fishing fleets were allegedly hampering their mackerel-fishing operations. Patrols by fishery protection vessels were intensified along the coast of Cornwall according to W. H. Williams, Inspector of Fisheries for the Southwest District.

Mexican Congress Considers 200-Mile EEZ

President Luis Echeverría sent two messages to the Mexican Congress on 5 November 1975 aimed at bringing into law the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)[1]. The Presidential messages requested the amendment of Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution[2] and the approval of specific Federal regulations to implement the amendment.

The proposed Constitutional Amendment establishes Mexican "rights of sovereignty" and jurisdiction over an EEZ extending 200 nautical miles from the coastal baselines now used to measure territorial waters, except that, off the Yucatan Peninsula, the borders of the EEZ will be determined by agreements with interested states such as Honduras and Cuba.

After Congressional approval and ratification by a majority of Mexico's state legislatures, the amendment will take effect 120 days following its publication in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Federal Register).

The proposed enabling regulations repeat the terms of the Constitutional Amendment and then stipulate the following: 1) Islands which are part of Mexico, except those which are uninhabited or cannot sustain economic activity, will have their own 200-mile EEZ; 2) Within this 200-mile EEZ, Mexico will have a) sovereign rights to exploit, conserve, and administer both, renewable and non-renewable resources in the subsoil and adjacent waters, b) exclusive rights and jurisdiction over the establishment of artificial islands, installations, and other structures, c) exclusive jurisdiction with respect to other activities related to exploration and economic exploitation of the EEZ, d) jurisdiction over the preservation of the marine environment (including control and elimination of pollution) and scientific research; 3) Foreign states will enjoy rights of navigation, overflight, the laying of submarine cables and pipelines as well as other internationally lawful uses of the sea related to navigation and communication; 4) The Mexican Government will establish catch limits to ensure that living resources are not over-exploited; 5) The Mexican Government will promote the optimum use of living resources within the EEZ. If the total permissible catch of a species exceeds the capacity of the national fishing fleet, the Mexican Government will permit foreign fleets to harvest the difference; 6) These regulations do not modify Mexico's present Continental Shelf regime; 7) Current Mexican Federal laws will apply to all the above areas of jurisdiction until specific new laws are issued. The regulations will take effect 120 days following publication in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación*.

At a joint press conference following the signing of the Presidential message to Congress, the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Commerce, the Navy, and the Acting Secretary of National Patrimony discussed the implications of the 200-mile EEZ in their particular fields. Foreign Secretary Emilio Rabasa called it one of the most important acts in Mexico's diplomatic history, noting that it was "in a sense a revindication by Mexico for the territorial dismemberment which it had unfortunately and unjustly suffered in the past." Rabasa added that "we will now have a Mexico twice as large as today's." The Foreign Secretary stressed that the measure was in accordance with the Law of the Sea agreements already reached at Geneva and Caracas[3], and expressed hope that many other countries would take similar steps.

The Secretary of Industry and Commerce[4], José Campillo Sainz, said that by conservative estimates, Mexico's fishery landings, which now amount to "about a half-million tons" per year[5], should at least triple under the 200-mile regime.

Acting Patrimony Secretary Rafoull said that in addition to petroleum, Mexico would be able to exploit such other minerals in the seabed and subsoil of the EEZ as phosphoric rock, titanium, nickel, and sulfur.

The NMFS Office of International Fisheries reports that there is nothing new in the Presidential messages and legislative proposals, nor is there any significant departure from President Echeverría's August 1975 decision. The language in Article 27 makes it clear that Mexico expects to negotiate differences on overlapping 200-mile jurisdictions, once its neighbors make similar maritime claims. While obviously reserving first claim on fisheries to Mexican nationals, the proposed regulations make it clear that Mexico intends to exploit its marine resources fully and will afford foreign fishermen the opportunity to catch the amount of fish which Mexicans do not presently have the capability to harvest. It should also be noted that nothing in the procedures chosen by President Echeverría implies sudden, arbitrary action, since the legislative process and ratification will take at least some weeks and the laws will not take effect for another four months after that process is completed. (Source: U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, 6 November 1975.)

[1]The 200-mile EEZ was first announced 5 August 1975 in Alexandria, Egypt by the Mexican Foreign Secretary.

[2]Article 27 vests ultimate ownership of Mexico's lands and waters in the State and asserts its control over their use.

[3]Some passages in the proposed enabling legislation are either quoted or quite similar to Part II of the Informal Single Negotiating Text presented to the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea (LOS); however, it should be pointed out that the text is a working document which has not been approved by the countries involved in LOS negotiations.

[4]The Mexican Fisheries Administration is a subsecretariat in the Secretariat of Industry and Commerce.

[5]Mexico reported total fishery landings of 390,000 metric tons in 1974. Considering the large number of new vessels now under construction, landings may increase significantly in the next few years.

Fishery Notes

Alaska Expects Best Salmon Haul Since 1971

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is predicting a statewide commercial salmon harvest of 37.8 million fish in 1976. If realized, the catch would be an increase of about 12 million over last year and the highest since 1971. Steve Pennoyer, senior research biologist for the department, told the Board of Fisheries' December meeting in Juneau that while the fisheries are still suffering from the effects of the severe winters of 1970-1971 and 1971-1972,

improvements in a number of areas are possible this coming season.

Pennoyer cited the pink salmon fishery at Kodiak and the pink and chum salmon runs in Prince William Sound as examples of fisheries showing strong recovery because of adequate escapement and good streambed survival. The Prince William Sound forecast, for example, projects an allowable harvest of 5.2 million pink salmon and a chum harvest of 2.8 million. Even if the 1976 chum run is in the lower part of the forecast range, it will still be the largest on record for the Prince William Sound area. The Department of Fish and Game is also predicting a harvest of about 10.1 million pink salmon in the Kodiak area out of a run that could total about 12.9 million fish. Fishers harvested about 2.9 million pinks at Kodiak in 1975.

The forecasts predict harvestable returns of sockeye salmon in all Bristol Bay systems except the Snake River. A harvest of about 5.1 million fish should be possible out of the projected sockeye run of 12 million. Nushagak district pink salmon harvests are expected to total about 2.2 million fish. A small pink salmon harvest is expected in southern Cook Inlet and the Chignik fishery probably will be limited. Extremely low pink salmon runs are expected in Southeastern Alaska with virtually no harvests expected.

A total run of 5.6 million pinks is predicted for Southeastern Alaska and unless the returns are stronger than expected, all or most of the fish will be needed for escapement, Pennoyer said. Returns of chum, chinook, sockeye and coho salmon are expected to be about average in Southeastern Alaska. "But if the factors which weakened the 1975 runs of chum, sockeye and coho influence the 1976 return, runs of these species could also be less than anticipated," Pennoyer added. The extremely cold winters of 1970-1971 and 1971-1972 are believed to be the major factor causing the currently depressed salmon runs throughout much of Alaska.

Publications

Nicaragua and Brazil List Fishery Books

The Division of International Fisheries Analysis (F41), Office of International Fisheries, NMFS has obtained a 3-page bibliography of the publications issued by the Fisheries Division of the Nicaraguan Development Institute (Instituto de Fomento Nacional, or INFONAC). INFONAC's publications cover the following subjects: Official Nicaraguan fisheries statistics, artisanal fisheries, processing, exports, exploratory fishing, bibliographical data, fleet, gear and methods, and various aspects of the shrimp and lobster industry.

In Brazil, the UNDP/FAO Fisheries Research and Development Program has published a bibliography of its 1973-75 publications (in Portuguese). The 2-page bibliography includes technical documents on fishing methods, fisheries resources and fish processing, as well as studies dealing with various species, such as shrimp, corvina, sardine, lobster, and braise. Copies of either listing may be obtained from Dennis M. Weidner, Office of International Fisheries, F41, NMFS, NOAA, Commerce Department, Washington, DC 20235, and enclose a self-addressed mailing label to facilitate mailing.

Clam Potential Eyed in Alaskan Report

The economic potential of the Alaska clam industry is the subject of a new 148-page report published by the University of Alaska Sea Grant Program in cooperation with the university's Institute of Marine Science. Entitled **The Alaska Clam Fishery: A Survey and Analysis of Economic Potential,** the new report concludes there will be "significant growth" of the Alaskan clam industry if certain events occur.

These events are: 1) Alaska's obtaining and maintaining membership in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program; 2) introduction of environmentally safe clam dredges; and 3) devotion of more resources to clam source beach certification and monitoring; and transferring of harvesting efforts for bait razor clams (used in dungeness crab fishing) to non-certified beaches.

"Given the probable occurrence of these events, it is not unrealistic to expect annual harvests of around five million pounds shell weight within the next decade," says the report. "The value to the fishers of such a harvest will likely be in excess of $2 million."

The report—containing sections on history, regulation, harvesting, processing and marketing—was written by Franklin L. Orth, associate professor of economics; Howard M. Feder, professor of marine science; and John Williams, assistant professor of seafood science. All are with the University of Alaska. Another coauthor, Charles Smelcer, is with the U.S. Army. Copies of the report can be obtained by writing the Alaska Sea Grant Program, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Marine Geophysical Data Catalog—1975 Available

NOAA Environmental Data Service's National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center has released **Marine Geophysical Data Catalog—1975, Key to Geophysical Records Documentation No. 4,** which includes all bathymetric, magnetic, gravimetric, seismic profile, and navigation information available from the Center. It also indicates types of data formats, identifies specific cruises or surveys, depicts geographical distribution of the data by area index charts, and includes a trackline sketch for each cruise or survey.

The 1975 catalog updates and supersedes "Key to Geophysical Records Documentation No. 1" (published in June 1972), and includes 58 marine geophysical data sets that have become available since 1972. It also gives availability of complementary data, including map plots, charts, etc. A pocket insert map, "Multitrackline Plots," includes bathymetric, magnetic, gravimetric, and seismic reflection data collected worldwide along 2¼ million nautical miles of tracklines.

Further information about the catalog and available data may be obtained from: Solid Earth Data Services Division (D62), National Geophysical and