

Awards, Salmon, and Sea Turtles

. . . . **Texas' first successful redfish spawns were almost completely wiped out** when a power failure cut oxygen circulation in holding tanks at the Palacios Marine Fisheries Research Station according to the Parks and Wildlife Department. Of the 43,000 redfish hatched in late September 1974, perhaps 1,500 survived. About 99 percent of the first spawn were lost and 90 percent of the subsequent spawn died. . . .

. . . . University of Rhode Island oceanographer **John A. Knauss has received the National Sea Grant Award**, an engraved silver tray and a \$500 honorarium, for his contributions to the understanding and utilization of ocean resources. Provost for marine affairs at URI, Knauss has worked on national ocean policy and international sea law. . . .

. . . . The fall 1974 salmon run in New York's Great Lakes tributaries has been described as "**the biggest since the first Pacific salmon were stocked in 1968**" by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Adult chinooks and cohos averaged several pounds heavier than the year before, a fact attributed to lamprey control. The run is also being termed a "small preview" of the developing Great Lakes salmonid fishery. Lamprey control and the salmon stocking program is credited with creating the new fishery for Lakes Erie and Ontario. The State plans a new hatchery to produce 3-4 million salmonids by 1978-79 and 5 million fish for stocking when at full capacity. . . .

. . . . **The Gold Medal Award of the International Oceanographic Foundation** for Outstanding Contributions to Oceanography has been presented to Edwin A. Link for his personal endeavors and support of the advancement of the scientific study of the oceans. Holding 27 patents, Link is known for such inventions as Link flight trainers and simulators, and navigation and marine diving equipment. . . .

. . . . **Physical oceanographer Warren S. Wooster**, Dean of the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science has

been elected vice president of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the oldest intergovernmental organization concerned with marine sciences. A former member of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography faculty, Wooster is known internationally for his leadership in generating and assuring cooperation in oceanographic research among nations. . . .

. . . . **A 10-year program to create and enhance salmonid runs** in the Willamette River system is showing positive results, the Fish Commission of Oregon reports. Long-range adult chinook salmon escapement goals are on target and the upstream run has increased from 11,826 in 1972 to an all time record 33,924 for 1974. The Commission hopes to establish a self-sustaining wild population of the fall chinook in the upper Willamette. Full development of the system reportedly could produce an annual Pacific Coast sport and commercial harvest of 640,000 fall chinook. . . .

. . . . **While Galveston Bay, Tex. oyster populations are mending** after heavy 1973 flood damages, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists are still not enthusiastic about the current season. Harvest increases are not expected until the 1975-76 season as flooding destroyed almost all oysters in Trinity Bay and did moderate damage to oysters in Galveston and East Bays. . . .

. . . . **A cooperative white shrimp tagging project**, "Operation Shrimp Survival," between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas A&M Extension Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is set to determine the species' growth rates, migrational patterns, abundance, and fishing and natural mortality rates. Some 20,000 white shrimp were tagged with small green discs and released last September in Galveston Bay. Capture data is being reported by sport, bait, and commercial shrimp fishermen to local shrimp houses and marinas. . . .

. . . . **Nearly 1,300 tagged yearling green turtles were released** on Florida beaches in the continuing Florida

Department of Natural Resources Marine Research Laboratory restocking study, according to *Florida Conservation News*. The first survival studies of pen-reared sea turtles in their natural habitat were made in 1964 but the program to collect green turtle eggs from Florida beaches was not developed until 1971. . . .

. . . . **Texas' worst 1973 fish kill** saw some 3,800,000 marine fish perish from unknown causes in the Gulf of Mexico off Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, and Matagorda Counties, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department notes. In all, more than 6.3 million fish died in 84 kills during fiscal year 1973 in that state. . . .

. . . . **A pygmy sperm whale that washed ashore at Holmes Beach, Fla. late last summer died** within a week from dehydration caused by an ingested plastic bag, according to a *Florida Conservation News* report. An autopsy on the 570-pound animal found the lethal two square yards of heavy-duty plastic in her stomach that prevented natural absorption of fluids. . . .

. . . . **New York State's sea lamprey control program is going inland**—to Seneca and Cayuga Lakes where the parasite is causing 6-10 percent mortality among trout, according to the Department of Environmental Conservation. Control, rather than eradication, is intended, using the larvicide TFM, the same technique successfully used to kill young lampreys in Great Lakes tributary streams. A 90 percent reduction is expected. . . .

. . . . **To store, interpret, and transfer voluminous scientific information** on Chesapeake Bay and adjacent waters, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, with RANN (Research Applied to National Needs, National Science Foundation) and Commonwealth of Virginia funds, has established a depository dubbed MERRMS (Marine Environment and Resources Research and Management System). It provides a multi-faceted information system designed to transfer interpreted scientific information from scientist to manager as well as between scientific disciplines. Modern data handling techniques using microfiche, random access slide displays, and computer indexing give rapid access to the data. . . .