

Oyster Reefs, Swordfish, and Gravel Incubators

. . . . Some 18 acres of **new public oyster reefs constructed in Florida's Dixie County** by the Division of Marine Resources last summer are expected to be harvestable by spring 1975. Approximately 1,600 tons of a mined limestone aggregate were used as cultch material, according to *Florida Conservation News*. Continued statewide oyster reef construction and rehabilitation is planned. . . .

. . . . **Dr. Roger D. Anderson has been named** head of the Department of Advisory Services of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the institution reports. Anderson has been assistant director of the Center of Marine Resources at Texas A&M University, College Station, Tex. He will administer VIMS' field extension and advisory activities. . . .

. . . . **Use of spotter airplanes by California's commercial swordfishermen** will be allowed at least two more years, according to the Fish and Game Commission. Airplane use beyond 1976, however, will depend on results of a DFG study of swordfish status and the effects of airplane spotting. An immediate ban on air spotting had been proposed by the DFG, while air proponents recommended a quota system if swordfish proved to be in danger. . . .

. . . . **Young blueback herring, alewives, American shad, and hickory shad were sampled** in Virginia's James, York, Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers late last summer by biologists with Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The VIMS and NMFS funded study provides data for estimating the number of young fishes produced in 1974. Prediction of stocks available for the commercial fishery are based on the data. . . .

. . . . **Prototype gravel salmon incubators** at Crooked Creek on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula have produced nearly

half a million sockeye and silver salmon fry during the first year of operation, reports the Department of Fish and Game. Operated by the Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement, and Development (FRED), the facility is designed to enhance Cook Inlet salmon stocks. It began operation over a year ago (December 1973) with 1.3 million sockeye eggs in 16 incubators. In July 350,000 sockeye fry and 40,000 coho fry were transplanted. . . .

. . . . **Brine Shrimp could provide fish food and crop fertilizer** while keeping algae in a continuous state of exponential growth in sewage, according to *Science and Engineering News* (NOAA). Meanwhile, such sewage components as phosphates could be reduced to levels similar to those from conventional secondary or possibly tertiary treatment. . . .

. . . . **Crab farming may bolster diminishing Dungeness crab supplies**, reports *Sea Grant 70's*. In a 3-year Humboldt State University study, crabs on a "natural" bottom of sand and oyster shell thrived on Dover sole and shrimp discards. Early maturity, good flavor, and lower mortality were noted, and crab culture economics is now being eyed. . . .

. . . . **A joint U.S.-USSR board to resolve claims of damage** to U.S. vessels or gear by Soviet vessels off U.S. coasts has begun work in Washington, D.C. Normally, parties may bring claims before the board within one year after a relevant incident, says NMFS Director Robert W. Schoning, though a provision allows discussing claims for incidents that occurred as early as February 1971. . . .

. . . . **Production and dollar value of landed fish from the Great Lakes gained in 1973**, according to NMFS statistics in the *Great Lakes News Letter*. The catch totalled 111.4 mil-

lion pounds, 15 percent above 1972 poundage and the highest since 1969. Landed value gained 23 percent over 1972 to \$17.7 million. Production from 1972 to 1973 rose in most areas of the lakes while minor declines occurred in the Canadian sections of lakes Ontario and Superior and the U.S. waters of Lake Huron. Lake Erie again led, with a landed fish value of \$8.5 million, 48 percent of the total, and a catch of 48.2 million pounds, beating Lake Michigan for the first time since 1969. . . .

. . . . **A year-long American lobster study off Virginia's coast** by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science under a \$41,000 NMFS contract, seeks data for estimating relative abundance, growth rates, dependence or independence of the stocks, and establishing a minimum legal size, according to VIMS scientists. . . .

. . . . **The crown-of-thorns starfish is probably still moving southward** on Australia's Great Barrier Reef according to a preliminary survey report in *Australian Fisheries*. Of 14 reefs reported clear of the starfish in 1970, three had large and widely-distributed starfish populations and a large aggregation was found in one small area of a fourth. . . .

. . . . **Successful completion of a two-year buoy test program** in the Arctic ice pack has been announced by NOAA. Seven 340-pound drifting buoys were emplaced, three of which operated 1½-2 years. A more sophisticated Arctic data buoy prototype is being developed and better weather forecasting and safer navigation is hoped for. . . .

. . . . **Instruments which may help answer questions about the size and speed of waves**, their effects on weather and pollution, and their impact on the shore, and coastal and offshore structures, are being tested by NOAA's National Ocean Survey. Items tested range from bottom-mounted acoustic devices to large, vertically oriented electrical cables and include a wave measuring system on a deep-ocean buoy. . . .

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