

## Snook, Chinook, and the Geoduck

. . . . **Hatchery production may one day bolster** Washington States' geoduck clam stocks, reports the Washington Department of Fisheries. Adult geoducks, the states' largest hardshell clam, have been spawned under laboratory conditions and the larvae cultured and planted in subtidal grounds (under about 40 feet of water) at an age of about 8 weeks. About 12,000 were planted last spring and researchers hope to plant several hundred thousand this winter and spring. Keeping the clams alive through the larval stage and protecting them against disease until they set are reportedly the main problems . . . .

. . . . **Significant numbers of larger and older chinook** salmon in Washington States' 1976 returns may signal that hatchery rearing programs are starting to pay off with good survival rates and larger, better quality fish, according to Department of Fisheries officials. The Department is especially interested in the 1976 returns of 5-year-old chinook to the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River where work began in 1971 to restore a run of traditionally large chinook. Largest of the 1976 returns were in the 40-50 pound range . . . .

. . . . **Texas anglers spent \$233,995,000 on saltwater fishing** trips in 1975, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. The amount includes the cost of such related activities as picnicking, swimming, camping, etc. while fishing, but not for boats, motors, fishing tackle, and other equipment used on more than one trip. Sales of bait, lures, and fuel alone accounted for \$56,010,000. The anglers also spent some 17,780,000 days fishing in Texas' saltwater bays and the gulf waters in 1975 . . . .

. . . . **More than 20,000 old tires**, sank about 13 miles off South Carolina's Hilton Head Island, provided the down payment on that states' ninth artificial fishing reef last fall, according to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Depart-

ment. Reef cosponsor, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, will add additional materials later. Some black sea bass already inhabit the reef area and good fishing is predicted for this spring. Other species expected there eventually include snapper, grouper, porgy, and possibly cobia and king and Spanish mackerel . . . .

. . . . **The Oyster Culture Section of Florida's** Department of Natural Resources planted two new oyster reefs last August, according to the *Florida Conservation News*. One was planted between Cocoa and Melbourne in Brevard County; the other at East Bay, near Allanton, in Bay County. Both 3-acre sites were built in the general configuration of a natural oyster reef. Cured and uncured scallop shells were used for the Brevard reef while East Bay reef materials were out-of-state oyster shells and cured scallop shells. Each site has an estimated potential annual production of 350-400 bushels of oysters . . . .

. . . . **California Department of Fish and Game fish hatcheries** report planting 57,886,527 fish, weighing 4,109,681 pounds during 1974-75. The figures are up from the 1973-74 totals of 47,889,741 and 3,822,420 respectively. Anadromous fish, accounting for 32,996,023 of the fish and 830,267 pounds of the weight, included 28,692,579 salmon weighing 577,114 pounds and 4,303,444 steelhead trout weighing 253,153 pounds. Catchable and subcatchable trout, fingerling resident trout, and aged trout broodstock accounted for 24,024,614 of the total number of fish and 3,145,188 of the total poundage. Warmwater fish plants amounted to 865,890 fish weighing 134,226 pounds. The cost of operating all state fish hatcheries during the year was \$4,299,898 . . . .

. . . . Florida's Department of Natural Resources **conducted an intensive snook tagging program in mid-1976**, reports the *Florida Conservation*

*News*. About 4,000-7,000 snook were expected to be marked with both dart and internal streamer tags. Anglers, who get \$2.00 for each returned tag, were asked to provide all the catch data (length and weight of the snook; where and when caught). Meanwhile, a year-long creel survey is underway to further document and evaluate the snook fishery. The tagging was directed by the DNR's Marine Research Laboratory and the Collier County Conservancy . . . .

. . . . **Maryland's new oyster research hatchery**, at the Horn Point Environmental Laboratories (HPEL) new Cambridge, Md., could "Significantly improve production of oysters on specific bars in Chesapeake (Bay) waters", according to a *Commercial Fisheries News* (Md.) report. The hatchery's objective is to help rehabilitate depleted oyster populations. Researchers are now studying spat planting density on various bottom types for maximum growth and survival and ways to modify hatchery techniques to reduce spat costs, now about a penny apiece for 3/4-inch spat. Spat from the hatchery could also help in rehabilitating oyster bars when natural spat set fails . . . .

. . . . **A 33-pound striped bass, free 17 years and 5 months**, has set a new record for a bass carrying a California Department of Fish and Game tag. The fish was tagged near Prisoners Point in April 1959 and was finally retaken in September 1976 near Suisun City. The 43-inch striper was about 23 or 24 years old when caught and biologists estimated the fish's age at about 6 years when tagged as a 27-inch, 8-pounder in the San Joaquin River . . . .

. . . . **Logbooks kept by Alaskan troll fishermen last summer** are expected to add significantly to understanding salmon biology and behavior, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Last spring over 100 trollers began daily logbook recordings of position, catch, water temperature, and other observations. The logbooks were distributed by the Ketchikan Alaska Trollers Association. Data is being analyzed by researchers with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the University of Alaska's Sea Grant Program, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game . . . .