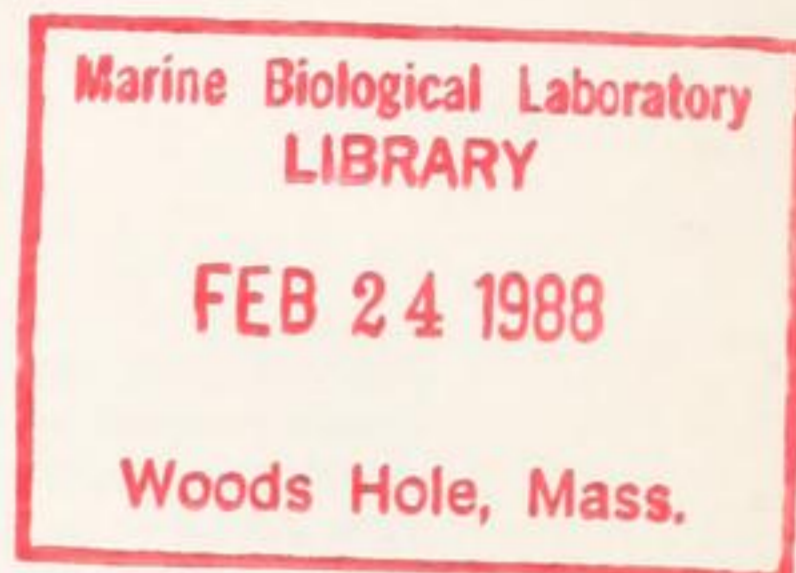


Dr. Loosanoff at his desk as Director of Milford Laboratory circa 1962



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Victor Lyon Loosanoff

Dr. Victor L. Loosanoff died at his home in Greenbrae, California, on June 15 at the age of 87. He was recognized internationally for his research in the field of shellfish physiology and ecology with emphasis on the larval culture of oysters.

Born in Kiev, Russia in 1899, son of a career officer in the Imperial Russian Army, Dr. Loosanoff received a military academy education at the Emperor Alexander First Cadet Corps, Osmk, graduating at age 17. He served 4 years as a cavalry officer in the White Army during the revolution, escaping into China in 1921 after fighting a long retreating action from the Volga River across Russia. Immigrating to the United States in 1922, he worked in lumber camps and as a commercial fisherman on the West Coast while learning English. He entered the University of Washington in 1924 graduating 3 years later with a B.S. in Fisheries Science.

Following positions as a marine biologist with the states of Washington and Virginia, Dr. Loosanoff was appointed in 1931 as Aquatic Biologist with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries and stationed at Milford, Connecticut to undertake studies of the commercial oyster fishery in Long Island Sound. In that capacity, he founded the Milford Laboratory and served as its Director for 31 years. It was during this period that Dr. Loosanoff and colleagues under his direction carried out the research that resulted in the development of shellfish aquaculture methods now practiced commercially in the U.S. and abroad. Early in his Milford career, he also undertook graduate studies at Yale University and completed a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1936 under Professor Wesley R. Coe.

Dr. Loosanoff stepped down as Laboratory Director at Milford in 1962 to accept a position as Senior Scientist with the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (now NMFS) stationed in Tiburon, California at the then Bureau of Sportfish and Wildlife Laboratory. He continued his research and writing there while holding a concurrent appointment as Adjunct Professor at the University of the Pacific's Pacific Marine Station allowing him to supervise students in marine biology. Retiring in 1965, he remained active serving as a consultant to BCF and the shellfish industry as well as conducting research under a National Science Foundation grant.

Over his long career, Dr. Loosanoff authored some 200 scientific papers and popular articles. His work is cited frequently in the current scientific literature and constitutes a significant contribution to the field of shellfish physiology and molluscan aquaculture. He served as President of NSA in 1947-49 and was elected an Honorary Member in 1963. Among other honors, he received the Department of Interior's highest, the Distinguished Service Award, in 1965 for "exceptional contributions to the scientific programs of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries".

At the end age had taken its toll. With failed eyesight and general poor health, he became despondent and chose to take his own life. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Tamara, and a brother living in Kiev, Russia.

Dr. James E. Hanks
Milford Laboratory
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