

Marine Conferences Scheduled for Fall

Several marine fisheries conferences and symposia have been scheduled later this year. Among them are the following:

The 5th annual International Seafood Conference, a widely recognized forum for industry leaders worldwide, will convene in Tokyo, Japan, 25-28 October. This is the first time the conference will be held in Asia and the program will emphasize topics relating to the fisheries of the Pacific and their importance in international seafood production and marketing. For further information, contact the International Seafood Conference, 1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 705, Washington, DC 20036.

The 27th annual Atlantic Fisheries Technological Conference will be held 20-23 September in Portland, Maine, and will cover a wide range of topics of interest to industry, academia, and government technologists, researchers, etc. Sessions will address 1) the fisheries of Maine and New England, 2) organoleptic testing and methodology, 3) quality control and improvement, 4) New England Sea Grant programs, and 5) other topics of general interest. For further information, contact Anne T. Craig, F/UD2, NMFS, NOAA, 3300 Whitehaven St., N.W., Washington, DC 20235.

Duke University Marine Laboratory and Fundacao Universidade do Rio Grande have announced an international symposium on "Utilization of Coastal Ecosystems: Planning, Pollution, and Productivity" to be held 22-27 November at the Brazilian university. The program will include both invited speakers and contributed papers. For further information, contact the Local Committee, International Symposium on Utilization of Coastal Ecosystems, Fundacao Universidade do Rio Grande, P.O. Box 474, Rio Grande/RS—96.200—Brazil.

And, the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation will hold its

annual program planning session in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware on 17-18 September, followed by a Board of Trustees meeting to formulate development activities for 1983-84. Further information is available from William F. Carroll, Project Director, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Suite 600, 2200 Somerville Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Label Clearance Program Reinstated

In response to popular demand, the USDA label clearance program, which was suspended November 1981, has been restored. For those who may not be familiar with this program, it can help you find out if your product will be admitted into a given country. Just send the label(s) of your product(s), indicating ingredients to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). A form with complete instructions is available for this purpose. A \$25.00 fee is charged per label (or carton or lithographed container) per country.

The label(s) will be forwarded by FAS to the Agricultural Counselor or Attache for clearance by the foreign government. You will be informed whether or not your product can be admitted as is or if approval might be given if certain changes were made. Changes required include, food colorings, language, metric requirements, or date coding.

For copies of the label clearance forms, contact the Export Promotion Division, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, DC 20250; telephone (202) 447-7103. All labels should be sent to this address. For technical questions regarding requirements in various countries, contact Thomas O'Connell, Trade

Policy, Planning, and Analysis Division, FAS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; telephone (202) 382-1318.

Foreign Violations of U.S. Fish Rules Noted

In the period from 1 January 1982 to 22 April 1982, the U.S. Coast Guard conducted 148 boardings of foreign fishing vessels in the Atlantic area north of Cape Fear, N.C., and in the Gulf of Maine to enforce the Magnuson Fishery Conservation Act and the Atlantic Tunas Act. In this 112-day period, Spanish vessels were boarded 102 times and received 37 written warnings and 53 violations, while Italian vessels were boarded 34 times and received 11 written warnings. Japanese vessels were boarded 11 times and a Bulgarian vessel was boarded once, but neither country received warning or violation citations. A violation can result in a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 for each offense. The amount of the penalty or sanction is assessed by the NMFS upon review of the seriousness of each case. (Source: U.S. Coast Guard.)

Early Joint Venture Pollock Catch up 340%

As of 27 March 1982, U.S. fishermen had landed over 57,000 t of Alaska pollock in joint venture fisheries in the central Gulf of Alaska. This represents a 340 percent increase over last year's joint venture harvest in the central Gulf of 16,836 t. The fishery is expected to take at least another 10,000 t before the schools of pollock in Shelikof Strait disperse and fishing activities cease.

The Council had allocated only 7,940 t of pollock for 1982 joint ventures in the Gulf of Alaska, with 19,040 t in reserve for unanticipated domestic catches and about 40,000 t of pollock designated for foreign fisheries which had not yet been released. (Source: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, Anchorage, Alaska.)