

NOAA CREATES MARINE ADVISORY SERVICE

NOAA has set up a Marine Advisory Service (MAS) to bring information on the use of marine resources straight to people who need it.

Dr. Robert M. White, NOAA Administrator, said:

"The NOAA Marine Advisory Service will link the findings of scientists and engineers to all who seek livelihood or recreation from the sea. We are building upon the successful 60-year tradition of the agricultural extension service, linking colleges and universities to users at the grassroots level.

"A most important element will be feedback from users to researchers--taking user needs back to the scientists, engineers, and managers for solution."

An important component of the new service already exists--the Sea Grant Advisory programs on every salt water coast and the Great Lakes. Howard H. Eckles has been appointed Acting Program Manager of the service. Formerly, he was NOAA's Assistant Associate Administrator for Marine Resources.

What Will Be Emphasized

The national program will strengthen areas now emphasized by NOAA: commercial and sports fishing, seafood processing and marketing, coastal zone management, marine recreation, and marine science education for the general public. Emerging areas of emphasis include aquaculture, ma-

rine mining, and maritime transportation and port development.

Mr. Eckles explained: "The key to the program is advisory work at the local level. We want to increase the effectiveness of the marine advisory agents who walk the waterfront and work with fishermen, planners, method processors, marina operators, and the like. We will emphasize meeting the needs of our field agents and their clientele, not building an administrative staff in Washington. The example and experience of the successful university-based Sea Grant marine advisory programs and the National Fisheries Service extension efforts will be fully used."

MAS staff will designate marine advisory lead units mainly at colleges and universities. They will help to create programs in coastal states and brief regional marine advisory personnel. The first briefing was held in Portland, Oregon, January 23-24, 1973.

All NOAA Involved

NOAA technical staff may appear at workshops to help solve problems posed by users. They will participate in local advisory projects. Each NOAA component has designated a staff member to act as marine advisory specialist at headquarters. NOAA personnel at laboratories and field installations throughout the United States have been designated MAS representatives. They are responsible for disseminating information on NOAA products and services to local marine advisory units; they arrange for technical help when asked.

RECENT LEGISLATION AFFECTING FISHERIES AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Kip Robinson

The 92nd Congress (1971-1972) produced considerable legislation of interest to fishermen and others concerned with the marine environment. Several Federal Departments and Agencies were given new or expanded responsibilities covering numerous environmental issues. A number of the more significant of these laws are discussed here, without attempting any legal analysis, and a listing of some others follows.

"The Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971"-- P.L. 92-75, Aug. 10, 1971

This Act authorizes the issuance of regulations and standards by the Coast Guard for the manufacture and safe operation of recreational boats, approval of State boating safety programs, and the making of grants-in-aid to States to carry out boating safety programs. The Act also authorizes appointment of a National Boating Safety Council.

"The Farm Credit Act of 1971" -- P.L. 92-181, Dec. 10, 1971

This Act permits qualified fishermen to borrow money from the Farm Credit System for several purposes -- including housing financing, if a rural resident, or for general business operations, which could include equipment and family living requirements. In addition, eligible fishery cooperatives and persons furnishing fishing operation-related services to fishermen may also borrow money through the Farm Credit System. The Farm Credit Administration, an independent Federal Agency, is responsible for supervising the programs authorized by this law.

A reprint of an article about this Act in question-and-answer form can be obtained from its author: Dr. Fred Olson, NMFS Economics Research Laboratory, 7338 Baltimore Ave., College Park, Maryland 20740.

P.L. 92-219, Dec. 23, 1971

This Act amends the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 to discourage foreign countries from allowing their fishermen to conduct operations that could diminish the effectiveness of international fishery conservation programs. To accomplish this objective, the President is granted authority to prohibit importation of fishery products from a country that permits such fishing operations.

P.L. 92-402, Aug. 22, 1972

This Act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to transfer certain surplus Liberty Ships to the States for use as offshore artificial reefs for the conservation of marine life. The States that wish to use those ships for artificial reefs must receive permission in advance from the Secretary for each such usage, and must agree to certain terms and regulations.

"The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972"-- P.L. 92-500, Oct. 18, 1972

This Act institutes a major change in the enforcement mechanism of the Federal water pollution control program -- from setting standards for water quality to controlling discharges into U.S. waters. The legislation is directed at a zero discharge of pollutants into U.S. waters by 1977, following a far-reaching program of technological and economic research. It vests responsibility for overseeing the issuance of discharge permits in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

P.L. 92-504, Oct. 18, 1972

This Act amends the Sockeye Salmon or Pink Salmon Fishing Act of 1947. It authorizes the U.S. to provide funds for the restoration and extension of the sockeye and pink salmon runs in the Fraser River System. By agree-

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ment, Canada will provide equal funds for the same program. The funds will be administered by the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission over a 16-year period.

"The Federal Ship Financing Act of 1972"--P.L. 92-507, Oct. 19, 1972

This Act seeks to simplify procedures for obtaining vessel mortgage guarantees and to better meet current industry needs for investment capital. It provides major refinancing authority to make additional money available for modernization and expansion of the U.S. domestic fishing fleet.

"The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972"--P.L. 92-522, Oct. 21, 1972

It sets U.S. guidelines for conservation of marine mammals. The Secretary of Commerce will administer parts of the Act concerning whales, porpoises, seals, and sea lions; the Secretary of the Interior those concerning sea otters, walruses, manatees, and polar bears. With certain exceptions, it prohibits the taking and importation of these animals. A permit system will be used to maintain control over the exceptions allowed. A wide range of responsibilities are assigned to the two Secretaries, including issuing regulations, conducting scientific and technological research, carrying out enforcement and surveillance activities, and entering into cooperative arrangements with the States and conservation groups.

"The Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972" (the "Ocean Dumping Act")--P.L. 92-532, Oct. 23, 1972

This Act authorizes issuances of regulations on the transportation of material intended for dumping into the oceans or waters under U.S. jurisdiction, as well as regulations on the actual dumping of material into such waters. Both the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army are empowered to issue permits for transportation or dumping. The Secretary of Commerce has primary responsibility for programs of research involving the effects of ocean dumping and the long-range effects of pollution, overfishing, and man-induced changes of the ocean environment. In addition, he is responsible for the designation of marine sanctuaries to protect valuable coastal and offshore areas.

P.L. 92-569, Oct 26, 1972; P.L. 92-594, Oct 27, 1972

These Acts amend the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 with respect to reimbursement to owners of U.S. fishing vessels illegally seized by foreign countries. Reimbursement for fines, license fees, or other such charges will be expedited, and provisions for seeking collection of such reimbursed amounts are strengthened. P.L. 92-594 continues until 1977 the provisions of the section for reimbursement of certain losses and costs other than fines, license fees, or other such charges.

"The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972"--P.L. 92-583, Oct. 27, 1972

It establishes a national policy and initiates a national program for the wise use and protection of the Nation's coastal zones. The Commerce Department is given the lead role in carrying out the Act. Commerce will cooperate with other Federal agencies and the States to develop new programs governing the uses of the coastal zone.

P. L. 92-590, Oct. 27, 1972

This Act extends the provisions of the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1964, as amended. It is designed to continue the development of conservation measures through coordinated State-Federal efforts directed at the Nation's commercial fishery resources. This extension authorizes Federal financial assistance to State efforts for five more years. It also increases the authorization of disaster funds.

P.L. 92-601, Oct. 27, 1972

This Act prohibits the use of certain foreign-built small boats (less than five net tons) in U.S. fisheries for a five-year period. The effect of the bill would be that small fishing boats that have been prohibited from use in a fishery of a foreign nation would not be permitted to enter a similar fishery in the United States.

P.L. 92-63, Aug. 4, 1971-- "The Vessel Bridge-to-Bridge Radiotelephone Act."

P.L. 92-87, Aug. 11, 1971-- Amends the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Act of 1950, as amended.

P.L. 92-125, Aug. 16, 1971 -- Establishes the National Advisory Committee on the Oceans and Atmosphere.

P.L. 92-203, Dec. 18, 1971--"The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act."

P.L. 92-205, Dec. 18, 1971--"The Weather Modification Reporting Act."

P.L. 92-340, July 10, 1972 -- "The Ports and Waterways Safety Act of 1972."

P.L. 92-444, Sept. 29, 1972--"The Central, Western, and South Pacific Fisheries Development Act."

P.L. 92-471, Oct. 9, 1972--Amends the North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954.

P.L. 92-516, Oct. 21, 1972--"The Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972."

P.L. 92-604, Oct. 31, 1972--Extends until 1977 the program for control of jellyfish and other such pests in U.S. coastal waters.



NMFS OFFERS NORTH PACIFIC MARINE FISH CHART

NMFS has released the 2nd in a series of 7 four-color posters picturing fish and shellfish in marine and fresh waters.

The newest chart shows 51 selected marine fishes of the North Pacific, Alaska to northern California, and gives both the common and scientific name of each.

The first chart featured North Atlantic marine fishes; others planned will show fish of the Gulf and South Atlantic; the California current and adjacent waters; Hawaii and central Pacific; fresh-water fishes; and shellfish.

These charts, 30 by 48 inches, can be framed and used in schools, libraries, restaurants, and recreation rooms. Available for \$1.50 each from the U.S. Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The charts are developed by Bob E. Finley, Chief, NMFS National Marketing Service Office, Chicago, Illinois.

