

# 1,136 Shrimp Trawlers Ply State Waters

## Beginning Nov. 27 State Fisheries Committee Will Conduct Series of Meetings Along Coast

Beginning Monday, Nov. 27, the commercial fisheries committee of the Board of Conservation and Development will hold a series of six meetings along the coast to acquaint fishermen with regulations and statutory laws and get their opinions on those laws.

This is part of the program initiated this year to simplify and codify the state's fishery regulations.

### New Booklet Published

Published in October were the codified laws, Subchapter IV, Fish and Fisheries, listed in order and indexed.

The former booklet on rules and regulations was such a hodge-podge that it required diligent seeking and unending patience to learn exactly what the state rulings were. Roy Hampton, chairman of the commercial fisheries committee, and his committee members met several times during the past few months in an effort to re-organize these regulations. They received help from the office of the state attorney general.

Mr. Hampton expressed the hope that a great number of the laws that are now repetitious, will be eliminated at the next session of the legislature.

### Meeting Dates

The six meetings, to be held in coastal towns, are the following: Southport, Nov. 27; Jacksonville, Nov. 28; Morehead City, Nov. 29; Swan Quarter, Nov. 30; Manteo, Dec. 1; and Edenton, Dec. 2.

The sessions will take place in the court house in each town, with the exception of Morehead City, where the meeting will be held in the commercial fisheries building.

It is hoped that eventually the laws will be listed also according to counties. In that manner, for example, all the laws pertaining to fisheries in Carteret county would be under one heading.

C. D. Kirkpatrick, law enforcement officer for the commercial fisheries division, said a simplification of the listing of rules and regulations will partially take away the fishermen's favorite excuse when he is found disobeying the law. That is that he did not know the law existed.

Mr. Kirkpatrick commented that the way the rules are listed now only a lawyer can figure them out.

## Work Progresses At Shellfish Lab

Work is now well underway at the U. S. shellfish laboratory on Pivers Island where studies are being conducted on the foods and feeding of marine animals.

The recently-remodeled laboratory building was occupied by Dr. Walter A. Chipman, director, and his staff which includes Dr. T. R. Rice, biologist, R. R. Thompson, biochemist, D. J. Floyd, biologist, and Miss Elizabeth Willis, secretary.

During the past four months the small microscopic marine plants, which serve as pastures of the sea on which the animal sea life grazes, were raised and cultured in the laboratory and conditions promoting their most rapid and best growth investigated, Dr. Chipman stated. The chemical nature of these plants is being followed with the view of finding their true value as a food for the marine animals, he said. See WORK PROGRESSES, Page 7

## No Waterhaul This Time



One of the biggest beach hauls this fall is pictured above. Capt. R. T. Frost, left, captain of the fishing crew, and Albert Lea, fish dealer of Morehead City, hold two of the fish to indicate their size. This catch, consisting of blues, spanish

mackerel, and pompano, was close to 5,000 pounds and was made on Bogue banks, three miles east of Salter Path. In the background men are hauling in another net. Photo by Dan W. Wade

## 1949 Brought Record Number Of Pogy Boats to North Carolina

The 1949 menhaden season saw more boats in North Carolina waters seeking schools of pogies than in any other year.

Eighty-two boats operated out of Beaufort, Morehead City and Southport, towns where menhaden plants are located. The catch for the two-year period, 1948-50, set another new record, but the 1950 summer season in North Carolina was way below average.

Local boats fishing in Gulf waters, out of Louisiana ports, reported excellent catches, however.

No accurate prediction can be made as to the number of boats expected here this winter. Beginning the middle of October, more were seen each day tied up at docks in Beaufort and Morehead City. In 1948 there were 60 in the fleet and it is believed that 1950's number will equal that and probably more.

In the two-year period ending June 30, 1950, North Carolina handled one-third of the nation's total menhaden catch.

### Ten Factories

Ten menhaden factories are expected to be in operation in the state within the next year as compared with nine last year. A new company, Southport Fisheries, inc., has been organized and construction was started early this fall on its plant just west of Fort Caswell near Southport.

Another plant, Brunswick Navigation co. is located at Southport. There are four in Beaufort, The Fish Meal co., operated by Harvey Smith, Quinn Fisheries, operated by Wallace Quinn, Beaufort Fisheries, owned by W. V. B. Potter, W. See RECORD FLEET, Page 13

One thousand one hundred thirty-six shrimp trawlers this year are plying North Carolina waters in search of the delicacy which in comparatively recent years has come to the fore as one of the biggest commodities on the food fish market.

On July 1 shrimp fishing legally began in this state and will continue until the last day of this year. The catches are off as compared with last season, and while scientists claim it is part of a "down cycle" that is to be expected every so many years, waterfront sages say that all the young ones are being destroyed that they have all gone South, or advance other theories which they believe account for the drop.

### 360,632 Pounds Off

Catches for July, August and September of this year are 360,632 pounds less than for the same three months in 1949, according to statistics released at the commercial fisheries office in Morehead City.

The catch for the first three months of this season totaled 3,722,811 pounds (heads on) as compared with 4,083,443 pounds (heads on) for the same period last year.

### October Dull

October is usually a very active month for shrimp fishermen but last month "the shrimp just weren't here," they explain.

With exception of the menhaden industry shrimping has been by far the most profitable fishery of the state. Captain John Nelson, former fisheries commissioner, in his last biennial report, remarks that increasingly large numbers of boats have engaged in it, "though some have not found it profitable.

"The two years, from June 30, 1948 to June 30, 1950, brought the largest catches of shrimp in our history," he declared.

"Practically all of the shrimp north of Southport were caught on the inside while all those in the Southport area were caught on the outside," the report continues.

### 15,042,245 Pounds

Total production for the two-year period ending June 30, 1950 was 15,042,245 pounds with heads on, at a value of \$3,008,499. The production for the previous two years was 9,048,533 pounds at a value of \$3,166,987. Even though the pound total was more in 1948-50, the value decreased \$158,488.

Food fin fishermen for many years have accused shrimp trawlers of destroying the young edible fish, thus endangering their means of gaining a livelihood. Scientific study during 1949 and 1950, conducted by the Institute of Fisheries Research, Morehead City, has indicated, however, that these accusations are without foundation.

The report on these findings was published in August of this year by the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, under the title "Releasing Small Fish and Shrimp from Trawl Nets." Experiments were conducted and the report prepared by Dr. Eugene W. Roelofs of the Institute of Fisheries Research.

### Patrol Boat Captains

Captains of the state's eight patrol boats are Capt. Tom Basnight on the Croatan at Manteo; Capt. C. W. Hayman on the Albemarle at Edenton; Capt. Ernest Poston on the Neuse at New Bern; Capt. C. L. Sawyer on the Ocracoke at Swan Quarter; Capt. Louis E. Willis on the Pamlico at Morehead City; Capt. C. G. Nelson on the speedboat at Atlantic; and Capt. Roy Brown on the Cape Fear at Morehead City.

## Atomic Energy Official Visits Shellfish Lab

Elmer Higgins, special assistant to the director for liaison with the Atomic Energy commission, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Edwin H. Dahlgren, chief of the section of marine fisheries, of the F&WL service, were at the U. S. shellfish laboratory at Pivers Island last week conferring with Dr. Walter A. Chipman, director of the laboratory, and his staff regarding progress in studies being conducted with radioisotopes in fisheries research.

During the conference plans were made for further studies on the organism causing the "red tide," which caused a great fish mortality a short time ago along the Florida coast. It is planned to add an additional biologist to the staff to help in this research. This phase of the studies will be under the immediate supervision of Dr. T. R. Rice of the laboratory.

Crab licenses and taxes in North Carolina amounted to \$2,217.91 in 1949-50 while power boat licenses totaled \$380.