

Foreign Catch Cut in 1978 Fishing Regulations

Regulations published by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will reduce the amount of fish allocated to foreign fishermen from the 1977 level of 2.1 million metric tons (t) to 1.9 million t.

Changes to regulations controlling foreign fishing within the U.S. 200-mile conservation went into effect 1 January according to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The reduction is caused by changes in the amounts of some species that can be caught and still permit the stocks to grow, and an increase in the capability of American fishermen to catch more fish.

Another major change in the 1978 regulations provides for an in-season review of fishing to determine if adjustment should be made in the total allowable catch for each species, in the

estimates of domestic catch, and in the amount of fish that may be caught by foreign fishermen. The review will be based primarily on current information on the status of the stocks, and actual versus estimated performance of domestic and foreign fleets in current and prior years.

The largest reduction in the amount that may be allocated to foreign fishermen occurs off the northeast coast. Amounts of six species available have been established as follows (1977 allocations are in parenthesis): silver hake - 45,400 t (85,500); red hake 27,400 t (34,900); Atlantic herring - 0 t (22,000); Atlantic mackerel - 1,200 t (69,000); butterfish - 4,000 t (5,500); and other finfish - 46,800 t (60,000). Squid - 42,500 t and river herring - 500 t remain unchanged from 1977.

Other changes affecting the northeast area are the establishment of a single

foreign fishing area or "window" rather than several windows which were established in 1977. A quota has been set on the amount of each species that a foreign country is permitted to catch. When the quota is reached for any one of the species, all fishing by that country will be prohibited even though the quotas on other species may not have been reached.

All nets used by foreign fishermen on the bottom must have meshes no smaller than 60 mm, and all other nets must have meshes no smaller than 45 mm.

Off the Pacific coast, the amounts of five species available to foreign fishermen have been reduced: Pacific hake - 89,000 t (123,200); rockfishes, including Pacific ocean perch - 710 t (1,600); flounders - 90 t (125); sablefish - 90 t (250); other species - 445 t (600). The latter four species may only be taken as a small, unavoidable by-catch percentage of a nation's allocation of Pacific hake. The amount of jack mackerel available remains at 4,000 t. Foreign fishermen in the area were restricted to a "vessel-day" limitation as well as an allotment last year; however, this limitation has been removed because its value as a management technique in this fishery is uncertain.

In the Gulf of Alaska, available amounts of five species of fish have

Shellfish Supplies Temper Prices

Supplies of some major shellfish products—shrimp, scallops, lobster tails, and west coast crab—increased in the first half of 1977 over average supplies of the previous 2 years, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, a Commerce Department agency. Greater supplies brought some softening in prices, viewed as a normal market reaction and not as an indication of any underlying weakness in demand.

Sharp price increases experienced in 1975 and 1976 likely have affected the demand for shellfish,

fisheries officials believe, making prices more sensitive to changes in supplies. Thus, even though strong market demand for shellfish products is anticipated through the first half of 1978, supplies of some major shellfishes are expected to be sufficiently high to influence prices. The prices of shrimp, lobster tails, and king crab could drop, while higher prices are likely for scallops and American lobster, supplies of which are not likely to increase, officials believe.

Record landings of snow crab in 1977 resulted from increased fishing effort, while the rise of landings of

shrimp and scallops was associated with improved resources. In the first half of the year, imports of shrimp and scallops were at record levels. Imports of lobster tails have increased from countries which, in the past have supplied relatively small amounts to the United States. Receipts from Nicaragua, for example, doubled from the previous year. Copies of "Shellfish—Market Review and Outlook—November 1977" are available from the Industry and Consumer Services Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington, DC 20235.

been reduced, and four have been increased: pollock - 117,340 t (149,000); Pacific Ocean perch - 18,900 t (29,000); flounders - 17,600 t (20,500); sablefish - 8,000 t (19,500); other species - 12,960 t (16,200).

Those increasing are rockfish - 4,080 t (4,000); Atka mackerel - 24,800 t (22,000); Pacific cod - 16,980 (2,300); squid - 1,600 t (0). An additional amount of fish, equivalent to 20 percent of the total allowable catch for each species, has been held in reserve for later allocation to foreign nations if U.S. fishermen do not exceed their estimated catch.

The amounts available in the Aleu-

tian Islands and Bering Sea have changed also. Of the species available to foreign fishermen, six remain unchanged, two have increased, and three have decreased. Unchanged are pollock - 950,000 t, yellowfin sole - 106,000 t, Pacific Ocean perch - 21,500 t, squid - 10,000 t, other species - 93,600 t, and snails - 3,000 t.

Those species which have larger amounts available are: other flounders - 139,000 t (105,000); Atka mackerel - 24,800 t (0). The initial amounts available have been reduced for: sablefish - 3,900 t (7,400); cod - 58,000 t (56,500); and herring - 8,670 t (20,000). The amount of tanner crab

available was to be decided at a later date.

A reserve of 1,500 t of Pacific cod and 600 t of sablefish in the Bering Sea has been established for possible allocation at a later date.

In the Western Pacific 2,000 t of seamount groundfish are available.

The regulations are published under the authority of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 and continue in effect until either amended by the Service or superseded by regulations implementing fishery management plans developed by the eight U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils.

NOAA Names Three Top-Level Appointments

Three appointments to top-level positions at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been announced by Richard A. Frank, NOAA Administrator.

William C. Brewer, Jr., who has served since 1974 as NOAA General Counsel, will become Special Representative of the Secretary of Commerce to the Law of the Sea Conference and Special Representative of the NOAA Administrator on Law of the Sea and International Law. Eldon Van Cleef Greenberg, Deputy General Counsel of the Agency for International Development, will become General Counsel of NOAA. Samuel A. Bleicher, who has been Acting Assistant Administrator for Policy and Planning, will become Director of the newly-created NOAA Office of Ocean Management of the Commerce Department agency.

Brewer, a resident of Washington, D.C., was a partner in the Boston law firm of Hill and Barlow before his appointment as General Counsel of NOAA in 1974. He was graduated from Phillips Academy in 1939, Williams College (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1943, and from Harvard Law School in 1949. At that time he became General Counsel of the Mutual Boiler and Machinery Insurance Company. In 1953 he became a partner in the law firm of Peabody,

Koufman and Brewer, which was succeeded by the firm of Hill and Barlow in 1965.

Brewer has served as adjunct professor at Boston College Law School, teaching coastal zone management and international business law. He has been a director of several companies, and has written numerous articles for legal journals.

Greenberg, who also lives in Washington, D.C., was graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard College in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After post-graduate studies at the Institut de'Etudes Politiques de Paris in France from 1965 to 1966, he took his J.D. degree Cum Laude from Harvard Law School in 1969.

From 1969 to 1970 he was law clerk to Edward C. McLean, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and for the next 2 years was associate attorney at Debevoise, Plimpton, Lyons and Gates of New York. He was staff attorney at the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C. from 1972 to 1977 when he became Deputy General Counsel at the Agency for International Development.

The author of several articles appearing in legal journals, Greenberg has served as adjunct professor in administrative law at Georgetown University

Law Center. He was Advisor to the United States Delegation to the Law of the Sea Conference from 1975 to 1977.

Bleicher, a resident of Toledo, Ohio, was graduated from Northwestern University in 1963, Phi Beta Kappa, with Honors in Economics, and received his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1966. He is a law professor at the University of Toledo College of Law, with emphasis on environmental, constitutional, and international law. He served from 1972 to 1975 with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, first as Deputy Director for Regulation and then as Deputy Director for Regulation and Enforcement. In 1976 and 1977 he served as Issues Analyst for the Carter-Mondale Presidential Campaign and Carter-Mondale Transition Team. He joined NOAA as Special Assistant to the Administrator with responsibilities for reorganization, policy planning, and executive recruitment in February 1977. He is the author of articles in several law journals as well as college course materials on pollution and political boundaries.

New Chart, Bathymetric Map Catalog Published

A new catalog of special purpose charts and bathymetric maps has been published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Produced by the Commerce Department agency's National Ocean Survey, the five-color map and chart catalog indexes bathymetric maps, topographic/bathymetric maps, and marine boundary maps and charts.

Also indexed for the first time are Tidal Current Charts, Marine Weather Service Charts, Storm Evacuation Maps, and orthophoto maps of Florida's coastal zone. Included are insets indexing Offshore Mineral Leasing Area Maps, Geophysical Maps, and the International Hydrographic Bureau (IHB)-supported General Bathymetric (plotting) Charts of the Oceans (GEBCO).

The catalog displays the new Fishery Conservation Zone with the 200-m (Continental Shelf) and the 2,500-m (Continental Slope) zones. A list of map and chart definitions describes each of the various products available, map and chart purchasing instructions, and prices.

The catalog, "Map and Chart Catalog 5 - Bathymetric Maps and Special Purpose Maps," is available free to the public. It may be obtained from NOAA's National Ocean Survey, which made copies available at several boat shows early in the year. The catalog also may be obtained from the National Ocean Survey, Distribution Division (C44), Riverdale, MD 20840 (Phone: (301) 436-6990); Counter Sales, National Ocean Survey, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 101, Rockville, MD ((301) 443-8005); or from local marine supply agents.

NOAA, FWS Will Aid Water Users

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) have signed an agreement expected to provide improved services to the country's landowners and land and water users. The agreement, by NOAA Administrator Richard A. Frank and FWS Director Lynn A. Greenwalt, establishes formal cooperation between NOAA's Marine Advisory Service

programs and those of the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially in such activities as wetlands research and assistance to water users.

Cooperation, according to the agreement, will include such areas of mutual concern as the preparation of educational and research programs, the dissemination of information to the public, and the exchange of data routinely collected by field agents in the course of their research.

A similar agreement was signed late last year between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Agriculture Department's Extension Service.

Cooperation among the three federal agencies is not new. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been active in working with the Extension Service for more than 40 years, and there has been considerable cooperation between the Marine Advisory Service and Extension Service ever since the former was created in 1966.

The creation of the formal agreement, however, is taken as a salutary sign by those concerned with America's water resources. For the first time there will be an institutional arrangement bringing together experts in the Fish and Wildlife Service with their counterparts in Land and Sea Grant universities in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

Foreign Fish Vessels Off U.S. Coastlines Decrease in October

The number of foreign fishing and fishing support vessels sighted off U.S. coasts in October was 378, a decrease of 59 from the 437 sighted in September, according to preliminary figures released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service, a Commerce Department agency.

The 378 vessels sighted compare with the 452 sighted off our coasts in October of 1976. The decrease is due primarily to the closure of the hake, squid, and mackerel fisheries off the Atlantic coast. Normal seasonal decline

in fishing activities and reduction in the number of foreign vessels permitted to fish within the 200-mile zone also contributed to the reduction.

The foreign vessels, from six nations, were sighted off the coasts of New England and the mid-Atlantic States, West Coast, and Alaska. The largest number, 273, was from Japan, which had 272 vessels fishing for groundfish and pollock off Alaska, and one tuna longliner fishing in the western Pacific. The Soviet Union had 75 vessels: 45 fishing for pollock in Alaskan waters, and 30 fishing for hake off the Pacific coast.

A summary of foreign vessels operating off U.S. coasts during October 1977 and October 1976 follows:

Area	Nation	No. of vessels	
		Oct. 1977	Oct. 1976
New England, mid-Atlantic	E. Germany	0	25
	Soviet Union	0	30
	Poland	3	9
	W. Germany	1	7
	Spain	0	23
	Japan	0	26
	Italy	0	5
		4	125
Gulf of Mexico	Panama	0	5
West Coast	Panama	0	3
	Japan	1	0
	Soviet Union	30	9
	S. Korea	0	10
	Bulgaria	0	6
	Poland	3	6
	E. Germany	0	6
	Canada	1	10
	Taiwan	0	1
	Liberia	0	1
		35	42
Alaska	Japan	272	187
	S. Korea	21	48
	Taiwan	0	3
	Soviet Union	45	42
	Poland	1	0
		339	280
Total		378	452

¹Number of Canadian vessels off U.S. shores not recorded.

Foreign vessels sighted off the coasts in 1976 were as follows: January-420, February-510, March-435, April-560, May-924, June-970, July-842, August-543, September-514, October-452, November-258, December-240. In 1977: January-319, February-314, March-180, April-235, May-374, June-767, July-786, August-492, September-437, and October-378.