

# Harold C. Potter Operates Hobucken Wholesale Firm

A keen and successful business man in the wholesale fish business is Harold C. Potter, known as Hal. Owner of six large trawlers which operate from May through November out of Hobucken, N. C., Mr. Potter continues a family fishing tradition.

Beaufort County, where he still lives, Mr. Potter was captain on a Pamlico Sound oyster boat for ten years before he went into the wholesaling end of the seafood industry.

For a time the Potter concern handled chiefly oysters, shucking



Hal Potter . . . likes hunting

a thousand gallons a week for the first eight or ten years. The firm handles only a few oysters now, having averaged maybe 200 gallons a week last season. The Hobucken seafood dealer began dealing in fish and shrimp in 1947.

Until he sold out last spring Mr. Potter also owned and operated a trucking business, hauling the company's seafood as well as that of other dealers.

### Retail Business

Since 1949, he has been in partnership with his brother, Clyde of Belhaven, in the operation of Potter Brothers Seafood Co. in Washington, N. C. This business was operated by their brother Ray for eight years before his death in the spring of 1949. Melton Evans leases the wholesale part of the business from the brothers.

The retail market is one of the most modern and up-to-date in the state. It operates with the express purpose of pleasing the public. It's a popular place for the housewife to buy fish because not only is it clean and attractive but it also has plenty of parking space.

Mr. Potter, tall, heavy-set, pleasant, is always willing to listen to new ideas. He was one of the first in the state to put oysters up in a consumer pack, a one-pint labeled can. One season he sold his entire output that way.

A steward in the Methodist Church, he is married to the former Myrtle Griffen of Aurora. Their three sons are Harold Jr., Lee and Jimmy.

Mr. Potter is as enthusiastic about hunting as is his brother Clyde. While hunting fish is his favorite occupation, hunting geese at Mattamuskeet is his favorite pastime.

**Moderately-Equipped**  
All of the boats, including the 48-foot run boat, Sea Fox, are diesel-powered, equipped with radio-telephone and fathometers.

The H. C. Potter firm is situated on the banks of the inland waterway at Hobucken. From December through April, when food fishing activity in North Carolina waters is at an ebb, the Potter fleet fishes in Florida.

**Pride of Carolina, 68-footer, H. L. Ireland, Hobucken, (this one was the first Hatteras trawler built at the Morehead City Yacht Basin in 1953); Joe and Chickie, 55-footer, W. A. Ireland of Hobucken; Betty Page, 65-footer, Cecil Swindell of Hobucken.**  
Evelyn K., 65-footer, Hubert E. Potter, Hobucken; Broadhill II, 55-footer, Ronald Sadler of Hobucken; and Barbara Dorn, 68-footer, Clifton Potter of Lowland. Owen Lupton, Hobucken, is captain of the Sea Fox.

# Shrimp Booms into Major Industry

(Continued from Page 1, Section 1)  
nature of the fish and the virtual indestructibility of the species by man as the fishery is now conducted.

There are three species of shrimp which are commercially important in the state and which go through similar life cycles, about the only difference being a matter of seasons. It is good, to avoid confusion, that we take one species, and beginning with the eggs, travel with the creatures through the period of development, on their slow journey from the ocean into our brackish waters, up the creeks and rivers to their nurseries and back down the rivers, through the sounds to the ocean where their life began.

Because it is one of the most interesting of the shrimps and because it is so important commercially, we'll use the brown spotted shrimp as our traveling companion.

The breeding place of the brown spotted shrimp, like all other shrimp of commercial importance to the state, is the open ocean where the adults lay their eggs in late summer. After fertilization, the eggs develop into larval shrimp which bear no resemblance to the adult shrimp.

These larvae undergo a series of molts and changes, growing a little at each stage. All the while they are drifting towards the shore, presumably being carried by shore-bound currents. They are virtually helpless and are tossed here and yon by the waves and currents.

Countless millions must be caught up by storm and wind waves or by adverse currents to be swept out into the open ocean far from shore where they perish, for the full development into mature shrimp is dependent upon a growth period in the brackish waters of our inland creeks and rivers.

Those which do reach the inlets make their journey onward towards the less salty water, whether by instinct or favorable currents we do not know. At any rate they travel or are carried on and on to the very limit of salt water, finally coming to rest in the slightly brackish waters of the creeks and rivers, many miles from their breeding ground and the scene of their first development.

It is in transit they have come to resemble adult shrimp and have taken on the bottom feeding habits of their parents.

The tiny shrimp, and they are very tiny, finding themselves in congenial surroundings, the right saltness of water, a bountiful food supply, and optimum temperatures settle down at their first temporary home in the inland waters.

In a little while they are joined by waves of other small shrimp, for the adults in the open ocean lay their eggs over an extended period; and the result is a continuous recruitment of small shrimp; and hence over many months the shrimp nurseries are being stocked with one species or another.

The young shrimp are active feeders and grow quite rapidly for the first few weeks in their new home. But the winter chill puts a stop to this feeding and growth activity, and in a manner of speaking puts the shrimp to sleep during the cold months.

Movement, feeding and growth practically cease and for a while the shrimp are more or less dormant. With the warmth which comes in late winter, however, they become active again, and once more they begin to move, eat and grow.

As the warmth of the spring becomes more pronounced, all of these functions are greatly accelerated and the growth rate increases at an incredible speed. In a short period they double and triple their size and almost establish a record in the animal world for growth.

And as they grow, they become restless, for it is time to forsake their temporary home and return to the open ocean from whence they came, there to lay their eggs, to start the cycle over and to die, slightly over a year after beginning life.

**Head for Ocean**  
On their seaward migration they pass through the sounds enroute to the ocean inlets, the gateways to the sea. In great hordes they suddenly appear, and it is during this time that they become the object of the inland water commercial fishery, a fishery which lasts approximately two months for the brown spotted shrimp. This shrimp appears about mid-May and, ordinarily the early part of July sees the last of the spring crop.

In the fall another crop of brown spotted shrimp makes an appearance of short duration. The shrimpery of North Carolina it has been pointed out, consists of three species of shrimp.

About the time of the disappearance of the brown spotted shrimp in July, the brown shrimp makes its appearance, to be followed by the green shrimp in August.

But each species has followed the same cycle from the sea to the sea; and it is only while they are resident in the sounds and the immediate offshore waters that they are taken commercially. Once at sea they do not return to the inland waters but live the remainder of their lives beyond the reach of the fisherman. They may spawn more than once before they die.

The question which is asked seriously by concerned individuals is: Can man destroy this livelihood, by his relentless search for shrimp?

It is doubtful, indeed, and the prevailing opinion is that man should harvest this great crop when it is ripe, for there will be no return of the adult shrimp once they have gained the ocean if the present scientific theory on their movements is correct; and there is no good reason to doubt it.

As the farmer harvests his corn, his oats, his soybeans so should the fisherman harvest his shrimp.

During their life time no species of shrimp is subjected to prolonged attack by man in the inland waters of the state, and it is inconceivable that man with his cumbersome trawl could deplete a shrimpery to such an extent that there would be no brood stock left, even if he set out deliberately to destroy them.

**Excellent Reproducers**  
The shrimp are prolific, and man's take in a banner year like 1953 would amount to no more than an estimated 420 million individual shrimp.

At times nature herself has seemed to try to destroy the brood stock. One authenticated case occurred in Georgia in the early forties. A severe winter reduced the shrimp population to such an extent that days and weeks of trawling failed to find one shrimp. They seemed to have gone forever. State and federal authorities were alarmed and considered drastic measures.

The confounding and startling thing was that the next year produced one of Georgia's greatest shrimp crops. Nature in a more benign mood seemed to soften the blow and compensate for her previous threat.

# Fishermen Once Were Suspicious Of Use of Ice

Ice has not always been used commercially. So far as fish is concerned, the custom of using ice as a refrigerant is only slightly over 100 years old.

The first use of ice in this country for the preservation of fish was on halibut smacked out of Gloucester, Mass., in 1836, and even then the ice was not allowed to come in contact with the fish but was merely used to keep the hold cold.

It took nearly 10 years to convince fishermen and the dealers that ice was not deleterious to fish. It was not until 1845 that ice was generally used on all boats sailing out of Gloucester.

# Opportunity Knocks

By CHARLES JACKSON  
General Manager  
National Fisheries Institute

Thinking back a few years one cannot help but come to the conclusion that the North Carolina fishing industry has made tremendous strides in a few short years. But an even greater opportunity awaits development.

Considering the tremendous increase in population of the state, the establishment of armed service installations within its borders, the number of new industries manifested by the increase in automobile and truck ownership in North Carolina, it would seem that your fishing industry will not have to go far beyond its borders to market its products.

The fishermen and the fishing industry of North Carolina today have more guidance and help than at any previous time in history. Your universities have advanced biological stations along the coast, the State Conservation De-

partment has expanded its facilities, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has constructed its most recent and modern laboratory at Beaufort.

Not only do you have an abundance of natural resources in the water of North Carolina, but today you have the means to advance the knowledge of the industry through biological and technological institutions and facilities.

Meanwhile, your educational institutions are training an increasing number of young people who will specialize in this field. There are a number of species of fish and shellfish that have not yet been fully utilized. The same holds true of minerals and other constituents of in-shore and off-shore waters.

Opportunity knocks at your door. The question is—will the fishermen and the fishing industry of North Carolina take advantage of these opportunities and move ahead?

# Modernization Builds Bright Future for Pogy Industry

By W. H. POTTER  
Beaufort

We are told that Mannahattaug is the Indian word from which the menhaden got its name. The Indian name means "that which manures." If the menhaden had anything to say about it, its name would now be changed because very little of the menhaden products end up as a fertilizer. The fish is known by many names, especially in these waters as "pogy."

About 99 per cent of the products manufactured from the meaty bodies of the menhaden end up as high potency feed. The oil from the fatty tissues is now used primarily in foreign countries for soap base and to some degree for an oleo substitute. We in America have outgrown "fish oil" soap and have most of it made from a petroleum base and, while not impossible, do not yet crave an oleo from fish oil.

**Heavy Industry Here**  
North Carolina contributes heavily to the menhaden industry.

The Southport plants and one of those located at Beaufort operate throughout the entire year. The others get into operation in October and remain open until mid-January. These plants which operate the short season are parts of east coast companies which have plants located at strategic places for high production.

Actually there are in the neighborhood of 300 million menhaden taken from North Carolina waters. This sounds like a lot of fish but as a part of the national total of 2,200-2,400 million, it is only a small portion.

From North Carolina's contribution of 300 million (normal year) the following is produced: 21,000 tons of fish meal (or fish scrap); 2,000,000 gallons fish oil, and 1,000,000 gallons fish solubles. These products and the money derived from them add considerable to the economy of our state.

**Planes Help**  
The actual catching of the menhaden is the most interesting of the process. Airplanes, piloted by experienced pilots who also know what to look for, search the likely fishing areas well in advance of the fishing boats. All signs of fish

are reported to the boat captains: thick water, mud-royals, slicks, whipping fish, color, heavy concentrations of birds, whales, sharks—all of these signs mean something to the fishing crews.

On receiving information indicating a possible profitable catch, the boats move to the proper areas. Here, with planes overhead, continuously repeating information in which the fishing boat crews are interested, the nets are set and if all of the dangers and mishaps are overcome, the fish are caught and loaded aboard the fish cargo boat.

**Ho, She's Full**  
It is during this operation of netting the fish and loading them aboard the mother ship, either with a balling rig or through the use of a dredge boat type centrifugal pump, that the popular chanting is done. A happy crew of 25 or more fishermen can reach harmony unbelievable even to themselves when the nets are full of fish.

After the fish are loaded on-board, a race is on among the boats to reach the processing plants early enough to allow return to the fishing areas in time for the next day's fishing. Sometimes the fishing areas are more than one hundred miles from the processing plants.

Even with all the hazards of fishing, stormy weather, unfavorable winds, bad bottoms, sunken wrecks, and broken preventing fish feeding, broken nets either from attack by sharks or weakness from age or strain from too many fish, or scarcity of fish—fishing is a profitable enterprise, both for the fisherman and the investors.

**This Area Unique**  
During the fall fishing season, the period from mid-October until mid-January the Beaufort-Morehead City area represents the only place in the United States where menhaden are landed and processed into the end products of meal and oil. This fact attracts a large number of fishing boats to this area.

This number varies from fifty to seventy-five, depending on the market conditions and the prospects of good or mediocre fishing. Those who listen on the short-wave radio to obtain information of "what's going on" hear the names of fishing boats and their captains

frequently: Rockaway (Capt. Wiley Lewis), Princess Bay (Capt. Fred Haynie), Promised Land (Capt. Joe Buttry), Elmo (Capt. Berkley Simpson), Admiral (Capt. Dewey Willis), Core Sound (Capt. George Lewis).

Geo. F. Nickerson (Capt. Curtis Lewis), Charlotte T. (Capt. John Potter), Charles J. Colons (Capt. Gene Swift), John O. (Capt. John Lowry), and others.

The names Wallace, Smith, Quinn, Anderson, Haynie, Humphreys, Hayes, Potter, Plaxco, Corbett, Santos and others, immediately call attention to those men ashore who have the reins of the industry in hand.

**Future Looks Bright**  
The future of menhaden fishing holds much in store for all who are engaged in it. Modernization of plants and fishing equipment has added licks to production and has minimized risks. One of the great hazards of fire diminished when newer methods of drying fish scrap with steam dryers were introduced.

Contamination of fish oils is a thing of the past since the introduction of continuous centrifuges. Quality of fish meal is maintained through the preservation of fish prior to processing and production control and testing throughout the process. Better application of business methods has enhanced the availability of capital. Better packaging has facilitated sales and storage.

The greatest future lies in store for those who will be able to remove the present limiting factor of unseaworthy net boats and those who will be able to lengthen the fishing seasons in various areas through new methods of detection, study of fish habits and newer and different methods of catching fish. Among animals there seems to prevail some sort of protective instinct. Birds have it and use it in their seasonal migrations searching for food and for proper environment for breeding. Fish have it and use it in somewhat the same manner.

Two facts apply—the birds have the whole of the air to move and hide in; fish have the whole of the ocean; both are experts in this game of survival. And man must use all his ingenuity to capture the elusive fish in his seines.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

RALEIGH

September 2, 1955

LUTHER H. HODGES  
GOVERNOR

Mr. Lockwood Phillips  
CARTERET COUNTY NEWS-TIMES  
Morehead City, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I wish to congratulate you on your enterprise in publishing a special edition devoted to the interests of the commercial fishermen of the State and containing numerous factual articles which will bring this industry into sharp relief in the minds of your readers. I think that it is an enterprise well worth the time and effort of a newspaper publisher, and more especially when the newspaper is published in the section which is so important in the commercial fisheries picture.

It is the purpose of my administration to do everything possible in the way of aiding the commercial fishing industry to become even more important. Every step we take that will increase the per capita income of those who make their living from the products of the sea will mean that much more in the way of comfortable living for the families of the fishermen. I do not think any phase of my administration is more important than the program to increase the average earning power of all our citizens, and those like you who are aiding in this have my most sincere appreciation.

I also wish to commend the North Carolina Fisheries Association for its constructive work on behalf of the fishermen. This organization can, and I am sure will, supply the leadership for the fishing industry to the end that more modern and progressive methods may be utilized in handling their products. With the cooperation of all, I believe we can make the fishing industry one of much greater importance to those engaged in it and to the citizens of the State generally. I pledge my efforts to do all in my power to bring this about.

Sincerely yours,

# W. T. Davies Picks Morehead As Business Site

Liking what they saw when they came to Morehead City for their annual vacation in 1946, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Davies decided that Morehead City would be an ideal place to have a business of their own.

Mr. Davies, better known as Bill, whose previous experience ran the gamut from construction work to being a certified public accountant in Falls Church, Va., finally came to Morehead City to stay in December, 1953. His wife, Margaret, decided that she wasn't going to return to Virginia in February 1954. Mr. Davies took over as manager of the Morehead City Shipping Co., a branch of the Wilmington Shipping Co. of Wilmington, N. C.

The firm acts as steamship and forwarding agents—supplies stevedores and acts as customhouse brokers. In the spring of 1954, the Davies' opened the Capt. Chris Service Station at Atlantic Beach. The service station is named for the Davies' little boy.

**New Business**  
Started on the heels of Hurricane Hazel, is the net business which the Davies believe is the best one. A building owned by Louis Guthrie on Shackleford Street in Morehead City was in bad shape following the hurricane and the Davies decided to buy it.

They purchased the building, and at the same time they also bought a home two doors from the building. In March of this year, after extensive renovation, they opened the business, Davies Net Co.

Among the products that are available to fishermen at the company are nets on the shelf or made to order; trawls, flat or balloon; gill nets, channel or sink, seines—purse—drag—straight—haul; top quality domestic and imported netting, boots, trawl boards, ropes and chains.

For those who wish to purchase nets, don't be misled when you walk into the building, since all of the nets are kept on the second floor.

Hurricanes Diane, Connie and Ione forced the Davies to move

# Beaufort Firm Serves Fishermen Of Southeast

Bob Slater, native Ohioan, and Bill Ipock, native Tar Heel, met, liked each other, and decided to start a partnership business.

That business is the Machine and Supply Co. located on the causeway just west of Beaufort.

From its beginning in 1943 until 1948, the company operated as a partnership. Mr. Ipock had experience in machine shop business and Mr. Slater had a chemical engineering degree from Georgia Tech, so with that background the business was a natural for the pair.

Before Machine & Supply was located in Beaufort, Ipock was associated with the Craven Foundry and Machine Co., in New Bern. Slater had been engaged in the chemical engineering business, designing and building chemical plants in Florida and North Carolina. He designed the plant in Beaufort owned by Sperti Chemical Co.

### Decide on Carteret

After a good deal of looking around for a promising site, Mr. Slater and Mr. Ipock became aware that Carteret County needed a business such as they would establish. They both liked this section, so plans were made to begin work.

According to Mr. Slater, the two really know how to build a business "from the ground up." Their first job was to cut trees from Mr. Ipock's farm; this lumber provided the roof over their new business. Turning to the sand pile, they then mixed and poured their own concrete and did the actual labor in getting the building finished.

The business was small at first. All they had was a machine shop and a few hundred dollars worth of merchandise. Since their beginning was in the crucial war years, they found it hard to obtain goods to sell, so the business was slow in getting a good start.

Besides that handicap, Mr. Slater was called into military service, but during his leave of absence, Mr. Ipock kept the company alive. When Mr. Slater was released from military duty, and the end of the war brought an increase in business, Machine & Supply added new lines of goods and services.

The company operates from its original site, on the causeway between Morehead City and Beaufort. There was one employee in addition to the two partners in the early years of the company.

### Additions Built

Three structures have been added since the original machine shop was built. The company now maintains an engine overhaul shop, a marine industrial electronics shop, and a warehouse.

In 1948 the company was incorporated, and Mr. Slater was named president of the organization.

Mr. Ipock is the general manager and sales manager, and John Harris, service manager. The office manager's position is filled by Mrs. Alma P. Howard and Mrs. Roy Clark is the bookkeeper. In all, Machine and Supply has 23 employees in addition to the two owners.

Mr. Slater says his firm has the finest and most complete electronics service and facilities in the state. The area covered reaches from Norfolk to Jacksonville, Fla.

W. F. Adams is manager of the electronics and instrument division of the firm and other employees include machinists, radio technicians and salesmen.

# Herbert Bonner Heads House Group On U. S. Fisheries

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner, Washington, N. C., heads the House committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

As representative of the first district, North Carolina, Congressman Bonner is elected by voters in Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington Counties.

Commenting on coastal resources, Congressman Bonner said recently,

"I am confident that more attention must be given to our salt water and fresh water fishing—as well as our shellfish—for unless we do, we will continue to note a diminishing take. With the proper attention, supervision and regulation we can restore our fisheries to their former state."

# Chairman Predicts Rise In Fish Consumption

"In the next five years, fish consumption in the United States will increase 15 per cent, largely because the fishing industry is supplying the American housewife with high-quality foods, easy to prepare and serve."

Those are the words of Harry A. Trimm Jr., chairman of National Fish Week which was observed last week. Joining in promotion of the week were members of the fishing industry in Canada, Iceland, Norway and Mexico.