



University of North Carolina Sea Grant Program NEWSLETTER

May, 1974

1235 Burlington Laboratories
NCSU, Raleigh, N.C. 27607 Tel: (919) 737-2454

Sea Grant serves you: New morsels for your seafood platter



Tuna seems to show up everywhere. The hungriest, dirtiest construction worker gobbles down a couple of tuna sandwiches for lunch. And tuna salad is an old standby at ladies' dainty teas.

But watch out, tuna. It's possible that before long, wives will pack amberjack sandwiches for hubby's lunch and ladies will top off the lettuce with something called white grunt salad. Restaurants may feature dishes like triggerfish parmesan and barracuda casserole.

Amberjack, white grunt and barracuda—all caught by fishermen off North Carolina's coast for years. "Trash fish" they called them—then hurled a curse and dumped them back.

But with the world's stomach growling for protein and with an eye toward spurring the economy of deprived coastal areas, folks began wondering about turning "trash" fish into useful foods.

They also put their minds to improving the harvesting, handling and processing of seafoods people have eaten for centuries. But making more of a catch meant setting up lines of communication between the men who catch and process seafoods and engineers and scientists who test and design new methods.

That's where Sea Grant stepped in. Sea Grant is a University of North Carolina program that gets money from the U. S. Department of Com-

merce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the N. C. Department of Administration. Part of Sea Grant funds support research aimed at developing coastal and marine resources in an environmentally sound fashion.

But Sea Grant is equally anxious to get research results to people who can profit from them. That includes everyone from the guy setting the nets to the businessman eating crabcake. For that reason a portion of Sea Grant funds are channeled into something called "advisory services." The men and women in advisory services are messengers between the lab and the coastal community. Their purpose is to translate research findings into information that can be put to use. In turn they take questions posed by coastal residents back to the lab for answers.

In North Carolina, Sea Grant advisory services does three jobs. Engineering advisory services deals with gear, helping fishermen and shrimpers with harvesting and handling the catch on board. Seafood science and technology follows the catch from dock to consumers. And a continuing education program keeps commercial fishermen up to date on the latest equipment, how to use it and running a business.

In the future Sea Grant advisory services aims

(See "Better Use," page 3)

seascope

ALERT!



Dr. B. J. Copeland

Dr. Copeland, a zoologist, assumed the directorship of the UNC Sea Grant Program in 1973. He is a professor of zoology, botany and marine sciences at North Carolina State University. Copeland came to NCSU in 1970 from the University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Port Aransas.

This first issue of our newsletter is one more way that we are trying to make Sea Grant activities come alive to the people of North Carolina.

Through our newsletter, we hope to air some of our achievements, make our facts, findings and information readily available and alert interested persons to upcoming events. We also hope to set up a flow of communication between the people in Sea Grant—its administrators, researchers and the University—and those who can profit from the program's work. To keep information flowing in two ways, we need to hear from our readers.

In this issue, we are emphasizing Sea Grant's program of advisory services. Future newsletters will focus on other areas covered by Sea Grant.

What is advisory services?

In short, it's the communications arm of the entire Sea Grant program. The men and women in advisory services relay up-to-date research results and ideas to those people who make decisions about the management, development and protection of North Carolina's coastal and marine resources.

Advisory services also sees that Sea Grant programs are co-ordinated between the institutions of the University of North Carolina and local, state and federal agencies dealing with coastal and marine resources.

To make sure that Sea Grant is in tune with the needs of coastal North Carolinians, Sea Grant's advisory services personnel devote a large part of their time to listening to problems confronting coastal people. When information needed for a solution is not at hand, advisory services brings coastal questions to the Sea Grant researchers and administrators who may be able to help.

The work of Sea Grant's "advisors" is aimed at short-term as well as long-term problems.

Through the efforts of Dr. Leigh H. Hammond, who for the past year has acted as co-ordinator of UNC Sea Grant advisory services, the individual projects that make up advisory services are finely attuned to the purposes of the UNC Sea Grant Program. Hammond's guiding hand keeps the entire advisory services program aimed toward the program's goals of increasing and improving the usage of coastal and marine resources in a wise manner. Hammond, an extension professor of economics, is also assistant vice chancellor of University extension at North Carolina State University.

In the three years since UNC Sea Grant was first funded, the program has focused on the economically important commercial fisheries industry. In the future, we plan to broaden this focus to other equally important coastal zone industries and needs.

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PEST CONTROL—May 8-9.

Training course: Mosquito and biting fly control in coastal areas. May 8-9, Room 104, Commercial and Sports Fisheries Building, Morehead City. Designed to further inform pest control operators and other interested persons on coastal pest problems and their control. Taught by NCSU entomologists and the Solid Waste and Vector Control Branch of the N. C. Division of Health Services. Sponsored by UNC Sea Grant and NCSU Agricultural Extension. Write to Dr. R. C. Axtell, Department of Entomology, NCSU, Raleigh, N. C. 27607 to register in advance.

EEL FISHING—May 7 and May 9

Workshops—Eel fishing and handling. May 7, Savannah, Ga.; May 9, Brunswick, Ga. Led by Norm Angel and Walt Jones, Industrial Extension Service, NCSU School of Engineering in cooperation with Onslow County Community College. Sponsored by the Coastal Plains Marine Center and University of Georgia Sea Grant.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT—May 16-17

Conference: A forum of views on land management in the coastal area, presented by state and local governments, developers, planners, financial interests and the public. May 16-17, Duke University Marine Laboratory, Beaufort. Sponsored by UNC Sea Grant, Center for Marine and Coastal Studies and the Coastal Plains Center for Marine Development Services.

DREDGE ISLAND MANAGEMENT—May 30-31

Conference: Managing dredge islands in North Carolina's estuaries. May 30-31, John Yancy Hotel, Atlantic Beach. Review possibilities and problems of managing dredge islands as bird nesting sites. Aimed at informing state and federal agencies and persons having jurisdiction over and interests in managing dredge islands. Led by Dr. James Parnell, UNC at Wilmington, and Robert F. Soots, Campbell College. Sponsored by UNC Sea Grant.



Twelve Carteret County women meet at the seafood lab each month to experiment with new seafood dishes.

A lab dealing in seafood from dock to dinner plate

You own a seafood processing plant. And you want to turn out the tastiest crabcake on the market. Or maybe you're tired of the way your wife fries flounder and you want to get her some new recipes. Where do you go for help?

Tucked away on the second floor of the N. C. Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries building in Morehead City is a special seafood laboratory geared for questions from everyone between the dock and the dinner plate. Information on the science and technology of seafood is the lab's business.

Supported largely by Sea Grant advisory services, the lab's staff answers all sizes of questions. They help school girls with term projects. Restaurants come to them with "cooking" problems. And they lend a hand when processors need help with sanitation, a new deboning machine or making better products. Staff members take pride that theirs is the only seafood "technology" laboratory serving North Carolina's unique fisheries processing problems.

For those who are tired of the same old seafood, the lab is trying to add a little zest to life. Once each month, a dozen Carteret County women descend upon the lab to concoct new seafood de-

lights—and delights that don't sound a bit like seafood. Like mad scientists, they've made hamburgers with menhaden and sausage with grey trout. And they've whipped up such dishes as dolphin casserole and stewed bonito.

The lab offers a gold mine of information, just waiting for folks to come by and use it.

Creating a new industry and improving the old

The idea of eel for dinner is not likely to set American tastebuds to watering. But try it out on the Japanese. To them, it's a delicacy.

Eels grow in abundance off North Carolina's coast. But how do you get them halfway around the world to the people who want them?

Developing an eel industry in North Carolina poses the kind of challenge Sea Grant's engineering advisory services staff likes to grapple with. Starting from scratch, the engineering advisory specialists are designing pots, traps and holding tanks and figuring how to best ship eels to distant markets.

But eels are only one part of the work of Sea Grant's "advisory engineers," headquartered in downtown New Bern. They tackle most anything having to do with harvesting gear and handling the catch from deck to dock.

With Sea Grant help, North Carolina shrimpers got their first time at bat with a new trawling method using two small nets on each side of the boat, instead of the traditional large single net. Using the twin trawl method, they caught more shrimp and less "trash" fish, and found their fuel would take them farther.

But what happens to the catch on board? Engineering advisory services is there suggesting ways to keep the catch fresh, even on old vessels. Insulating old boats took some thinking. But the advisory engineers came up with polyurethane foam, sprayed into fish holds and ice bunkers, topped off with layers of sheet metal and concrete as a way to protect ice from heat. And with the price of ice soaring and the distances they travel often long that's exactly what every fisherman wants to do.

Better use of sea products

(Continued from page 1)

to branch beyond fishing. Who knows, besides new seafood dishes, coastal visitors may find amusement parks featuring new brands of fun as Sea Grant lends a hand to the recreation industry. There may be fewer of those pesky mosquitoes as Sea Grant assists in insect control. And coastal property may just look better as Sea Grant advises local governments in managing lands.

Pooling resources today for tomorrow's profit

Ever since man began trying to eke out a living from fishing in North Carolina's coastal waterways, he's been at the mercy of two masters. Nature, it seemed, sealed the fate of the size of his catch. And back on shore, the marketplace determined how much he got for it.

Oddly, the more generous Nature was with supplies, the more stingy the marketplace was with dollars.

Fishermen in other places overcame at least one of their masters—that monster of the marketplace. Sea Grant, through a program called "continuing education," is helping North Carolina's fisherman do the same. The Sound and Sea Fisherman's Association Inc., which grew out of continuing education, now offers about 250 member fishermen a chance to call some of the shots at selling time.

With resources pooled in a cooperative, members can buy ice, fuel, nets and rigging in bulk at cheaper prices. Probably most important is the Association's build-up of freezer space, where sea products can be held until supplies shrink and market value goes up. Co-op headquarters are in Wanchese and plans are for storage and modern handling facilities to dot the coast from Ocracoke to Virginia.

Forming a co-op has meant refreshing members in accounting and good business management. In addition continuing education continually updates fishermen on new equipment, like the hydraulic lift, and how to use it. Through demonstrations, new options in the fisheries business, such as clam culture, are presented to coastal residents.

A library on wheels, stocked with information on everything from weather to building boats, travels throughout the Albemarle region, keeping the lines of communication open between the lab and the folks who need help.

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The folks to see . . .

So who can you turn to with questions about your processing plant, making eel pots or joining a fisherman's cooperative?

At the Seafood Lab in Morehead City—Ted Miller's been in the Morehead City area for more than 20 years now, working with the fishing industry and now at the lab. He and staff, David Hill and Linda Burgess, are eager to lend a hand in answering questions about most any aspect of seafood science and technology. They work closely with extension food specialist Frank Thomas at North Carolina State University. Thomas, a familiar face in the coastal area for the last 16 years as a peddler of education, is another link between you and the research laboratory.

Engineering advisory services in New Bern—Norm Angel and co-workers Art Chleborwicz, Walter Jones and Gene Crow are the men who are willing to get out there with you and help with your harvesting gear problems and taking care of the catch on board. They're in an office over the Branch Bank and Trust building in New Bern.

Fisherman's co-op and continuing education—To find out more about the fisherman's co-op, new equipment or if you're having trouble keeping the books, contact Jim McGee at the Division of Continuing Education at East Carolina University. Sumner Midgett in Camden and Hughes Tillet in Wanchese also can help you get the information you need.

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