

## Japan Tuna Fishery Bankruptcies Mount

Severe management difficulties confronting Japanese distant-water tuna vessel owners are resulting in mounting cases of bankruptcy, vessel tie-ups, and curtailment of business, according to the *Suisan Keizai Shimbun*.

Estimates based on studies made by Japan's Fisheries Agency, lending institutions, and industry indicate that, as of the end of April 1975, there were 36 cases of bankruptcy involving 56

vessels, 23 cases involving 24 vessel tie-ups, and 40 cases of business curtailment affecting 53 vessels, totaling 99 cases and 133 vessels. In addition, about 101 enterprises are threatened with bankruptcy. The removal from the fishery of over 10 percent of the high-seas tuna fleet (of about 1,200 vessels) is indicative of the grave crisis confronting the Japanese fishing industry.

Although tuna imports from South

Korea have contributed partly to the plight of the Japanese tuna vessel owners, the Fisheries Agency's view is that the problem was the outcome of weakening management structure compounded by the energy crisis that struck the industry. The Agency, which in 1974 had provided 9 billion yen (US\$30 million) to help the tuna industry recover from the energy crisis, has declared that steps will be taken to aid the industry, but no specific measure has yet been developed.

### Publications

## New Manuals Promote Seafood Quality

The production of fresh and appealing seafood products requires strict quality control, say Texas A&M University Sea Grant Marine Advisory Services specialists. To help insure high seafood quality, they have produced three seafood quality control manuals, two of which are bilingual.

The first, **Seafood Quality Control: Processing Plants**, is designed to help plant managers recognize sources of bacterial contamination, while making recommendations for improved handling practices and product environment after harvest.

**Seafood Quality Control: A Manual**

**for Processing Plant Personnel**, a bilingual English/Spanish booklet, stresses the importance of sanitary precautions by employees.

**Seafood Quality Control: Vessels/Embarcaciones**, covers handling of seafood between harvest and delivery to the processing plant. Condition of the deck and handling the product on the deck, the hold, and in storage are discussed and vividly illustrated in this bilingual edition.

The seafood quality control series, authored by Ranzell Nickelson, III, and translated into Spanish by Manuel Pina, Jr., is available without charge from the Sea Grant Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

## Impacts of Offshore Oil Forecast in URI Report

**Offshore Petroleum and New England**, a report of the potential on-shore impacts of oil development on Georges Bank, is available from the University of Rhode Island Sea Grant Program. Author Thomas A. Grigalunas, URI resource economist, estimated impacts from high and low off-shore finds, high and low prices for oil and gas, and one and three regional refineries. The economist said development of a large oil find in the Georges Bank area would not go far in alleviating New England's employment or energy problems, but that a large find could eventually make the region self-sufficient in natural gas and provide substantial employment in selected coastal areas.

The 118-page report contains chapters on hypothetical production from Georges Bank; potential offshore petroleum and refinery investment; regional economic impacts; estimates of offshore oil and gas pipeline transportation costs; and estimates of possible royalties. Copies may be obtained for \$5 each from the Marine Advisory Service, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882. Checks should be made payable to the University of Rhode Island.

## FAO Publications Catalog Available

Publications on nutrition, commodity production and marketing, world agriculture, plant and animal sciences, food additive control, forestry, and fisheries are described in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' fully annotated catalog of publications. The 99-page catalog lists all in-print titles, including series publications, monographs, manuals, maps and atlases, periodicals, statistical compilations, and standard international reference works.

Also available is an illustrated FAO filmstrip catalog describing standard single- and double-frame filmstrips on nutrition, crop cultivation, fertilizers, animal husbandry, irrigation, farm equipment, agricultural extension training, and public health. The catalog of publications and the filmstrip catalog are available free on request from Unipub, Box 433—Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10016.

## Mexican Fisheries Publications Listed

The Mexican National Fisheries Institute has issued a bibliography of its 1973-74 publications (in Spanish). The Institute is the Government agency responsible for coordinating fisheries research in Mexico. The studies deal primarily with certain fish and shellfish (sardine, anchovy, shrimp, abalone, lobster, turtles, mackerel, tilapia and snook), other marine resources (ichthyoplankton and seaweed), vessels and gear, and a number of general articles on the present state and development of the Mexican fishing industry. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the 3-page bibliography should write: Dennis M. Weidner, Office of International Fisheries, F41, NMFS, NOAA, Commerce Department, Washington, DC 20235.