

January 21, 1966

Dear John,

I have been re-reading the Sea of Cortez, checking the chapter on methods of preserving and documenting marine specimens. As opposed to much of the other literature written on preservation procedures, you and Ed have set down many basic truths, and in many cases I can't add much in the way of additional techniques. In fact, as I read of your experiences in collecting I find myself saying, "Yes, that is true. Your experiences are the same as mine: the time allotted to collecting on a low tide is remarkably short, and before you know it, your buckets are full and the tide has risen and suddenly you realize that you're tired.

There are little, subtle philosophies to be found in collecting marine animals no matter where you are and the theory of relativity is reiterated time and again. If you hit that one spot where the fauna is rich, and every little tidepool proves productive, every rock seems to have something different under it, there is not such thing as time for it passes in a blurry whirl of exotic sea anemones, candy-striped nemertean, oozing orange flatworms and bizarre nudibranchs. It can be freezing out, flies can be biting, and all the external environmental stimuli are lost in the wonder and curiosity of the tide pool. Sometimes I think it's a great way to escape the world, among the hydroids. But walk along a great expanse of sterile beach that produces nothing, and it can be a dreary and miserable existence.

The fact that I can read your Sea of Cortez and find so many similarities and identifications reaffirms my views that the procedures and the philosophies of collecting are universal. I only hope that I can set it down in a text that makes it interesting to the reader.

I want to use a good number of the illustrations. You were quite right, the plates were beautiful and very well done. While your Grapsid crab may not be the same species as my Grapsid crab, let us remember that a Grapsid crab is still

hell to catch. There is nothing to beat the exhalted feeling of accomplishment that one gets after he has climbed over the slippery rocks and finally, and perhaps a little viciously slaps down on the elusive monster. Even then you get the feeling that your Grapsid crab was one of the stupid ones in the community and you're just aiding in an overall plan of natural selection. Since my book is on collecting, it is not necessary to give the last names of the leading characters because that would restrict it to a given area. It should be universal, if that is possible.

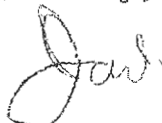
Is written permission enough from you, or should I get the OK through your publishers?

Shirley Fisher is now handling my work. She has a manuscript on my experiences and adventures aboard commercial fishing boats in the Gulf, but I have not yet heard from her.

Have you heard anything on the CBS Television production of the Sea of Cortez? I would love to get down to the Gulf of California to collect and photograph marine life as a background for my text and earn some cash in the bargain. Besides, here in Florida the tides are high, the weather bad and my itch to travel is increasing severely.

Please write.

Sincerely,



Jack J. Rudlee