

Fish Tag Returns, Salmon Facilities, and Brown Shrimp

....**California has enacted a new law requiring commercial salmon fishers** to have their boat holds inspected before landing silver (coho) salmon, the Department of Fish and Game reports. The law is aimed at preventing commercial fishers from taking silvers between the 15 April opening of the king salmon season and the troll season for silvers one month later. Vessels 26 feet long and longer could not land silver salmon before 25 May between the Oregon border and Pigeon Point without a valid hold inspection certificate. The new law also prohibits landing silver salmon without such a certificate at any time in this area by any vessel capable of brining or freezing fish. Hold inspections began 13 May....

....**Inshore movement of large numbers of tiny immature brown shrimp** in South Carolina, which peaked in early March, indicated a successful spawning season for the species, the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department reports. The large influx of brown shrimp postlarvae began about 3 weeks later than in 1975, perhaps due to lower water temperatures, the agency noted. Still, the number of shrimp had not diminished from last year and the animals comprise the June-July commercial brown shrimp catch. Brown shrimp postlarvae continue to move inshore until early April, when white shrimp postlarvae begin to appear in large numbers....

....**Bottomfish set-net fishery monitoring in Washington State's Port Townsend area** has shown a successful experimental cod harvest, according to Department of Fisheries preliminary results. The set net season began 15 February; by mid-March, 59 permits had been issued and 33 permit holders had actually fished. The Pacific cod

fishery in Port Townsend began with 10 boats and increased to around 20 over the first week of the set net season. Total landings amounted to 220,000 pounds of cod, and 4,200 pounds of other species, mostly sole and cabezon. Only 50 incidentally caught salmon were counted during the entire Port Townsend Bay fishery....

....**The 90th Annual Meeting of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists** will be held 18-21 October 1976 at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C., the Association reports. Further information is available from L. G. Ensminger, Executive Secretary, AOAC, Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044....

....**Texas' Rockport Marine Laboratory will be renovated** to become a "living exhibit of work in the field of mariculture," the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. The facility will continue operations, emphasizing artificial feeding of juvenile trout, redfish, flounder, and black drum while providing an opportunity for the public to observe ongoing mariculture experiments. As many as 28,000 people visit the laboratory each year....

....**Two new salmon facilities, a hatchery and a rearing pond,** have been announced by the Washington State Department of Fisheries. The hatchery, Garrison Springs, near Steilacoom, received its first stock of fish in April. Future production emphasis will be on chum salmon. Construction was funded by a \$475,000 Congressional appropriation to enhance the state's anadromous fish runs. The salmon rearing pond, on Spaight Creek in King County, was the site of semi-natural salmon rearing for several years. It was purchased with \$125,000 of a \$900,000 Congressional salmon enhancement appropriation....

....**Texas anglers who don't know the**

value of tagged fish are throwing away good money, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Some 250 sea trout, redfish, and drum are tagged there each month by P&WD and National Marine Fisheries Service biologists. With tag returns running less than 3 percent, P&WD biologists believe anglers are failing to realize that the tags are worth money—from \$1 to \$25 each. The spaghetti-shaped plastic tags protrude about 2 inches from the fish's stomach and, reportedly, some anglers have thrown away tagged fish thinking a yellow worm was attached....

....**An emergency closure of the lower Columbia River to steelhead trout angling** was invoked on 1 April by the Washington State Game Department to protect critically low runs bound for the Snake River and its tributaries 500 miles upstream. Adult steelhead trout begin entering the Columbia in April and continue through the summer. The 1974 and 1975 seaward-bound steelhead smolts suffered extremely high mortality from nitrogen supersaturation and from passing through seven Columbia and Snake River dams. A major portion of the 1975 smolt migration was transported by tanker truck around the dams, however. The 1974 steelhead run in the Snake River was the lowest in history at 11,800 fish, compared to the previous average count of 60,000. The final count at Ice Harbor dam in 1975 was 16,200 steelhead, still not enough to warrant a sport fishery....

....**A 16-inch Spanish mackerel, tagged 29 September 1975 at Port Aransas, Texas,** was recaptured 95 days and over 500 miles later off Veracruz, Mexico, reports the Port Aransas Laboratory of the NMFS Gulf Coastal Fisheries Center. Tagged by GCFC personnel, the fish was caught 20 miles south of Veracruz by Froylan Arias Ramon on 2 January 1976. It averaged over 5 miles per day and had grown to over 18 inches. The tag return is the first hard evidence for a long-suspected fall southern mackerel migration and northern spring movement, notes Joseph W. Angelovic, GCFC Director. Spanish mackerels are believed heavily fished in the Veracruz region and continued tagging may provide more data on the species' movements....