

Chum Salmon, Oil Spills, and Poisonous Crabs

. . . . Completion of the **first phase of a chum salmon imprinting (homing) study** to determine the feasibility of centralized incubation for rehabilitating salmon streams has been announced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Some 125,206 fry were released in Disappearance Creek on Prince of Wales Island after being hatched and reared at the Deer Mountain Hatchery at Ketchikan. The eggs had been collected from Disappearance Creek in September 1974. Evaluation of early-returning salmon will begin in the fall of 1977 and continue in 1978 when the majority of returns are expected. . . .

. . . . **Equipment to control destructive oil spills** "still has a long way to go, especially where fast currents are involved," according to University of Michigan research engineers. In testing oil barriers, herders, and pickup devices the researchers found that at stream speeds over 1-mph, oil starts slipping underneath barriers and oil herding devices, while the U.S. Coast Guard wants something effective at 11-mph current speeds. They also found that most oil recovery (pickup) devices failed at current speeds over 5 mph. . . .

. . . . **Expansion of the boundaries of the Coastal Plains Regional Commission** to include 42 counties in eastern Virginia and 39 counties in northern Florida has been approved by the Secretary of Commerce, *The Marine Newsletter* reports. Previous boundaries included the 159 coastal plains counties of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The expanded five-state region now comprises 240

contiguous counties with similar social, economic, geographical, and cultural characteristics. . . .

. . . . **William J. Hargis, Jr. has been designated Chairman** of the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere by President Gerald Ford, *The Marine Newsletter* reports. Hargis is Director, Virginia Institute of Marine Science and a biological oceanographer. . . .

. . . . **Florida's king mackerel tagging study has begun to yield results**, according to *Florida Conservation News*. About 700 fish had been tagged in January and February and three tagged in January were caught 9, 14, and 25 days after being tagged. Study data is being computerized by Atlantic Estuarine Fisheries Center, NMFS, NOAA, Beaufort, N.C. A rectangular "internal streamer tag" with a small length of plastic cord extending from its center, is being used. Tags are inserted ventrally; the cord is visible. Each returned tag carries a reward ranging from \$1 to \$25. . . .

. . . . North Carolina commercial fishermen caught **196 million pounds of salable fish and shellfish in 1974** for a total dockside value of \$17.5 million according to *The Marine Newsletter*. This was a 65 million pound, \$1.4 million increase over 1973. More than 42 species of finfish and six species of shellfish were included. Shrimp was most valuable as in 1973, at 8.4 million pounds (heads on) worth \$4.6 million. The year 1974 was the state's best shrimp catch since 1955 and the best year ever for flounder at 12 million pounds. . . .

. . . . **A new species of poisonous crab, *Demania toxica*, from the Philippines** has been described by John S. Garth, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, according to a USC report. Screening for toxicity was done by A. C. Alcalá, Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, Philippines. The species has been found in areas where native food foragers hunt crabs and some human and domestic animal fatalities have been recorded. Reported occurrences are in the western Pacific, Garth points out. No poisonous crabs are known to occur along U.S. coasts. Research on the species and their toxicity continues. . . .

. . . . **Hugh L. Popenoe has been elected** chairman of the National Sea Grant Council for the year 1975-76. He is Director, Florida Sea Grant Program, and replaces Donald F. Squires of New York. The council is composed of the directors of the 26 Sea Grant programs. . . .

. . . . **Great Lakes commercial fishermen harvested over 125 million pounds** of fish in 1974, the highest total since 1967, *The Great Lakes News Letter* reports. Landed value was nearly \$19 million, exceeding the peak years of the mid-1950's. A record alewife harvest and higher prices were the key factors according to data compiled by the NMFS and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. . . .

. . . . The Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium reports it will host **the 8th annual meeting of the Sea Grant Association 27-30 October 1975** at the Sheraton of Biloxi Motor Inn, Biloxi, Miss. The 1975 theme is "Sea Grant: Putting it all Together." Further information is available from Joe Seward, Conference Coordinator, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, P.O. Drawer AG, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (601-875-9341). . . .

Errata

In the paper "Notes on the Ecology of the Oceanic Insect *Halobates*," by L. Cheng (*Marine Fisheries Review*, Vol. 36, No. 2), the symbols for *H. sericeus* and *H. germanus* were transposed in Figure 1, page 2.