



*Claud Ephraim ZoBell:  
Father of Marine  
Microbiology*

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### **Introduction**

ZoBell was born in 1904, as the third child to a family that originated from Denmark. He attended the Rigby High School in Rigby, Idaho. He did his graduation in B.Sc., with Bacteriology in 1927 and M.Sc., in 1929. To fund his studies he worked part-time at Utah State Agricultural College (now known as Utah State University). He died on March 13, 1989.

ZoBell got Thompson Scholarship at University of California at Berkeley for his Ph.D. under the Karl Meyer on growth requirements and metabolism of *Brucella*.

### **TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL**

From 1924 to 1926 ZoBell worked as a teacher and the Principal at Rigby.

### **AWARD**

King Frederick IX of Denmark awarded ZoBell the Galathea Medal in 1952 for successfully recovering the bacteria from 34,000 feet water in the Mindano Trench near Philippines. Soviet Union academy of Sciences awarded him Oceanography Medal in 1958. Pacific Science Association awarded him Hatai Medal. Utah State University presented him with the Distinguished Service Award and an honorary D.Sc.

### **FATHER AND FOUNDER**

He is regarded as Father of Marine Microbiology. He Founded the International Journal of Geomicrobiology in 1976.

### **RESEARCH & WORK**

ZoBells' research concluded that life not only began on Earths' surface but at the bottom of the oceans under tremendous heat and pressure. He worked at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

### **ZOBELLS MEDIAS**

**The Medias named after him are;**

ZoBells Agar; ZoBells Broth; ZoBells Marine Agar; and ZoBells Marine Broth.

### **Petroleum Microbiology**

ZoBell proposed a bacterial role in the origin of petroleum.

### **Book**

In 1946 he wrote book entitled Marine Microbiology.

## MARINE MICROBIOLOGY

A MONOGRAPH ON HYDROBACTERIOLOGY

BY

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Foreword by SELMAN A. WAKEMAN  
*Professor of Microbiology, Rutgers University, etc.*



1946

WALTHAM, MASS., U.S.A.

Published by the Chronica Botanica Company

## POSITIONS

At Scripps, he served as Assistant to the Director (1936-1952); as an consultant in epidemiology (1953-1959); member and chairman, editorial board, Bulletin of the SIO (1945-1960); member, executive committee, Institute of Marine Resources; Chairman, Division of Marine Biology; and on other SIO committees.

## PATENTS

The following table shows the list of patents.

Sr. No	Title	Year	Number
1	Bacteriological Process for Treatment of fluid-Bearng Earth formations	1946	2,413,278
2	Recovery of Hydrocarbons	1953	2,641,566
3	Process of Removing Sulfur from Petroleum Hydrocarbons and Apparatus	1953	2,641,564
4	Method of Removing Deposits of Wax and like Materials	1956	2,742,398

## References:

1. A.B. Solunke, V.S.Hamde, P.R.Thorat, R.S. Awasthi. History of Microbiology and Microbiological Methods. Athrave Publishers Jalgaon.
- 2.A.B.Solunke, V.S.Hamde, P.S.Wakte, R.S.Awasthi. Manual of Methods for Pure Culture Study. NPI Publishers, New Delhi.
3. S.C.Aithal and A.B. Solunke. Pollution control by Microorganisms: Bioremediation Biocontrol and other emerging Technologies. Cinnamon & Teal Publishers, Goa.
5. US Patents website.