

Redfish, Whitefish, and Bluefish

. . . . **The 6,000 tagged 6-inch redfish released in Texas' Matagorda Bay** in late April represented the single largest such release in the state, the Parks and Wildlife Department reports. The young fish were part of several hundred thousand obtained from brood fish at the Port Aransas Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service. In another development, a 9-inch redfish caught at Lake Creek Reservoir south of Waco was the first evidence for P&WD biologists that any of the 13,000 redfish fry stocked there last fall survived and grew. Said the P&WD, "The impressive 8-inch-plus growth in 6 months shows that saltwater game fish can survive and grow in Texas' freshwater lakes and reservoirs

. . . . Virginia Institute of Marine Science scientists Frank Perkins and John Dupuy flew to Europe in mid-May to **confer with oyster disease researchers there on the Aber Disease** of European oysters which they believe is in the same group of shellfish pathogens as MSX. Perkins is presently investigating the comparative biology of MSX in relation to the Aber disease organism and others in the same pathogen group in Australian, Japanese, and Korean oyster growing areas

. . . . **To prevent conflicts with recreational boaters, the Pine Island Chapter** of the Organized Fishermen of Florida has designed a special flag to mark their "stab" or "sink nets" used to catch migrating pompano. The nets, sometimes submerged only a few inches, can be vulnerable to passing boats. The triangular, 18- x 12-inch flag is fluorescent orange with a white circle, according to the Florida Cooperative Extension Service

. . . . **A survey of the gut contents of bluefish and striped bass** is being conducted by the University of Rhode Island and researchers are asking anglers for help. Candace Oviatt and Bruce Rogers of URI's Graduate School of Oceanography want to know what the bluefish and stripers eat and what part menhaden play in their diet. Besides the visceral material, the researchers want the date, time,

general location, and method of capture, length and weight of the fish, and a scale sample

. . . . **Spotter airplanes used by comial swordfishers have been grounded** by the California Fish and Game Commission. The 30 April vote allowed a 2-year-old law banning the use of the spotter planes to go into effect on 28 June. The commissioners also unanimously voiced their desire to ban long-line swordfishing at a later date

. . . . **Sailfish along Florida's southeast coast may be growing more plentiful**, according to a *Florida Conservation News* report. Since 1970, Florida Department of Natural Resources scientists at the West Palm Beach Field Station have been monitoring and recording the number and size of sailfish caught. While a stock decline along the southeast coast was assumed, 1976 brought a bountiful sailfish season off Stuart and West Palm Beach

. . . . **Corvina, native to the Gulf of California and transplanted** to California's Salton Sea in the 1950's, have failed to survive Texas' colder waters, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. Some 124 corvina, to over-winter at the Palacios Marine Fisheries Station, disappeared between November and late February when the ponds were drained. Water temperatures dipped to 34°F during a January storm. Had the fish survived, biologists would have evaluated their potential as a new coastal game species

. . . . The South Atlantic Committee for Shrimp Management has proposed a **regional permit system for shrimp trawlers from North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida** according to *The Marine Newsletter*. The Committee is a State-Federal group created in 1973 to develop a management plan for the shrimp fisheries of those states. The proposed permit would allow commercial shrimpers from any one state to fish off the coasts of the other cooperating states, though each boat would still be required to have a resident license issued by its home state. To become law, the proposal would have to be accepted and passed

by the legislatures in each of the four states

. . . . About 1.7 million **whitefish fry were released in Wisconsin's Great Lakes waters** in April for the first time in many years, the Department of Natural Resources reports. Egg-taking problems in both lakes last fall thwarted more intensive stocking. In 1975, Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters produced 1.3 million pounds of whitefish—exceeded in the last 35 years only by the 1947 harvest of 1.8 million pounds. Lake Superior waters produced 294,000 pounds, the biggest harvest in 20 years. Increasing whitefish harvests are attributed to successful lamprey controls

. . . . **Two Atlantic right whales were observed about 8 miles off South Carolina** in March, according to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. The species is one of the rarest to visit the state's waters. The whales—about 50 and 35 feet long—were first spotted by the crew of a Charleston Harbor pilot boat and reported to the Marine Resources Center at Fort Johnson. Only three other reports of the right whale have been recorded there, one each in 1800, 1880, and 1974

. . . . **Alaska's fifth private, nonprofit salmon hatchery permit was issued** on 28 April to the Alaska Aquaculture Foundation of Wrangell for the outlet stream from Burnett Lake on Etolin Island by the State Fish and Game Commission. Operation of such hatcheries was authorized by the State Legislature in 1974, and two operated last winter. Sheldon Jackson College began releasing about 2 million pink salmon fry in late March, and the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Foundation planned to release about 3 million pink salmon fry during May

. . . . **The Fisheries Society of the British Isles has announced a symposium** on "Rhythmic Activity of Fish." The dates will be 4-8 July 1977 at the University of Stirling. Topics include: Hormonal controls; behavioral rhythms; community relationships; and methods and instruments. Further details will be available in October from John Thorpe, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Faskally, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5 LB, Scotland