

## Financial Assistance to Tuna Vessels in IATTC Regulated Area Is Restricted

Until further notice the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will not provide financial assistance that would significantly increase the harvesting capacity of vessels in the yellowfin tuna fishery in an area of the Pacific regulated by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), of which the United States is a member. The regulated area is roughly two and one-half times the size of the land mass of the contiguous 48 States.

The Commerce Department agency has declared the yellowfin tuna fishery in the regulated area a "conditional fishery," which is defined in Commerce Department regulations as a fishery where there are already more than enough vessels to harvest the available catch. The restriction on financial assistance is automatic upon such a declaration. The restrictions differ for each financial assistance program and are defined in the regulations covering the individual program.

Two financial assistance programs affected by this action are currently administered by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service—the Fishing Vessel Obligation Guarantee Program and the Fishing Vessel Capital Construction Fund Program. The first program provides a Federal guarantee for obligations, financing, or refinancing (for up to 15 years) 75 percent of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, or reconditioning U.S. commercial fishing vessels of at least five net tons. The second program is one under which Federal income taxes on fishing vessel income may be deferred in connection with constructing, reconstructing, or under certain conditions, acquiring U.S. commercial fishing vessels of at least five net tons.

NMFS Director Robert W. Schonning said that one of the goals of the Service is to administer its financial assistance programs in such a way that, on balance, the programs will be consistent with the needs and objectives of sound resource management, thus helping achieve one of the pri-

mary objectives of the Service—a viable U.S. fishing industry. Schonning said that the decision concerning the conditional fishery was reached after consideration of all comments received from the interested public and other agency officials which were solicited earlier this year. The official announcement of the new policy was published in the Federal Register 10 July 1974.

## Whale Watching Grows to Be a Big Business

December again opens Southern California's unique winter pastime—whale watching—now confirmed to be a million-dollar-plus business by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Each year between December and March gray whales, *Eschrichtius robustus*, move from the Bering Sea to their Baja California breeding and nursery grounds. This annual southward migration close to the California coast has, over the years, generated considerable spectator interest.

In a survey of various boat and landing operators early this year, biologists with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service discovered that about 115,000 enthusiasts spent some \$750,000 for several hundred whale watching cruises on 27 boats between

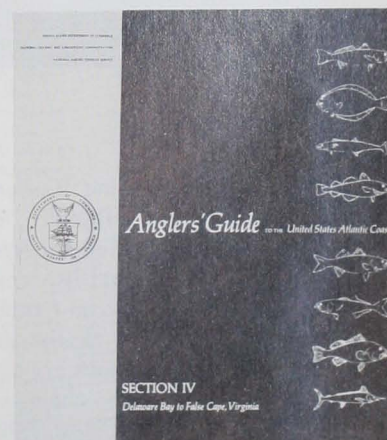
## U.S. Atlantic Coast Fishing Guide Issued

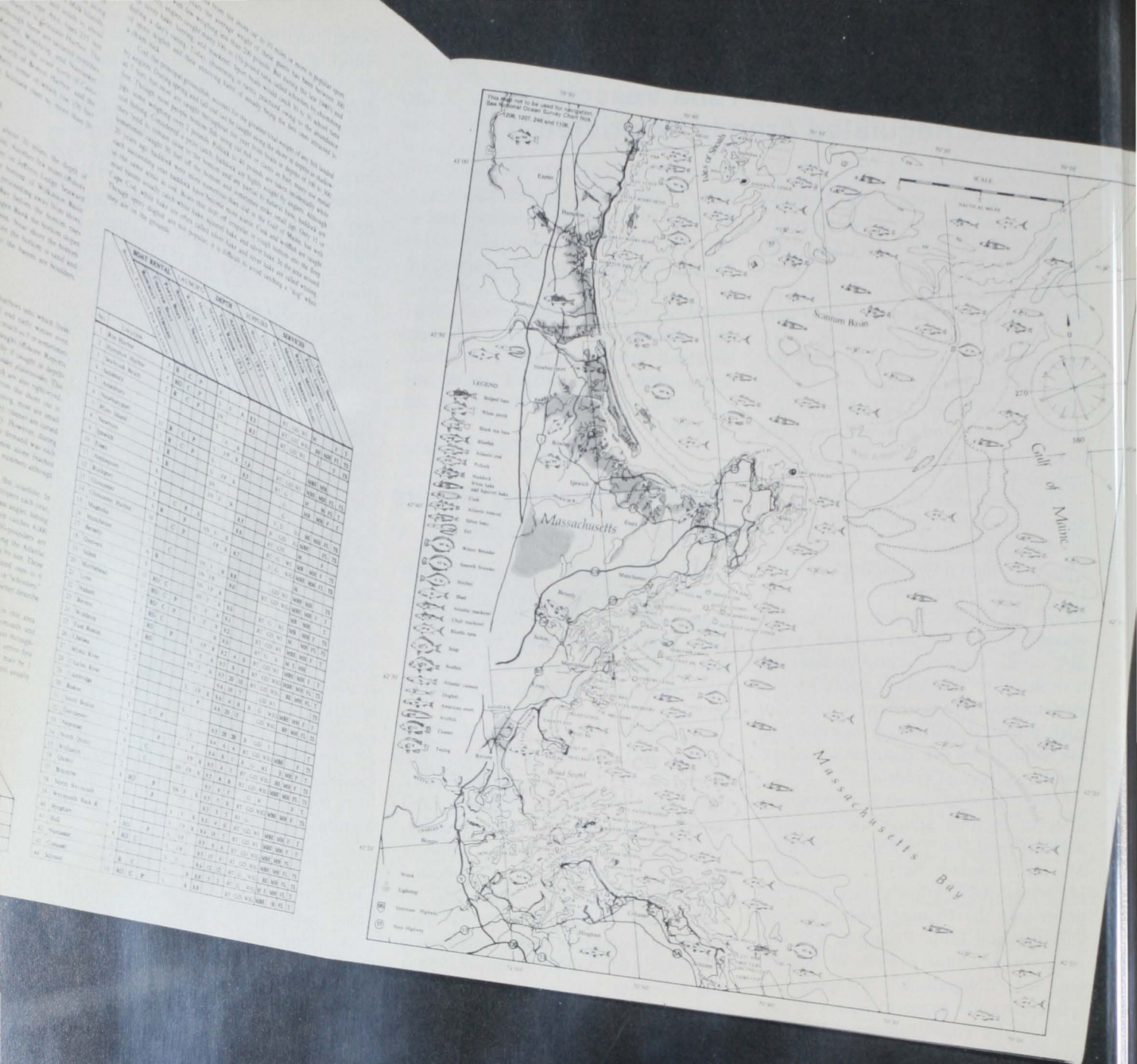
One of the most extensive and detailed marine sport fishing guides, "The Anglers' Guide to the United States Atlantic Coast," has been published by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Subtitled "Fish, Fishing Grounds, and Fishing Facilities," the 14 × 16½-inch guide thoroughly covers marine angling from Maine to Florida in eight separate 16 to 20-page sections. It was compiled by

December 1973 and March 1974. Another estimated \$200,000 was spent on such associated items as food, parking, transportation, and lodging, bringing total cruise expenditures to nearly \$1,000,000. The additional daily tab for food, etc., at \$1.75 per person, comes from a similar estimate used in the "1970 National Survey of Hunting and Fishing" and represents money that would not otherwise have been spent.

Whale watching activities at the Cabrillo National Monument, one of the areas where shore-based observations can be made, added another estimated \$150,000 to the whale watching values, and brought the combined total to \$1,100,000. While about 100,000 visitor-days are recorded monthly at Cabrillo National Monument, some 41,000 people attended a free movie on gray whales during the migration period. Estimating \$2.00 per day for the net economic benefits associated with whale watching (a monetary projection derived from Water Resources Council guidelines on recreational values), and assuming the additional expenses of \$1.75 per day for food, transportation, and lodging for the 41,000 visitors, the researchers calculated the \$150,000 per year return from whale watching at Cabrillo National Monument.

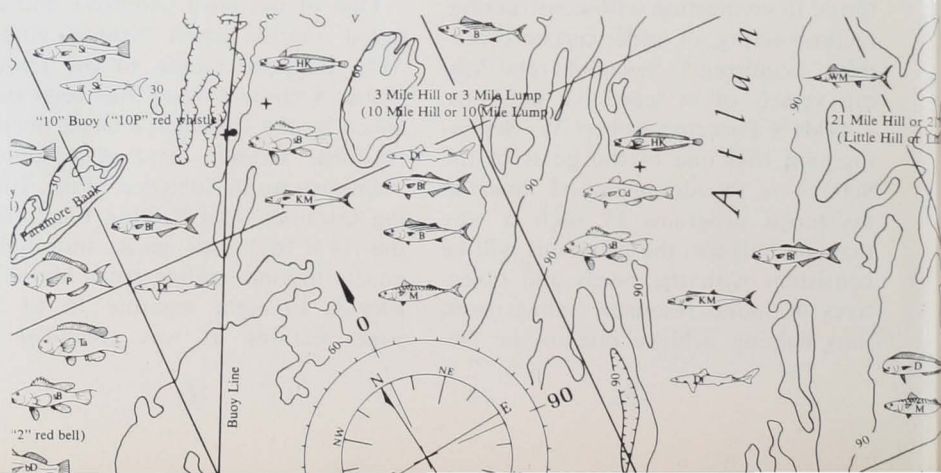
The values measured are only estimates, the researchers point out, which in no way measures the public value associated with preserving the gray whale as a species. As measures of direct and indirect expenditures on whale watching cruises and shore-based whale watching values, however, the estimates are believed valid, though conservative.





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NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service in cooperation with many fishery biologists, State and Federal Agencies, sport and commercial fishermen, fishing facility operators, and others. Detailed descriptions of the fish, fishing areas, and techniques are complemented by colorful, chart-sized maps which indicate the best fishing grounds and other land and oceanic



features of interest to sport fishermen. "Anglers' Guide" sections cover: Section I, Passamaquoddy Bay, Me. to Cape Cod, Mass.; Section II, Nantucket Shoals to Long Island Sound; Section III, Block Island, N.Y. to Cape May, N.J.; and Section IV, Delaware Bay to False Cape, Va. Sections I, II, and IV cost \$4.15 each, and Section III costs \$4.30. They can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Sections V-VIII will be printed soon.

The most common and popular sport fish in each section are described, including common and scientific names, and sizes: average; "unusually large"; largest; and the tackle record. Each species' preference for bottom type and depth, temperature, and information on the season caught and best fishing conditions are listed. Tips on the best fishing methods and the most popular and productive baits and lures are also given.

General arrival times of migrant sport fish are told as are other seasonal movements and the habits of year-round resident species. Ocean floor configuration is described along with general tide and weather conditions. Other items of interest include the effects that pollution, estuarine development, and overfishing have had on fish stocks and the marine sport fishery. Marine fishing is traced from earliest European exploration and colonization for most coastal sections and the decline of some of the fish stocks is noted.

Map features of interest to anglers include shoals, gullies, ledges, banks, wrecks, lightships, jettys, bars, reefs, channels, canyons, whistle buoys, and the like. Such land features as national and state parks, forests, wildlife areas, campsites, etc. are also shown. While the maps are not intended for navigational use, numbers of corresponding National Ocean Survey charts are listed for reference.

Tables keyed to each map provide extensive data on sport fishing facilities, supplies, and services. The number of boating facilities per location is given and available rentals are classed as rowboats, outboards, charter boats, party boats, runabouts, or skiffs.

Launching ramps (surfaced or natural), and hoists (fixed or portable) are listed if available, as are marine railways. Tidal ranges, and approach and alongside depths are given in feet. Supplies and services mentioned include bait, tackle, gasoline or diesel fuel, water, ice, groceries, moorings, berths, electricity, motor or hull repairs, food, lodging, toilets, and showers. A 72-word glossary in each section defines words ranging from "Anadromous" to "Wet Fly."

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Lionel A. Walford consulted extensively with commercial and sport fishermen, coastal wardens, outdoor writers, State and Federal fisheries biologists, and operators of marinas, bait and tackle shops, and boat liveryes. Other important information was supplied by state park, forest, and recreation agencies as well as the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (formerly the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife). The "Anglers' Guide" will be useful to most east coast saltwater sport fishermen.

### Foreign Fishery Developments

## Japanese Buy More U.S. Seafood in 1973

Japan's imports of seafood from the United States increased from US\$25 million in 1972 to \$89 million in 1973. This threefold increase boosted the U.S. share of the Japanese market from 4 percent in 1972 to 8 percent in 1973 and made the United States Japan's third largest supplier of fishery products after South Korea and Taiwan. This achievement is even more remarkable in view of the phenomenal surge in Japan's fishery imports which went from \$618 million in 1972 to \$1 billion in 1973.

Salmon was the most valuable U.S. seafood export sold to the Japanese in 1973; \$29 million worth of salmon was exported, accounting for 70 percent of Japan's total salmon imports. Salmon roes ("ikura" and "sujiko" combined) were worth \$26 million and accounted for a significant 71 percent of the Japanese market. Only a decade ago these valuable roes were being discarded as worthless. One of the most surprising developments in 1973 was the development of a sizeable tanner crab export industry. U.S. exports of tanner crabs to Japan went from \$29,000 in 1972 to \$14 million in 1973 and accounted for 67 percent of Japan's total imports of that species. U.S. herring roe exports were worth \$5 million, but accounted for only 6.5 percent of the \$77 million worth of herring roe imported by the Japanese during the year (by contrast, 100 percent of Japan's "herring roe on kelp" came from the United States, but this was worth less than \$1 million). Fro-

zen shrimp was the fifth most valuable seafood exported by (or transhipped through) the United States to Japan in 1973; \$3 million worth of frozen shrimp was sent, but this accounted for only a minuscule 0.7 percent of the \$432 million worth of shrimp bought by Japan in 1973.

Table 1 provides data on United States seafood exports to Japan in 1973 and shows the percentage each product held of the Japanese import market during the year. Table 2 pro-

**Table 1.—The value of Japan's fishery imports from the United States as compared with Japan's total fishery imports, by selected fishery products, 1973**

Product	United States	Total imports	Percent imported from the U.S.
	US\$1,000	Percent	
Abalone	491	4,359	11.3
Aquarium fish	352	2,492	14.1
Crab	14,011	20,866	67.1
Eel	37	38,535	.0
Elvers	66	15,163	.4
Herring	1,828	6,877	26.6
Herring roe	5,040	77,509	6.5
Herring roe on kelp	575	575	100.0
Salmon	29,168	41,191	70.8
Salmon roe (Ikura)	1,842	2,101	87.7
Salmon roe (Sujiko)	24,678	44,191	70.8
Scallops	62	4,359	1.4
Sea shells	1,256	2,634	47.7
Sea urchin roe	872	9,308	9.4
Shrimp	3,128	432,994	.7
Tunas			
Bluefin	1,678	3,563	47.1
Skipjack	3	1,745	.2
Yellowfin	11	18,859	.1
Other products	3,704	371,556	1.0
Total imports	88,802	1,099,173	8.1

SOURCE: Japanese Customs Returns. Exchange Rate: 273 yen = US\$1.00