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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR Bureau of Fisheries
Office of Maritime Survey & Research
CONFIDENTIAL

INCIDENT REPORT: ANOMALOUS DIVING PATALITY - LA JOLLA CANYON

LOCATION:

Marine Biological Association of San Diego, La

Jolla, California

DATE OF INCIDENT:

October 4, 1908

FILED BY:

Acting Research Director

INCIDENT SUMMARY

At approximately 21:30 hours on October 4, 1908, civilian research diver Samuel Wainwright and Marine Biological Association of San Diego (MBA) science director Dr. William Ritter were aboard the research vessel Alexander Agassiz approximately NM off the La Jolla shoreline. As part of recent research investigation into the "red tide" bioluminescence phenomenon, Wainwright was to conduct a depth survey in the northwest region of La Jolla Canyon, a submarine canyon which MBA researchers had recently traced the "red tide" phenomenon to. At approximately 22:10 hours, Wainwright finished diving preparations and entered the water, equipped with a diving gauge and a 2000 psi steel compressed-air tank.

Communication with Wainwright was maintained via tethered phonograph transmitter until approximately 22:40 hours, at which point transmission became erratic and unintelligible. The erratic communications continued for approximately 6 minutes before ceasing completely.

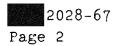
A recovery team was deployed immediately. Wainwright's lifeline remained unbroken, though it was found slack. At 23:12, the diver's body was retrieved. Despite being submerged for no more than twenty-five

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minutes, the subject exhibited advanced signs of cyanosis and severe cerebral and occular hemorrhaging. Post-mortem examination by the San Diego County Coroner's Office revealed extensive tissue deterioration and necrosis inconsistent with known causes of drowning or decompression sickness.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

	1.	Pric	or t	0 2	2:47	hours,	Wainwr:	ight	had	rep	orte	d the	pre	esence	of
					W	ainwrigh	t also	not	ed t	hat	the :	fish	and	other	
marine	ê]	life	arc	und			appear	red	tc b	e ac	ting	unna	tura	ully,	al-
though	n t	chis	was	nc	t el	aborated	upon.								

2. Witnesses aboard the vessel reported an ancmalous shift in water clarity at the time of the incident, describing despite clear conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1. All further civilian diving operations in La Zolla Canyon have been ceased immediately.
- 2. Marine Biological Association personnel have teen instructed to cease any independent investigation pending further review.
- 3. This report has been forwarded to the Bureau of Fisheries and the Office of Naval Intelligence for additional assessment.

Due to the unusual nature of this incident, <u>further</u> inquiries are to be handled through official channels only.



Acting Research Director

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