

Meetings, Manatees, and a Razor Clam Transplant

. . . . **The Third International Congress on the History of Oceanography** will be held at Woods Hole, Mass., 22-26 September 1980. It will be followed a week later (29 Sept.-4 Oct.) by an Assembly on current and future oceanography. Expressions of interest in the Congress, particularly from those who plan to contribute papers on any aspect of the History of Oceanography, will be welcomed, as soon as possible, by Daniel Marrison, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Yale University whose address is: 298 Sperry Road, Bethany, CN 06525. . . .

. . . . **An International Conference on Fish Science & Technology** will be held in Aberdeen, Scotland, 23-27 July 1979, in connection with the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Torry Research Station. The conference will 1) review the state of advancement in various areas of fish science and technology, and 2) provide a forum for the presentation of the latest findings in research and development. A detailed brochure and application forms will be available from the Torry Research Station, P.O. Box 31, 135 Abbey Road, Aberdeen, AB9 8DG later this year. . . .

. . . . **Manatee sightings in South Carolina last summer** support the theory that the state may have a summer population of the rare animal, the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department reports. Biologists there believe the manatee, or "sea cow," migrated up the coast from Florida, perhaps as far as North Carolina. "We've had historic reports of manatees in South Carolina," said biologist Ken Stansell, a member of the Manatee Recovery Team, but "these are the first confirmed sightings that we've had in several years." Classed as an en-

dangered species, less than 1,200 manatees are believed to be in Florida waters. . . .

. . . . Meanwhile, the Florida Department of Natural Resources has been **erecting "Manatee Crossing" signs in four areas** where the slow-moving creatures winter—Orange River, Crystal River, Blue Spring, and Titusville. Similar signs may be placed in 20 other areas to alert boaters. About 25 percent of all manatees found dead reportedly die from collisions with boats. . . .

. . . . **More than 1,000,000 juvenile razor clams were transplanted** from Washington State's Roosevelt Beach to the Grayland Beach area late last year, the Department of Fisheries reports. Shellfish biologists noted concentrations of up to 600 of the 1/8- to 1/2-inch clams per square foot in the Roosevelt Beach area, but none in the Grayland Beach area. The top 2-inch layer of sand (and clams) was placed in boxes for the move. A similar transplant in 1966 put an estimated 1 million razor clams in the Grayland Beach area. . . .

. . . . **Confirmation of a late redfish spawn** in Texas' Port Isabel area may indicate that help is on the way for declining populations of this popular marine game fish, the Parks and Wildlife Department reports. Department fisheries biologists seined a number of juvenile redfish in the Lower Laguna Madre in mid-January which averaged 0.6 inch long. Normally, Texas' redfish spawn in late summer or early fall and would be about 3 inches long by that time. . . .

. . . . **New Jersey lobster populations will benefit** from a new law enforcement technique for identifying female lobsters from which eggs have

been illegally removed, the Division of Fish, Game and Shellfish reports. The eggs are attached by a cement to hair-like structures on the swimmerets of the lobsters and, if forcibly removed, some of the cement will remain. Using a staining technique, officers can detect the cement and thus have proof of illegal action. Special field kits have been designed for such tests which have been used in successful prosecutions in Rhode Island. . . .

. . . . There is a good chance that **more Louisiana eels may go to international markets**, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reports. Eel dealers have been visiting the state seeking supplies for Dutch, Danish, French, German, Italian, and Japanese markets where the species is considered a gourmet item. Because the eel fishery is so new to the state, the department wants to supervise it carefully from the start. As fishing techniques are being worked out and markets established, Louisiana eel fishermen and dealers are being required to furnish monthly reports related to the catch. . . .

. . . . **The popularity of the land hermit crab, *Coenobita clypeatus***, as a house pet appears to be on the decline, the Florida Department of Natural Resources reports, citing NMFS statistics showing that imports have decreased from 208,000 last November to 61,000 in January. "Retail sale of these animals probably peaked during the Christmas season," said Charles Futch, assistant bureau chief of Marine Science and Technology. Most hermit crabs entering commerce were imported from Panama, Haiti, and Costa Rica, but a few were still being collected in the Florida Keys. . . .

. . . . **South Carolina's commercial catch of snappers, groupers**, and associated species more than doubled during 1977 to exceed 700,000 pounds, worth more than \$500,000, according to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. Most were taken by Florida-based boats which continued a growing trend to land their catch in South Carolina. Only a few South Carolina boats have attempted the Florida-style snapper/grouper hook and line fishery in which electric reels are used. . . .