

Local Anglers Recognized In State Citation Program

Three Brunswick County anglers are among 33 individuals honored as category leaders in the 1988 N.C. Saltwater Fishing Citation Program.

Among the local winners is William Stocks of Calabash, who landed a 630-pound dusky shark at Sunset Beach Fishing Pier in August.

Two Long Beach anglers also earned plaques for submitting top catches in their respective categories. Russell C. Correll won with a 13-pound flounder, while

Jimmy Price was recognized for an eight-pound, six-ounce speckled trout.

While three local anglers caught fish large enough to earn plaques, two other fishermen set new state all-tackle records in 1988.

Tony Moore of Swansboro broke the old record for cobia when he landed a 103-pounder on May 20 at Emerald Isle. He broke the previous record by six pounds.

Also, Keith Harabin of Middlesex, N.J., set a state

record with a 282-pound bigeye tuna landed June 25 off Oregon Inlet. Last year was the first season bigeye tuna were considered as a separate category, so the largest one of the year was automatically the state record.

The largest citation fish caught last year was a 1,085-pound blue marlin, while the smallest category winner was a one-pound spot. Overall, the state Division of Marine Fisheries issued 4,205 citations in 1988 to

anglers landing fish over the minimum weight, which varies for each species.

In addition to plaques for the largest fish in each category, the program recognizes anglers who release the most fish in any of several species categories. Release categories typically include fish species whose numbers are declining.

The 1989 fishing citation program began Jan. 1 and will run through Dec. 31.

Commission To Review Minimum Flounder Size

A review of the 13-inch minimum flounder size will top the agenda at the next meeting of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 16 and 17.

The commission will meet in Raleigh in the conference room of the Radisson Plaza Hotel. The meeting on Thursday will begin at 9 a.m., with Friday's session starting at 10 a.m.

Other items on the agenda will include management of the Spanish and king mackerel and red drum stocks, mullet netting along the beaches, menhaden season and shellfish leases.

The commission will also discuss primary and secondary nursery areas, inside trawling, regulatory issues and proposed license structures.

For more information, call the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries toll free at 1-800-682-2632.

Fishing Institute Comes To Wilmington

The nation's most widely acclaimed educational fishing school comes to Wilmington next month giving local bass anglers a head start on the upcoming spring and summer fishing seasons.

The National Bass Institute will be at UNC-Wilmington on the weekend of Feb. 4-5 with updated instructor presentations and new workshops to go along with past programs. In all, there will be seven special workshops on advanced sonar, electric motors and batteries, fishing crankbaits, ph

and color that affect fish behavior, advanced worm and jig fishing, special tackle and line and out-board/boat performance.

There will also be three classes for young anglers on lure selection, monofilament line, knot tying, lure rigging, balanced tackle and safety. Students will also have the opportunity to attend courses on area species and waters and learn specifically about the popular waters and other species of fish found near each institute.

Students can learn from an in-

teresting, stimulating and exciting combination of team-taught lectures, discussion, multi-media presentations, small group and even one-to-one instruction.

Each adult student will receive a comprehensive study manual. This 110-page book contains more than 130 diagrams, photographs and reference charts detailing information presented during the institute. This manual can be used by the angler as a reference for continually improving fishing.

An 11-member team of tournament champions, writers and nationally known fishing experts will serve as instructors at the institute. Among them is Billy Murray of Texas, the founder and director of the institute and sports fishing hall of fame member.

Advanced adult registration is \$50 per person and \$60 at the door. For each paying adult, one youth (ages 10-15) is admitted free. In addition, spouses can register for half-price (\$25) allowing another youth to be admitted free.

For more information contact UNC-Wilmington (395-3195) or the American Fishing Institute at Indiana State University toll free (800-234-1639).

Mackerel Anglers Seeking Donations

A local charter boat captain appointed as the area representative for the state's king mackerel fishermen is seeking contributions to cover court costs.

Gary Carr of Holden Beach, said mackerel fishermen are looking to collect about \$2,500 to cover legal fees defending the appeal of a lawsuit which earlier resulted in the temporary opening of the king mackerel season.

Arguing that annual quotas had been reached, the National Marine Fisheries Service closed the recreational season in October and announced plans to close the commercial king mackerel harvest in late November.

Following the filing of a lawsuit concerning the closure, however, a district court judge issued a temporary restraining order extending both the recreational and commercial king mackerel seasons. That order is still in effect, but cost fishermen \$10,000 in legal fees.

Ed Wolfe, a fisherman from Wilmington who lead the way in filing the lawsuit on behalf of North Carolina fishermen, appointed Carr to help collect the additional legal fees which will be used in an appeal of the suit by the Secretary of Commerce.

Checks can be made payable to "N.C. Mackerel Fishermen" and mailed to Carr at 108 Greensboro St., Holden Beach, NC 28462.

Trawling Ban Takes Effect

A prohibition took effect last week on the use of trawls for the harvest of snapper and grouper in offshore waters.

Approved last year by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, the trawl prohibition took effect last Thursday in federal waters between Cape Hatteras and Cape Canaveral, Fla. Federal waters are those from three to 200 miles offshore.

The ban was approved to prevent habitat damage which occurs as trawl gear passes over live bottom habitat on the ocean floor and to prevent the harvest of undersized fish, particularly vermillion snapper, according to a SAFMC news release.

Clam Dredging Opens Offshore

Offshore waters between Oregon Inlet and the South Carolina state line was opened last week to the mechanical harvest of clams by the N.C. Marine Fisheries Division.

Effective last Friday, clam dredging and other mechanical harvesting methods will be permitted each weekday from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. A maximum daily harvest of 6,250 clams—25 bags at 250 clams per bag—will be permitted for each fishing operation.

Although it is free, a valid state permit for mechanical clam harvesting will be required.

All areas within 750 feet of ocean fishing piers marked according to state regulations will remain closed to mechanical harvesters.

New Director To Target Protection Of Shellfish

Improved protection of the most important shellfish resources along the North Carolina coast is a primary goal of George Everett, who later this year will become director of the state Division of Coastal Management.

Everett, currently deputy director of the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, will replace David Owens, the outgoing coastal management director.

Owens resigned last week to take a faculty post at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Owens' new position, which is subject to approval of the UNC Board of Trustees, will be in land planning with the Institute of Government, said Don Follmer, public affairs director of the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

He said the 38-year-old Owens will continue as coastal management director for approximately five more weeks. A former assistant director, Owens has directed the division for the past five years and has been with state government for nearly 11 years.

His annual salary is \$52,668. Follmer said the new director will probably earn \$50,268 per year, the starting salary for the post.

Everett, 41, has worked in the N.C. Division of Environmental Management for about eight years, serving as chief of its water quality section before becoming deputy director. He was appointed to the coastal manage-

ment post by NRCD Secretary Bill Cobey.

As director, Everett said he will concentrate on programs which inventory the state's shellfishing resources and identify the most productive beds. "I think we have to spend some effort throughout the department to identify which are the most important shellfish resources," he said.

The regulation of water pollution outside of the coastal counties also needs to be improved, he added, emphasizing that inland water sources ultimately affect water quality along the coast.

"I don't think we've done everything we need to do in the 20 coastal counties or in the areas outside which impact those coastal areas," he said. "There's a lot of impact that those coastal counties feel being downstream of inland rivers."

Everett said other important issues he will face as director include the classification of coastal outstan-

ding resource waters and protection of wetlands.

A native of Wilmington, he has earned an undergraduate degree in biology and a master's in zoology, both from UNC-Chapel Hill, as well as a doctorate in marine science from N.C. State University. At one time he taught at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

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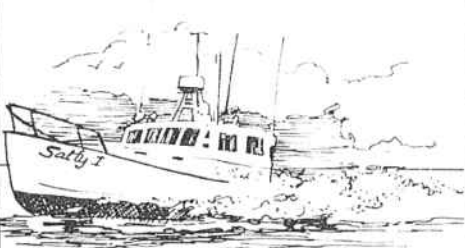
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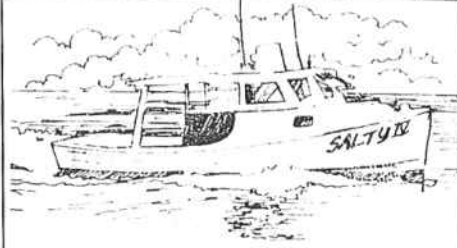
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