

These initial results, although not complete, are a definite step towards the establishment of a systematic collection of accurate records on our marine fisheries resources. It might be well to mention that any plan for the obtaining of fisheries statistics is constantly being revised in an effort to obtain more complete information. In this respect it is hoped that the Florida system will not be unique and that adjustment will be made to solve the many problems still remaining until in the near future accurate statistical information will be available to fisheries scientists working for the conservation and, at the same time, utilization of Florida's valuable marine fisheries resources.

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission: A Progress Report

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A HISTORY OF THE EVENTS which led to the formation of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 1949, and of its activities prior to this year is outlined in a paper presented to this Institute a year ago. The present account describes the progress made since that meeting. Encouraging advances have been made in interstate cooperation towards the solution of problems of the commercial fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico.

It was at the suggestion of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the official research agency of the Commission, that the Commission's Committee to Correlate Research and Exploratory Data met with representatives of the Service at the Gulf and Caribbean Institute in November of 1949. At the meeting further details in connection with the vessels *Oregon* & *Alaska* were made available to the Commission conferees by representatives of the Service who were in attendance. A special meeting of the Commissioners and Commission biologists and attorneys was held at New Orleans on January 6th, 1950. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss possible initial commercial exploratory fishing endeavors to be undertaken by the *Oregon*.

Following the Houston conference by three months, the next regular meeting of the Commission was held at Tampa on January 19th and 20th, 1950. The Commission, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and representatives of the fishing industry, developed and adopted an initial program of Gulf exploratory commercial fishing. The program was initiated in April, following repair and conversion of the motor vessel *Oregon* and the establishing of the Service's Exploratory Fishing and Gear Development Section offices at Pascagoula. Also, at the Tampa meeting, the Commission adopted a resolution urging the Congress to appropriate sufficient funds for continuing scientific research at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pensacola laboratory. Later these funds were provided and the Pensacola laboratory is continuing its important research activities. Realizing the importance of landing records to the proper utilization of the fisheries of the Gulf, the Commissioners adopted a resolution at the Tampa meeting petitioning the commissions of the several member states to assist and aid in the collection of statistical information and data regarding the quantity and species of fish and marine life taken from the waters of the several states, and to make such statistical information available to the Gulf States

Marine Fisheries Commission and to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. With the assistance of the Service and industry, the state commissions have complied with this request and the states of Florida and Alabama, in cooperation with the Service, are now making available a monthly summary of landing records similar to that which Texas was already publishing at the time the resolution was adopted. At the Tampa meeting the Commission also approved the adoption by the Congress of the resolution S.1545, introduced by Senator McCarran on behalf of himself and thirty other Senators, for quit-claiming to the five Gulf states full title and ownership in and to all waters and tidelands within their respective borders, as well as the aquatic and marine life and the products of such waters. In this same resolution the Commission went on record as being opposed to the transfer of such title to the federal government, as contained in the Resolution S.923, introduced by Senator O'Mahoney.

Continuing with the plan of holding regular quarterly meetings during the first year of the Commission's operation, the next regular meeting was held at Biloxi, April 14th and 15th. The primary objective of this meeting was to develop a Gulf biological research program. The Commission's biologists, working with the biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, recommended both a long and a short range program and their recommendations, after due consideration, were approved by the Commission. Due to the extensive repairs and conversion necessary in the case of the motor vessel *Alaska*, it was learned at this meeting that it would probably be fall of 1950 before the vessel could become active in the research program. The Gulf Fisheries Investigations office has since been set up at Galveston, which port is the operating base of the *Alaska*. At the Biloxi meeting the Commission adopted a resolution designed to urge adoption of S.2801 Green, International Conference of the Northwest Atlantic, in substantially the form originally presented to the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, with emphasis on that part of the Bill relating to fishery jurisdiction of the states and the preservation of the principal of state representation on the International Commission. At the Houston meeting of the Commission a Committee composed of attorneys of the conservation departments of the several states was appointed. This Committee, known as the Committee to Correlate Fisheries Laws began a study of the laws of the states. It was decided by the Commissioners at Biloxi that priority would be given at the next meeting of the Commission to the matter of developing a program of joint interstate fisheries laws, particularly those concerning the important shrimp fishery.

The next regular conference of the Commission was held at Mobile July 20th and 21st, 1950, just a few days over a year from the signing of the compact in the same city. It was the decision of the Commissioners at this meeting that insufficient background had been accumulated to draft regulations common to the five Gulf states and it was decided that a special meeting of scientists and attorneys be held in New Orleans on August 17th and 18th to prepare a suggested draft of regulations for presentation to the Commissioners at the annual meeting. Coming up for discussion at the Mobile meeting was the need for technological investigations on the Gulf. The Commission adopted a resolution setting out the urgent need for such investigations and requested that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service give consideration to the assigning of a full time technologist to work exclusively in the Gulf area, and on problems peculiar to this area, and that the technologist be furnished with an adequately equipped mobile laboratory. The Service recognized the need for technological work on the Gulf and has assured the Commission such investigations will be under-

taken at such time as funds and personnel are available. At this meeting the Commission also went on record in the form of a resolution to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service as favoring the substituting of shrimp for shark in the initial program of exploratory commercial fishing and suggested that strenuous effort be made to locate off-shore concentrations of shrimp in the waters of the Gulf contiguous to the coast lines of the five compacted states.

At the special New Orleans meeting of the Commission's Committee to Correlate Research and Exploratory Data and the Committee to Correlate Fisheries Laws, together with representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service, a draft of proposed shrimp regulations was developed and approved for consideration at the annual meeting. Also, and in line with the establishing of joint regulations, a resolution was adopted at this Committee meeting, for possible approval by the Commission at the annual conference, recommending to the Governors and legislatures of the compacted states the enactment of laws permitting entry of the states into reciprocal agreements with one another affecting shrimp, oysters and fish.

The first annual meeting of the Commission was held at New Orleans October 19th and 20th. The principal concern of the Commissioners at the annual meeting was to study the proposed regulations in the form as recommended by the biologists and, from industry, to learn its opinion of the economic effect the application of such regulations would have upon the shrimp industry. In executive session, the Commissioners decided additional information of a purely economic nature was desirable before uniform shrimp regulations would be recommended to the several states. Ranking second in importance at the conference was the matter of reciprocal agreements among the states. It was decided that this subject should likewise receive further consideration from an economic standpoint. Both the suggested shrimp regulations and the matter of reciprocal agreements were to be the principal topics for consideration at the next meeting of the Commission, which was voted to be held at Brownsville, Texas, on January 11th and 12th, 1951.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission: A Progress Report

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I. The Treaty On The Northwestern Atlantic Fisheries

WHEN WE MET LAST YEAR, I had the privilege of reporting to you upon the International Conference relating to the fisheries of the Northwestern Atlantic, which represented a new high in federal-state cooperation. We reviewed the events leading up to the International Conference, the part played in them and in the conference by the Commission and the cordial cooperation of the Department of State. As a result of this close integration and on the assurance that the jurisdiction of the states would be protected by an adequate safeguarding clause, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission requested the Commissioners and Attorneys General of the fifteen member states, through their respective Governors, to secure the support of their United States Senators for