PAGES 1 TO 4

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MOREHEAD CITY, AND BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1948

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

Carteret County---Winter Menhaden Capital of the World

Setting the Net

Possibility Of

Bonito, Taken Off Coast,

Although a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, it's shortsighted to become so dependent outs of the menhaden boats will on one fishing industry that failure be combing the sea for the telltale of this one fishery may lead to oil slicks and the signal to the unnecessary hardship.

For this reason, the possibilities nets ready. of new fisheries are always being of the dozens of boats engaged in

now be marketed commercially as "little tuna." A recent investigation by Cyrus H. Chilton, marketing expert of the United States L. Willis, Jr., explains. "The Branch of Commercial Fisheries, schools we're fishing in now are reveals that in the fall of 1946 a coming from the inlets and creeks packer on the Eastern Shore of on their way to Florida. There'll Maryland canned a few thousand be a better run when the fish start cases of little tuna. Again in 1947 coming down from up North." this canner put up a pack of the same fish, with government approval of the designation "tuna"

The 1947 pack, labeled "Light 1946, was distributed on the New York retail food market and was "favorably received," according to

Needless to say, this indicates potential new industry on the Atlantic coast. The little tuna, known as bonito, false albacore, frigate mackerel, and several other names, have been observed migrating south in November and December off the North Carolina

E. W. Copeland, Morehead City, reported that several years ago a menhaden boat, using deep purse seines, caught about 50,000 pounds of these fish the first day the boat went out after them. This was in See TUNA Page 3

Scientist Tests New Net Twines

A new type of chemically-treated twine being tested at the United States Fisheries Biological station, Piver's Island may be the answer to the fishermen's prayers for a net preservative.

Conducting the twine test is Dr. Herbert F. Prytherch, technologist with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Strung on 2-foot wooden square frames, the new "acetylated cotton twine" has been placed overboard. Each month one of the eight frames will be lifted out of the water and the tensile strength of the twine tested.

In order to note its comparison with other twines under the same conditions, untreated cotton twine and tar-treated twines are also strung on the frames.

A similar test in fresh water is being conducted in Albemarle Sound by Dr. E. W. Roelofs, of the

Institute of Fisheries Research. The experiments are a coopera tive project of the Institute of Fisheries Research, the federal government's branch of commer cial fisheries, and the United

States Department of Agriculture The acetylated cotton twine is produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, the Cotton Chemical Finishing division,

New Orleans, La. "In the fishing industry more than 25 million dollars is invested in net material and twines," Dr Prytherch reports. "Fishermen own approximately 228,000 seines

trawls, and pound nets." Since large numbers of these nets are destroyed by bacteria and are rotted by weather, scientists are continually seeking some method of preserving them without coating them with tar which in-

crease their weight. Cuprinol, a copper preservative, can be purchased by fishermen now. Dipping their nets in this chemical has been found to deter rotting, and extensive tests will be goal nets, sport nets, and indusmade on this product in the near trial nets and netting.

future, Dr. Prytherch said. Cuprinol can be used on boat wood in frame houses. It is the Sport Nets, Inc., Morehead City. green-colored "paint" frequently G. P. Midyette, Jr., has been namseen in this section on new build- ed president of the organization

Research Shows A Trip on the Bonner L. Willis . . .

By Gainer Bryan, Jr. "The women run right along with the fish. When the fish is pore,

New Fish Industry the women is pore. The women is a heap li'ver when you got a good fishin' season."

With this utterance, a Negro

member of the menhaden fishing crew of the Bonner L. Willis, Beau-Can Be Canned, Marketed on the supreme importance of menhaden fishing - as far as he was concerned. The season is now on. For the

next 10 weeks the crow's nest lookwaiting purse boatmen to get their

Latest reports indicate that the the menhaden industry which have fish, known here as bonito, can already begun plying the inshore waters of the Carteret coast.

"We're scavenging now in the last of the summer's runs," Bonner

Bonner, Jr., owns a share in the boat which bears his father's name, along with Charles O. Styron. It is the seventh pogic boat that Captain Willis has been skipper of, be-Meat Tuna." and double that of ginning with the Columbia, when he was 19.

The three fishermen bought the uary, 1948, and re-outfitted her. checks of his plaid shirt.
As the Air Phoebe, she operated He greets you a sa out of Morehead City section base Morning" as you come on board.

The various offices and enter

prises located at the former Navy

section base seem to be nothing

Located there are five different

agencies, and at the request of

these agencies, their specific

names and phone numbers are

Glenn with the phone number

The Commercial Fisheries office

gets long distance phone calls for

men at the Institute of Fisheries

Research, the Institute of Fisheries

Research gets bills for Morehead

City Technical institute, and lost

souls wander around in MCTI

workshops looking for a "dairy."

All five of these enterprises are

completely separate from one an-

other. The commercial fisheries

office is a state government agenc-

cy, the Institute of Fisheries Re-

search is a division of the Univer-

sity of North Carolina, Chapel

Hill, MCTI is part of State college,

Raleigh, the State Highway Patrol

is comprised of the state's law en-

forcement officers and has a tiny

office just inside the fence at the

section base, and the dairy storage

place is under the supervision of

a business with headquarters at

Personnel at the former section

base admit that they understand

how people can become confused

about it all, but they wish the

Kinston.

8531, and Sutton's Dairy.

but a source of confusion to "out



Capt. Bonner L. Willis

and in the Panama Canal Zone, with two pancake Diesels of 1200 H. P. each.

Her new owners installed two GM engines of 360 HP combined, A line is secured to the striker in the place of the pancake type, boat from the fantail so it will trail put a waist on the vessel, installed aft. a new shaft alley, pilot house and galley and all new machinery.

The Standard oil dock in Beaufort, where the Bonner L. Willis Beaufort and Morehead City, begins to come alive with shadowy figures at 4 a.m. on a day that promises fair weather.

A hulking form which looms among the moving shadows up on per himself, identified by the melboat, a former Navy sub-chaser, low brown smell of his cigar and keeper). Marion Lewis, engineer, from the Navy for \$3,800 in Jan- the barely visible black and white answers the bells in the engine He greets you a salty "Good

A cheerful glow penetrates the early chill from a hatchway just forward of 'midships, not to speak of the more cheerful aroma of frying "streak 'o lean and streak o fat," and you go in for too-hot-tohandle tin cup of coffee from Henry Jackson, native of Southport. the Bonner L. Willis' brawny cook Henry has been in the menhaden business 37 years, has cooked for the fishermen 15 years.

Small talk gets underway with all eyes focused on the appetizing activities of Henry the Cook, as he dices potatoes and cuts up onions in a panful of beef, then shoves the breakfast hash into the

By 5 a.m., most of the crew have groped their way on board, and all hands turn to for hoisting the purse boats up aft on the davits

Cook pounds a pan with a ladle, and it's chow down for all hands. A blessing is asked, then the disappearing act starts on the steam moors. like many other berthing ing hash, the "streak 'o lean and places or the menhaden fishers in streak 'o fat," grits, rolls, coffee and preserves. By the time the last man swahs the syrup out of his east off from her mooring and is underway

Up in the pilot house Captain deck is none other than the skip-| Willis himself is helmsman, and Bonner, Jr., serves as pilot (boat

Alex Dudley is mate of the Bon-See A TRIP Page 2

The menhaden, in a sense, is the Atlantic counterpart of the Pacific Unloads By Pumping sardine. It, too, is a member of the herring family, but unlike the Pacific sardine, the menhaden is manufacture of meal and oil. Only small quantities are canned.

in New England, eventually spread these attempts have failed. the Middle Atlantic states. The annual catch has fluctuated widely, between 150 million pounds in 1892 and 900 million pounds in 1946. In recent years it has averaged near to 600 million pounds

portant gear for catching menhaden; pound nets are also used, but less importantly.

The meal manufactured from the menhaden was formerly used only for fertilizer and the oil only for industrial purposes, but re-search by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in improvement of both products so that they are now used in animal and poultry feeds. Menhaden roe is saved and prepared as a frozen, salted, or canned product.

At least three species of menhaden inhabit the Atlantic coast: all are used without differentiation by the fishery. They are a migratory fish which travel in schools and their seasonal migrations control operation of the fish-

In the spring large schools appear in coastal waters and even in conditions are favorable for their feeding and growth. The young fish, about an inch long on their arrival, attain an average size during the first year of 5 to 6 inches and a weight of 1 to 1 1/2 ounces. During the second year they grow to a length of 8 to 10 inches weigh approximately 7 ounces and yield variable quantities of oil, depending on latitude (more oil northward than southward) and on variable oceanographic condi-

Converted Mine-Sweeper Joins Southport Fleet

The George F. Nickerson, a converted mine-sweeper, joined the Southport menhaden fleet the first

The Nickerson, third converted ped with two 500 HP diesel engines and has a cruising speed of about 18 knots.

With each succeeding day the invention, tried and proven in ac fame of Grafflin S. (Dutch) tual tests, makes a bailing crew un Prather, 203 S. 19th street, Morehead City, spreads farther and wider in the commercial fishing in-His recent inventions, a hydrau-

The hydraulic fish bailer, as well as the other two pieces of apparatus, are in production now at Morris Machine Works, Baldwinsville, N. Y., and will be shipped to purchasers early next year.

The fish bailer, selling for approximately \$60,000, successfully unloads fishing boats by means of used almost exclusively in the pumping. Heretofore, many attempts have been made to pump larger-sized menhaden from the The menhaden fishery started holds of vessels on to docks, but

Now with the assistance of ris Machine Works, Mr. Prather's

EACH FISHERMAN

contributes annually:

47,000

pounds

of food

to the nation ...

For each

\$14.45

For each

ton of

Fishery

Products

emption.

food supply.

Fisherman

necessary. The entire unloading, or bailing operation is controlled by one man located in a glass-enclosed control tower high above the dock where he has good visibility of the hold. The equipment will deliver fish directly from the boat hold to the raw boxes, there s practically no mutilation of the fish, and in many cases the equipment can pay for itself in savings of bailing crew cost alone, Mr Prather explains. The success of this unit is due

principally, engineers say, to spec-ially designed pumping units and a specially designed suction nozzle. The hydraulic bailer is furnished in a number of sizes capable of unloading even the largest sizes of fish at rates ranging from 200,000 to 750,000 fish per Increase Profits

Its makers claim that profits to See INVENTOR Page 4

EACH, FARMER

contributes annually

34,500

pounds

of food to the nation

For each

Farmer

\$121.44

For each

Products

\$7.04 /

ton of

Farm

"This graph wasn't drawn up

with the purpose of taking any-

thing from the farmer he's now

getting," explained Dr. Prytherch,

is an oyster farmer, he doesn't

have to plant his crop and tend it

mainly to illustrate that the fish-

erman is an important producer of

Fish meal was used in poultry

and animal feed, oils were neces-

scrap.

Purse boats go to head of school, divide, encircle a spot of fish the schools are often miles in extent—then meet and bring ends together. Striker, meantime, acts as hitching post for far end of Photo by John Hemmer

Grafflin S. Prather Invents New Bailer, Fish Counter

(Exclusive to THE NEWS-TIMES)

THE NEWS-TIMES, with this story, publishes for the first time anywhere, information on inventions which will modernize and revotin plate the Bonner L. Willis has lutionize the "machine end" of the menhaden industry. The information here will appear in national commercial fishing magazines Saturday, Nov. 20.

> lie fish bailer, a boat loading apparatus, and an automatic fish counter are the answer to problems that have confronted both engineers and fishermen for years.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

SPENDS ANNUALLY

During the war menhaden and is the amount of money the gov

food fishermen were being drafted ernment spends annually to as-

continually. It was practically im- sist the farmer.

parison to the farmer. Also shown numerous other products.

possible for them to get an ex-

Finally, at the request of local

factory owners and other interests

in the fishing business, Dr. H. F. Prytherch, fishery technologist, Pi-

ver's Island, succeeded in arrang-

ing a hearing before a congression

al committee asking that exemp-

tions be granted men who were

necessary to maintain the nation's

fish oil, fish meal and scrap, and

Presented before the congres-

sional committee at that time was a graph similar to the one here,

of fish oil, meal and scrap in the year's menhaden fleet. United States.

on production, issued by the branch of commercial fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, the menhaden industry turned out 17,-729 tons of fish meal and scrap in June of this year. This was about 400 tons less than during the same period last year.

20,425 tons, was from tuna and tended. meal and scrap in 1947 was 97,334. The next highest output, only 20,425 tons, was from tune and

The menhaden industry produceeded that of the same period in 1947. Produced from January through June this year were 1,600, 330 gallons and for the first six

Total output for 1947 was 7,948, | the menhaden fishery but other 964 gallons. The fishery producing the next highest number of gallons was the Alaska herring there are large catches of menwith 3,658,369 gallons.

Coast Guard Undertakes Intensive Recruit Drive

Countless fishermen and sons of fishermen eventually find their way into the armed forces of our country, especially in the Navy, Merchant Marine, or Coast Guard The Fifth Coast Guard District Norfolk, Va., recently announced that the U. S. Coast Guard is conducting an intensive drive to obtain recruits, especially former Coast Guard and Navy petty of-

25 Per Cent of Nation's **Industry Centered Here**

From Nov. 1 to April 1 Carteret county is the menhaden capital of **Eight Factories** In all of United States there are

only 32 menhaden processing Concentrated In plants and nine of these are located in North Carolina In 1946, for the first time in 12

years, menhaden constituted the biggest catch in the United States nine hundred million pounds, or 20 per cent of that year's total catch. This yielded some \$10,000,-000 worth of oil, meal, and dry

During the war 50 per cent of Atlantic coast menhaden fleet, comprised of the best vessels, was transferred to the Navy and Coast Guard, and yet, during that period, there was better than average pro duction, while the pilchard or sardine industry on the West coast, which was taken over by the government, went into a slump.

This resulted in the menhaden fishery replacing the pilchard in No. 1 spot during 1946. In that year approximately 150 million pounds of menhaden were caught in North Carolina, constituting one-sixth of the total catch in the United States. North Carolina's catch was valued at a million and a half dollars as compared with \$974,631 in 1945.

is the actual value of the catch to fishermen and not the total value of the industry, which would include the cost of processing, eventual sale of the fish meal, scrap, and oil, and value of the boats and factories involved.

Although catches in 1947 were less than those the year previous, the total value of the menhaden industry in this county has been quoted \$3,500,352.

mackerel.

"for actually, unless a fisherman Due to the need of additional petty officers in the Coast Guard. until harvest. This was designed the following ratings are now open for enlistment: motor machinist mate, electrician's mate, boatswain mate, radioman, ship's cook, ma-During the war, fishery by-prochinist mate, quartermaster, radarducts, as most everything, were in man, electronics technician's mate, yeoman, storekeeper, pharmacist's greater demand than during peace mate, watertender, carpenter's mate and various aviation rates.

the state now operating is the Brunswick Navigation company, Southport. This county's plants are the following: Morehead City - Carteret Fish and Oil company, operated by Clarence Taylor; R. W. Taylor company, operated by R. W. Taylor; Wallace Fisheries company, operated by George Roberts Wallace; Phillips Fisheries (located

This Coastal Area

55 Vessels Expected to Com-

prise This Year's Fleet

Within the small area from the

astern limits of Beaufort to a

short distance west of Morehead

City are located eight fatback pro-

cessing plants. The only other in

between Beaufort and Morehead City), Lewellyn, Jasper, and Orlando Phillips; Beaufort-The Fish This million and a half dollars | Meal company, Harvey Smith; Quinn Menhaden Fisheries, Wallace Quinn; Beaufort Fisheries, W. V. B. Potter; and Morris's Fish company, Lambert R. Morris. Other plants are located on the eastern coast and the Gulf as

follows: New York, one, Delaware, two, New Jersey, three, Virginia, eight. North Carolina, nine, Florida, five, Mississippi three, and Louisiana, onc.

Approximately 55 boats will comprise the fleet here this year. Because non-residents are allowed to fish in North Carolina waters, only 25 per cent of these boats are locally owned. The non-resident fishing tax is approximately 50 per cent more than the local, however, and in addition, \$5 must be paid for each man in the crew. Menhaden are the chief source | Fifty-six vessels comprised last

According to the latest statistics on production, issued by the branch of commercial fisheries. Game, Food Fish

A recent investigation by local 1948's total for the first six fishery technologists shows that months is larger, however, than the game fish of these waters do not total for the first six months of feed extensively on menhaden, as 1947, 25,058 tons as compared with some sports enthusiasts have con-

It has been observed that young and adult menhaden on the Atlantic coast are not attacked by schools of bluefish, mackerel, and ed 1,072,015 gallons of fish oil in other species feeding in the same June of this year, approximately area. Because game fish rarely de-160,000 gallons under the June vour menhaden, purse seining of 1947 output. For the first six these fish has not proved destrucmonths of 1948, the oil output ex. tive to food and games fishes, the experts say.

They point out that in menhaden nets are caught large sharks which 330 gallons and for the first six destroy the fatback, food, and months of last year the total was game fishes. Taking of these sharks, therefore, benefits not only fisheries as well.

Statistics show that wherever haden, there are also large catches of food and game fish, which tends to disprove the theory that the menhaden fishery is detrimental to taking of food and game fishes.

Tide Table

Tuesday, Nov. 16 7:54 PM 2:11 PM Wednesday, Nov. 8:19 AM 1:59 AM 2:51 PM Thursday, Nov. 18 2:37 AM 9:15 PM Friday, Nov. 19

service may be enlisted as serman recruit. Seaman recruits are transferred to the Coast Guard Receiving Center, Cape May, N. J., for recruit training.

In addition to the main recruit-

Many of the above listed rates are open up to Petty Officer First Class.

Qualified men with no previous mington, North Carolina.

3:18 AM 10:00 PM 4:18 PM

situation would soon become clari-New Net Company Begins **Business** in Carteret

Newcomer to the county's busi-ness world is The Standard Net Manufacturing company with of-fices in Beaufort and Morehead

City. Operating from three plants, a Atlantic, Harkers Island, and Marshallberg, the Standard Net Manufacturing company will produce landing net bags, basketball

Walter M. Lasker, Beaufort, who bottoms and is also used to treat was affiliated with the former and Ruth W. Lasker, secretary.

Beaufort Boat Caught Biggest Menhaden in '45

The largest menhaden ever taken, according to fishing sta-tistics, was caught by one of the Fish Meal company boats three years ago off Cape Hatteras.

This one, five years old, mea-sured 20 inches in length and weighed 3 1/2 pounds. A cast was made of it by Dr. H. F. Prytherch at the United States Biological station, Piver's Island, and several models now hang in fish factory offices in this locali-

listed here: North Carolina Com-North Carolina's Morehead City Technical institute, 9951, Institute of Fisheries Research, 7606, State Highway Patrol, Sutton's Dairy, however, has Oyster Industry only a storage place at the section oase. Its office is located in Camp

By A. F. Chestnut

Oyster Specialist Institute of Fisheries Research The oyster represents an important natural resource to the State of North Carolina. During the biennium of July 1944 to June 1946, the value of oysters gathered in this state was over one million dollars. Among the fishery products, the oyster was exceeded in value by the menhaden, shrimp, and sea trout, respectively in 1945. However, in comparing the produc tion of oysters in North Carolina with other oyster producing states,

North Carolina is third or fourth from the bottom of the list. In 1940, the oysters marketed from this state represented but one percent of the 78 million pounds of oyster meats produced by all the Atlantic and Gulf coast states. Production of oysters increased in this state in 1944 to the brackish waters of the bays, 474,200 bushels, nearly a four-fold sounds, and larger rivers where increase over 1940. Since 1944 there has been a gradual decline in production.

The prospects for this season are not too encouraging from the standpoint of a supply of oysters Reports from the Pamlico Sound area, which produces the bulk of the oysters in this state, indicate that the supply of oysters is limited on the natural beds. Carteret County produces a little over ten percent of the oysters marketed by the state. The figure might be somewhat higher for Carteret County if the production figures from leased areas were readily available.

The unprecedented high price received for oysters during the war years are still more or less evident. The small boats find it profitable to bring in from 6 to 15 of this month. tubs a day, receiving from \$1.75 to \$2.25 per tub from the shucking mine-sweeper in the fleet, is equiphouses. The limited supply will un-doubtedly sustain the high prices unless the market demand decreas-In the State of North Carolina

See OYSTERS Page 3

What Are These Menhaden?

The purse seine is the most im-

See MENHADEN Page 2

She is fishing for the Brunswick illustrating the amount of food sary for paints, varnishes, soap, Navigation company, R. F. Plaxco, each fisherman produces in com-lubricants, candles, polishes, and