

New Fishery Role for University of Alaska

The University of Alaska will be thrust into the mainstream of Alaska's fishery industry and programs if the plans of a new fishery group are successful, reports the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. At an organizational meeting held in Juneau in April, Dr. Robert W. Hiatt, President of the University; Harry L. Rietze, Alaska Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service; and James W. Brooks, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, agreed on the need

for enlarging the role of the University both in fishery education and in supporting research and investigations as a foundation for managing Alaska's fishery resources. The necessary planning and coordination will be achieved through an Alaska Interagency Fisheries Committee composed of the President of the University and the heads of federal and state fishery agencies. The committee members agreed to increase membership to include a member of the Alaska Legislature and a representative of the Office of the Governor.

Dr. Hiatt, a prominent fishery scientist as well as educator, stated that

the University should assume more responsibility for furnishing short term services to the fishing community through specialized vocational programs, as well as long term contributions by training young scientists in Alaska and doing research in critical areas that could lead to vastly improved production of fishery resources.

The committee will meet twice a year to assure interagency coordination, with emphasis on establishing priorities, defining roles, and assessing financial and personnel resources available or required to meet essential fishery program objectives.

In Brief . . .

. . . . **"National Needs and Ocean Solutions"** headlines the 10th annual Marine Technology Society conference and exposition in Washington, D.C., Sept. 23-25. Annual MTS awards, a film festival, and a university-sponsored short course are included. For more information contact MTS at 1730 M St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 . . .

. . . . **Two artificial fishing reefs** are planned by North and South Carolina 2½ and 5½ miles off their boundary to increase fishing potential, according to a report in *The Marine Newsletter*. The joint effort will employ scrap tires, concrete units, steel ship hulls . . .

. . . . Sportfisherman Tom Gibson needed 30 minutes to land **Texas' new 210-pound record tarpon**—a 7-foot, 2¼-incher, 45¼ inches in girth. Taken drift fishing out of Port Isabel on 100-pound test line, the fish is also an International Game Fish Association record for its class, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission . . .

. . . . **A two-year expansion program**, included three major new buildings costing over \$4.5 million, is set for South Carolina's Marine Resources Center at Ft. Johnson, near Charleston, according to *The Marine Newsletter*. State bonds will fund the expansion, and NMFS is expected to lease a new seafood technology center there . . .

. . . . A new 32½ × 3½ × 4-inch, 8-ounce, expanded **polystyrene live-eel shipping box** has been developed for

the growing U.S. eel export business. The ventilated, slide-topped box holds 4 pounds of eels and a chunk of ice supplies fresh, cool water. More information is available from NMFS Market New Report issuing offices . . .

. . . . **The Sixth International Conference on Underwater Education** (IQ6) will be held in San Diego, Calif., Oct. 4-6, by the National Association of Underwater Instructors. Programs spotlight diving frontiers, the state of the art, underwater gear . . .

. . . . Though **Alaska's long-range salmon enhancement program** had more than 4 million fish and eggs in its propagation systems last winter, Fish and Game Department biologists consider that it may still be "several years" before full impact is seen . . .

. . . . **U.S. shrimpers took a record** million-pounds-plus of rock shrimp, primarily from the Contoy (Bay of Campeche, Mexico) grounds, last year, according to NMFS data. Rock shrimp are widely distributed in the Gulf and off the east coast of Florida, and can be fished between other shrimp seasons . . .

. . . . **The 25th Tuna Conference**, a forum for informal discussions of ongoing tuna research problems, is scheduled for Sept. 29-Oct. 2 at the University of California Conference Center, Lake Arrowhead, Calif. . . .

. . . . Realignment of **California's ocean-oriented resource programs** has placed marine resources management and law enforcement functions under the Department of Fish and Game's

Marine Resources Region in Long Beach. All ocean-related research projects were regrouped under the DFG's Operations Research Branch in Sacramento. Changes were effective May 1, reports *Outdoor California*, the department's bi-monthly magazine . . .

. . . . New chairman of ICCAT's (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna) Standing Committee for Research and Statistics is **Dr. Brian J. Rothschild**, Director of NMFS's Southwest Fisheries Center. SCRS advises the Commission on tuna status with regard to fishing levels and makes conservation recommendations . . .

. . . . **Redefinition of the Bering Sea commercial shellfish area** by Alaska's Board of Fish and Game now includes all waters of the Bering and Chukchi Seas north of the latitude of Cape Satchef. The action, according to DFG sources, was designed to simplify management of king crab stocks in the area and to aid in managing the developing Bering Sea fishery . . .

. . . . **An apparent 20-year decline in California's spiny lobster** (*Panulirus interruptus*) has spurred a new research program according to *Outdoor California*. Items studied will include: present commercial and sport lobster fisheries; life history and population structure data; fishing gear; predation by fish; and mortality from discarded traps. Closed season fishing and taking undersize lobsters are two of the more obvious inimical factors according to biologists . . .