

THE WAY IT WAS

This scene of the Southport waterfront was taken from the old pilot tower during the early 1960s when the Tar Heel Sports Shop stood at the end of Howe Street and next to a public launching ramp erected and maintained by the City of Southport. The point of land shown at the top left was the outer limits of what now is Waterfront Park.

The fishing report

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

"Southport charter boats had a real good week," Steve Smith reported from Sure Catch Tackle on Tuesday. "Bottom fish are still abundant -- nice American reds, grouper, beeliners and large sea bass."

Smith said that most of the reef fish activity had been southwest of Frying Pan tower, adding that some good kingfish catches have been logged by bottom fishermen who light-lined at the same time.

Capt. Chris Pardue on the *Marhuna* had 11 kings, a dolphin and an amberjack to go with a nice bottom catch on Friday, Smith said, and had ten kings and a barracuda weighing nearly 30 pounds on Saturday.

Smith said there were some

reports of school kings on spoons, but said that he expected most kingfish activity to come on slow-trolled cigar minnows.

He said one outstanding catch for the week was Linda Cable's 50-pound amberjack, and said he heard reports of a sailfish hooked near the Knuckle buoy on Monday.

Closer inshore, live-baiters have begun to do well with kings, Smith said, reporting that he had four himself -- including a 25-pounder -- on Saturday at the Yaupon Reef.

Menhaden were available for cast-nets close to the beach west of the Oak Island lighthouse, he said.

Smith also said that spoon-trollers were taking Spanish mackerel, and said that some large Spanish had been landed by live-baiters, particularly along inshore tide lines.

Spots and large whiting were available in the river, and trout were hitting behind Bald Head Island.

At Long Beach Pier, Jim Ratcliff reported that Spanish mackerel and blues were abundant, particularly early in the morning. One of his anglers landed a nine-pound blue, indicating that the inshore movement of these biggies -- normal in early May -- may just be starting.

Ratcliff said that five kings weighing up to 30 pounds were taken at Long Beach over the weekend, and said that meanwhile panfishermen were pleased with the appearance of big schools of whiting eager to hit shrimp or bloodworms.

At Yaupon Pier, Billy West reported a 14-pound king was landed Tuesday morning, and said Rocky Teal landed a 20-pounder

there on Sunday and lost a second one.

West said blues were hitting lures, and whiting and spots were taking bloodworms and shrimp.

At Ocean Crest Pier, Carl Collins reported ten kings and three cobia over the weekend, and said that spots taken there over the weekend were the largest he'd seen in four years.

Collins said that both blues and Spanish were hitting gold-hook rigs, and one of the mackerel had weighed over six pounds.

Collins said that the gold-hook rig used by his customers was a length of leader with five gold hooks tied off on droppers that are tied a second time so the hooks will spin when the rig, ending in a two-ounce sinker, is jigged.

Sunday will be the third running of the periodic Port Charlie's Waterway Regatta, featuring at least 15 local sailing craft and ... well, let's face it, anybody who wants to come and race. It's always been a free-form sort of deal.

The affair grew from fruitful minds which last year found themselves gazing out the window of Port Charlie's Marker 1 Lounge, thinking, "Wouldn't we really rather be racing?"

Thus there was a spring regatta as well as a late-fall one, with the captain's meeting and awards presentation at the restaurant, plus a conveniently located starting line running between Intracoastal marker 1 and Cape Fear buoy 14A. You can stand on the porch at Port Charlie's and see practically the whole thing.

Chuck Jones, skipper of the *America* who competed in the first two races, told us last week that Mark Tallon is still race chairman and is responsible for receiving entries and arranging handicaps. Interested sailors should contact Tallon at 457-5642, or through Port Charlie's restaurant, before Friday. The race commences around 1 p.m. Sunday.

On Monday morning a most successful exercise in resource management came to fruition when at least half a hundred clambers crowded into the west channel of the Lockwood Folly River to harvest clams which had been doomed by the dredging project in the river's nearby main channel.

When the U. S. Corps of Engineers announced plans for dredging the river to improve navigation and drainage the Division of Marine Fisheries realized that hundreds of thousands of clams were going to be destroyed. Better to have them harvested and turned into money and food, was the thought, so in February a mechanical dredge came into the river, scooped up some 300,000 clams from the channel and shifted them to a nearby area of clean water. When the state shellfish sanitation people said it was okay, the division set an opening date for taking the clams.

That was Monday.

At 9 a.m. there were 35 boats from as far away as Carolina Beach, many with more than one clammer aboard, crowded into a 300-yard stretch where the clams had been relaid. Every sort of hand-clamming was in evidence -- tongers, long-rakers, short-rakers, pea rakers, trodders -- and as far as we could tell there were enough clams for all, and then some.

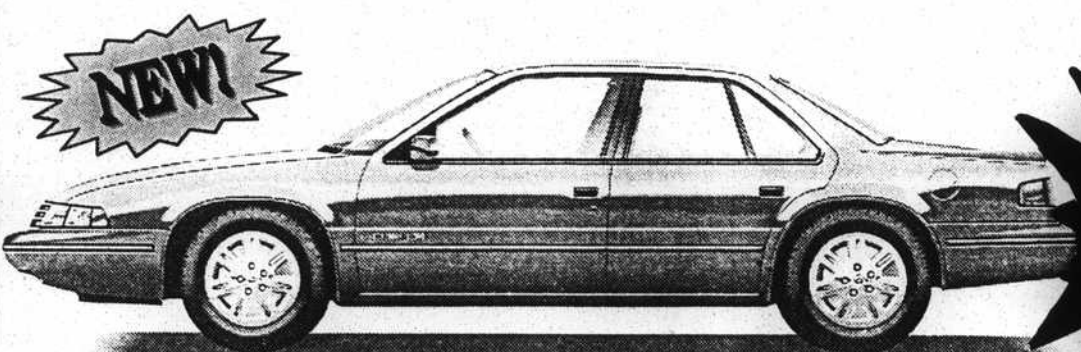
The area is to remain open for clamming.

"Managing the Coastal Ocean for the 21st Century: North Carolina's Role" is the theme of a two-day conference beginning at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday) at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

On hand will be Jonathan Howes, secretary of the state Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, as well as Robert W. Knecht of the University of Delaware who will give the keynote talk on "Multiple Use Management: Why is it important and how can it be achieved?"

The conference will conclude Friday with a panel discussion on future management of the state's coastal resources. Registration can be arranged through the university at 256-3721.

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