recreation and island lifestyles.

Research Projects - Major emphasis was given to research projects undertaken by students about topics of People and the Sea identified individually. The projects were variously based on library resources, interviews and/or site visits. The projects culminated each in a written report and a brief oral presentation at the end of the quarter.

Journals - Students were expected to continue writing their journals, described under Special Assignments for the fall quarter. Their entries were to include the field trip to San Juan Island, reflective comments about the seminar books, activities and observations of the research project, and other relevant items.