

## Flounders, Oyster Seed, and a Big, Expensive Tuna

. . . . **The arrowtooth flounder, *Atheresthes stomias*, showed a marked increase** in landings on the Oregon coast last year, according to the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Landings for 1981 were approximately 1,310,000 pounds, compared with an average of 521,000 pounds landed for the previous 3 years. The price paid to the fishermen ran \$0.09-0.10/pound. Surveys have shown that the arrowtooth flounder is sparse along the southern coast of Oregon but that there seems to be an abundance from north of Newport up the coast and into Alaska. Large amounts have been found around the Columbia River area. The species is filleted and utilized for food. The developing market for the species reportedly accounts for the increase in landings. . . .

. . . . The Shinnecock Tribal shellfish mariculture operation in Southampton, N.Y. has incorporated **passive and active solar and waste heat recovery energy-savings techniques** to heat incoming saltwater, according to a New York Sea Grant report. By using these methods, significant energy savings can be realized by reducing the amount of fuel oil normally needed for water heating purposes. The system is designed to produce an estimated 50 million shellfish seed which will grow to market size in the field operation. Although their primary species will be oysters, they also plan to diversify into production of hard clams and scallops and to provide seed to other mariculture efforts . . . .

. . . . Aristotle, who must have never tried sashimi, called large, old tuna (probably giant bluefins) "unfit even for pickling." **But a record ¥1,500,000 was paid for a**

**160 kg bluefin tuna** (round weight) in Japan in early January, according to James Ianelli, staff member of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. At an exchange rate of US\$1.00 = ¥ 220.00, that would mean a price per kilogram of \$42.61, per pound of \$19.37, and per short ton of \$38,740. In 1979, author Roger Revelle cited a price of \$26,000 per ton as being "high" for the large bluefins. . . .

. . . . Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) **parasitologists are tracking a microscopic parasite, *Trypanoplasma bullocki***, that killed many very young summer flounders in Chesapeake Bay last winter, and gauging its effect on flounders available for later harvest. Virginia landings of summer flounder dropped from 10 million pounds in 1979 to only 4.3 million pounds in 1981. "We do not know how extensive its historical damage has been," said Eugene Bureson, a VIMS fish pathologist. "Since our first dependable data is associated with the 1980 year class, we plan to follow the recruitment of this year class into harvestable stocks in hopes that some of these answers will be yielded," he said. Commercially, flounders are the most important food finfish landed in Virginia, recently ranking in value ahead of second-place gray trout or weakfish by a 3 to 1 margin. . . .

. . . . From 1 January to 22 December 1981, **the U.S. Coast Guard conducted boardings of fishing vessels in the Atlantic area** north of Cape Fear and in the Gulf of Maine to enforce Federal fisheries laws. In this 356-day period, Spanish vessels received 19 written warnings and 73 violations. Italian vessels received

5 written warnings and 4 violations, and Japanese vessels received 3 violations, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. A violation can result in a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each offense. . . .

. . . . **One of the most stringent marine conservation laws in Texas' history** was passed during 1981, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This was House Bill 1000 banning the sale of red drum (redfish) and spotted seatrout (speckled trout) taken from Texas waters. Meanwhile, the minimum length limit was increased from 14 to 16 inches, and no redfish longer than 30 inches may be retained by fishermen. The law, which went into effect 1 September, was supported by the Parks and Wildlife Commission to allow a dwindling resource to make a comeback. The ban on sales of trout and redfish may be reviewed by the Commission after 2 years. . . .

. . . . **Alaskan fishermen reported harvesting 40 tons of food and bait herring** in Yakutat Bay last fall. There is no history of winter herring fisheries in Yakutat Bay with the exception of some small harvests in the early 1970's, and the increased activity was probably prompted by a 3-month delay in the opening date for the winter herring fishery in Southeast Alaska, according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. As yet, little information is available about the Yakutat fishery's potential, so future fishing will be closely monitored. A conservative management approach is anticipated to protect existing stocks until more is known about them. . . .

. . . . The University of Alaska Sea Grant College has announced the **establishment of the Lowell Wakefield Fisheries Symposia series**, named after the late Alaska king crab pioneer. The symposia, one or two per year, will provide a forum for fisheries scientists, fisheries managers, and industry to review the current status of knowledge about particular Alaskan fisheries and to allow for the development of long-range programs to provide information to assist the State and Federal Governments in developing appropriate management programs. The first, on the snow crab, was held in early May in Anchorage. . . .