



University of North Carolina Sea Grant Program NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 1975

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

Advisory services:

A hotline of useful information for you

Lawrence Austin's clam garden is paying off. When he and UNC Sea Grant advisory agents planted seed clams in shallow water on the Pamlico Sound side of Hatteras village, they were just testing the possibility of small "backyard" clam gardens. The seed clams they planted cost one cent apiece. Today, less than two years later, the garden's a success and Austin's selling the clams for as much as eight cents each.

* * *

Jim Corprew of Coinjock will probably find the back-straining work of pulling in heavy eel and crab pots from deep Albemarle Sound waters easier this fall. A hydraulic powered pot puller that he and Sea Grant advisory agents have installed on his small boat promises to make his work easier and quicker.

* * *

Thomas Barnwell and other members of the Hilton Head (S. C.) Fishing Co-op, Inc. have taken steps to set up an eel farm that could produce eels

for export to overseas and northern markets. They were able to see and learn first hand from UNC Sea Grant's eel culture demonstration facility in New Bern before launching their own South Carolina-based business.

* * *

Blue crab plants in eastern North Carolina have made changes in processing procedures based on Sea Grant advisory recommendations. Such changes should help the plants meet increasingly stringent quality requirements.

* * *

Brunswick and other coastal counties are beefing up their insect pest control programs with more effective machines and methods. In formal training sessions and informal chats with Sea Grant advisory agents, local pest control operators have learned about more effective, economical ways to control mosquitoes and biting flies. Coastal communities hope new techniques will help them control insects that bite into their tourist incomes.

* * *

Coastal planners and local government officials are in the midst of drawing up plans for growth as required by the state's Coastal Area Management Act. To help them better understand state planning guidelines, Sea Grant's land-use advisory agent

(See "advisory," page 4)

Jim Corprew's fishing should be easier with hydraulics



S. C. fishing co-op members examine Sea Grant eel farm



Ed Clemmons of Brunswick County checks insect monitoring device



The men of Sea Grant advisory services



At the advisory helm

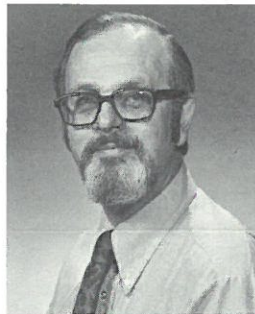
Leigh Hammond
133 1911 Building
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737-2138

Leigh Hammond is at the hub of UNC Sea Grant advisory services. It is his job to see that the marine advisory program stays on track and rolls smoothly.

Hammond is dedicated to putting together a program that gets information into the hands of people who can use it and benefit. His ear is tuned to the wishes, gripes and problems of the coastal community and state agencies with responsibilities in the eastern reaches of our state. From the feedback he gets through advisory agents, coastal citizens and state and local officials, Hammond and Sea Grant administrators try to build an advisory services program that targets on coastal needs.

When he isn't wearing the hat of advisory services coordinator, Hammond is assistant vice chancellor for university extension at NCSU.

Simon Baker
Room B, 1911 Building
N.C. State University
Raleigh, N.C. 27607
737-3197



Land-use planning

Simon Baker's title is hard to swallow all at once. He calls himself a land-use planning advisory services agent.

What that means is that he is available to help counties, towns and state agencies that are up to their necks in devising land-use plans as called for under the state's 1974 Coastal Area Management Act.

Baker's background is in geography, aerial photography and other remote sensing techniques—all of which equip him to provide technical assistance to local and state planners.

Through a series of films, Baker is trying to explain in terms everyone can understand how natural and man-made forces act on the coastal environs, why coastal resources are important and what planning and management is likely to mean to the state's citizens.

Jim McGee
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E. C. U.
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758-6138



Commercial fishing

Sumner Midgett, Hughes Tillet and Jim McGee are advisory agents to Tarheel fishermen. Information and innovation characterize their work.

Their mobile library that travels throughout the northeastern counties is stocked with information on all sorts of topics relating to fishing—from boat building and weather to preparing a seafood feast. They make regular trips to fill some 20 information display racks stationed throughout the Albemarle region. The racks provide the fishing community with convenient access to helpful reading. Small meetings in coastal communities are another avenue for updating fishermen on new gear, new kinds of fishing, business management and other topics. And because Midgett and Tillet have been around the water and fishing most of their lives, they

Managing insect pests



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Jim Dukes
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Managing insect pests is the name of the game for advisory agents Jim Dukes and Dick Axtell. Their goal is to help coastal communities do a better job of controlling mosquitoes and biting flies with less expense environmentally and economically. With more effective, less costly methods, the agents hope counties will be able to manage large outbreaks of insect pests and keep tourists happy.

Axtell and Dukes have studied coastal insects under UNC Sea Grant and Agricultural Experiment Station funding since 1970. In the past two years, they began taking research findings to coastal pest control operators through training sessions. These continuing sessions update pest control operators on current application requirements and new control methods. The agents also assist in calibrating equipment for safety and to get the most for dollars spent.

Dukes and Axtell are available to assist in tailoring pest management to the needs of specific localities. This involves pinpointing the times and locations of severe insect problems and mapping controls to combat specific problems.



Sumner Midgett
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Hughes Tillet
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Wanchese, N.C.
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473-3937

can understand the fisherman's needs and problems.

But advisory services is more than handing out a book or holding a meeting. As Midgett, Tillet and McGee practice it, advisory services is also getting up to their elbows in work—either by helping a fisherman equip his boat with improved gear or testing new options in fishing. For example, the advisory agents are trying to iron the kinks out of growing clams and oysters in shallow sound waters. If they are successful, people living near these shallow waters could possibly garden these shellfish for their own consumption and for sale.

The advisory agents are available to try to help on just about any problem relating to fishing. And if you think you've got a good idea for a new way to do something, they're eager to hear it too.

Seafood technology

If your living depends on seafood—either harvesting, processing, shipping or serving it—you just might like to know the staff at the Sea Grant Seafood Laboratory in Morehead City.

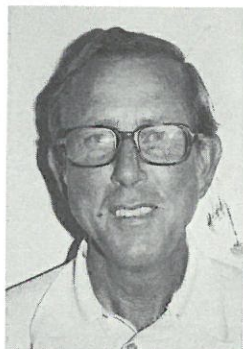
Ted Miller, Dave Hill and Skipper Crow are Sea Grant advisory agents bent on improving seafood quality. Better tasting and longer-lasting seafood, they reason, means more income for everyone from fishermen to retailer—and happier consumers.

Miller, Hill and Crow, along with Frank Thomas from the NCSU food science department in Raleigh, have already assisted many Tarheel blue crab processing plants by providing plans for more efficient, sanitary operations. They continue working with the blue crab industry—and with finfish processors—to help both meet increasingly stringent sanitation requirements.

When they're not in the field, Miller, Thomas, Hill and Crow might be found in the lab testing more reliable methods of handling and storing seafoods for better quality and longer life, developing new products from

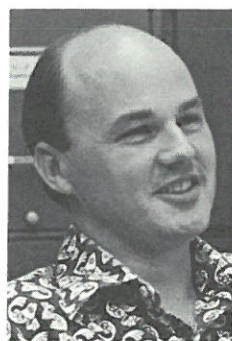
Ted Miller
Dave Hill
Skipper Crow

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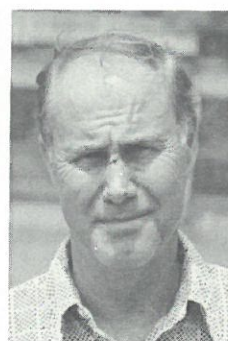


Frank Thomas

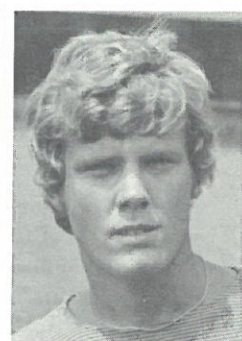
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Bill Rickards
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tories
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Walt Jones
John Foster
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New Bern, N.C. 28560
633-0414



Eel farming

Walt Jones, John Foster and Bill Rickards are engaged in a pretty unusual project: They're trying to see if you can farm eels—raise them from tiny elvers to marketable size in enclosed ponds—in coastal North Carolina. They've got an experimental eel farm where right now thousands of the squirmy fish are growing. Eels, you see, are a hot export item for European markets and are in demand as sport fishing bait in this country.

But while Jones, Foster and Rickards are engrossed in all aspects of raising eels—including food preparation, elver harvesting, disease analysis and treatment and pond construction—they don't just want to sit on their findings. Their eel farm in New Bern is open as a demonstration unit for anyone who might be interested in eel farming—and they're eager to share what they've learned.

Jones and Foster are headquartered at the New Bern demonstration farm. Rickards is at the Sea Grant office in Raleigh, where he doubles as assistant program director. They're all open to questions.

“trash” fish, or testing new ways to detect seafood deterioration.

Questions about harvesting wild eels should be directed to Skipper Crow. He can help with building traps, baiting, fishing and marketing eels from Carolina waters.



Advisory agents are eager to hear from you

(Continued from page 1)

teamed up with the UNC Institute of Government for three workshops for planners.

Sea Grant advisory agents. What do they do and how can you benefit from them?

In simple terms, Sea Grant's advisory agents are information carriers. Under their hats, they carry facts, figures and know-how about a wide range of marine and coastal problems. Their goal is to get that information into the hands of people who live and work in the coastal zone. Their hope is that new knowledge put to use will help make living standards higher.

While much of their information comes from work that university researchers do, advisory agents also learn from coastal citizens and from their own experiments done in cooperation with those citizens. They might, for example, pitch in to work with fishermen or seafood processors to work out cheaper, easier and faster ways to do things. But no matter where they get their knowhow, advisory agents are available to share it with all who might put it to work.

Sea Grant's advisory services agents offer services in a variety of areas. Several are devoted to assisting the fishing community, others work with seafood processors. Three are investigating the do's and don't's of eel farming and making their findings available to potential eel culture operations. Two are working with government agencies which deal with controlling insect pests. Another is available to assist local and state agencies involved in land-use planning. Plans are that another advisory agent, not yet named, will work with the coastal recreation industry.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of these agents are found on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter. If you think any of them could be of assistance, they are eager to hear from you.

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Coastal films available to groups

"The Currituck Film," a 23-minute, 16-mm color film documenting problems of coastal development and one county's attempt to deal with those problems, is available from the UNC Sea Grant Program, 1235 Burlington Labs, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N. C. 27607.

Written and directed by Les Thornbury, the film explores action taken by Currituck County, North Carolina's northeasternmost county, to manage pressures for development so that unique natural resources are not threatened.

"Waterbound—Our Changing Outer Banks," a 16-mm color film describing geologic processes acting on the state's Outer Banks and man's attempts to deal with those forces, is also available.

Requests for the films should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the anticipated viewing date and should include dates preferred for showing. Sea Grant asks that borrowers return the films in the same condition as they are received within three days of the showing and that return postage be paid.

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