

Pacific Science Board

1946-1970

The Pacific Science Board (PSB) was established in late 1946 because of the recommendations made by the Pacific Science conference held in June 1946 by the National Research Council (NRC). Members of the board and consultants were appointed to represent various scientific fields and different geographical areas, and committees were established. The three basic objectives of the PSB were to:

- Aid scientists who wished to engage in scientific investigations for which there was a need in the Pacific area
- To advise governmental and other agencies on scientific matters pertaining to the Pacific
- To further international cooperation in the field of Pacific science

From 1946 to 1962 the office of the PSB was attached to the Chairman's office of the NRC. Thereafter the Office of the Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences was expanded and the PSB became part of that office with responsibility for the work of the section on Pacific-Far Eastern Affairs. Upon the retirement of the executive director in 1969, the PSB was dissolved, and a committee took over the advisory activities relating to this area of the work of the Office of the Foreign Secretary.

During the first years of PSB's existence, emphasis was aimed at providing information at first to the U.S. Navy and then the Department of the Interior; to aid in administering the [Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands \(TTPI\)](#), and to the Department of the Army in administering the Ryukyu Islands in Japan. Several areas of research were:

- [Coordinated Investigation of Micronesian Anthropology \(CIMA\)](#) – This was designed to supply basic information to help establish adequate and practical civilian government for the area and at the same time gather information that would fill a gap in scientific knowledge of the Micronesian Islands.
- [Scientific Investigations of Micronesia \(SIM\)](#) – This program was an extension of the CIMA program into other fields of science and included field work in anthropology, botany, forestry, zoology and ecology. A principal activity in the program was the Coral Atoll Program of basic research using an ecological approach to the study of environmental factors affecting life on atolls.
- [Insect Control Committee for Micronesia \(ICCM\)](#) – This program was established to assist and advise administrative authorities of the islands in these areas. It was later enlarged to include all invertebrates and called the Invertebrate Consultants Committee for the Pacific (ICCP).
- [Scientific Investigations in the Ryukyu Islands \(SIRI\)](#) – This was a joint program with PSB and the [U.S. Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands \(USCAR\)](#). Studies in anthropology, botany, entomology along with surveys of tuberculosis, eye and parasitic diseases were conducted.
- [Pacific Island Rat Ecology \(PIRATE\)](#) – This project covered a three-year biological and ecological study of Pacific Island rats to furnish a scientific basis for comparison with knowledge of rats in other environments, and to supply a sounder basis for effective control measures.
- [Biological Investigations in the Pacific Area \(BIPA\)](#) – This project furnished logistical support for a fish collection project, sea turtle study, trochus study, and financial assistance to specialists to identify collections from the field work.
- Science information surveys – Several were carried out in Indonesia, Malaya, Singapore, Vietnam and Japan. Reports on these surveys were published by the Pacific Scientific Information Center of the [Bishop Museum](#) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The collection is 15 linear feet (two 5-drawer filing cabinets) of folders and bound reports. The records are separated by year, so the listings below that show a group of years, i.e. 1949-1950 or 1950-1955 are to be considered as two records (1949-1950) or six records (1950-1955).

Some reports have been made available online and are [available here](#).

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- Meighan, C. W.: 1964
 - Population Study: Coulter, J. W.: 1954
 - Survey of Land Use & Agriculture in American Samoa: Farrell, B. H.: 1959-1962
 - Trends in Population & Culture on Ulithi: Lessa, W. A.: 1960
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 - Anthropological Study in American Samoa: Lay, T. E.: 1952
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ORGANIZATION

- 1954-1960, 1962

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- National Science Foundation: 1951-1968
- Office of Naval Research: 1947-1966
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- Reconstruction Finance Corporation: US Commercial Company: Economic Survey of Micronesia: 1947
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