

Timeliness; Prices; Headboats; Etc.

• One of the hazards of periodical publication is being overtaken by events. Things are happening pretty fast these days. Even the weekly news-magazines, with all their brilliant methods of rapid publication and their large and alert staffs, are sometimes outdated before they reach the newsstands. Indeed, on occasion, the morning's newspaper appears to have no more than archival interest, events having piled up overnight with such tumultuous speed.

With *Marine Fisheries Review*, we can only reflect the situation prevailing about two and one-half months before you receive the magazine. In this month's number, for example, we carry an article by Joe Pileggi that is — as of late July — up to the minute and of considerable importance. The paper deals with how the current fuel shortage is affecting the fisheries. By the time you read the article, the fuel shortage may have gotten worse, or may have disappeared. In July's MFR, we printed a well-researched article by Irwin Penn on earnings in the fisheries. That article got into print before prices were frozen, making it immediately out of date. Mr. Penn was aware that drastic changes might be forthcoming and mentioned them in an Author's Note. Nevertheless, the article would have been a good deal more meaningful if damnable time had just stood still. It didn't: it won't: we know that, but at the risk of seeming to be as out of date as the crewcut, we will continue to try to present topics of current interest in MFR, trusting to luck that "current" will mean at least ten weeks.

• On this page of the March-April number of MFR I had an item dealing

with the very high unit prices of some rather exotic fishery products—caviar, eel larvae, and pearls. In the May-June number, we carried Bill Folsom's article on the thriving eel fishery in Japan, citing a price of \$417 per pound for elvers. Witold L. Klawe of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission has brought to my attention a translation from the Japanese trade press that says that elvers brought 600,000 yen per kilogram on the black market in the spring. He was good enough to calculate this out for me: it comes to about \$1,030 per pound.

Is there any other marine product—still excluding pearls—that reaches this staggering figure of over a million dollars a ton?

• On page 15, Chester Buchanan, in his good article on the effects of a fishing reef on the sport fishery and economics of a South Carolina town, has a footnote reading:

A headboat is a vessel operated by a licensed captain which transports fishermen to fishing grounds daily for a fee per person on a first-come, first-served basis.

The footnote is the result of my puzzlement. On the first reading of the manuscript I came on the—to me—completely unintelligible term "headboat." A boat with "heads," in the naval sense, maybe? I didn't know and queried the author. He came up with the footnote quoted above.

No, I told him, that isn't right. That is an accurate description of what I would call a party boat.

On the west coast, sure, Chet replied (he's from California). But not in South Carolina. There, a party boat is a fishing vessel chartered for the day or longer by a single party of fishermen. Logical.

Yes, he knew that on the west coast that would be called charter boat. On the other hand, in South Carolina, it would not be.

Who says we all speak the same language? Or even that it's desirable? I am grateful to add another word to my vocabulary and a rather esoteric bit of information to the literature of fisheries.

• By now, all recipients of MFR should have received their copies of the Index to Volume 34 (1972). We regret the inconvenience the delay in issuing this publication has caused those librarians and others who bind their numbers of MFR in a single annual volume.

It is our intention to make this the last of the separately issued indexes for MFR. Beginning this year, we plan to include an author, title, and subject index in the December number. Thus, Volume 35 can be bound upon receipt of the December number. The practice of including an index in the final number of the year is one we are already following with the *Fishery Bulletin* and it seems to work out reasonably well.

• The initials "W.L.H." that conclude the account of the Seattle conference on page 2 of this number belong to Willis L. Hobart, a newcomer to the staff. A graduate of Oregon State University, he had two majors: wildlife management and journalism. He worked in Washington for a while and has published freelance articles in some of the national sports magazines. His photographs of wildlife have won prizes. In tying up with a fisheries organization, any man who would—as Hoby recently did—fondly describe his newborn son as being "about the size of a steelhead" must have found the right slot. You will be reading more of his work.

T.A.M.