

Vacationers' Vehicle Burns

A Lynchburg, Va., couple's Holden Beach vacation got off to a bad start Monday evening when their 1976 Volkswagen van caught fire on a trip to Shallotte. Above, Shallotte firefighters Tony Hewett and Susan Arnold hose the van with water, later switching to chemicals in their effort to out the fire. Maurice V. Bang said he and his wife were in town to buy provisions when the van stalled on U.S. 17 and made a noise like an explosion. They pulled into a parking lot between Camp United Methodist Church and the Goodyear

Home Supply store. Checking, Bang saw smoke coming from the rear engine area of the van and then fire erupted, he said. Fearing an explosion, Goodyear employee Steve Harper pushed the van away from the store and then helped firefighters contain the blaze. The VW van and its contents were a total loss, said Brunswick County Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan. The Bangs were visiting the beach with friends and won't be stranded here, they said.

A defendant in the "Hurricane David" and "Capt. Tom" drug smuggling conspiracies in Brunswick County was sentenced to 20 years in

prison and fined \$100,000 last week in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Peter White, alias Peter McKay, 42, pleaded guilty to various drug smuggling charges before Judge F. Gordon Battle. Stemming from the 1981 "Capt. Tom" case, White pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess marijuana and felonious attempted possession of marijuana. Charges of felonious possession of marijuana were dismissed.

Judge Battle sentenced White to five years in prison on each charge and fined him \$25,000 for each count.

White appeared on the May 20, 1985, Superior Court calendar for sentencing in the "Capt. Tom" case. At that time, officials realized he had not been indicted for his alleged role in the "Hurricane David" case.

During that Superior Court session, White was indicted for conspiracy to possess marijuana, felonious accessory before the fact, felonious accessory after the fact and felonious possession of marijuana in the "Hurricane David" case. In that incident a shrimp trawler loaded with 4,000 pounds of marijuana aboard ran aground in the Lockwood Folly Inlet in September 1979.

Charges of felonious accessory after the fact were dismissed last week in exchange for guilty pleas in the other charges. Judge Battle sentenced White to five years in prison on each charge and fined him \$25,000 for each offense, the maximum allowed by law under the pre-1980 state trafficking statute. The sentences are to run consecutively for a period of 20 years, Battle ordered.

The new law includes a mandatory 35 year sentence for trafficking in more than 10,000 pounds of marijuana. The Capt. Tom trawler was seized off the coast of Holden Beach with 36,000 pounds of marijuana aboard.

In both drug smuggling conspiracies, White was allegedly in charge of securing the offloading and storage sites for the marijuana.

State Begins Regulating Menhaden Industry (

BY SUSAN USHER

North Carolina Marine Fisheries commissioners did what they "needed to do" Friday in adopting the state's first regulations governing the menhaden industry, Commission Vice Chairman C.B. "Cash" Caroon of Southport said Tuesday.

A statewide summer weekend and holiday closure and a year-round ban on menhaden fishing in the Cape Fear River and the "Mudhole" are among the new regulations that go into effect Oct. 1. They were adopted Friday at a Commission meeting in Beaufort following a public hearing on Thursday.

Menhaden fishery representatives such as Standard Products Co. President H.R. Humphreys Jr. and his counterpart, Jules Wheatly, at Beaufort Fisheries, had argued that proposed regulations would put them

At the other extreme, sports fishermen were concerned about the strain multiple uses were putting on the availability of menhaden as bait and for conservation of the species. Resort towns had their own concerns. seeking protection from and cleanup of fish spills like the two that blanketed Long Beach with smelly, dead menhaden last summer.

The new regulations address all the parties' concerns, though in a more limited fashion than any particular group had sought.

"I think we did what we had to do. We certainly didn't do what the menhaden industry wanted us to and we didn't do what the sports fishermen wanted," Caroon elaborated. "We did what we needed to do.

"We did what we felt was necessry to protect the zero and one-year class fish," said Caroon. "It was not our intent or purpose to put the menhaden people out of business, it was to protect the resource."

Menhaden is the state's industrial fish, small, bony and oily, used in making poultry feed, fertilizer and oils. It is also a part of the food chain for game fish such as king mackerel and is used by sports fishermen for

According to Jim Tew, Marine Fisheries law enforcement chief, the Commission specifically:

·Established an open fishing season, May 15 to Jan. 15, for taking menhaden or Atlantic thread herring (included in any future reference to menhaden) by use of a purse seine or for possessing them.

·Restricted the taking of menhaden by use of a purse seine between sunset on any Friday and sunrise of the following Monday from the Friday of the Memorial Day

weekend through sunset on Labor Day each year.

·Restricted the taking of menhaden by use of a purse seine between the hours of sunrise and sunset on the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays and the Fourth of July when it falls on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday.

•Restricted purse seining for menhaden in internal coastal waters other than traditional areas above the New River, including Pamlico Sound.

•Closed the area called the "Mudhole" that extends from the mouth of the Cape Fear River to the Bald Head Lighthouse, then bearing 240 degrees magnetic to the Cape Fear River ship channel buoy No. 7, then bearing 320 degrees magnetic to the foot of the Yaupon Beach Fishing

the shoreline near Fort Caswell and back to the Bald Head Lighthouse.

•Required the responsible menhaden company, when a fish spill occurs, to "promptly" notify the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries director and report in writing on the circumstances associated with each spill and the cost of its clean-up.

Members of the newlyreconstituted Commission have met 26 times since late February, Caroon said, and were comfortable with the regulations arrived at Friday.

'We feel we've been well informed and understand the situation and that we've done what needed to be done,"

Sports fishermen and beach communities had repeatedly asked for a one-mile offshore limit for pogey boats, but that restriction was not included in the regulations adopted

College Offers Speakers

Speakers are available from Brunswick Technical College to talk on assorted subjects for civic clubs, PTA organizations or similar groups, according to college Public Information Officer Connie Powell.

The college's Speakers Bureau serves the dual purpose of providing interestiong programs as well as informing Brunswick Tech's various publics of the variety of resources available at the college, she said.

Among the programs offered are those that overview the institution and its credit curriculum programs as well as such topics as student financial aid, the Learning Resources Center and adult education services to older people.

Interested groups may contact Connie Powell at 754-6900.

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