

First Year of 200-Mile Limit Termed Success

The first year of America's 200-mile fishing zone, which went into effect 1 March 1977, has been pronounced successful by Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps. Overall, the domestic catch equaled the 1976 level while foreign fishing declined dramatically, giving depleted stocks an opportunity to begin rebuilding, added Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator. A modest increase in the U.S. catch, consistent with conservation and management requirements, is expected during 1978.

Early signs also indicate a new vigor in the U.S. fishing industry, the Commerce Department official said. He pointed out that although not enough time has passed for major impact to be felt, orders for new fishing vessels have increased drastically, and new interest is seen in investment in fishing gear and processing plant and equipment.

"The Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 is beginning to work," Frank said. "It effectively reserves the allowable catch off our coasts to U.S. fishermen, permitting foreign vessels to catch only amounts in excess of the U.S. catch. This ensures that vital resources are conserved and that depleted stocks can be rebuilt to be available in the future.

"Development of effective management plans is a complex and lengthy process. The Regional Fishery Councils and NOAA are both working hard to establish an effective system to collect adequate biological, economic, and social data, analyze it, and produce rational management plans and regulations."

The 1977 foreign catch, 1.7 million metric tons (t), was about one million metric tons less than the 1976 foreign

catch and approximately half that of the peak year, 1974. The actual catch was about 400,000 t less than the foreign fishing quota for the year, Frank said. The foreign quotas were set under Preliminary Management Plans adopted by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to the Act.

The U.S. catch for 1976 and 1977 was about 2.5 million t for each year. U.S. landings of species actually regulated under the Act showed encouraging signs. In the Atlantic, cod and haddock catches, long in decline, increased. Landings of yellowtail flounder, also long declining, stabilized at the previous year's figure. The cod catch in that zone, 31,000 t, represented an increase of 27 percent over 1976; haddock at nearly 10,000 t, doubled; yellowtail flounder remained at 17,000 t.

The U.S. catch of Pacific species under actual regulations saw increases: up to about 45,000 t for 1977 (compared with 17,000 t in 1976) for jack mackerel; up to about 45,000 t in 1977 (compared with 37,000 t in 1976) for snow (tanner) crab. U.S. cod and pollock fisheries in Alaska are showing small increases.

The monthly average of foreign fishing vessels off U.S. shores also de-

Leitzell Is Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

Terry L. Leitzell has been named Assistant Administrator for Fisheries by Richard A. Frank, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a Department of Commerce agency. He will also be Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Since September of 1977, Leitzell has served as special assistant and senior advisor to the NOAA Administrator. Prior to that, as an attorney-advisor in the Department of State, he was the Deputy U.S. Representative to the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference and chief negotiator on the conference committee dealing with marine pollution and marine scientific re-

search. He led delegations to several meetings and conferences on marine environmental protection and law of the



sea and served as legal advisor to several delegations to bilateral and multilateral fisheries negotiations. Leitzell

was responsible for Executive Branch policy development on law of the sea issues and worked directly with numerous public interest groups on resource and environmental protection policy development.

Leitzell served as consular and commercial officer with the U.S. Foreign Service in Bombay, India, from August 1967 through December 1970. He received an A.B. degree from Cornell University in 1964 and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1967.

Leitzell is married to the former Lucey Emmerich and lives in Washington, D.C. They have two children, Thomas 8 and Charles 4.

clined to about one-third less than that of 1976. Preliminary figures show that fewer than 780 foreign fishing vessels operated within the zone during 1977.

The Act, which established the 200 mile fishery zone, also established regional Fishery Management Councils. These Councils develop fishery management plans for the stocks of fish off our coast, subject to the approval of the Department of Commerce. The plans establish quotas for foreign and U.S. fishing.

Secretary Kreps said that the Councils are a new and interesting experiment in Government, preparing Fishery Management Plans to cover specific fisheries with backing by the Federal Government to enforce these plans. She noted that since their formation, the Councils have moved vigorously to prepare these plans so that NOAA can regulate U.S. and foreign fishing in the conservation zone.

So far three Fishery Management Plans have been prepared and approved by the Secretary of Commerce. The first, prepared by the New England Regional Council, covers cod, haddock and yellowtail flounder in the waters of the north Atlantic. Another prepared by the Pacific Regional Council, covers salmon off the northwest coast, and the third, prepared by the Middle Atlantic Regional Council, covers surf clams and quahogs.

An additional plan covering groundfish (flounder, sole, and rockfish) in the Gulf of Alaska, which was prepared by the North Pacific Regional Council was about to be published.

Until Fishery Management Plans have been completed and approved, preliminary Fishery Management Plans adopted by the Secretary of Commerce regulate foreign—but not U.S.—fishing in the conservation zone.

Enforcement of the regulations is carried out jointly by agents of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Only through the close cooperation of the Coast Guard have we been able to carry out our enforcement duties effectively, Secretary Kreps said.

During 1977 a total of 997 foreign

and 546 U.S. fishing vessels were boarded. The Coast Guard and NMFS agents issued 459 citations and violations against foreign vessels and 352 against U.S. vessels during this period.

Foreign Fish Vessels Hit Two-year Low off United States Coasts

The number of foreign fishing and fishing support vessels sighted within the U.S. 200-mile conservation zone dropped to a two-year low of 158 vessels in January, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. The 206 February foreign fishing vessel sightings were slightly higher but remained well below the 314 seen in February 1977. The January sightings were 30 fewer than the 188 identified in December, and 161 fewer than the 319 sighted in January of 1977, according to preliminary figures released by the Commerce Department agency.

The foreign vessels, from six nations, sighted in January were off the coasts of New England and the mid-Atlantic States and Alaska. The largest number, 77, was from Japan, which had 66 vessels fishing for groundfish and pollock off Alaska, and 11 fishing for squid off New England and mid-Atlantic. The Soviet Union had 38 vessels fishing for groundfish in Alaskan waters.

The ships sighted in February were from seven foreign nations. The largest number, 119, was from Japan which had 114 vessels fishing for groundfish and pollock off Alaska and 5 fishing for squid off New England and the Mid-Atlantic coasts. The Soviet Union had 44 vessels fishing for groundfish in Alaskan waters.

The summary of foreign fishing vessels operating off U.S. coasts during January 1977 and 1978 and February 1977 and 1978 follows.

Foreign vessels sighted off the coasts in 1976 were as follows: January—420, February—510, March—435,

April—560, May—924, June—970, July—842, August—543, September—514, October—452, November—258, December—240. In 1977: January—319, February—314, March—180, April—235, May—374, June—767, July—786, August—492, September—437, October—378, November—256, and December—188. In 1978: January—158, February—206.

The January and February sightings were made by representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service and by personnel of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Foreign fishing vessels operating off U.S. coasts during January and February 1977 and 1978.

Area	Nation	No. of vessels		No. of vessels		
		Jan. 1978	Jan. 1977	Feb. 1978	Feb. 1977	
New England and middle Atlantic	Bulgaria	0	4	0	3	
	Canada	0	5			
	Cuba	0	4	0	4	
	Germany		0	4	0	6
		Ireland	0	1	0	1
		Italy	12	16	9	10
		Japan	11	11	5	15
		Mexico	1	0	1	0
		Nigeria	0	1	0	1
		Poland	0	16	0	16
	Romania	0	1			
	South Korea		0	1	0	2
		Soviet Union	13	65	13	54
		Spain	15	12	15	21
	Total	52	141	43	133	
South-east coast West coast	Japan			0	5	
	South Korea		0	10	0	11
		Panama	0	6	0	7
		Taiwan	0	5	0	7
	Total	0	21	0	25	
Alaska	Japan	66	63	114	57	
	South Korea		2	0	4	0
		Soviet Union	38	93	44	94
		Taiwan	0	1	1	0
	Total	106	157	163	151	
Grand total		158	319	206	314	

NMFS Hawaii Cruise Nets Dogfish, Spiny Lobsters

The NOAA ship *Townsend Cromwell* returned to Kewalo Basin, Hawaii, on 9 March from a fishery research cruise to the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The cruise was part of a continuing series to assess the fishery potential

of the area, said Tamio Otsu, Acting Director of the Southwest Fisheries Center's Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service.

The *Cromwell* spent 40 days investigating the fishery resources and monitoring environmental conditions in the area extending from Nihoa Island to Midway Island and the Hancock Seamount, said Thomas Hida, Chief Scientist on the cruise. Research activities on the *Cromwell* included trapping experiments for spiny lobsters and bottom fishes and handline fishing for bottom fishes.

One of the highlights of the cruise was the capture of 79 dogfish, *Squalus fernandinus*, a species of shark, in four fish traps set in 150 fathoms (900 feet) of water on the Hancock Seamount. Although dogfish are not presently of commercial value in Hawaii, they are used widely in the fish and chips trade in England, noted Hida.

Also, in cooperation with scientists from the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant Program and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, exploratory dredging for precious corals and shark fish to investigate shark predation on turtles were conducted. Shark fishing at five stations in inshore waters produced only a few sharks and inconclusive results on shark predation on turtles.

The *Cromwell* also transported husband and wife scientific team Brian and Patti Johnson to Laysan Island, where they are conducting a 6-month study of the behavior of monk seals under contract with the Marine Mammal Division, Northwest and Alaska Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, Seattle, Wash. Craig Harris of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service returned from Laysan to Honolulu on the *Cromwell* with nine live Laysan finches for study.

The scientific field party in addition to Hida included Research Assistants Glenn Higashi, Robert Humphreys, Martina Queenth, and Darryl Tagami. The Commanding Officer of the *Cromwell* is Commander Edward Gelb of the NOAA Corps.

NMFS Names Jorge Picon Employee of the Year

Jorge E. Picon, Special Agent (Fisheries), in the Southeast Regional Law Enforcement Division, St. Petersburg, Fla., has been chosen the 1976 Outstanding NMFS Employee of the Year. Picon serves as Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge, Field Operations Branch, in the regional office.

Picon is responsible for all field operations conducted by regional Special Agents and for the training and orientation of new enforcement agents. He has also systematized the intelligence and analysis functions of the regional enforcement staff to meet the needs of local and national managers.

Since his appointment in August 1972 as an Enforcement Clerk, Picon obtained a B.A. degree in Criminal Justice from the University of South Florida. According to the NMFS, his Hispanic background has made him uniquely qualified among enforcement agents to undertake many challenging assignments.

These assignments have included extensive Coast Guard sea patrols in the 1973-75 period of extreme tension between Bahamian and Cuban American fishermen on the Bahamas spiny lobster fishing grounds where he was credited with preventing many potentially dangerous confrontations; support of nonfisheries Coast Guard enforcement efforts such as his assistance in the seizure of a vessel on the high seas for a violation of U.S. narcotics laws; and extensive in-depth undercover investigations with respect to endangered species products and marine mammals.

Through cooperation with other Federal agencies, Picon developed the means for locating the positions of foreign fishing vessels in the U.S. waters in the Gulf of Mexico without resorting to costly sea and air patrols. Using his fluency in Spanish, he established intelligence collection and analysis systems for critical regional enforcement programs. In addition, he

established standard procedures for routine reports within the regional office and to NMFS Headquarters.

NOAA Grant Eyes New Aquaculture Technology

Sea Grant scientists at the Oceanic Institute in Hawaii will experiment with rearing fish in captivity in specially built cages in the open ocean under a \$70,000 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, according to Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator. The Federal funds to support this innovative step in aquaculture research will be matched by \$35,000 in non-Federal money.

In the past, the scientists say, most saltwater aquaculture research has been carried out in relatively well-protected coastal waters not subject to intense waves, winds, and currents. However, they explain, if significant increases are to be made in the contribution by saltwater aquaculture to the world food supply, engineers and scientists must learn how to utilize regions of the seas which are exposed to the more intense sea conditions.

In their experimentation, the scientists at the Oceanic Institute will study both floating (surface-following) and stationary (bottom-located) cages, each type equipped with anchors, screens, feeders, floats, and a means of harvesting the cultured fish.

ERRATUM

The article "Krill work reported by Germany and Chile" (Mar. Fish. Rev. 39(10):33) contains contradictory statements referring to the peeling of krill by mechanical means. Item 3) of the article correctly states: "Good results were achieved using mechanized methods of peeling the krill tails, both on board and ashore."