

## Northeast Gulf Science

---

Volume 1  
Number 1 *Number 1*

Article 1

---

6-1977

# George Armytage Rounsefell 1905-1976

Robert L. Shipp

Gordon Gunter

Charles H. Lyles

DOI: 10.18785/negs.0101.01

Follow this and additional works at: <https://aquila.usm.edu/goms>

---

### Recommended Citation

Shipp, R. L., G. Gunter and C. H. Lyles. 1977. George Armytage Rounsefell 1905-1976. *Northeast Gulf Science* 1 (1). Retrieved from <https://aquila.usm.edu/goms/vol1/iss1/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by The Aquila Digital Community. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Gulf of Mexico Science* by an authorized editor of The Aquila Digital Community. For more information, please contact [Joshua.Cromwell@usm.edu](mailto:Joshua.Cromwell@usm.edu).



George Armytage Rounsefell 1905-1976

After "retirement", George Rounsefell planned to devote his efforts to publication of "Northeast Gulf Science". He was not able to see the first issue go to press. Therefore, there should be little question as to why Volume 1, Number 1, begins with a memorial to him.

George Armytage Rounsefell was born in Alaska. Before he was 20, he had begun his fishery studies that spanned more than a half century and most of North America.

It would be inappropriate for me, who knew him but a tiny fraction of his life, to comment at length on him as a fishery scientist and as an individual. Suffice to say that during this last decade "Doc" provided our "younger team" with a model that both amazed and challenged. His productivity never required apology due to age. Furthermore, that barrier of years never impeded development of friendship, warmth and mutual respect.

For a truer testament of Doc's place in our scientific society, his career experience and 89 publications speak for themselves. A complete list follows this memorial. In addition, Dr. Gordon Gunter and Mr. Charles H. Lyles have kindly provided the following two personal, unedited cameos of George Armytage Rounsefell.

—Robert L. Shipp

### George Rounsefell - An Appreciation

By

Gordon Gunter  
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

George A. Rounsefell was willing to take a stand on most questions and he

was never backward about stating his views. Therefore he hassled with a good many people and I was one of them. Nevertheless, we maintained a mutual self-respect and cooperated whenever we could to the end of his life. What I liked was the fact that he was a good fishery man and he worked hard. He mixed himself in quickly with several fishery projects on the Gulf Coast and in his own way he benefited them all. He saw quickly that there was not much to the high seas fishery and that all of the important matters stemmed from the inshore shallows and the Continental Shelf. One of his last reports concerned a design for a fishway for the proposed Sutton Lake Lock and Dam on the Apalachicola River.

When Rounsefell came to the Gulf Coast he liked it and he expected to stay. However, when the federal Fisheries Service saw fit to remove Albert Collier from the directorship of the Galveston Laboratory and replace him with Rounsefell, the first Collier knew was when it was ineptly announced in an open staff meeting of the Laboratory. A long series of similar inept moves, some of which I watched for over 45 years has caused the relative decline of this branch of the Government, which should be big and strong and flourishing. Be that as it may, the whole thing did not set well with Collier's friends both in and out of the Service and they took it out on Rounsefell. I finally became convinced not too long ago by people who were in the know at the time, that Rounsefell had nothing to do with the way the administrative change was presented in Galveston. Even so he bore the blame for it and was handicapped during his whole administration there. When the animus against him had built up for that and other reasons until he was relegated to the innocuous position of editor and

assigned to California, Rounsefell resigned after nearly 40 years with the Service.

He remained on the Gulf coast and was employed from 1963 to 1975 by the University of Alabama variously as Professor of Biology, Marine Biology, Marine Science and Director of the Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory, and the Marine Science Institute of the University. During this time he published 24 papers and research reports and encyclopedia articles; he also published five book reviews, and gave two addresses and four special reports to various commissions. Finally in 1975 right after retirement from the University he published his major text, *Ecology, Utilization, and Management of Marine Fisheries*, which is undoubtedly the leading American text on this subject.

In summary, George Rounsefell worked hard and thought deeply and he never went about trying to get ahead by being a big buddy to anybody. He stated his view and defended it. He came to the South in 1957 and was on the Gulf Coast for 20 years, where he contributed a great deal to fishery science and scholarship. He was a scion of the Stanford fisheries school and he was a good disciple and representative of the school in fisheries and academic circles on the Gulf Coast. He was recognized as a world authority on fisheries because of his published works. His influence will be felt for a long time to come.

He was born in Alaska and raised in the State of Washington and was finally laid to rest in Washington, Vermont, his wife's home, for as she told me at his funeral, "We were always fisheries people and had no roots." This highlights one of the sacrifices that fishery people have to make. George Rounsefell paid that sacrifice and did well by the world.

## George A. Rounsefell

By

Charles H. Lyles

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission  
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

I was employed by the old Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce in 1938 in a position to gather statistical data on the fisheries in New York and New England. Shortly after entering on duty I met George Rounsefell. I found we shared a common belief, that in order to manage our fisheries we must develop an adequate data base. This not only meant statistics on catch and effort but such other basic research as life history, stock identification, predation inter-relationship, etc. George was very blunt and factual about the need for these requirements and he also believed that you must have a fundamental understanding of mathematics to properly evaluate these data.

During the ensuing 35 years our paths crossed frequently and each time we served in the same general area I found George most helpful. While serving in the North Atlantic with the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, George Rounsefell, who was then at Woods Hole, was most helpful with the Commission problems. Later when he was transferred to the Galveston, Texas laboratory, I too, was in the Gulf area. In that position he was given an impossible task and was not fully backed in carrying out the mandate.

The unfortunate matter in no way diminished his zeal as a fishery research scientist. He was indeed a fisheries man. He never lacked the courage to tell one of poor quality work and he was adept at it since his standards were high. On the other hand, I found his criticisms

extremely helpful for I knew he was in reality only offering help.

The fisheries world has lost a tireless, capable and honest researcher and many of us in fisheries work have lost a true friend.

### George A. Rounsefell

#### CAREER EXPERIENCE

- 1924: Scientific Assistant, California Fish and Game Department, Terminal Island Laboratory - albacore and sardines.
- 1925-34: In charge of Alaska herring investigations, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.
- 1934-38: In charge of Fraser River salmon investigations, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.
- 1938-44: In charge of groundfish abundance, Cambridge, Mass., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 1944-45: Assistant Coordinator, Defense Fisheries Administration, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- 1946-48: Chief of Branch of Anadromous Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.
- 1948-51: Chief of Atlantic Salmon Investigations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Orono, Maine.
- 1951-52: Reviewer of biological reports and conducted independent research. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- 1953-54: Leader of Fishery Mission to Turkey, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- 1955-56: Reviewer of biological reports and conducted independent research. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.
- 1957-63: Director of U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Galveston, Texas.
- 1963-64: Professor of Marine Science, University of Alabama.
- 1966-69: Director, Marine Sciences Institute, Professor of Marine Sciences Institute, and Professor of Marine Science, University of Alabama.
- 1969-75: Professor of Marine Science, Marine Sciences Institute, University of Alabama.

1973-75: Professor of Marine Biology, Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, Dauphin Island, Alabama.

1975-76: Professor Emeritus, University of Alabama.

#### PUBLICATIONS

1. 1926 Report of progress in Alaska herring investigations. *Pacific Fisherman*, December 1926, 24(13):20-21, Seattle.
2. 1928 Some observations on the Alaska herring. *Pacific Fisherman*, 1928, 26(9):62, Seattle.
3. 1928 Some observations on the Alaska herring. *Pacific Fisherman*, 1928, 26(10):20-21, Seattle.
4. 1930 Contribution to the biology of the Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, and the condition of the fishery in Alaska. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bulletin 45:227-520, 53 figures, Washington.
5. 1930 The existence and causes of dominant year classes in the Alaska herring. Contribution to Marine Biology, 1930, pp. 260-270, 5 figures, Stanford University, California.
6. 1932 Fluctuations in the supply of herring, *Clupea pallasii*, in southeastern Alaska. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bulletin 47:15-56, 26 figures.
7. 1932 Fluctuations in the supply of herring, *Clupea pallasii*, in Prince William Sound, Alaska, by George A. Rounsefell and E. H. Dahlgren. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bulletin 47(9):263-291.
8. 1933 Tagging experiments on the Pacific herring, *Clupea pallasii*, by George A. Rounsefell and Edwin H. Dahlgren. *Journal du Conseil International pour L'Exploration de la Mer*, 8(3):371-384, 6 figures.
9. 1934 Occurrence of mackerel in Alaska. *Copeia* (1):42.
10. 1934 Several distinct races of herring are found in southeastern Alaska. *Pacific Fisherman*, 32(3):31, 1934, Seattle.
11. 1935 Races of herring, *Clupea pallasii*, in southeastern Alaska, by George A. Rounsefell and Edwin H. Dahlgren. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bulletin 48(17):119-141, 10 figures.
12. 1935 Abundance and seasonal occurrence of the salmon in the Puget Sound region and the development of the

- fishery, by George A. Rounsefell and George B. Kelez. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Special Report, 49 p., 12 figures, 1935, Washington.
13. 1938 The salmon and salmon fisheries of Swiftsure Bank, Puget Sound and the Fraser River, by George A. Rounsefell and George B. Kelez. U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Bulletin 49(27):693-823, 29 figures.
  14. 1941 Restoration of the Atlantic salmon in New England, by William C. Herrington and George A. Rounsefell. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1940), 70:123-127.
  15. 1941 Haddock tagging. Year Book of the Fishing Masters' Association, Boston, pp. 15.
  16. 1942 Field experiments in selecting the most efficient tag for use in haddock studies. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1941), 71:228-235, 1 figure.
  17. 1942 The use of "trash" fish as a new source of food supply, by William C. Herrington, George A. Rounsefell and Alfred Perlmutter. Year Book of the Fishing Masters' Association, Boston, pp. 15-17.
  18. 1942 The New England alewife fisheries, with special reference to Maine, by George A. Rounsefell and Louis D. Stringer. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Leaflet 42, 33 p.
  19. 1944 Fishways for small streams. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Leaflet 92, 6 p. illustrations.
  20. 1945 How to mark fish, by George A. Rounsefell and John L. Kask. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1943), 73:394-424, illustrations.
  21. 1945 The New England alewife fisheries, with special references to Maine, by George A. Rounsefell and Louis Stringer. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1943), 73:394-424, illustrations.
  22. 1946 Fish production in lakes as a guide for estimating production in proposed reservoirs. Copeia, 1946, 1:29-40, 3 figures.
  23. 1947 The effect on natural and artificial propagation in maintaining a run of Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot River. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1947), 74:188-208, 1 figure.
  24. 1947 Evaluation of fisheries in determining benefits and losses from engineering projects, by Richard A. Kahn and George A. Rounsefell. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report No. 40, 10 p.
  25. 1947 Herring. Encyclopedia Britannica.
  26. 1947 Fishes of the Pacific Coast of Canada, by Wilbert A. Clemens and G. V. Wilby. (A Review), Copeia, 1947, 3:214.
  27. 1948 Development of fishery statistics in the North Atlantic. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report No. 47, 18 p.
  28. 1949 Salmon restoration in Maine, by George A. Rounsefell and Lyndon H. Bond. Maine Atlantic Sea-Run Salmon Commission. Research Report No. 1, 52 p., Augusta.
  29. 1949 Methods of estimating total runs and escapements of salmon. Biometrics, 5(2):115-126, 5 figures.
  30. 1950 Growth control charts applied to Atlantic salmon, by George A. Rounsefell and Lyndon H. Bond. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, (1948), 78:189-191, 1 figure.
  31. 1950 Diet experiments on Atlantic salmon in Maine, by George A. Rounsefell, Lyndon H. Bond and George K. White. Progressive Fish - Culturist, 12(3):159-172, 1 figure.
  32. 1950 Atlantic salmon program. Sportsman's Guide, Main Fish and Game Association, September 1950, Rumford, Maine.
  33. 1951 An interim report on salmon restoration in the St. Croix, Aroostock, and St. John Rivers, by Scott H. Bair and George A. Rounsefell. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, April 1951, 28 p.
  34. 1953 Fishery science, its methods and applications, by George A. Rounsefell and W. Harry Everhart. 444 p., John Wiley and Sons, New York.
  35. 1954 Report on the International Training Center in Fishery Biology held in Istanbul, Turkey. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report No. 298, 9 p., September 1954.
  36. 1954 Biology of the commercial fishes of the Gulf of Mexico. In Gulf of Mexico, Its Origins, Waters, and

- Marine Life. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Bulletin 55(89):507-512.
37. 1955 Report to the Government of Turkey on fishery biology. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Report No. 391, 23 p., July 1955.
  38. 1957 Reviewing scientific manuscripts in the Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Administrative Leaflet 14, 12 p.
  39. 1957 A method of estimating abundance of groundfish on Georges Bank. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Bulletin 57(113):265-278.
  40. 1957 Fecundity of North American Salmonidae. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Bulletin 57(122):451-468.
  41. 1957 Effects of lake fertilization by volcanic activity on abundance of salmon, by G. J. Eicher, Jr. and George A. Rounsefell. *Limnology and Oceanography*, 2(2):70-76.
  42. 1958 Anadromy in North American Salmonidae. *Fishery Bulletin* 58(131):171-185, 2 figures.
  43. 1958 Factors causing decline in sockeye salmon of Karluk River, Alaska. *Fishery Bulletin* 58(130):83-168, 61 figures, 44 tables.
  44. 1958 Shrimp research by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 10th Annual Session, p.p. 43-44.
  45. 1958 Large-scale experimental test of copper sulfate as a control for the Florida red tide, by George A. Rounsefell and John E. Evans. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report-Fisheries No. 270, 57 p.
  46. 1958 (Editor) Annual report of the Gulf Fishery Investigations for the year ending June 30, 1958. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 106 p.
  47. 1959 On the dynamics of explored fish populations, by R. J. H. Beverton and S. J. Holt. (A Review), *Limnology and Oceanography*, 4(2):230-231.
  48. 1959 Seafood for sale, by George A. Rounsefell and Charles H. Lyles. *Texas Game and Fish*, May, pp. 34-35.
  49. 1959 (Editor) Fishery research, Galveston Biological Laboratory, fiscal year 1959. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Circular 62, 127 p.
  50. 1960 Garfish. In *World Book Encyclopedia*, Chicago.
  51. 1960 Lamprey. In *World Book Encyclopedia*, Chicago.
  52. 1960 Shrimp. In *World Book Encyclopedia*, Chicago.
  53. 1960 Tunas. In *World Book Encyclopedia*, Chicago.
  54. 1960 Fish and Ships, by Ralph W. Andrews and A. K. Larsen. (A Review by Bernard E. Skud and George A. Rounsefell), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 89(1):84-85.
  55. 1960 Rainbow trout in Mexico and California, with notes on the cutthroat series, by Paul R. Needham and Richard Gard. (A Review), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 89(2):243-244.
  56. 1960 (Editor) Fishery research, Galveston Biological Laboratory, fiscal year 1960. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Circular 92, 77 p.
  57. 1961 How can research production be measured? Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 13th Annual Session, 1960, pp. 139-150.
  58. 1961 Fishery management, by R. S. Fort and J. D. Brayshaw. (A Review), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 90(3):341-342.
  59. 1961 Living fishes of the world, by Earl S. Herald. (A Review), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 90(3):341.
  60. 1961 (Editor) Fishery research, Galveston Biological Laboratory, fiscal year 1961. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Circular 129, 82 p.
  61. 1962 Relationships among North American Salmonidae. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Fishery Bulletin* 209(62):235-270, 19 figures.
  62. 1962 Introduction to the study of animal populations, by H. G. Andrewartha. (A Review), *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 91(3):330.
  63. 1963 (Editor) Fishery research, Galveston Biological Laboratory, fiscal year 1962. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Circular 161, 101 p.
  64. 1963 Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) in northern Norway in the year 1960, by Magnus Berg. (A Review), *Transactions of the Ameri-*

- can Fisheries Society, 92(2):187.
65. 1963 Marking of fish and invertebrates. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Leaflet 549, 12 p.
66. 1963 The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory, Galveston, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Circular 154, 30 p.
67. 1963 Realism in the management of estuaries. Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory, Marine Research Bulletin 1(1):13 p.
68. 1964 Preconstruction study of the fisheries of the estuarine areas traversed by the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Project. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Bulletin 63(2):373-393.
69. 1964 New horizons under the sea. *In* Quest, Special Supplement to the Birmingham News, May 17, 1964.
70. 1964 Status of red-tide research in 1964, by George A. Rounsefell and Walter R. Nelson. Alabama Marine Resources Laboratory, Technical Report 64-1, 192 p.
71. 1965 Salmon. Encyclopedia Britannica.
72. 1965 Fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences, 11:19-26.
73. 1965 Role of various factors causing red-tide blooms as deduced from field observations. *In* Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Symposium on red tide. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report-Fisheries No. 521, pp. 2-3.
74. 1965 Supplementary statement. *In* Proceedings of the National Conference on the concept of a Sea-Grant University, October 28-29, 1965, pp. 8. University of Rhode Island and Southern New England Marine Sciences Association, Newport, 96 p.
75. 1966 Red-tide research summarized to 1964 with an annotated bibliography by George A. Rounsefell and Walter Nelson. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Special Scientific Report - Fisheries No. 535, 85 p.
76. 1966 Correlation between oceanographic factors and abundance of the Florida red tide (*Gymnodinium breve* Davis), 1954-1961, by George A. Rounsefell and Alexander Dragovich. University of Miami, Bulletin of Marine Science, 16(3):404-422.
77. 1967 Changes in oyster bottoms of Alabama since 1894, by Hugh A. McClellan and George A. Rounsefell. Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science, 38(3):217, (Abstract).
78. 1968 Effects of a shell-boring annelid, *Polydora websteri*, on the condition of the American oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, by Hugh A. McClellan and George A. Rounsefell. Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science, 39(3):196 (Abstract).
79. 1969 Fish migration, by F. T. Harden Jones. (A Review), Transactions of the American Fisheries Society, 98(3):545.
80. 1969 Models of oceanic migrations of Pacific salmon and comments on guidance mechanism, by William F. Royce, Lynwood S. Smith and Allan C. Hartt. (A Review), Journal of Marine Science, Alabama, 1(1):93-96.
81. 1969 Marking of fish. *In* Encyclopedia of Marine Resources, Van Nostrand Reinhold, pp. 389-393.
82. 1971 Potential food from the Sea. Journal of Marine Science, Alabama, 1(3):1-82.
83. 1971 Fish and invertebrate culture, by Stephen H. Spotte. (A Review), Journal of Marine Science, Alabama, 1(3):83-85.
84. 1972 Ecological effects of offshore construction. Journal of Marine Science, Alabama, 2(1):130 p.
85. 1973 Comments on "Evaluation of causes for the decline of the Karluk sockeye salmon runs and recommendations for rehabilitation", by R. Van Cleave and D. E. Bevan. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishery Bulletin 71(3):651-659.
86. 1973 Commercial fishing. *In* Atlas of Alabama, pp. 78-79, University of Alabama Press.
87. 1974 A biologist looks at the energy crisis. Project Independence Hearings, September 23-27, 1974, Atlanta.
88. 1975 Ecology, utilization, and management of marine fisheries. 516 p., C. V. Mosby Company, Saint Louis.
89. 1975 Management or bankruptcy in the Gulf shrimp industry. Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. In Press.