



MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION BULLETIN

A SEA GRANT ADVISORY SERVICE

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062

Watermen Have Chance To Speak Out

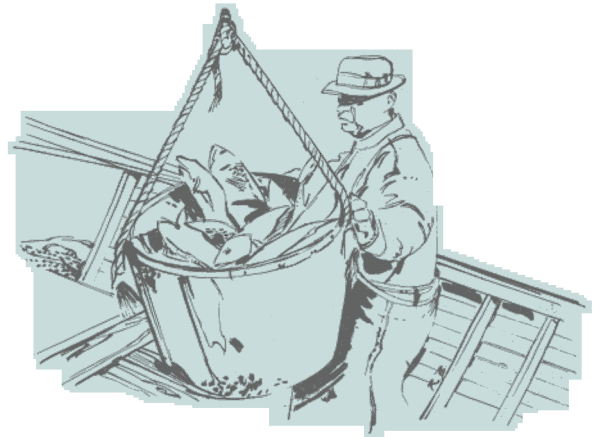
Town-hall type meetings, designed to secure the advice and guidance of the nation's watermen in formulating sound fisheries management programs, will be held in all five states of the mid-Atlantic region early next year. Four Virginia meetings have been scheduled by the Virginia Seafood Council with support from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

The legal framework for these meetings was set in 1973 when Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi submitted a Senate resolution which set the wheels rolling for a nation-wide survey of watermen to determine what action the Congress should take towards fisheries programs.

The resolution unanimously passed both houses of Congress and set down the measures necessary to strengthen the fishing industry.

"We do not propose -- now or later -- to tell the commercial and sport fishing industries what they need," said Senator Eastland. "Our purpose is to learn from leaders and participants in both industries what they need -- and to do all we can to transform their proposals into a sound, ongoing program aimed at attaining the goals we all seek."

He said further, "If we are to succeed in this mission, we must reach a broad spectrum of Americans engaged in fishing and related activities to secure



their advice and guidance in the formulation of our program."

In September, 1975, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission contracted the meetings to be set up and carried out in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

As part of an effort to secure the advice and guidance of the broad spectrum of Americans engaged in fishing and related activities, it is anticipated that a pre-meeting questionnaire will be handed to each individual entering the meeting halls. The questionnaires will be collected before the meeting begins and used in the final analysis.

While meeting discussions will be broad in coverage and general in nature,

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EPA Proposes Changes In MSD Standards

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed significant changes to the agency's Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) standards (Federal Register, Vol. 40, No. 198 - 10/10/75) which would pertain to those vessels having an installed marine toilet device on board.

The proposal would allow the continued use of Coast Guard certified flow-through marine toilets on most navigable waters. This change would remove existing restrictions in the Coast Guard's MSD regulations leading to eventual installment of a no-discharge toilet for many boat owners. However, the current standard for effluent quality from such a certified treatment device would become more restrictive after January 31, 1980.

No discharge device requirements are proposed for navigable waters including landlocked freshwater lakes, freshwater reservoirs, other freshwater impoundments, and rivers not capable of navigation by an interstate vessel on which a marine toilet is installed.

In Virginia, the major inland bodies of water included in this navigable waters category are Philpott Reservoir, John Kerr Reservoir and Claytor Lake. Smith Mountain Lake presently does not come under the navigable waters classification.

These changes have been proposed as a result of concern expressed over the


applicability of the "holding tank" concept to tidal waters versus inland waters. The turnover rate of water in these two systems is markedly different. A landlocked body of water has a relatively long retention time for discharges and therefore is more vulnerable to the potential detrimental effects of marine toilet effluents. This is not the case for rivers and coastal waters, with the exception of some harbors or ports.

Individual states still can petition EPA for the right to establish no discharge areas in the state's navigable waters. A state must document the need to protect its waters to a degree exceeding the federal requirements, and show that adequate pumpout and treatment facilities are available to handle boat toilet waste.

To date, nine states have filed such petitions. Two have been rejected, two were approved and five received no decision.

Virginia's State Water Control Board has implemented a no discharge regulation (Regulation 5), which becomes effective on March 6, 1976. It appears that the federal regulation would supercede the state regulation on January 30, 1977 for new vessels and on January 30, 1980 for existing vessels, unless the state petitions EPA for the establishment of no discharge zones for potential shellfish growing areas. The Board will decide in the near future whether to pursue this course of action.

With the availability of adequate pumpout facilities (a major prerequisite to receiving EPA approval for no discharge areas) the State Health Department has announced that marinas must install pumpout facilities before January 1, 1976. This deadline appeared in the Health Department's 1975 revision of its marina regulations, issued by the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering.



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DAVID GARTEN.....EDITOR

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A VIMS educational service

marine mailbag

- Q. Thank you for the material on jellyfish research. One fact which I could not determine from my reading was whether jellyfish have any value. I know that the claim is usually made that most creatures have some purpose or service some need.

J.F.H.
Norfolk, Va.

- A. Questions about the value of an organism or why it exists are common but the answers are not simple ones. What is of value to one person may be a menace to another, and a reason for its existence is sometimes hard to determine.

From an economic point of view, jellyfish in Virginia waters are definitely detrimental to water sports. Although certain jellyfishes are used as food in the Orient, these edible species occur here only rarely, and there appears to be little likelihood that other uses for these animals will be developed without more biochemical research.

The only common jellyfish in Virginia waters capable of causing a painful reaction in humans is the stinging nettle, *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*. This drifting animal feeds on small plankton, fishes and other organisms which come in contact with the stinging cells on its long tentacles.

There are other animals in the area which use the same food, and few who depend upon the stinging nettle as a food source. It is therefore unlikely that a reduction in the population of this pest would seriously upset the ecosystem. It seems that the harmful impact of this jellyfish on our water-oriented recreation is far more important from man's point of view than any role the stinging nettle may play in the web of life.

However, just because an organism is undesirable from man's point of view, it does not mean that it is without value. One lesson we should have learned by now is that the biosphere was not created to serve man. We are only a part of the system, and not even a dominant part in many ways. Only about five percent of known animal species are vertebrates, and we comprise a small part of even this group.

Each species on earth is unique in some way, and many species of little interest to the average person have given biologists insights into questions of fundamental importance. While the value of decreasing the numbers of stinging nettles would be questioned by few, a campaign to bring about their extinction would have many opponents.

Fortunately, few control methods are so efficient that they eliminate a species. Even overfishing usually ceases before extinction can occur since very small populations cannot be harvested economically. Therefore, control measures for the stinging nettle remain a desirable research goal.

Battery Brochure Available

A brochure entitled *How to Buy and Maintain Boat Batteries* has been published by the Coastal Plans Marine Center for Marine Development Services. The publication covers the major points of what features to look for when purchasing batteries and how to handle, install, and service batteries properly in order to guard against damage and assure maximum useful life.

Copies of the brochure are available from the Sea Grant Publications Office, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA 23062, or from the Coastal Plans Center for Marine Development Services, 1518 Harbour Drive, Wilmington NC 28401.

Youth Corps Program Scheduled For June 20 Through August 20

Applications are now being accepted for the 1976 Virginia Youth Conservation Corps program, a work-study environmental science program sponsored by federal and state agencies for boys and girls, ages 15 to 18. The program will run from June 20 through August 20, 1976, at camps located in the national forests and in the national and state parks.

Participants will study ecology and conservation under the direction of competent instructional and resource personnel. They will investigate the conditions that will help to determine the wise use of natural resources and will engage in work projects designed to provide a valuable service to the sponsoring agency and important training for themselves.

Application forms may be obtained from secondary school principals or the state recruiter. In Virginia the recruiter is Franklin D. Kizer, Supervisor of Science, State Department of Education, Richmond VA 23216 (804/770-2672).

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established guidelines will include such topics as domestic assistance (primarily financial), advanced technology, insurance, safety, marketing, port development, research, Congressional help, and state-federal regulatory conflicts.

In Virginia, arrangements have been made to include sessions on January 7, 1976 in Warsaw at Rappahannock Community College, North Campus Lecture Hall; on January 8, 1976 in Glenss at Rappahannock Community College, South Campus, Room 131; on January 14, 1976 in Hampton at Thomas Nelson Community College, Room 100; and on January 15, 1976 in Accomack at the Accomack Courthouse. All sessions will begin at 7:30 p.m.

A final regional meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Second Annual Maryland Watermen's Association's Del-Mar-Va Commercial Fishermen's Trade Exposition being held in Ocean City, Md., on January 30 and 31, and February 1, 1976.

Interested persons should watch their local papers for notices on meeting format. For further information on the program and its objectives, contact Joan Youngblood, Virginia Seafood Council, P. O. Box 687, Newport News VA 23607, or phone 804/245-5087.

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