

Shellfish, Shad, and Tuna Travel

. . . **New York State's shellfish industry could benefit** from a 3-year study of alternative management strategies for the Atlantic coast clam industries, reports *Coastlines*. The project, undertaken by several state universities in the Northeast, hopes to identify feasible alternative management plans and consider their impact on the resource, harvesters, recreational clam diggers and consumers. The industry's present structure will be studied, looking at the harvesting, handling and processing sectors. An attempt will be made to assess present and future supply and demand in the shellfish industry. . . .

. . . **Lake Michigan's alewife catch appeared well on its way** to a near-record total by late summer according to the *The Great Lakes News Letter*. Some 33.2 million pounds of alewives had been landed to the end of August last year, an amount surpassed only in 1967 when the catch for that period was about 36.9 million pounds and hit 41.2 million pounds for the full year. The year 1973 had been second highest with landings of 30.3 million pounds through August and a total of some 36.5 million pounds. Alewives are mainly used for fish meal, oil, and in pet foods. Their value through last August was about \$458,000—or 1-2 cents per pound. . . .

. . . Preliminary results of a study aimed at mapping migrational patterns of marketable-sized blue crabs in Florida's coastal waters indicate that the species may range over a wide territory. Early tag-recapture program findings indicate that the source of blue crab fisheries may be many miles from the actual harvest areas. The crabs appear to be on the move primarily during the fall and winter months and to move in a northerly direction along the Gulf coast, according to researchers in the *Florida Conservation News*. No significant movement pattern has been noted during the spring and summer months. . . .

. . . The Fish Commission of Oregon has announced a December 15 commercial Dungeness crab season opening

instead of the usual December 1 date, a move described as a **first step in establishing a uniform opening date for commercial Dungeness crabbing**. Should Washington and California fail to set the same opening date, Oregon is expected to revert to its customary December 1 opening for the 1975-76 season. The Oregon Fish Commission also required installation of 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (inside diameter) escape ports in new crab pots used there in 1975 to prevent capture of undersize crabs. The Commission is allowing a 5-year phase out of existing pots. . . .

. . . **Alaska has won the largest water pollution case penalty** ever assessed, \$429,000, reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Charged with violating a state permit to discharge waste water into Cook Inlet from its Kenai fertilizer plant, the Collier Carbon and Chemical Corp. pleaded no contest and agreed to civil damages. Criminal fines of \$129,000 and a \$300,000 civil penalty were levied against the firm, a subsidiary of the Union Oil Company of California, after a trial in a Kenai, Alaska Superior Court. . . .

. . . To protect striped bass for sport fishermen while continuing an optimum commercial shad harvest, the Fish Commission of **Oregon has announced a 30-pound maximum mesh breaking strength limitation on shad net** for 1975. In 1976 all coastal shad nets will be limited to a 24-pound maximum breaking strength. The requirements will make it illegal to fish with heavy nets which could be used for catching large bass, says the Commission. The incidental catch of striped bass in coastal shad fisheries is thereby expected to drop. . . .

. . . **Australia recorded its worst rock lobster season in five years** as the 1973-74 catch totalled slightly more than 13,000 metric tons according to a report in *Australian Fisheries*. Production for all States was 15 percent below that of 1971-72 and 72-73 when it was slightly more than 13,000 metric tons. The high-

est recorded catch of rock lobsters there was 15,096 mt in 1967-68 and the lowest in the last decade was 11,450 mt in 1969-70. . . .

. . . The landed value of **New Zealand's fisheries catch in 1973 hit a record \$NZ21,544,124**, according to reports in *Catch '74* and *Australian Fisheries*, exceeding the 1971 record by about \$NZ2 million and the 1972 figure by about \$NZ4 million. Snapper (*Chrysophry auratus*), comprising about one-third of the wetfish landings, was the principal fish caught; landings of gurnard, barracouta, and albacore were up while eel and trevally landings fell. Rock lobsters led the fisheries in value at nearly \$NZ9.5 million with wetfish next at slightly more than \$NZ8.5 million. . . .

. . . Tagged in June 1974 off Japan by scientists with the Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory, Shimizu, Japan, **two albacore tuna were recaptured 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months later off the northern Oregon coast** by U.S. fishermen during the 1974 Pacific West Coast albacore fishing season, according to the *Tuna Newsletter*. These are the first such tagged tuna recovered off North America. . . .

. . . A record return of **6,260 pink salmon marked the fourth year of a gravel incubation system** test in Auke Creek near Juneau, Alaska. The average pink salmon run here in recent years has been about 2,500 pinks and the previous known high before installing the gravel incubator was 3,800. The 1974 return included 644 marked hatchery fish from 553,000 fry, and 71 marked wild fish from 74,000 fry from natural spawning in the creek. Average survival for all fry released in 1973 was one percent, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports. . . .

. . . Australian rock lobster "**catchability**" is affected by molting, water temperature, and "the well-known influence of the moon," according to a Western Australia research project report in *Australian Fisheries*. Rock lobster flesh in the pots strongly deters others of the species from entering, it was noted. Trapping success has been achieved using large pots with multiple eyes, and with a South African-designed catch sorter to eliminate undersized rock lobster. . . .