

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW



A review of developments and news of the fishery industries prepared in the BRANCH OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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Mailed free to members of the fishery and allied industries. Address correspondence and requests to the: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D.C.

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The printing of this publication has been approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, May 21, 1957. (5/31/60)

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COVER: The gathering of oysters by the use of "tongs" is a common method of harvesting the annual oyster crop from the public reefs located in Chesapeake Bay. The new season for East Coast oysters opens on September 1. Oysters served on the half-shell with a sauce and lemon wedges are a traditional way of serving this popular shellfish. The United States catch in 1955 amounted to 77.5 million pounds of oyster meats valued at \$3.0 million to the producer.

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ARE ALL OCEAN CURRENTS CAUSED BY WINDS?

No. Ocean currents also occur as a result of differences in water pressure. These differences may be caused by wind, which piles water up against a coast or by variations in the density. The latter results when evaporation from the water surface and the supply of fresh water are not equal, or when the gain and loss of heat are not the same. In the Baltic Sea, the surface water is lighter and flows into the North Sea. The North Sea water is heavier and flows into the Baltic beneath the surface. On the other hand, in the Mediterranean where loss by evaporation exceeds the supply of fresh water, water becomes heavier than Atlantic water. The former therefore flows into the Atlantic at Gilbraltar, below the surface, whereas water from the Atlantic flows on the surface into the Mediterranean, Nearly all bottom water in the oceans is formed in the Antarctic where, in the Wedell Sea, surface water is cooled to such a degree that it sinks to the bottom.

--Sea Secrets, The Marine Laboratory, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.

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