

Comparisons

• T. S. Sealy's detailed analysis of the fishing fleet of the USSR in this month's number of *Marine Fisheries Review* provides a basis for some interesting comparisons with the United States.

He gives the 1971 USSR catch as 7,336,700 metric tons. According to *Fisheries of the United States, 1973*, Current Fisheries Statistics No. 6400, the U.S. catch in 1971 was 2,793,000 metric tons, a little more than one-third of the USSR catch.

Sealy gives the total number of Soviet fishing vessels of more than 100 gross registered tons as 3,247 in 1971. According to the NMFS Office of Statistics and Market News, which is now preparing the detailed breakdown on fishery statistics of 1971, the comparable U.S. figure is 1,018.

Probably the most interesting statistic Sealy presents is that for the role played by fish in the animal protein diet of the USSR: a whopping 30 percent. A comparable figure for the United States is not easy to come by. However, a publication of the Agricultural Research Service has some interesting figures. The publication is *Food Intake and Nutritive Value of Diets of Men, Women, and Children in the United States, Spring 1965, A Preliminary Report*, ARS 62-18, March 1969. John Dassow of the NMFS Pacific Fishery Products Technology Laboratory points out that Table 12 (page 82) shows that for all income groups, males of 35-54 years obtained 56.1 percent of their protein from meat, poultry, and fish. (The percentages were above 50 percent for all the adult groups.) Table 4a, page 39, discloses that males of this same age group averaged 301 grams of meat, poultry, and fish. Of this amount, 13 grams consisted of fish and shellfish. This is 4 percent of the total. Multiplying by 56 percent mentioned earlier, one arrives at about 2 percent of the animal protein diet being supplied by fish. Thus the Soviet requirement for fish would be about 15 times our own.

• The islands of the West Indies (excluding Cuba) constitute a combined land area of about the size of the State of Maine and populated by more than 10 million people. Coming up for publication in *Marine Fisheries Review* in September is a special number dealing with the studies on the fisheries of the region conducted there several years ago under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Only one aspect of this large-scale project has been the subject of a formal publication before. This "Caribbean number" of *Marine Fisheries Review* will thus provide a permanent record of the remainder of these basic investigations.

The papers are:

"A summary of exploratory fishing activities of the UNDP/FAO Caribbean Fishery Development Project" by Robert S. Wolf and Warren F. Rathjen.

"Headline and longline fishing explorations for snapper and related species in the Caribbean and adjacent waters," by Kuotaro Kawaguchi.

"Results of live bait and pole and line fishing explorations for pelagic fishes in the Caribbean," by Donald P. Wagner.

"Results of trolling fishing explorations in the Caribbean," by Donald P. Wagner and Robert S. Wolf.

"Spiny lobster fishing explorations in the Caribbean," by Geoffrey R. Chislett and Misuo Yesaki.

"Trap fishing explorations for snapper and related species in the Caribbean and adjacent waters," by Robert S. Wolf and Geoffrey R. Chislett.

"Exploratory tuna longline fishing in the Caribbean and adjacent waters," by Kyotaro Kawaguchi.

"Results of experimental and exploratory shark fishing off north-eastern South America," by L. J. K. Kleijn.

"Minor exploratory fishing activities in the Caribbean and adjacent waters," by Robert S. Wolf.

• Also scheduled for publication, probably in August, is what, around

the office, we have taken to calling "Billfish Two." This is verbal shorthand for the second volume of the proceedings of the Billfish Symposium held in Hawaii in 1972. "Billfish Two" contains the review papers and contributed papers and will appear as NOAA Technical Report NMFS SSRF-675. "Billfish Two" carries 38 scientific papers about billfishes and runs to a massive 335 pages. Meanwhile, part of the manuscript of "Billfish Three" has turned up for processing. This third volume (which will be shorter) will carry species synopses of the world's billfishes. These volumes will constitute invaluable aids to marine scientists and to administrators: they will probably also appeal to a number of the world's big game fishermen.

You may be wondering what "Billfish One" may be. It will consist of an account of the Billfish Symposium itself, and in accord with a logically exasperating but time honored tradition of scientific publishing, will be the last to appear.

• We recently checked out, for the Director's Office, the list of publications by NMFS authors that was to appear in the *Report of the National Marine Fisheries Service for Calendar Year 1973*.

There were almost 500 publications, a high number for a staff the size of that of NMFS. Of those, 61 or 12.5 percent, appeared in *Marine Fisheries Review*, as contrasted with 5.4 percent in 1972, or, from an earlier time, 6.4 percent in 1968. The 61 papers in 1973 constituted over three times the number printed in 1972.

• If you think this month's number of *Marine Fisheries Review* looks a little different—it does. We hope you will find nothing less legible and even that the appearance of some of the pages will be improved.

• Recently we learned that the Superintendent of Documents has upped his order of copies of *Marine Fisheries Review* by 30 percent. This is gratifying news: we hope to make the publication sufficiently worthwhile to its recipients so that they do not feel let down. T.A.M.