

Shrimp, Crabs, and Marine Game Fish Records

... With high salinities, low rainfall, and no cold spells, 1976 was hailed an "excellent year for shrimp production" by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Brown shrimp in Texas bays grew so fast last spring that the department closed the Gulf shrimping season 15 days early on 17 May to allow the young shrimp to migrate out into the Gulf of Mexico. One group of older shrimp began emigrating in mid-May and the second group—even greater in number—was expected to begin emigrating in June or early July

... South Carolina's commercial shrimpers began immediate operations off Georgetown and Horry Counties on 25 May under a new state law, the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department reports. The legislation repealed an earlier law which set 1 June as the opening date for shrimp trawling within the three-mile limit there, bringing the area into line with the remainder of the state. Shrimp trawling had opened 14 May elsewhere off South Carolina and will end on 31 December. The state-wide shrimp opener is set annually by the department after evaluation of shrimp numbers, economic, and other factors

... A 58-pound 8-ounce striped bass has been entered in California's 1976 fish and wildlife award program, the Fish and Game Commission has announced. The program provides important biological data while recognizing sportsmen who legally take exceptional freshwater and marine species. The latest entry, a 49-inch female, was taken in the San Joaquin River near Antioch on 25 April. The state record striper, also from the San Joaquin, weighed 65 pounds and was caught 25 years ago

... An 85-pound cobia will set a new South Carolina state record if confirmed, according to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The fish, caught 21 May near Beaufort, tops the previous record by 2½ pounds. A 62-pound king mackerel taken earlier this year has set a new state record and, may also qualify for a world rec-

ord in the men's 80-pound test line category

... A 520-pound, 9 foot 11-inch sand shark has been certified as a new Texas State record, the Parks and Wildlife Department reports. The shark was taken 4 April on Fish Haven Reef out of Port Aransas in 12 fathoms of water on 130-pound test line. It measured 63 inches in girth. The previous record was a 380-pound, 10-footer taken in 1972. Most sand sharks taken run less than 6 feet long, the department notes

... California's commercial anchovy reduction fishing fleet landed 141,036 tons of fish during the 1975-76 season, according to a preliminary Department of Fish and Game report. Included were 135,752 tons in the southern permit area, compared to 109,919 tons the previous year, and 5,284 tons in the northern permit area, down from 6,669 tons for 1974-75. In the southern permit area fishers were getting \$31 per ton of raw fish at season's close, down from the \$32.50 per ton at the opening. Northern anchovy prices were \$28 per ton and another \$2 per ton was to be paid retroactively when cumulative landings reached 6,500 tons

... Recreational oyster gatherers are expected to benefit from an 11,000-bushel stocking of seed oysters on public fishing grounds by South Carolina's Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. Areas seeded include Murrells Inlet, Hamlin Creek, Folly River, and Last End Point (in Beaufort County). The planting was done in part to fulfill a \$50,000 contract from the Coastal Plains Regional Commission which required planting at least 6,000 bushels. During the last two years the department planted about 3,000 bushels a year on the public grounds

... Some 4,000 adult white shrimp were tagged from 26 April through 5 May in Louisiana's Caillou Lake (Sister Lake) in Terrebonne Parish by Wildlife and Fisheries Commission biologists, the commission reports. Purpose of the tagging is to evaluate the distribution and migration of white shrimp popula-

tions from the Lake to the Gulf of Mexico, said commission director J. Burton Angelle. The shrimp were tagged with two small green discs on either side of the first tail by a slender wire

... A 15 April-26 May closure of Puget Sound to Dungeness crabbing for personal and commercial purposes with pots and traps will become standard procedure in future seasons, according to the Washington State Department of Fisheries. The closure was set to avoid the waste when captured hard-shelled crabs eat the molting, soft-shelled crabs

... "Approximately \$200,000 a week" was the calico scallop's worth to the Florida Panhandle fisheries in April and May, reports the Florida Department of Natural Resources. About 10,000 gallons of scallop meats worth \$18 per gallon shucked to processors were coming from the Gulf waters off St. George Island to Port St. Joe each week. Boats were bringing in 300-500 bushels per day, at about a gallon of meat per bushel

... Paul A. Sandifer has been named assistant director of South Carolina's Marine Resources Research Institute, reports V. G. Burrell, Jr., Institute director. Sandifer is a crustacean larvae taxonomy specialist and has headed the state's crustacean aquaculture effort for the past 4 years

... Cape Fear Technical Institute, Wilmington, N.C., has acquired its second vessel, the 50-foot steel-hulled *Limulus*, for multidisciplinary marine science training and research, *The Marine Newsletter* reports. The vessel was formerly operated by the Environmental Protection Agency as the *W. H. Hutton*. Under limited charter arrangements it will be available to students from other educational institutions throughout the Coastal Plains Region

... Over 6.6 million coho salmon fry and yearlings have been planted in more than 60 Puget Sound rivers and streams in a cooperative venture with tribal, sport, and commercial fishers, the Washington Department of Fisheries reports. The plantings were in addition to normal hatchery production and all were made in streams that had poor natural coho escapement in the last two years