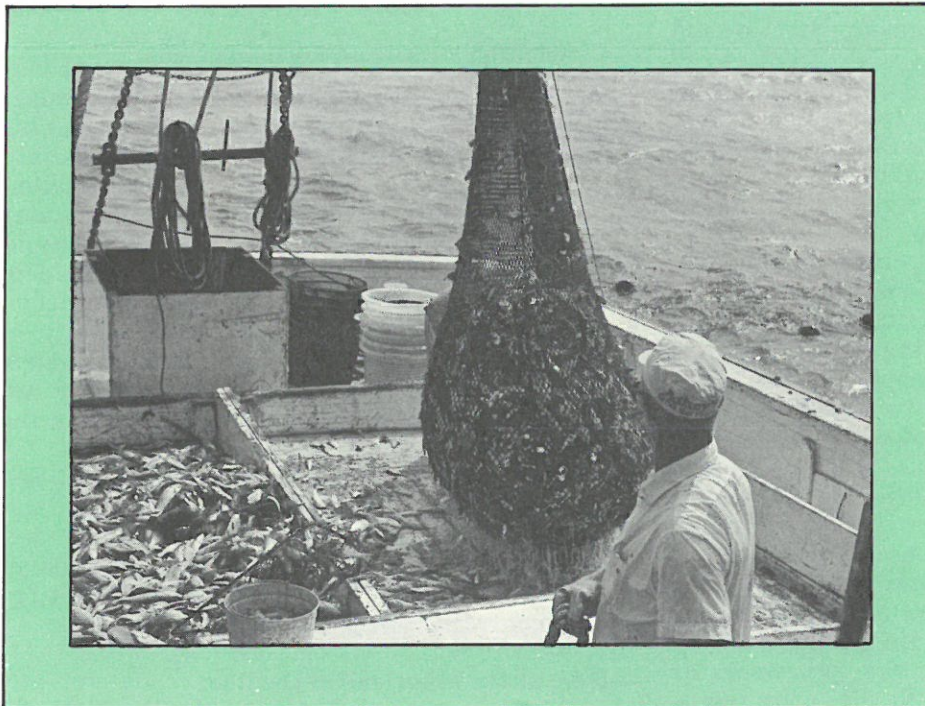




University of North Carolina Sea Grant Program NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1974

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NCSU, Raleigh, N. C. 27607 Phone: (919) 737-2454



Capt. Moon Tillett surveys the catch as the nets come in.

A hard year for shrimpers

Capt. Moon Tillett stepped out of his white rubber boots and planted his feet in the same spot they've stood for a good part of the past 10 years. From his post behind the wheel of the Capt. John Duke, Capt. Tillett once again studied the horizon he's known since he was just a toddler.

It was August—hot, humid and hazy. The John Duke, Capt. Tillett's handsome shrimp boat, plowed through the waters of Far Creek, leaving the fishing village of Engelhard for the wide, open spaces of the Pamlico Sound. The skipper's deep-set eyes danced across the waters beyond. But from the look on his face, you could tell he was thinking of one thing—hauling in some shrimp. For North Carolina's commercial fishermen, shrimp is the crop that pads their pocketbooks.

Perhaps more this year than last, Capt. Moon had his mind on his work. "This year is the worst market we ever had. We're getting 1948 prices," he said as the breakers rocked his boat. "Our income is cut in half from last year and our expense is doubled."

The price of everything a shrimper needs—diesel fuel, oil, ice and groceries—is up since last year, Capt. Tillett said in a mid-August

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Fishermen: University and government are aware of needs

To the fisherman whose life centers around his boat, his work and a marketplace that seems to stack the cards against him, it may seem that his needs have been ignored by government and universities.

But even though individual fisherman may not immediately see or feel the results, the University and state and federal agencies are working to make North Carolina's fishing industry healthier.

On the University level, the Sea Grant Program, the N.C. Agricultural Experiment Station and scientists associated with the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, the Center for Marine and Coastal Studies and a wide range of disciplines are leading research that could have a long-term impact on N.C. fisheries. Extension and advisory services are provided for fishermen by Sea Grant and the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

On the state level, agencies within the N.C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources are working to protect and conserve the state's fishery resource and to bolster the fishing industry.

Two agencies primarily responsible for state-supported marine activities are the Division of Marine Fisheries, formerly called the Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries, and the Seafood Industries Section of the Division of Commerce and Industry.

The goal of state and university programs is to assist all aspects of the marketing chain, from fisherman to consumer. Administrators believe that assistance at any point in the chain—whether to fishermen, dealers, wholesalers, processors or retailers—will eventually benefit the entire industry and the coastal economy.

At the federal level, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which has a lab in Beaufort and the Sea Grant Program. Work at NMFS centers around conserving and ensuring the wise use of important commercial and game fish and their environments.

The National Marine Advisory Service (NMAS), also a part of NOAA, works closely in an advisory capacity with commercial fishermen and NMFS. Among advisory services provided by NMAS is assistance to alleviate fuel allocation problems in the fishing industry.

The Coastal Plains Regional Commission (CPRC) is a regional organization whose aim is to bolster coastal economies in the Carolinas and Georgia. Assisting the fishing industry is one way CPRC seeks to achieve its goal.

Help is available for fishermen with a question. But knowing where to go for answers to questions on gear, marketing, repairs, finances and other problems relating to your fishing business isn't always easy.

The following is a list of university and state programs, what they have to offer and the people associated with them who may be able to lend a hand or at least lead you to someone who can.

SEA GRANT

—Continuing education for fishermen:

Short courses are held periodically to update fishermen on new equipment, its use, business management, new fisheries options and a variety of other subjects of interest to the fishing community. If you are interested in a particular subject area, and think that you and others could benefit from some study in that area, write **Jim McGee**, assistant dean of continuing education, at P. O. Box 2727, East Carolina University in Greenville to express your interest. **Sumner Midgett** of Camden and **Hughes Tillett** of Wanchese are also good sources of information on what is in the works for fishermen.

As part of their efforts to help fishermen, Sea Grant agents can direct you to financial and technical assistance available from federal and state agencies. They are also eager to put you in contact with people who can assist with marketing, quality control or other problems you face.

—Help at the other end of the line:

The East Carolina University Marine Advisory Service will accept collect calls from North Carolina fishermen in need of assistance. Calls can be made to **Jim McGee** in Greenville at 758-6138, **Hughes Tillett** in Wanchese at 473-3937 and **Sumner Midgett** in Camden at 336-4790.

—Gear and handling problems:

Norm Angel, **Art Chleborowicz**, **Walter Jones** and **Gene Crow** can be reached in New Bern to help with gear, equipment and handling problems. For instance, if you're interested in insulating your boat, trying twin-trawling shrimping or eel fishing, Angel and his staff can provide you with information they have gathered in their own tests and from trials in other states. They can be reached by writing the N. C. State University Industrial Extension Service, P. O. Box 1125, New Bern or by calling 637-5255.

Fishermen look to co-op

(Continued from page 1)

interview. And as the John Duke chugged by a dozen other boats, Capt. Tillet's face showed disgust at the price he was getting for shrimp—about half as much as at the same time last year.

Low prices and soaring expenses threatened to sink some shrimpers. Capt. Joe McGowan of Engelhard spent all winter making a 104 foot long Navy rescue boat into a trawler named the Rendezvous. But after only a few weeks of shrimping, Capt. McGowan couldn't clear enough to keep his thirsty two-engine Rendezvous running. All he could do was pay the \$15 per day fee to store his boat and wait for the price of shrimp to rise.

Shrimpers disagreed with reports that 1974 marked a bumper year for the shrimp crop. "We're only catching a handful more than we did last year," Capt. Tillet said. "Soon as we came out at the end of July, there were alot of shrimp. But after about two weeks into the season, the catch dropped back to about normal," the skipper said.

A variety of reasons were given for the sudden drop from last year's banner shrimp prices. Among them were a market glutted with this year's bumper crop which hit while freezers remained full of last year's catch and the small size of the shrimp in this year's landings.

Low prices and high costs caught many shrimpers in a cost-price squeeze that may hurt more in the future than today. According to James A. McGee, UNC Sea Grant advisory agent from East Carolina University, many shrimpers were being forced to use all their income just to meet day-to-day expenses. "Once a vessel wears out, they're back to zero," he said.

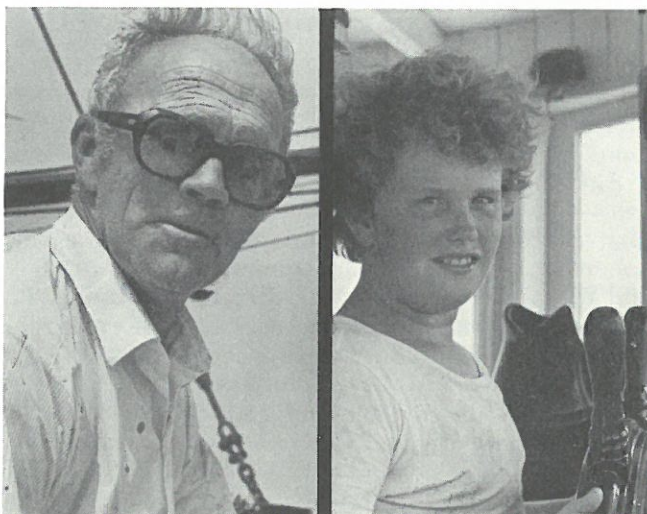
For this season, many of the shrimpers had to settle for what marketplace dealers were willing to pay. But Capt. Tillet and about 200 other north-eastern North Carolina commercial fishermen have taken action they hope will mean bigger profits in the future. With help from the UNC Sea Grant Program, the N.C. Rural Development Fund and the Coastal Plains Regional Commission, the fishermen organized a cooperative.

By being a member of the Sound and Sea Fishermen's Association, as the cooperative is called, a fisherman can pool his money with that of others to buy nets, fuels and other supplies at cheaper bulk rates. More importantly, the association is trying to help fishermen become their own dealers.

Here is an example of how the Association hopes to help members sell their catch directly to the wholesale market:

Capt. Tillet and his sons, Billy Carl, 23, and Craig, 13, and deckhand, Richard Scarborough, 19, dump nets bulging with shrimp, fish and crabs onto deck, sort the shrimp and bring their catch to Engelhard.

There, the fishermen's association owns a hand-



Capt. Moon Tillet (left) of Wanchese saw the price of shrimp plunge to 1948 levels this year. At the same time, costs for fuel, food and other essentials had doubled from last year, leaving he and hundreds of other fishermen caught in a severe cost-price squeeze. His son, Craig, 13 (right) is a member of his father's crew. Craig intends to follow in Dad's footsteps and be a fisherman too.

ling plant for shrimp which is managed by Charles Equils. Capt. Tillet's shrimp are unloaded onto the dock and dumped onto a large table where women and young people crowd around, racing to see who can flip off shrimp heads the fastest.

Headed shrimp are dumped into a vat of water for washing. A conveyor belt carries the shrimp into the next room where a machine sends them down a chute, separating the shrimp by size. Next they are packed in ice in 50 pound cardboard boxes and stored in a large freezer.

The shrimp brought into Engelhard are sold by telephone and shipped away—to markets in North Carolina and points north. Each box is labeled with the name of the shrimper who caught its contents. When sales are made, the association keeps a small percentage of the sale for handling. The fisherman who caught the shrimp gets the rest.

The Sound and Sea Fishermen's Association also leases handling plants in Hatteras, Ocracoke and Wanchese, a collecting point for finfish.

Before the Association was formed, individual fishermen were forced to take what dealers offered. There was no way they could both catch and market their catch. Members believe that once the Association has some marketing experience, they will, at least, be able to call a few shots in the marketplace.

But no matter how the market treats him, if he's able, you can bet that Capt. Tillet will be out there somewhere in the Sound, studying the horizon he's known for a lifetime.

State services continued

filling of marsh areas, Marine Fisheries is slowing the loss of marsh, an area vital to the growth of many fishery species.

Agency officials, headquartered at the Department of Natural and Economic Resources laboratory in Morehead City, are available to assist fishermen with questions. Questions about dredge and fill regulations may be directed to **James T. Brown**. **Walter Godwin** is in charge of research and development and **James Tew** is chief of law enforcement. **Ed McCoy**, commissioner of Marine Fisheries, is also eager to help. All may be reached at the Morehead City NER lab or by calling 726-7021.

—Seafood Industries Section

The Seafood Industries Development Program works to encourage the expansion of seafood and marine-related industries in North Carolina. **Alvah Ward**, program coordinator, believes that expansion and development of all links in the seafood marketing chain—from fisherman to consumer—benefit the entire industry. The Program seeks to improve the movement of seafood through trade channels and to heighten consumer interest in seafood. Results of the Program point to more jobs for coastal residents and a healthier seafood industry.

The Seafood Industries Section consists of three parts. Ward, who is a seafood industries consultant, seeks to encourage investors to put their money in the Tarheel seafood industry. His efforts center around encouraging financial institutions to understand and take a second look at the seafood industry as a good investment. He is also involved in assisting those already in business to continue and expand.

Paul Allsbrook, a seafood marketing specialist, heads the second part of the Seafood Industries Section. Allsbrook works between seafood wholesalers and retailers. He provides processors and other seafood suppliers with information that may help them sell their products to retail food stores. Allsbrook consults with processors on the forms and quantities of seafood that make the best sellers in retail markets and on shipping arrangements.

Fay McCotter, seafood home economist, works with food editors and home economists to create shopper interest in seafood. Her job is to get information to the consumer on the availability of seafood supplies and to help the homemaker make the best use of fish products by introducing her to new ways to prepare them.

Ward, Allsbrook and Ms. McCotter are at 112 W. Lane Street in Raleigh and may be reached by phone at 829-3760.

The Seafood Industries Program occasionally

conducts short-term projects to alleviate severe marketing problems in the seafood industry. In August when the state's shrimpers found shrimp supplies up and prices down, the Seafood Industries Program mounted a campaign to urge consumers to buy shrimp. The program succeeded in increasing demand, lowering supplies and spurring prices.

A group of fisheries development representatives, a part of the Seafood Industries Section, are conducting preliminary studies to learn more about landings and dockside prices and to determine more accurately where fish are caught and with what type of gear. The work of the representatives should provide information useful to fishermen in making decisions on what to fish for, with what and where.

—Office of Marine Affairs:

The Office of Marine Affairs, a division of the N.C. Department of Administration, is designed to coordinate all state marine activities. **Dr. Thomas Linton** heads the office which is located at 410 Oberlin Road, Raleigh. Marine Affairs is heavily involved in putting the recently-enacted Coastal Area Management Act into action. Wise planning and use of marine resources can aid in preserving fishery resources.

—N.C. Division of Health Services:

The Division of Health Services is another state agency concerned with a healthy seafood industry. Inspection and declaration of waters unsuitable for oystering is one example of their services to the industry.

—Coastal Plains Regional Commission:

The Coastal Plains Regional Commission (CPRC), is an agency designed to help spur the economies of coastal areas in North and South Carolina and Georgia. With funds from state and federal sources, CPRC provides cooperative support to research and development, as well as to advisory services, in coastal areas. One cooperative venture by CPRC and Sea Grant has been aimed at developing eel aquaculture techniques in North Carolina.

The Coastal Plains Center for Development Services in Wilmington is a storehouse of information on a wide range of coastal and marine-related subjects. Information and services at the Center are available to anyone interested in coastal development. The Center is located at 1518 Harbour Drive, Wilmington and is directed by **Beverly C. Snow Jr.**

Places and people every angler should know

—Information Centers:

A library on wheels stocked with information on a wide range of topics of interest to the fishing community travels the roads of northeastern North Carolina. **Sumner Midgett** of Camden drives the mobile library. As of now, it follows no regular route or schedule, but Midgett will answer requests for information.

The Seafood Laboratory at Morehead City, jointly supported by Sea Grant and the NCSU Department of Food Science, features an information center. There, fishermen and anyone else interested in seafood can gather facts and figures on topics ranging from boat repair and safety to processing.

—Folks with facts:

Dr. Frank Thomas, extension professor of food science at N.C. State University, and **Ted Miller**, director at the Seafood Lab in Morehead City, work closely with the fishing industry. Although their work, supported jointly by Sea Grant and the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, focuses mainly on processing and improving fish products, they are interested in helping fishermen bring in a catch of high quality which will bring a better price. Miller can be reached by writing to the Seafood Lab, P. O. Box 51, Morehead City or by calling 326-4901. Thomas is at 129-F Schaub Hall, N. C. State University, Raleigh. His phone number is 737-2956.

N.C. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

—A fisheries economics specialist:

In the past, information on fishing—figures on landings, costs and returns—in North Carolina has been lacking. **Jim Easley**, an extension specialist, is working to build up information on North Carolina's fishing industry. Data, when compiled and put into usable form, will be of use to counties in land-use planning and to individuals to the costs of fishing with diesel fuel and in interested in the costs and returns of fishing. Fishermen may be interested in studies now underway to compare the costs of fishing with gasoline to the costs of fishing with diesel fuel and with similar studies to determine what size boat yields the best returns. Easley can be reached at 3108-A

Library, N.C. State University, Raleigh or by calling 737-2472.

—Help at home

County extension agents, headquartered in all of the state's 100 counties, know where to call and who to see for assistance with commercial fishing problems. The phone number of your county extension agent may be found in your telephone directory under your county's Agricultural Extension Service listing.

STATE AGENCIES SERVING FISHERMEN

Agencies in the N.C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources are working to benefit the state's fishing industry. Much of their work is aimed at protecting fishery resources for future generations and at building an industry that will continue to prosper for years to come.

Dr. Arthur Cooper, assistant secretary of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, holds major responsibility for administering the state's marine-related activities.

Agencies responsible for fisheries and seafood are the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Seafood Industries Section of the Division of Commerce and Industry.

—Division of Marine Fisheries:

The mission of the Division of Marine Fisheries is to manage the state's coastal recreation and commercial fisheries. The agency's goal is to encourage fishermen to make the best use of resources today without over using or depleting stocks for tomorrow.

To carry out their management mission, the agency sponsors a double-pronged program of research and enforcement. Research is aimed at learning more about North Carolina's fishery resources. An ongoing inventory of estuarine areas is designed to determine what fisheries we have, where nursery areas are located and when shrimp and fish occur in greatest numbers. Other research centers around shrimp—its growth, populations and best size for harvesting. Further development of offshore fisheries, including such species as squid and scallops, is also part of the agency's work.

Research results, as well as information obtained from fishermen, help the agency define fishing regulations. Marine Fisheries is responsible for enforcing fishing regulations and for setting season opening dates.

The agency's control of dredge and fill activities in estuarine areas is of significant benefit to the fishing industry. By regulating the dredging and

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You should know . . .

New oil dumping regulations, effective July 1.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste into or upon U.S. navigable waters. Violators are subject to a \$5,000 fine.

Under the regulations, vessels of less than 100 gross tons are required to devise some fixed or portable means of discharging any oily bilge slops or oily ballast to a shoreside receptacle.

Effective July 1, 1974, all owners of U.S. vessels 26 feet or longer must place a placard in the vessel's machinery spaces or at the bilge and ballast control station which states:

DISCHARGE OF OIL PROHIBITED

The Federal Water Pollution Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste into or upon the navigable waters and contiguous zone of the United States if such discharge causes a film or sheen upon, or discoloration of, the surface of the water, or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violators are subject to a penalty of \$5,000.

Commercial fishermen may obtain copies of the placard from: National Marine Fisheries Service, Div. of Extension, P. O. Box 1246, Gloucester, Ma. 01930.

Inspection Urged

The U.S. Coast Guard, in cooperation with the Broadwater Boat Company, Mayo, Md., has issued a warning to owners of wooden 25, 27, 29 and 31 foot Broadwater boats. The warning urges owners to inspect the hulls of their boats for cracking, bulges, hollows, loose screws or layers of wood coming apart approximately nine feet below the bow or at the location of the forward support when the boat is cradled for winter storage and maintenance.

Owners of Broadwater boats who detect indications of damage are urged to contact Broadwater boats and the Coast Guard with a description of the damage and the location of the boat or where it may be inspected.

Vessel Financing

Details pertaining to revised fishing vessel financing regulations recently announced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration were published in the *Federal Register* on May 17. Further information, of potential interest to those working in the fishing industry and those who finance fishing vessels, can be obtained from the Financial Assistance Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, D. C. 20235.

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