

Crackdown on undersea treasure hunters

A proposal to place shipwrecks on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) under federal jurisdiction has been attacked by professional salvors, archaeologists and sport divers as unwarranted government intervention.

But according to Charles McKinney, manager of the Department of the Interior's Federal Antiquities Program, an amendment being drawn up to restrict treasure hunting and the pillaging of shipwrecks on the OCS will impose no restriction on recreational sport diving.

The amendment, not yet endorsed by the Interior Department at press time, would place shipwrecks under federal jurisdiction in an attempt to end private plundering of undersea artifacts.

Raceboats run the Bay of Naples

Italians who man the high-performance offshore boats carrying illegal cigarettes into the Bay of Naples are exultant, according to a report in *Campaign Europe*. The Italian government recently increased the price of imported cigarettes, raising the price of a pack of Marlboros from approximately 82 to 94 cents. This means it is now possible for black market smugglers to find buyers at their cheaper rates of 59 to 70 cents.

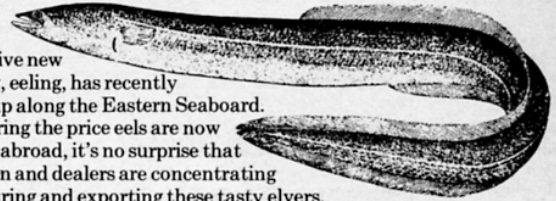
The Italian government has traditionally kept a blind eye to the 30-foot offshore boats with twin diesel engines delivering up to 900 horsepower, since as many as 10,000 Italians, working as drivers, wholesalers, retailers and peddlers make a full-time living from the business. This is a hefty percentage of workers in the city of Naples where there are approximately 250,000 jobless.

Eeling for profit

A lucrative new industry, eeling, has recently sprung up along the Eastern Seaboard. Considering the price eels are now fetching abroad, it's no surprise that fishermen and dealers are concentrating on capturing and exporting these tasty elvers.

According to a recent report published by the New England Marine Advisory Service (NEMAS), an association of marine advisory, extension and education programs in New England, American suppliers of eels are, for the first time, taking advantage of a potential world market estimated at around 35,000 tons a year. Live eels of the right size and species can cost as much as \$425 a kilo in Japan, and in Europe the adult eel is a delicacy which three years ago cost as much as \$6 a pound. A shortage in the supply of eels in Japan and Europe has forced these countries to look increasingly to U.S. suppliers. Growing fisheries can be found in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Florida and North Carolina. (The American eel is not found on the West Coast.)

However, concern mounts over the possibility of overfishing. In Massachusetts, there is now a move to have eels included in the protected species list. At the University of Bridgeport, scientists are researching the "farming" of eels, growing the species in a geodesic dome heated by the sun. Backyard eeling does not seem like such an effete idea in light of an expected 50,000 ton-a-year shortage of eels in the Orient by 1985.



Watch for...

Charlie McCarthy plans to race this month in the Benihana Grand Prix in Pt. Pleasant, New Jersey. After racing two years in the production offshore classes, McCarthy commissioned



Frenchman Jean Claude Simon to design a prototype 38-foot open class hull, named *Top Banana*.

Twelve years ago, at the age of 21, McCarthy wanted to be an offshore powerboat racer, but he lacked the wherewithal. However, by 1976, he controlled a trucking company and was ready to race. He bought a 24-foot mold from Don Aronow of Cigarette fame and launched Banana Boat Company in Providence, Rhode Island.

If McCarthy's new boat is successful in the "big league" of offshore racing, he will build the Simon-designed 38-footers in consumer and racing versions.

Marinas under construction

Haverstraw Marina, located 12 miles north of the Tappan Zee Bridge in Rockland County, New York. More than 400 slips, service facilities, sanitation pump-out station and 30-ton Travelift.

Scheduled for completion this summer. Haverstraw will ultimately provide docking for 1,200 boats, along with hotels and restaurants, at a projected cost of \$6 million.

Cocoa Marina, located on Florida's Indian River, south of the Highway 520 Hubert Humphrey Bridge a few hundred feet from the Intracoastal Waterway at mile 898. Convenient to Cocoa Village, Merritt Island, Orlando and the Kennedy Space Center. The \$750,000 marina will initially accommodate 98 boats.

Yacht Haven Marine Center, Stamford, Connecticut, already in operation with 750 slips. New marine center is at the marina's west basin. Extensive sales, service and repair facilities, a thousand-foot work dock for in-water service, and a yacht finishing bay, a special building to refinish older fiberglass yachts.

Miami Beach Marina, located 500 feet north of the North Channel of Government Cut. Will include 400 wet and 350 dry slips, including 40 for charter boats. Ashore, a dry boat-storage building, marine sales and service facilities, condominiums, hotel, restaurants and retail shops.

Patriots Point located on the harbor in Charleston, South Carolina. Will provide 375 wet slips (including 50 transient berths, 25 charter and commercial berths), restaurants, shops and motel. Completion date is 1980.

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Record marlin catch

Australian angler Reg Campbell, fishing in the 1978 New Zealand Open Big Game Fishing Tournament, caught three different species of marlin in one day. Campbell's triple catch included a 203-pound striped marlin on 50-pound line, a 373-pound Pacific blue marlin on 80-pound line, and a 441-pound black marlin on 50-pound line. The angler's total fighting time was 3 hours and 20 minutes. The International Game Fish Association could report no case to parallel Campbell's "flush."

Three different *billfish* have, however, been caught by one angler in one day.

Hate that gray?

The Florida State Department of Transportation is repainting its bridges over navigable waterways, including the Intracoastal Waterway. The institutional gray and pale green colors are being replaced by shades such as purple, Chinese red, and baby blue. The color selection for each bridge is made at a meeting where local interests, officials and private citizens can offer their own hue and cry.

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Pollution solution

The Coast Guard now has a toll free telephone number for the public to report oil or hazardous chemical spills on our oceans and waterways. Answering (800) 424-8802 twenty-four hours a day is a Coast Guard officer at the National Response Center in Washington, who relays the information to local Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency offices.

Fiberglass boat, a collector's item?

A fiberglass boat in a museum of antique wooden boats may strike some wooden boat purists as unholy. But the Thousand Islands Museum in Clayton, New York, has accepted its first fiberglass boat, an 18-foot inboard hull manufactured in 1949.