

I met the Gulf of California in the fall of 1963 and I fell in love.

It was the first semester of my job as a lecturer at the University of Arizona.

My wife, Jenean, and I arrived from Hawaii with 4 children (all born in Hawaii) after finishing a doctorate program in Marine Zoology. Albert Mead, the Head of the Zoology Department at the U of A, recruited me to develop a marine science program in the Gulf. Before my doctoral work in Hawaii, I had earned a MS degree in Fisheries, at the University of Michigan. A summer in Bermuda convinced me that the tropical ocean sure beats the Great Lakes!

My first trip to the Gulf was to Puerto Peñasco and I was thoroughly excited to be able to study one of the greatest intertidal zones in the world ocean. But I soon realized that there was a lack of accurate tide tables, geographic information, and field guides of the fauna and flora. I felt like an explorer! The

program evolved with the help of faculty and students and we were able to get the data to predict the tides. I soon began what evolved into a 30-year study of the Gulf grunion. With colleague John Hendrickson, who had experience in the Gulf, we recruited two dedicated graduate students, Rick Brusca (invertebrates) and Lloyd Findley (fishes) and began to establish the study collections that ultimately produced the three field guides that are still the standard references for the Gulf.

We developed curricula and recruited happy graduate students. My oceanography class and the summer trips to the Gulf and became very popular. We cheered the development of young marine biology students, some of whom established their own research legacies. Among them I think of Chris Flanagan, whose research with John Hendrickson, was important in securing endangered species status for the totoaba. And Jeff Leis, who became the eminent world authority on larval fish taxonomy, credits the experience in our undergraduate program for his lifelong passion and inspiration.

I am proud of our graduates, Sarah Mesnick, Jeff Seminoff, Phil Hastings, and Rick Brusca--please forgive me for naming just a few--whose work continues to have world-wide impact. And,

closer to home, I am so happy to see the growth of CEDO, established and ably run by Peggy Turk-Boyer and Rick Boyer. CEDO continues to provide a field station to inspire the next generation of marine scientists and promote conservation in the northern Gulf.

Although I am retired, it still irritates me when I tell Arizonans that I am a marine biologist. They seem shocked that I live here in the land of cactus. I think they are in denial, refusing to recognize the fascinating Sea of Cortez only a few hours away from Tucson. In that regard, I was cheered to see the marine exhibit installed at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. And, I applaud the work of many here at N-Gen who are working to study the links between the Sonoran Desert and the Sea of Cortez. Throughout my career, I was respectful of the fact that the Gulf was located in a neighboring country. I can't thank Mexico enough for welcoming and supporting our education and research programs over these many years. It is heartening to see avenues of cooperation regarding research in the Gulf that continue to develop.

In closing, I thank N-Gen for this award. I envy all of you for tackling the exciting and innumerable challenges facing you both

within and beyond this region. You know them better than I. Just remember that the oceans with your help, have great resilience.