**Descriptive Summary**

**Languages:** English

**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla 92093-0175

**Title:** Kelco Aerial Photograph Collection

**Creator:** Kelco (Firm)

**Identifier/Call Number:** SMC 0129

**Physical Description:** 4.5 Linear feet (8 archives boxes, 1 flat box)

**Date (inclusive):** circa 1931-1992

**Abstract:** The collection consists of black and white, color, and infrared aerial photography of kelp beds and coastline from Baja California to Point Conception.

**Digital Content**

All images in Series 3) SCANNED IMAGES are exclusively available digitally. Due to copyright constraints, digital content is restricted to UC San Diego IP addresses (including UCSD-PROTECTED network for wireless, and VPN or Proxy for off-campus access).

**Items available online**

**Publication Rights**

Publication rights are held by the creator of the collection.

**Acquisition Note**

Acquired 2011.

**Preferred Citation**

Kelco Aerial Photograph Collection. SMC 129. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

**OFF SITE STORAGE**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. ALLOW ONE WEEK FOR RETRIEVAL OF MATERIALS.

**Historical Note**

The Kelco Company (est. 1929, San Diego) was the world’s largest commercial producer of algin, a derivative of alginic acid used as a stabilizing, suspending and gelling agent in a variety of food and industrial applications. Kelco's fleet harvested giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) and rockweed (Ascophyllum nodosum) from the waters off Baja and Southern and Central California to procure alginic acid. To facilitate its harvesting operations, the company conducted aerial surveys of kelp beds regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game. This visual survey information was used to direct vessels to mature areas of kelp canopy that had sufficient density for harvesting.

Kelco Company was purchased by Monsanto in 1995 and became part of their Kelco Alginates division. Kelco Alginates merged with International Specialty Products in 1999 and the new company was named ISP Alginates. The business shut down its San Diego operations in 2005 citing increased permit, regulation, and energy costs.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection consists of black and white, color, and infrared aerial photography of kelp beds and coastline from Baja California to Point Conception. The order and numbering systems utilized in the original survey project binders were preserved where possible within folders.

Arranged in three series: 1) SLIDES, 2) PHOTOGRAPHS, and 3) SCANNED IMAGES.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Giant kelp -- Aerial photographs
Kelps -- Aerial photographs
Kelco (Firm) -- Archives

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**SLIDES**

**Scope and Content of Series**

Series 1) SLIDES: Color images in slide mounts arranged by the general geographic areas of surveys taken between 1973-1992 in Central California and Baja California.
Aerial Surveys of Central California

Box 1, Folder 1-2  Carmel 1973-1976
Box 1, Folder 3-4  Estero to Monterey 1978
Box 1, Folder 5  Central California 1982 August 29
Box 2, Folder 1-2  Central California 1982 August 29
                Pigeon Point to Pismo Beach
Box 2, Folder 3-5  1983 September-October
Box 3, Folder 1-4  1984 August 25, 26
Box 4, Folder 1-5  1985 September 12, 13
Box 5, Folder 1-6  1986 September 10, 15, 28

Aerial Surveys of Baja California

Box 6, Folder 1-5  Aer-Mex 1976-1992
Box 6, Folder 6-8  Tijuana to Punta San Carlos 1985 July 15
Box 7, Folder 1-2  Tijuana to Sacramento Reef 1984 June-August
Box 7, Folder 3  Isla Todos Santos, Punta Banda, San Quentin 1981 September 9

PHOTOGRAPHS
Scope and Content of Series
Series 2) PHOTOGRAPHS: Contains black and white, primarily 8x10 inch photographic prints arranged by the general geographic areas of the surveys taken between 1946-1949 in Central California and Baja California.

Aerial surveys of Central California

Box 8, Folder 1  Carpinteria to Point Conception 1960
                General
                Photos numbered 45-81 on verso.

Box 8, Folder 2  San Clemente, San Nicolas, and Santa Rosa Islands 1956-1957
                General
                Photos numbered 82-117, 125-128, 131-134 on verso.

Box 8, Folder 3  Point Conception 1957
                General
                Photos numbered 118-119, 122-124 on verso.

Box 8, Folder 4  La Jolla, Dana Point, San Mateo 1957
                General
                Photos numbered 120-121, 129-130 on verso.

Box 8, Folder 5  Santa Barbara to Point Loma 1954
                General
                Photos numbered 169-206 on verso.

Box 8, Folder 6  Los Angeles County 1950-1955
                General
                Photos numbered 305-332 on verso.
# Aerial surveys of Central California

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>8, Folder 7</td>
<td>Santa Barbara County</td>
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<td>General Photos numbered 136-168 on verso.</td>
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<td>8, Folder 8</td>
<td>Point Loma to Point Arguello</td>
<td>1962 August 8</td>
<td>General Photos numbered 333-402 on verso.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, Folder 9-11, Oversize FB-477, Folder 4</td>
<td>Channel Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, Folder 9-11, Oversize FB-477, Folder 5</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Unidentified 1946</td>
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<tr>
<td>8, Folder 9-11, Oversize FB-477, Folder 6</td>
<td>Unidentified</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>San Diego County 1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, Folder 4</td>
<td>Cabo Colnett</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Coronaodo Islands 1955 May 17</td>
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<td>Ensenada (South)</td>
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<td>7, Folder 8</td>
<td>Punta Banda</td>
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<td>7, Folder 10</td>
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<td>7, Folder 11</td>
<td>Punta Santo Tomas</td>
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<td>Punta San Jose 1958</td>
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<td>7, Folder 12</td>
<td>San Telmo</td>
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<td>Punta San Miguel 1951</td>
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<td>7, Folder 14</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>San Telmo 1958</td>
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<td>7, Folder 15</td>
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<td>Rosario Bay 1950-1951</td>
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<td>7, Folder 16</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<td>7, Folder 18</td>
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<td>Photos are 3 x 5 inch black and white prints layered and glued to a piece of paper.</td>
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<td>7, Folder 19</td>
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<td>7, Folder 20</td>
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## SCANNED IMAGES

**Scope and Content of Series**

Series 3) SCANNED IMAGES: This series consists of unique digital images scanned from analog slides. These images exist only in digital format and are not scans of materials from Series 1 and 2.

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