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Virginia Sea Grant

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Virginia Institute of Marine Science

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MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION

BULLETIN

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

Vol. 3, No. 9

June 11, 1971

EXTENSION AGENT JOINS VIMS STAFF

Robert K. Dias, of Charleston, South Carolina, has been appointed to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science staff to assist V. G. Burrell, extension officer, in expanding marine extension operations at VIMS. Dias will spend much of his time this summer on Eastern Shore working with sports and commercial fisheries in the area.

Dias comes to VIMS from the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department, Marine Resources Division, where his duties brought him in contact with the commercial fishing industry of South Carolina. He holds a B.S. degree from the College of Charleston with emphasis on marine science.

Dias' position as extension agent was established through a Sea Grant awarded to VIMS by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Although VIMS has been involved in extension work since its inception in 1940, no formal field service outside of educational services existed until 1970 when Burrell became extension officer, financed from funds of the Sea Grant Program. The function of the marine extension service is to bring the latest advances in fishing technology to the fishing industry and to bring problems of the industry to the attention of scientists so that research may be directed to solutions of the problems.

With the placement of a man in the field to contact fishermen, businesses and industries, the extension service of VIMS has made a great stride forward. The field agent has clarified for fishermen the reason for certain conservation measures and the use made of catch records. Specialists and experts from the VIMS staff have been sent to investigate problems disclosed through interviews between the field agent and many fishermen and dealers. Information has been provided to financial groups and the officers of the federal Small Business Administration to enable them to reach sound decisions relative to loans for promoting the seafood business. Many sport and commercial fishermen have been provided with estimates of abundance of various species of fish for the coming season.

VIMS' marine extension service is also involved with developing and expanding fisheries, introducing gear and methods of culture new to this area, assisting packers and processors with their problems including means for handling and utilizing by-products of fish processing, assisting fish dealers with marketing, and providing information to governmental planning and regulatory groups.

FISH SEPARATOR DEMONSTRATIONS SCHEDULED

Dr. Fredrick King of the National Marine Fisheries Service Technological Laboratory, Gloucester, Mass., will demonstrate the Bilbun Separator at L. D. Amory Co., 101 South King Street, Hampton, Va., on June 16 and 17. Sessions are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. each day.

The Bilbun Machine separates flesh from bone and has been used by the poultry industry in this country for several years. The Japanese have used the machine to remove flesh from fish frames and skin -- the operation Dr. King will demonstrate to seafood interests.

The yield in meat from the filleting process may be increased from 30% as fillets to 50% as fillets plus machine-separated flesh. Headed and gutted fish can be run through the machine and species too small or too bony for the fish trade may also be utilized in this manner. The machine also offers possibilities as a means of removing shell particles from cooked blue crab meat.

The demonstration is being sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Marine Extension Service of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The demonstration is the first of many programs aimed at improving the fish processing industry under the growing program of extension services at VIMS. Dr. William J. Hargis, Jr., director of the Institute, has announced on behalf of the Board of Administration intentions to improve their services under sponsorship and support of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Sea Grant Program of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

L. D. Amory, through the courtesy of Charles Amory, is providing the facilities and raw materials for the demonstration. All seafood interests are invited to attend. For further information, contact any of the following:

Dr. Fredrick J. King
Nat. Marine Fisheries Serv.
Technological Laboratory
Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, Mass. 01930

Mr. William N. Nelly
Supervisory Fishery Market
News Reporter
Nat. Marine Fisheries Serv.
Room B 105 Post Office Bldg.
Hampton, Va. 23369

Mr. V. G. Burrell
Extension Officer
VIMS
Gloucester Point,
Va. 23062

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NORTH CAROLINA PLANT ADDED

Blue Channel Corp., Plant No. 16, Belhaven, N.C., has been added to the list of crustacea meat plants certified by the North Carolina State Board of Health for the calendar year 1971. All certificates expire December 31, 1971, unless revoked prior to that date.

Other plants will be listed in the MRI BULLETIN as they are certified. For a complete list of North Carolina plants, write in care of Information and Education Department, VIMS.

DUPLICATION CHECK

MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION BULLETINS are mailed to persons licensed to catch, harvest, process and buy seafood, as well as other using the sea for profit or service. Several sources were used in compiling the distribution list in an effort to reach all those interested in matters relating to marine research; as a result, some duplication has developed.

If you are receiving more than one copy of the Bulletin, please return the address label from the extra copy(ies) to VIMS, Department of Information and Education, so that duplication can be avoided.

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Dr. William J. Hargis, Jr., VIMS Director; David Garten, Editor