



MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION BULLETIN

A SEA GRANT ADVISORY SERVICE

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

Commerce Department Proposes Regulations

The Department of Commerce has proposed to list the Atlantic bluefin tuna a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Such declaration will provide the necessary authority to manage the species, as described in Section 4 of the Act.

The status of the Atlantic bluefin tuna is being studied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Present scientific information is inadequate to make a positive determination on the status of stocks; however, data indicates that there are substantially fewer spawning Atlantic bluefin tuna now than in previous years.

A management program to regulate the harvest is necessary until ongoing scientific studies supply the information needed to determine a sustainable harvest level.

In addition to the proposed listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna as a threatened species, regulations are also being proposed for a management program. These management regulations will establish catch quotas for several types of fishing methods during the 1975 fishing season and outline recording and reporting requirements necessary to conserve and manage Atlantic bluefin tuna.

These proposed regulations were published in the Federal Register on April

2, 1975. Copies of the proposed regulations and a draft Environmental Impact Statement are available from Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, Federal Building 14 Elm Street, Gloucester MA 01930; or Director, Southeast Fisheries Center, NMFS, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami FL 33149.

Written comments, views or objections to the proposed regulations will be accepted by the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington DC 20235, until May 28, 1975.



Water Quality Models Discussed at Workshop

Scientists and engineers from the Department of Physical Oceanography and Hydraulics of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science recently joined with 30 engineers from the State Water Control Board, Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Port Authority and other Commonwealth agencies to discuss the capabilities of estuarine mathematical models. The discussion, led by Eugene Jensen, executive secretary of the State Water Control Board, centered around water quality models for Virginia's tidal rivers and estuaries with special emphasis on the James River.

The modeling program is a joint effort between the State Water Control Board and VIMS aimed at using the best scientific and engineering techniques available to help managers meet the waste disposal needs of an increasing population.

Jensen noted that since resources allocated to environmental pollution control must be used efficiently, mathematical modeling and systems analysis techniques offer a unique opportunity to screen the various control technologies and methods and to select those which are most practical.

By themselves, these new methods do not solve problems of environmental degradation, but they aid the decision maker by clearly showing alternate strategies for control, and by identifying those which are superior to others, Jensen said.

Computer print-outs of data are used to inform state and municipal planners of the physical, chemical and biological conditions of a waterway, the amounts and degree of treatment of waste materials that can be added to a waterway without ill effects, and the best locations for outfall sites to minimize environmental degradation.

The Richmond meeting, first in a planned series between state agencies, will be followed by additional meetings to which regional, municipal and industrial communities will be invited.



VIMS Begins Comprehensive Marina And Boatyard Survey

Through its Sea Grant Program, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science is conducting a comprehensive survey of Virginia's marinas and boatyards. Limited studies of marina customer activity patterns and employment opportunities in the marine trades have led up to this statewide effort.

Results of this research will establish both averages and ranges of operating conditions within the marina and boatyard industry, against which an operator can compare his operation.

The study also will provide the industry, local government, planning districts and state management agencies with information which can be applied to such major issues as land use planning, zoning and coastal zone management.

During the next two months approximately 200 marinas and boatyards will be surveyed by Department of Advisory Services personnel.



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DAVID GARTEN..... EDITOR

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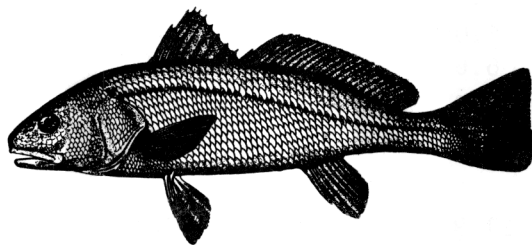
marine mailbag

Q. I am interested in obtaining information concerning the habits and life cycle of the channel bass. I would like to know specifically about feeding habits and spawning in Virginia waters.

M.G.O.
Richmond, Virginia

A. The red drum (*Sciaenops ocellata*), or channel bass, feeds primarily on crustaceans. The young eat amphipods and myriids while older fish prefer shrimp. Recommended baits include spot, mullet and menhaden, as well as shedder crabs. Although the largest of these fish may reach 75 pounds, specimens over 50 pounds are rare.

The red drum belongs to the croaker family, named for the sound which males of most species make by drumming certain muscles against the gas bladder. Little is known about the reproductive habits of any of these fishes, beyond the fact that those studied release their eggs in the open sea. The red drum spawns in the fall and early winter in the area south of Cape Hatteras, but the eggs and larval stage have not been studied.



RED DRUM, *Sciaenops ocellata*.
(Drawing from Hildebrand, S.F. and W.C. Schroeder. 1928. Fishes of Chesapeake Bay. Bull. U.S. Bur. Fish. XLIII(1) 388 p.)

Certified Crab Meat Plants In Virginia

The following crustacea meat plants have been certified by the Virginia Department of Health. All certificates expire March 31, 1976 unless cancelled or revoked prior to that date.

NO.	NAME	ADDRESS
45C	Blake & Bass Sfd.	Newport News
40C	Channel Crab Co.	Norfolk
9C	Chesapeake Crab Co.	Hampton
51C	Eastern Shore Sfd.	Onancock
72C	Ewell & Freeman Sfd.	Seaford
44C	E. J. Fleming	Portsmouth
58C	W. Haywood Forrest Sfd. Co., Inc.	Poquoson
17C	Graham & Rollins	Hampton
16C	P.K. Hunt & Son	Hampton
5C	Keyser Brothers, Inc.	Lottsburg (Honest Pt.)
6C	Lawsons Sfd. Co., Inc.	Hampton
18C	Martin & Richardson Sfd. Co., Inc.	Newport News
71C	Milford Haven Crab House of Va., Inc.	Grimstead
36C	Millers Crab Shore	Colonial Beach
22C	Nandua Sfd. Co.	Hacks Neck
19C	Old Dominion Crab Co.	Newport News
74C	Phillips Sfd. Co.	Hampton
25C	F.F. Quinn Sfd., Inc.	Hampton
35C	R.C.V. Sfd. Corp.	Morattico
12C	Rappahannock Oyster Co.	Kilmarnock (Byrdton)
76C	Richardson's Sfd.	Hampton
69C	Smith Seafood Inc.	Reedville
75C	George D. Spence & Sons	Quinby
39C	Tidewater Seafoods	Newport News
13C	Herbert Wilkerson & Son	Colonial Beach
33C	York Crab & Oyster Co., Inc.	Seaford
43C	York River Sfd. Co.	Hayes (Perrin)

Lists of certified crab meat plants in Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland are prepared by members of the Tri-State Seafood Committee as an aid to seafood buyers in locating certified suppliers. Other plants will be listed in the Bulletin as they are certified.

Oyster Meat Quality Index

Decline Noted In James And Rappahannock

Oyster meat quality in the James River was below average at all stations in March and had declined slightly from values recorded in the previous meat quality index. This decline was typical, however, because cool weather which prevailed during the month was not conducive to feeding. Quality was lower at all stations than it was a year ago.

In the Rappahannock River oyster meat quality was above average at all

stations during March, but values had declined slightly at all stations. As in the James River, the decline was typical of late winter conditions including low water temperatures. Meat values in March 1975 were far below those recorded at all stations a year ago.

Stations in the York River were not monitored for oyster meat quality during March.

KEY TO INDEX NUMBER	
4.0 TO 5.9.....	BELOW AVERAGE
6.0 TO 7.5.....	AVERAGE
7.6 AND UP.....	ABOVE AVERAGE

	December		January		March	
	1973	1974	1973	1974	1974	1975
JAMES RIVER						
White Shoals	6.1	6.0	6.8	6.1	5.5	5.4
Wreck Shoals						
shallow	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.6	6.4	6.1
deep	5.2	6.7	5.3	6.4	5.8	5.3
Point of Shoals	7.6	6.6	7.5	6.6	7.8	6.1
Horse Head	7.3	4.3	7.0	4.2	5.0	4.0
YORK RIVER						
Green Rock	-	-	-	7.1	8.8	-
Pages Rock	-	-	6.0	7.9	7.0	-
Aberdeen Rock	-	-	6.6	7.6	6.0	-
Bells Rock	-	-	6.5	8.1	5.6	-
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER						
Urbanna	10.9	10.8	11.9	11.3	10.0	11.2
Smokey Point						
shallow	10.8	9.7	10.0	9.0	10.1	8.8
deep	10.4	8.3	9.1	8.0	9.5	7.8
Morattico	9.8	9.8	10.5	9.1	11.5	8.2
Bowlers Rock	12.7	10.9	12.4	10.3	10.1	9.1

Marine Recreational Fishing Survey Expanded

The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently announced that a survey will be conducted to determine the number of saltwater recreational fishermen in the Southeast United States.

The survey will be done by a private company under contract to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and will be conducted in the eight coastal states of the Southeast and Gulf of Mexico, ranging from North Carolina to Texas.

In addition to an estimate of the number of recreational fishermen in the area, the survey will provide an estimate of the number and pounds of fish and shellfish caught in each state, the use made of that fish and shellfish, the number of days spent fishing and expenditures by saltwater recreational fishermen.

A combination mail and telephone technique will be used to survey the saltwater recreational fishermen. Results of the telephone screening part of the survey are expected to be published in the fall and the final results of the complete survey will be available in the spring of 1976.

Almost 11 million people in 13 northeastern states and the District of Columbia participated in saltwater recreational finfishing and shellfishing activities last year, according to the results of a survey of that region. The 10,856,000 people represented 4,986,000 households, or a little more than two people per household surveyed.

The states included in the survey, ranked by rate of resident participation, were Rhode Island, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Vermont and West Virginia. Rate of participation was derived from the estimated number of participants

per 100 state residents, based upon the 1970 Bureau of Census population figures

The survey of northeastern states also determined that swimming was the most popular of all marine recreational activities, followed by finfishing, beachcombing, pleasure boating, sailing and shellfishing.

These survey results are the first of two parts. Those who responded to the telephone survey by indicating participation in saltwater recreational activities were sent questionnaires to learn how many and what kinds of fish and shellfish were caught and how much time and money was spent for saltwater recreational activities.

The data received from the questionnaires are being analyzed and the results of the complete survey will be available this summer.

Information gained from both surveys will be used in cooperative State/Federal efforts to develop fishery management programs. Details can be obtained by contacting Statistics and Market News Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Washington DC 20235.



Public Hearings Scheduled

Proposed changes to Virginia's regulations governing marina onshore sanitary and sewage facilities will be presented at two public hearings in May.

Hearings will be convened on:

May 7, 1975 at 2 p.m. in the Sheraton Motor Inn, Interstate 95 and Route 3, Fredericksburg, Va.

May 14, 1975 at 2 p.m. at the Hospitality House, Richmond Road at Virginia Avenue, Williamsburg, Va.

Marine Fuel Tax Refunds Available

Commercial and recreational vessel owners in Virginia are eligible for a motor fuel tax refund of 7½¢ per gallon on gasoline used in their boats. For each gallon of gasoline claimed by the individual, an additional 1½¢ is earmarked for construction and maintenance of State docks and boating access facilities.

The Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries receives between \$40,000 and \$45,000 per year as a result of recreational boat owners' claims. These monies, deposited to the Game Protection Fund, are used for acquisition, construction, improvement and maintenance of public boating access areas on Virginia's public waters and for other activities that directly benefit the boating public.

A 1974 amendment to the marine fuel tax refund code also earmarks the 1½¢ per gallon refunds from applications for gasoline used by commercial fishing, oyster, clamming and crabbing boats. These monies, deposited to a Department of Highways fund, must be used for construction, repair, improvement and maintenance of public docks of the State used by these commercial boats.

A second 1974 amendment to the marine fuel tax refund code designates a use

for those marine fuel tax monies for which no application of refund has been filed. The Marine Resources Commission receives up to \$50,000 annually from these monies to improve commercial and sport fisheries in the State's tidal waters.

With these funds the Commission is sinking six moth-balled liberty ships on two sport fishing reef sites off Virginia's coast -- the Wachapreague-Parramore Island reef and the Triangle Wrecks.

The Commission also plans to work with the Tidewater Artificial Reef Association of Virginia to begin a more concentrated placement of tire units on the Tower reef, a site off Virginia Beach.

Claims for a refund of motor fuel tax must be filed within 12 months of purchase date. Readable sales tickets showing the date of purchase must be filed with the application for refund.

Forms for filing claims for refund are available from the Division of Motor Vehicles, 2220 W. Broad Street, Richmond VA 23220, or from the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 11104, Richmond VA 23230.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

