

A Blue Crab Harvest, an Aged Striper, and an Anchovy Plan

. . . . **Maryland's 1976 blue crab meat pack** was 20,885,511 pounds, according to preliminary figures compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service in cooperation with the Fisheries Administration of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Though the poundage was down 19 percent from the 25,901,758 pounds of 1975, the value was up, at \$5,649,968 compared with 1975's \$5,145,514. The 1976 catch was below the 25 million pound average, but it was above the 1973 figure of 20,723,486 and well above the disastrous year of 1968 when only 10.3 million pounds were processed. Not tabulated was the sport crab catch and the so-called "basket trade" in which crabs are sold live or steamed. . . .

. . . . **California's Fish and Game Commission has turned down** a proposal by the Department of Fish and Game to raise this season's anchovy for reduction quota but adopted a DFG-proposed anchovy management plan, the DFG reports. The department had recommended raising the 115,000 anchovy quota for reduction to 215,000 tons a year. The management plan accepted by the commission states that an annual optimum yield of 439,000 tons is possible when the spawning population of the central stock of the northern anchovy reaches 2.3 million tons or more. Biologists now estimate this spawning biomass at from 3.5 to 4 million tons. . . .

. . . . **Raymond Schroeder, 51, of Carlisle, Ark.**, was named Catfish Farmer of the Year during the annual convention of the Catfish Farmers of America in New Orleans, La. in February, the organization reports. Meanwhile, Leo Ray of Buhl, Idaho, succeeded John Peaster of Yazoo City, Miss. as president of the organization. President-elect is S. L. Reed, Belzoni, Miss.; secretary is Foy Gilbert, Thomaston, Ga.; and treasurer is W. E. Edwards, Winnie, Texas. Mervine Anderson, secretary to Jim Ayers, fishery marketing specialist at the Little Rock, Ark. office of the National Marine Fisheries Service, was presented with a Certificate of Merit by the CFA. . . .

. . . . **Over 6.3 million salmon were caught** by sport and commercial fishermen in Washington State's waters during 1976, according to the Washington Department of

Fisheries report. However, the preliminary data could be as much as 10 percent under the actual number of salmon harvested, the report cautions. Of the total, sportsmen took over 1.3 million fish with the balance taken by Indian and non-Indian commercial fishermen. For anglers and trollers, coho salmon provided recorded harvests. The previous coho catch record was in 1971 when sport fishermen caught 845,735 fish and trollers took over 1.2 million fish. Last year these groups harvested 941,897 and over 1.4 million coho respectively. . . .

. . . . **A 30-pound striped bass caught 5 December in the Sacramento River** near Garcia Bend had carried its tag for 18 years, 7 months, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. The previous record was a 33-pounder that had been at large for 17 years, 5 months. The new record setter was tagged in Broad Slough in May 1958 at an estimated age of 5 years, weighing 7.5 pounds and measuring 25 inches. Meanwhile, another striper caught in Newport Bay in November 1976, showed the farthest south movement of a striper tagged in the Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary. It had been marked 2 April 1974 near Schad Landing on the Sacramento. Most of the bass tagged in the estuary are caught in the San Francisco Bay area or in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system. . . .

. . . . **An Almaco jack tagged and released offshore** from Charleston, S.C. 2½ years ago had tripled its weight when it was recaptured early this year in almost the same spot the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department reports. The jack weighed about 5 pounds when first taken on 4 July 1974. It weighed 15.5 pounds on 4 January 1977. . . .

. . . . **The U.S. Coast Guard is trying out its first hydrofoil, the *Flagstaff*,** to investigate fisheries violations, offshore oil spills and to respond to distress calls, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. The agency took possession of the vessel 29 September and assigned it to Woods Hole, Mass., for duty as a law enforcement vessel. The Coast Guard is operating the 45-knot vessel for one year to

assess its capabilities and limitations in supporting expanded fisheries enforcement responsibilities. . . .

. . . . **Some new 45-inch tall orange and white buoys** are guiding Galveston Bay anglers to oyster reefs, likely game fish habitat, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. While expert anglers can find the reefs without navigational aids, the P&WD explains that many newcomers are hard put to find good fishing areas. The buoys, a foot in diameter, are white with orange stripes near the bottom and top, unlighted, and carry the P&WD decal and the name of the particular reef. . . .

. . . . In Michigan, where large mesh gill nets and chub fishing have been banned, **the Michigan Sea Grant Program has begun evaluation** of purse seining gear which has never before been used in the Great Lakes. The nets have been designed by Jerry Jurkovich of the NMFS Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, Seattle, Wash. Primary target fish for the project are lake whitefish, round whitefish (called menominee locally), yellow perch, and mullet. . . .

. . . . **Lake trout from Minnesota's Lake Superior waters** are well within acceptable contaminant levels set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports. Edible portions of 43 lake trout taken from the French River, Little Marais, and Hovland areas were analyzed for residues of PCB's, dieldrin, lindane, and mercury. Mercury levels averaged about half the 0.5 ppm "action" level set by the FDA and none of the other residues exceeded the appropriate FDA "action level" in any of the fish. . . .

. . . . **The commercial potential of underused species** such as snapper, grouper, rock shrimp, and cockles is being investigated by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The project is part of a larger program to investigate the feasibility of establishing a seafood industrial park in Beaufort County, S.C. in hopes of revitalizing the state's established fishing industry, the department notes. . . .

Erratum

In the paper entitled "Nitrite Additives—Harmful or necessary?" in the April 1976 issue (Vol. 38, No. 4) of *Marine Fisheries Review*, author Elinor M. Ravasi points out the following correction: "The third word of line 3 on page 25 should be 'lower' rather than 'higher.'"