

IN MEMORIAM

James R. Thraikill
1921–1990



Jim Thraikill (left) receives his forty-year service pin from Reuben Lasker.

CalCOFI lost a friend when Jim Thraikill died in Boise, Idaho, after a brief illness at the age of 68. After retirement from the National Marine Fisheries Service in April 1986, Jim returned to his native Boise where he could enjoy the good trout fishing and beautiful surroundings of nearby streams.

At the time of his retirement, Jim was the leader of the Coastal and Pacific Fisheries Investigation within the Coastal Fisheries Resources Division at the Southwest Fisheries Center. He received his early education in Boise schools and graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1944 with a degree in civil engineering. He later earned an M.S. in marine biology from Oregon State University. His government service also included time spent with the army

in India during World War II and a stint as a surveyor for the U.S. Geological Survey.

His long career in fisheries began in 1949 when he transferred to the sardine investigation of the then U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in San Diego. He joined others to begin the federal government's cooperative investigations with Scripps Institution of Oceanography into the reasons for the catastrophic decline in Pacific sardine landings. His first cruise was on the *Black Douglas* (Marine Life Research Group Cruise No. 8) in October 1949, working from Mendocino to the Columbia River. Jim's talent and dedication were immediately evident, and he became responsible for planning cruises, processing plankton samples, and reducing data. In later years

he supervised the conversion of field and laboratory data procedures to a computerized system. Jim emphasized accuracy and consistency in all aspects of his CalCOFI work and is largely responsible for the high quality of the time series. He was the author of a series of scientific reports on zooplankton volumes, coauthor of several papers on plankton volume loss with time of preservation, and collaborator in the development of a high-speed plankton sampler.

Jim was a wonderfully warm and cheerful man. He always greeted people with a smile and friendly conversation. He never hesitated to offer his help when it was needed — and it usually was. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know Jim will always remember his unbounded loyalty, generosity, and kindness.