

## Baltic Sea Environmental Pact Is Signed

An anti-pollution convention among the seven countries bordering on the Baltic Sea was signed in Helsinki, Finland on 22 March 1974. Representatives from the USSR, Poland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and East Germany also agreed to establish a Commission which will enforce the anti-pollution regulations provided by the Convention. The Commission will be headquartered in Helsinki; its personnel will be drawn from the countries participating in drafting the Convention. Pollution in the Baltic is caused by agricultural chemicals, industrial and urban wastes, and discharges from vessels.

The agricultural pollutants are mostly pesticides and fertilizers washed into the sea from the fields. The excess phosphorus from fertilizers (as well as from detergents and industrial wastes) encourages the growth of marine plants, which consume large quantities of oxygen, deprive other marine organisms of this essential element, and become a pollutant themselves.

Mercury from paper factories is most noted among the industrial pollutants. This metal, along with agricultural pesticides, accumulates in all marine organisms. Some Baltic grounds have been closed to fishing because the catch from these areas had too high a concentration of chemicals to be marketable. In addition the cities surrounding the Baltic have been discharging largely untreated sewage into the sea.

Merchant, fishing, and pleasure craft clean out their hulls and discharge human and fish-processing wastes and garbage directly into the water.

The Baltic's geography aggravates the pollution. Being almost completely enclosed by land, the Baltic receives limited infusions of cleaner waters from the Atlantic Ocean. In such naturally stagnant water, the pollutants accumulate.

The new Convention forbids the dumping of solid wastes and of chemicals into the Baltic, and provides for the construction of sewage treatment facilities. The Baltic Sea Commission

will enforce these regulations and will develop further measures, which, in addition to already existing laws, will hopefully prevent an early "death" of the Baltic Sea.

The Convention signed in Helsinki is one of the few agreements dealing with the comprehensive ecological protection of a major body of water, according to the NMFS's office of International Activities. Additional data on the background events leading to the Helsinki Conference are available from the office of International Fisheries (Att: M. Kravanja).

## Peruvian Anchovy Fishing Continues

Peruvian anchovy fishing was continuing in May with the catch averaging nearly 60,000 metric tons daily. Reports indicate that fishing grounds along the northern coast are recovering, and fishing is generally good in all areas. Peruvian officials have announced their intention to continue fishing until a two million ton catch is reached for the first period of 1974. Following a closed period, fishing is expected to resume in September or October with the total catch for 1974 reaching 3.5 million tons. (As

## Soviets, East Germans Develop Echosounder

Soviet and East German fishery scientists will test a Soviet-made device for hydroacoustic assessment of commercial fish stocks. The device, constructed by the engineers of the Polar Scientific Research Institute for Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) will be mounted on a PINRO research vessel, the *Poisk*, and on a research vessel belonging to the G.D.R. Marine Fisheries Institute, the *Eisbaer*, which has come to Murmansk, the headquarters of PINRO. The two vessels will then make a joint research trip to obtain comparative results.

According to the Office of International Fisheries, NMFS, the research medium trawler *Poisk* was built at Volgograd Shipyards in 1971 especially for PINRO. The vessel

of April 26 approximately 1.6 million metric tons had been taken.)

*Pesca Peru* reports that fish meal recovery is at 22 percent and fish oil is averaging 6 percent. (Fish meal recovery during 1974 has ranged between 21.9 percent and 23.8 percent.) Hoping to produce around 1 million tons of fish meal, Peru anticipates exports of up to 180,000 tons; however, meal sales thus far have been slow. Although EPCHAP is currently asking \$420 or more FOB Peru per metric ton for fish meal, purchasing offers are in the area of \$350. Apparently, fish oil is being marketed with sales to Colombia reported at \$500 per metric ton. Current conditions indicate that Peru could sell 40-50 thousand tons of fish oil during the first half of 1974 after fulfilling its domestic needs.

## Taiwan Predicts Fish Production Increase

Taiwan will produce 820,000 metric tons of fish in 1974, an increase of 60,000 metric tons or nearly 8 percent over last year, according to a Taiwan Fisheries Bureau report in the *China Post*. Deep-sea fishing will total 405,000 metric tons in 1974, the Bureau predicted. Offshore fishing will contribute 280,000 tons, fish culture will yield 105,000 tons, and coastal catch will provide 30,000 tons.

belongs to the so-called "Maiak" class of medium refrigerated trawlers (SRTMs) of 700 GRT and a crew of about 30; it is currently attached to the Murmansk Exploratory Fleet. The Soviets say the *Poisk* was built specifically for hydroacoustic research work. It is not clear exactly what is meant by this phrase, except that the vessel may have some built-in sonar domes or (if the Soviet scientists are using hydrophones in connection with echosounder research) that its engines are quieter than those on other SRTMs. Soviet sources do not give the name of the hydroacoustic device they are using. The Soviet Ministry of Fisheries has, during the past decade, developed more than a dozen echosounders; the Murmansk Herring Fleet uses one of these for deep-water (500-600 fathoms) hydroacoustic research.