

Marine Anglers, Angling Records, and Fish Poachers

. . . . **A record year for angling records was predicted for 1982** by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The organization anticipated awarding well over 500 new world records for rod-and-reel caught fish. In 1981 the Association granted 302 world records out of 410 applications. But as of 30 September 1982, 386 world records had already been granted, with 241 in saltwater line class categories, 21 for saltwater fly fishing, and 124 for freshwater fishes. Despite the unprecedented number of 1982 angling records, the IGFA reports 1,350 vacancies for records—821 for saltwater anglers alone, partly owing to the addition of new light-tackle line and tippet classes added in the saltwater record-keeping program last year

. . . . A white marlin, tagged off Ocean City, Md., 26 Sept. 1970 and **at liberty for almost 12 years, was recaptured on 10 July 1982** about 40 miles south of Block Island, N.Y., reports the NMFS Atlantic Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program. When recaptured, the marlin was reported in "shabby" condition, weighing 65 pounds and measuring 71 inches (fork length). It was a new time-at-liberty record for a tagged billfish. Meanwhile, Australian scientists reported a new distance record for a tagged black marlin of 2,356 miles. The fish had been tagged at Dunk Island, Queensland, in September 1980 and was recaptured off the Republic of Kiribati (formerly the Gilbert Islands) in April 1982

. . . . **The 1983 Symposium on Buoy Technology**, announced jointly by the NOAA Data Buoy Office and the

Gulf Coast Section of the Marine Technology Society, is scheduled for 27-29 April in New Orleans, La. The symposium will have technical programs on moored and drifting buoys. Possible topics will include: Hulls, sensors, instrumentation, data collection/reporting systems, buoy environment, moorings, power systems, mathematical modeling, etc. For further information, contact the NOAA Data Buoy Office, National Space Technology Laboratories, NSTL Station, MS 39529

. . . . **California's fish and game wardens hit San Francisco Bay area striped bass poachers hard** last summer with the arrest of 24 suspects and seizure of 20 gill nets (one more than a mile long) made from monofilament nylon fishing line. The suspects, mostly recent immigrants from Southeast Asia, had taken 202 stripers totaling 2,000 pounds and about 500 pounds of other species. Buyers of the stolen fish at two local markets were also arrested. State officials, estimating that they have been able to catch only 2 percent of the fish thieves, believe that the poachers actually got away with 10,000 fish

. . . . **Seven new acres of oyster shell planted in Texas'** lower San Antonio Bay last spring achieved a spat set in July despite low salinities and are expected by produce marketable oysters in time for the 1983 oystering season, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. Slightly more than 400 spat and small oysters per square foot were observed, biologists reported. An additional 12 acres were sowed with shell in the Bay later in the year

. . . . **Formalin, a dilute formaldehyde**

solution, is the 34th compound to be made available to fish culturists for disease control, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports. After 9 years of research, the Food and Drug Administration has been satisfied that the compound can be used without harm to fish, consumers, or the environment, in the control of external parasites and fungal infections. Qualified companies wishing to market the product for fishery use must file a New Animal Drug Application (NADA) with the FDA, but will not be required to do any further research or testing owing to the FWS master file now on record at the FDA

. . . . **Texas' coastal anglers harvested about 2.5 million fish** during the 1-year period between 15 May 1981 and 15 May 1982, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reports. About half of the fish taken were spotted seatrout, often called "speckled trout" by coastal anglers. The fishermen had to spend about 4.5 million man-hours to catch the fish, averaging about 0.5 fish per hour

. . . . University of Rhode Island **scientists report as much as a 50 percent increase in the shelf life of fresh fish** by dipping it in a solution of glucose oxidase or keeping the fish on ice to which the enzyme has been added. The fish also reportedly retains moisture longer, too. Long used in such products as fruit juice, the enzyme was tested with minced fish and both whole and filleted winter flounder. Experiments are continuing to determine the concentrations needed in a dip or ice mixture since use of the enzyme could add 4-5 cents per pound to the cost of a fish

Erratum

In the article "Artificial Reefs: Toward a New Era in Fisheries Enhancement?" by Richard B. Stone in the June-July 1982 issue of the *Marine Fisheries Review*, 44(6-7):2, the second sentence of paragraph one should read: "Early reef construction in the United States dates back to the mid-1800's (Stone, 1974)."