

Appointments, Meetings, and Fishery Production

. . . . **Gary T. Sakagawa has been named Chief, Oceanic Fisheries Resources Division**, at the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Center's La Jolla Laboratory. The former leader of the SWFC Tuna Resources Program now has major responsibilities for the direction and conduct of the Center's research program on tunas, billfishes, and tuna/porpoise interactions in the purse seine fishery in the eastern tropical Pacific, and for advice on the development of U.S. tuna fishery policy. . . .

. . . . **Albert Mark has been named NOAA's Director of Public Affairs**, the agency has announced. Active in public communications work for 23 years, he is a former Director of Communications for the City of Boston. Most recently with the Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C., Mark was Coordinator of Communications for Hubert Humphrey's 1968 presidential campaign, and later became Assistant Administrator for Congressional Relations and Public Information for the U.S. Small Business Administration. In the mid-1960's Mark was Director of Public Affairs, Research, and Information at the Democratic National Committee. . . .

. . . . A former Chief of Naval Research and more recently an Assistant Provost at The American University,

Thomas B. Owen has been appointed Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Services with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, reports NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank. Owen, a career Naval officer who retired in May 1970 with the rank of Rear

Admiral, will have overall responsibility for the National Weather Service, the National Environmental Satellite Service, the Environmental Data and Information Service, and the National Ocean Survey. . . .

. . . . Marine pollution and nearshore commercial and recreational fisheries needs are part of the **issues to be addressed by the Coastal Society's Fifth Annual Meeting**, entitled "Resource Allocation Issues in the Coastal Environment," on 8-9 November at the Sheraton-Islander Hotel in Newport, R.I. Related regional meetings there with coast-marine themes include the International Geographical Union's Committee on the Coastal Environment, 8-9 November, and a concluding conference 9-10 November by the New England-St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society. For further details, contact Niels West, Department of Geography and Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881

. . . . **Sitka Sound seine and commercial troll fisheries should be enhanced** by the 2.2 million pink salmon fry released at Alaska's experimental Starrigavan Incubation Facility earlier this year, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The tiny pinks swim almost immediately to saltwater upon release and feed along the shore. Then, in late summer, they migrate to open-ocean feeding areas and will return to freshwater as adults in the fall of 1980. . . .

. . . . **Louisiana had a record year for shrimp production in 1978**, both in number of pounds produced and dollar value, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reports. An

estimated 104 million pounds brought about \$100 million to shrimpers at dockside in 1978, surpassing the 1977 record figures and making 1978 the second consecutive record year. . . .

. . . . **Ciguatera poisoning reports seem to be increasing in Florida**, reports the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. Scientists are now trying to learn how many such cases can be traced to eating Florida reef fish, whether the number is significant, and whether or not environmental changes on coral reefs may be a contributing factor. If their pilot study indicates a growing problem, researchers Mark Poli and Donald de Sylva hope to start research into ways of dealing with ciguatera. . . .

. . . . **University of Rhode Island whale researchers have been circling the globe recently to find out if humpback whales sing the same songs**, the university reports. During March and April, they attempted to collect songs from humpbacks wintering off the Marianas, Hawaii, in the Pacific off Mexico, the West Indies, and Cape Verde Islands. Project director Howard E. Winn reported that a stock of humpbacks off Mexico and one around Hawaii sing the same songs each year even though they are separated by 3,000 miles. Songs collected from West Indies humpbacks are clearly different, he notes, and the latest research will help determine if Atlantic and Pacific humpbacks communicate in different dialects. . . .

. . . . **Virginia's hard crab and peeler crab catches in 1979 are expected to be equal to 1977-78 catch levels**, according to Willard Van Engel of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. While marketable size hard crabs were seasonably scarce in April, crab catches were expected to steadily increase through May, with maximum numbers being available throughout the summer. The 1979-80 crop is expected to be larger than any seen since 1973, although just average when compared with long-term catch rates. . . .