

AFRICA

S. AFRICA USES FIRE CRACKERS TO SCARE OFF SEALS

The South African purse-seine fisheries have long been plagued by seals. Seals leap into seines by the hundreds. They feed, scatter the fish, and damage the nets. Fishermen, in frustration, have turned to shooting them despite strict regulations prohibiting their killing.

There are about 100 purse seiners in the South African fleet. Fishery officials became alarmed when they discovered that one Walvis Bay store alone reported sales of 60,000 rounds of ammunition per month to fishermen. Because of the great potential harm to the seal, South Africa's Division of Sea Fisheries began testing ways of controlling this marine animal.

Fireworks Against Seals

During a two-week period in September, fishery technologists used firecrackers--or cherry bombs--to scare the seals out of the nets. The results appeared favorable. About ten firecrackers succeeded in scaring off the seals for the duration of the pursing operations, and they showed no signs of growing accustomed to the noise. It is hoped that industrywide use of firecrackers will succeed in permanently frightening away seals. Further tests will have to be conducted before a final decision is made. ('South African Shipping News and Fishing Industry Review')



MEETINGS

Fifth International Congress, Fondation Francaise D'Etudes Nordiques

La Havre, France. May 2-5, 1973

Subject: "Arctic Oil and Gas: Problems and Possibilities."

"A discussion of the leading scientific, technological, ecological, economic, financial and human problems" with which mankind is faced.

Papers, reports, and discussions will be published after the Congress.

* * *

World Fishing Exhibition

Vigo, Spain, September 12-19, 1973

Subject: "Marine Engines, Fishing Gear Processors and Equipment."

Commercial Exhibitions & Publications Ltd., Riverside House, Woolwich-London, is holding its 6th biennial World Fishing Exhibit. Fifteen major countries will participate. The area covers 56,620 square meters. There will be 4 large halls, open-air display space, and harbor area for visiting demonstration vessels.

