

## Meetings, Conferences, and Early Fisheries Results

. . . . **An International Conference on Sail-Assisted Commercial Fishing Vessels** has been scheduled for 16-18 May 1983 in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Sponsors are the Florida Sea Grant College, University of South Florida College of Engineering, and the Virginia Sea Grant Program (VIMS), assisted by SAILA (Sail Assist International Liaison Associates) and SNAME Southeast (The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Southeast Section). Purpose of the conference is to explore current and projected uses of wind to help commercial fishing vessels minimize dependence on petroleum-based fuels. The tentative program will include sessions on modern commercial sailing fishing vessels, potential fisheries for sail-assisted vessels, retrofit of existing powered craft with sails, new hull designs, one- and two-man sail fishing vessels, economics, safety and stability, insurance, sail rigs and materials, and more. For more information contact John W. Shortall, III, NA, College of Engineering, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620 . . . .

. . . . The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is planning a two-part **World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development** for later this year and 1984. The FAO hopes that the conference will increase the understanding of changes in world fisheries resulting from the new legal regime of the oceans and draw attention to the changed prospects and new conditions for fisheries development and management. In the first phase of the conference, a series of technical consultations will be held to prepare papers for an extended November 1983 meeting of the FAO Committee

on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome. The final World Conference, set for May 1984 in Rome, will consider policy implications of the issues discussed at the COFI technical meeting . . . .

. . . . **Pesca/Atlapa Expo '83, a conference and exhibition** devoted to equipment, products, services, and technology needed to meet the demands of the expanding fishing industries in Latin America has been scheduled for 22-24 March 1983 in Panama City, Panama. The exhibition is sponsored by the Panamanian National Association for the Fishing Industry in cooperation with the Panamanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the National Port Authority. For further information contact Henry C. Lepinske, Oakbrook Exposition Management, Ltd., 1000 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL 60521 . . . .

. . . . The Duke University Marine Laboratory and the Fundacao Universidade do Rio Grande are organizing the **International Symposium on Utilization of Coastal Ecosystems: Planning, Pollution, and Productivity**. It will be held in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 22-27 November 1983. For further information, contact Secretary-General Labbish N. Chao, Local Committee, The International Symposium, University of Rio Grande, Caixa Postal 474, 96200 Rio Grande, RGS, Brazil . . . .

. . . . Alaska Fish and Game Department **biologists expect another unusually large statewide salmon harvest in 1983**. For 3 years the commercial catch has hovered near 110 million fish, though the 1982 harvest was expected to drop a bit to 95 million fish. Biologists anticipate a continuation of plentiful salmon harvests in most areas of the State, but

fewer pink salmon returning to southeast Alaska in 1983. Fishing industry profits, down sharply in 1982 because of declines in salmon prices, could improve in 1983 if market demand for frozen and canned salmon rises, state officials predict . . . .

. . . . Texas fishery biologists, who have been **hoping for signs of a return of the tarpon** to that state's coastal waters for the past decade, report finding such evidence last year, with 11 immature tarpon being taken in Department of Parks and Wildlife nets in Texas bays. Sport fishermen also reported taking tarpon in Galveston Bay and Pass Cavallo. Four tarpon taken in a survey gill net near Corpus Christi late last year averaged 27 inches long and the largest weighed 9 pounds. The Texas coast once hosted many tarpon angling tournaments . . . .

. . . . Oregon's 1982 shrimp season **closed on 31 October with the lowest annual landings of shrimp in the past decade**. A little over 18 million pounds were landed during the season, including about 7 million pounds landed on the north coast, 4.5 million pounds on the central coast, and 6.5 million pounds on the south coast. It was a drop of 29 percent from 1981 landings of 25.6 million pounds. The ex-vessel price for the season ranged from \$0.30 to \$0.60/pound with most running \$0.50-0.60/pound . . . .

. . . . Alaska's 1982 Bristol Bay **king crab season lasted just 26 days, the shortest** since the fishery's development in 1970, according to the Department of Fish and Game. The season was closed with only 2,400,000 pounds delivered when fishery observer data indicated that only 15 million females were carrying full egg clutches. It is estimated that 20-40 million egg-bearing females are needed to maintain the stock at good levels. The harvest was stopped to protect all mature male crabs potentially able to breed with the barren females. Scientists also anticipated that the 1983 harvest may remain at the same level as 1982 . . . .