Victor L. Loosanoff *(1899–1987)*

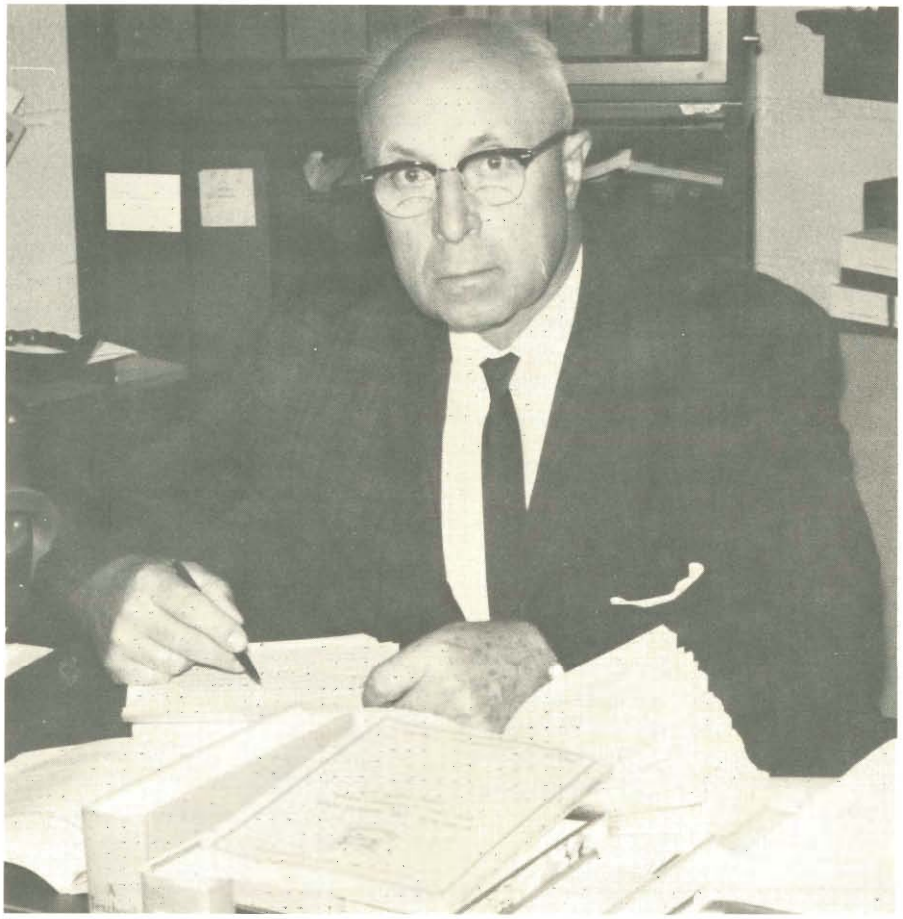
It is with sadness that we note the death of Victor L. Loosanoff at his home in Greenbrae, California on June 15. Dr. Loosanoff was a pioneer in the field of oyster biology and, along with his colleagues at the Milford, Connecticut laboratory of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (now the National Marine Fisheries Service), he developed many of the methods now used routinely to culture marine bivalve molluscs.

Dr. Loosanoff was born in Kiev, Russia to a military family and was sent to a military school at the age of 10. In his last year of cadet school at the age of 17, he joined the White Russian Army, fought in 116 engagements from the Volga River to China, and finally escaped into China in 1921. Victor Loosanoff then emigrated to the United States, landing in Seattle in 1922. He worked in the logging camps in the area and even did some wrestling to make additional money.

In 1924 he entered the University of Washington and ultimately ended up studying marine biology under the tutelage of Professor Trevor Kincaid. He graduated in 1927 and began work for the Washington State Department of Fisheries. In 1931 he obtained a position with the Virginia Fisheries Department. Less than a year later, he was recruited by Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff to help establish a shellfish research laboratory in Milford. Dr. Loosanoff became director of the Milford laboratory in 1935 and served in that position for 27 years. He received his Ph.D. from Yale in 1936 studying under Wesley Coe.

In 1962 Dr. Loosanoff became a senior scientist with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and moved to the Tiburon, California laboratory. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of the Pacific.

Dr. Loosanoff was an internationally recognized expert in the fields of oyster biology, bivalve ecology and mariculture. He was especially active in the National Shellfisheries Association, serving as its vice–president in 1947 and as president from 1948 to 1949. He became an honorary member of NSA in 1963. He was also an honorary member of the World Aquaculture Society. He published over 200 articles during a distinguished career and his work will remain an everlasting tribute to him. He is survived by his wife Tamara, with whom he has endowed a fellowship at the University of Washington to assist students involved in the study of marine invertebrates.



Historian's Corner

– with Ed Rhodes –

The National Shellfisheries Association has had a long and illustrious history (we think!!!), but we have never documented our past very well. In fact, we have let some important anniversary dates slip right by us without appropriate parties and unabashed revelry. I'd like to begin to collect the available information from our past and eventually document our history in some written form. In the interim, I'll try to put some interesting vignettes in this newsletter column.

So, please send me originals or copies of documents or photos that may help to unravel NSA's past history. We changed our name in 1930 to NSA from the National Association of Shellfish Commissioners, so you might come across items with our old name that will be vitally important. Don't be bashful — anything may be of value.

As Ernst Mayr said: "Most scientific problems are far better understood by studying their history than their logic." I hope the future notes on NSA history will be stimulating to all.

Nova Scotia Shellfish Grounds Closed Due to Red Tide as NSA Meets in Halifax

In what was described as the most sweeping shutdown in ten years, two western Nova Scotia shellfish grounds were closed due to high levels of parylitic shellfish toxin by the Canadian Department of Fisheries.

Harvesting of clams, mussels and quahogs by recreational and commercial fishermen was prohibited. It was estimated that 200–300 commercial clam diggers would be affected by the closure. Mussel harvesting in the Bay of Fundy has been banned all season because of contamination.

The Department of Fisheries' shutdown of the shellfish grounds just happened to coincide with this year's annual NSA meeting and special technical session on Toxic Algal Blooms. (Source: *The Chronicle–Herald,* Halifax, Canada)