

# UA's Acona to Measure Carbon Dioxide

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska's research vessel Acona, based at Seward, departed Tuesday (July 11) for a six-week cruise in the Bering Sea, Dr. Donald W. Hood, director of the university's Institute of Marine Science, announced.

During the first two weeks, a research team headed by John Kelley will attempt to measure the carbon dioxide exchange between air and sea. The ocean now contains approximately 60 times more carbon dioxide than the air.

Scientists estimate that by the year 2000, the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air in this century through the burning of fossil fuels (coal, petroleum) will have doubled, said Hood, adding that this higher level of carbon dioxide could increase the average world temperature and consequently affect the world climate.

Others taking part in this research are Dr. Richard Neve, Dr. Satoru Kanamori, and marine technicians Emma R. Dieter and David Boisseau.

The remainder of the Acona cruise will be devoted to study of marine organism production and cycling in the southeast Bering Sea. Phytoplankton, zooplankton and marine plants and animals of the sea-bottom will be collected for analysis later in institute laboratories here.

Directing this research are Drs. John Goering and C. Peter McRoy. Others taking part are Dr. Aki Hattori, visiting Japanese scientist, technicians Charles Patton, Jim Hall, Dieter and Boisseau, and graduate student David Nelson.

Basically, the researchers will be attempting to determine why the Bering Sea, despite the fact it is ice-covered about six months a year, is so biologically productive, said Hood.

Researchers hope to make a winter cruise "on some vessel" to follow up on their work this summer, said the scientist, explaining the Acona is too small for winter operations.