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HOOVER DEMANDS FISH CONSERVATION

Commerce Secretary Calls Halt on Reckless Destruction of Sea Food

REHABILITATION ESSENTIAL

Special to Business Section Public Ledger
 Atlantic City, Sept. 5. — Blindly, without regard to the stability of the industry in the present generation, without sense of responsibility to future generations, Americans are recklessly destroying their coast fisheries, according to Secretary of Commerce Hoover, who addressed the sixth annual convention of the United States Fisheries Association here tonight. He emphasized the need of not only halting forms of fish destruction but also the necessity of rehabilitation. Mr. Hoover said a conference held three years ago had made it possible to obtain a start in a positive national policy of conservation of the country's fish supply.

Describing littoral fisheries as relating to sea food in the bays and adjacent to the coasts, he asserted that a constantly depleted species will ultimately reach a point of exhaustion from which there is no recovery.

Most Precious of Supplies

"Sea fisheries have been protected to a large extent by their situation and to some extent by international agreement," Mr. Hoover said. "Their supplies are capable of still further expansion. But if our littoral fisheries are permitted to go further toward extinction, an additional burden to make up this lost supply will fall upon the deep-sea species, with consequent additional danger.

"The fisheries are the most precious of our primary food supplies. They will become more precious in the future. Our agricultural expansion is rapidly approaching its limits and our population will double. To protect the industry is an obligation.

"Our littoral and inland fish are far less than they were seventy-five years ago; they are less today than even twenty years ago. In the meantime the number of fishermen has vastly increased.

Atlantic Salmon Disappear

"Our great supplies of salmon on the Atlantic Coast have totally disappeared as a food supply. They have been diminished over one-half on the Pacific Coast, and only recently have measures been taken there to halt their destruction; and it is only within a few months that we have sought to save the last great salmon fishery of the world—Alaska—where reckless exploitation threatened their complete destruction within half a generation.

"The sturgeon fisheries of the Great Lakes have declined 98 per cent in forty years. They are almost gone on our coast. Our shad fisheries have decreased in their yield by more than 70 per cent.

"Other littoral fishes—river herring, striped bass, sea-run trout—are decreasing with great rapidity. Crabs, lobsters, oysters and clams are on the same road to destruction. As late as 1915 our crab fisheries in the Chesapeake and Delaware waters yielded over 50,000,000 pounds. They yield less than one-half of that today. The oyster fisheries of the Chesapeake have decreased by 50 per cent in as short a period as twenty years. Our lobster catch is less than one-third that of thirty years ago."

As a means of relieving the threatening situation, Secretary Hoover urged centralization of control of coastal fisheries, cultivation of a sense of national responsibility toward the fisheries and their maintenance, prevention of pollution from sources other than ships of coastal and inland waters, restoration of the sturgeon, salmon, shad, lobster, crab, oyster and clam and other littoral fisheries on the Atlantic Coast; and the reinforcement of stocks of game fish throughout the United States.

Phila. Bulletin
 Aug 3

Arthur J. Hanff, Jr., of Philadelphia, runner-up for the Boy Week surf casting championship here last June, and Ralph Bowman, also of Philadelphia, shared the chief honors last Saturday in the annual boys' tournament conducted by the Ocean City Fishing Club on the beach at 59th st.

Hanff, a protege of H. W. Shaner, secretary-treasurer of the Association of Surf Angling Clubs, captured the event for longest of three casts with a heave of 335 feet, Bowman being runner-up at 307 feet 7 inches.

The order was reversed in the event for average of three casts, which Bowman won with a mark of 299 feet. Hanff had 279 feet 3 inches. George Becker was third in both events. A. G. Balkenol, the Boy Week champion, was far off form, failing to place in the average event and taking only the Class D honors in the test for longest single casts.

Edna Rockwell, 13-year-old daughter of Ben Rockwell, secretary of the Ocean City Fishing Club, competed with the boys, who ranged from 10 to 16 years in age, and was second with an average of 100 feet in Class C.

Rare Fish at Atlantic City.

There have been many tropical fish belonging to tropical waters that, this year, have been visiting the New Jersey coast, some for the first time in many years. Apropos of this, Charles H. Stubbs, of Atlantic City, writes: "The nets have made a weird collection of fish that do not belong here at all.

"Several weeks ago they caught a flasher, the second in about 50 years. A few days ago a tarpon that weighed 80 pounds was taken, the fifth one in the same length of time and the biggest one ever caught in these nets. In the past week there were taken pompanos, black angels, spadefish, old maids and trigger fish.

"The net haul on Sunday was very poor. Three big black drum, one eight-pound weakfish, one kingfish, two stingarees and a couple of baskets of perch and spots.

"The water was cold and dirty, a strong undercurrent was running and any self-respecting fish would have been ashamed to be found there. Besides the wind was from the right direction, due south, blowing almost a gale, and made fishing unpleasant anyhow.

Absecon Island Anglers.

"Surf fishing is wonderful, always was wonderful and always will be wonderful. The fact that there doesn't seem to be any fish in the surf for the surf fishermen to catch cannot change the aforementioned fact. Fishing inside appears to be coming along even better than should be expected, as the summer weakfish appear to be more numerous than they have been for several years.

"In the surf the Absecon Anglers are having the same kind of luck that prevails all along the coast.

"Willard Shaner found that the records show the pier catch to be about 650 fish short of the catch at this time last year. Of this shortage, 500 are spots and perch, but I don't know whether that's really anything to grieve over or not. The shortage of kingfish is about 150 and this can possibly be accounted for by the fact that Lew Christensen, who was pier-master last year, would start fishing early every morning and usually had 10 or a dozen kings before any of the others could get down to the pier. In 15 days he could easily have made up that shortage, had he been here. There is only a shortage of 12 weakfish and, taking it all in all, it isn't so much worse, it only seems so.

"Sam Hawkins has been catching from 8 to 14 kings each day for the last week or so. Doc Brigadell is high man so far, with 17 kings.

"Ray Kelley landed a striped bass of eight pounds one day last week. Joe Roberts, Frank Jacobs, Herb Luria, Gus Blaufuss, Tom Henning, Frank Roth and several other of the members of the club have each caught one or more weaks from five to nine pounds on the meadows or Brigantine.

"Roberts and Jacobs have had a peculiar experience out on the meadows. They started to fish the meadows about 7 P. M., intending to fish all night. The first case Joe made he had a terrible strike, which took his rigging without any trouble. Frankie cast about the same spot and had the same thing happen to him. Each cast resulted in exactly the same way, until their duffie bags were entirely empty of hooks, sinkers and piano wire.

"Some of the piano wire appeared to have been bitten off, as there would be a little curl on the end of the wire as if a kink had caused it to break. But when any wire was left on the line, it invariably looked to be a clean cut. Joe complained to me that he never was so pushed about by a bunch of fish in all his life. They did not act like big sharks, but, as they did not see anything about there doesn't seem to be any way of telling what they were. In all the two men lost about 30 rigs in that session.

"There are several ideal holes in the surf at Long Beach, one about 12 feet near Barnegat Light, another just in front of the Coast Guard station at Love Lady and another in front of the hotel at Surf City. If the fish ever do get into the surf some of these holes should yield wonderful fishing."

Stewart Leads in Cast Event

Turns in Average of 214 of Five Chances—Volz, 2nd, One Foot Behind

MEET ON THURSDAY

F. W. Stewart with an average of 214 carried off chief honors in the regular weekly casting tournament of the Anglers' Club of Absecon Island staged yesterday afternoon off the Boardwalk at Savannah ave. All of his casts were over the two hundred mark with the exception of the fifth and this dropped down to 195 feet. W. E. Volz was a very close second being only one foot behind the winner.

L. H. Daughenbaugh turned in the third best score with 194 while Carroll Atkinson was fourth with 172 feet. Fred Balmer was fifth casting 170 feet.

The high wind and the chilly weather kept the scores down somewhat yesterday. Then again the event was staged under the Surf Casting Association of America rules. Ray Colwell, chairman of the casting committee was in charge of the event which was watched by a large crowd of spectators.

There were many who participated in casting but did not hand in their scores. In this group were Dr. R. J. Held, Frank Peters, Dr. James Brigadell, Dr. Philip Marvel, Jr., H. W. Shaner, Fred Stadler, Frank McCaffery, William Byers, Gus Binfuss, Edward McNulty, Ben Dorr, Sol Lowry, William P. Smith, William P. Dasee, Ray Colwell, Fred Wiegman, Harry Platt, Fred Probst, Frank Schwarz, Harry O. Keene, Al Miller, Clement Saxman and others.

A big meeting is scheduled for Thursday night at the Commission Chamber in the City Hall. Many important business problems will be discussed. The construction of the pier will be one of the leading topics.

Yesterday's scores:

	1	2	3	4	5	Aver.
Stewart	227	225	212	213	195	214
Volz	215	207	230	218	196	213
Daughenbaugh	201	200	180	197	192	194
Atkinson	153	188	146	185	186	172
Balmer	170	201	208	225	217	170
Turvey	170	160	156	188	194	153
Hoffman	185	185	170	188	218	185
Henry	100	185	140	138		132
Harrison	202	236	235			132
Vernon	244	184	165			117
Newell	140	180	129	143	105	127
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Anglers' Club Gets Charter

A charter was granted to the Anglers' Club of Absecon yesterday and this announcement will be officially made tonight at the big meeting in the Commission Chamber. The club will be one month old tonight.

At present the club has 200 members and the rolls are showing membership gains. The seal will be officially adopted at tonight's session, and more talk will be heard on the pier site, which will be situated in Upper Margate City.

President R. Johnson held an announcement to important committees tonight, namely, the financial committee, which will be made up of Harry O. Keener, Victor J. Fischer, Milton O. Keener, Walter T. Bew, George Latz, Walter and Fred Stadler, Jr. and Mathias and Fred committee, namely, the building committee, namely, Mulford T. Rose, Frank P. Gandy, Harry O. Keener, Henry W. Stelwagon, William E. Volz and Elmer H. Einbecker.

The membership list includes: Sigmund Oserkis, president Boardwalk Bank; Enoch L. Johnson, county collector; Victor J. Fisher, real estate operator; Edward G. Harris, real estate operator; James Arkman, retired banker; Linton B. Arnold, hotelman; Walter T. Bew, motorcar; Harry Barstow, apartment house owner; Harry O. Keener, banker; Ray M. Colwell, motorcar distributor; William H. Conger, Jr., lawyer; Dr. James C. Brigadell, druggist; Elmer H. Einwecker, builder; Dr. Otto L. Fitzsimons, dentist; Harry Latz, hotelman; Dr. Philip Marvel, Jr., physician; Frank P. Gandy, contractor; Howard A. McCoy, merchant; William S. Cuthbert, city director; Fred J. Poth, yachtman; Alex Nelson, county engineer; Henry Parsons, retired; Ferd E. Palzowsky, yachtman; James Pittinbis, merchant; Frank Redman, builder; John R. Ralston, sportsman; M. H. Rittenberg, merchant; Captain John L. house, pier owner; Fred Stadler, Jr., merchant; Howard H. Steel, manufacturer; Com. Samuel W. Whan, wool manufacturer; J. Sidman Selby, passenger agent; Charles Scheuer, publisher; Charles K. Smith, oils and petroleum products; George W. Shisler, builder; F. Dudley Vetterlein, manufacturer; Samuel J. Shuttleworth, insurance.

J. Renton White, realtor; Harry M. Webb, retired banker; Leigh Myers, retired manufacturer; Charles C. Beyer, retired banker; Edwin W. Dewey, retired; Oscar P. Johnson, realtor; Dr. R. Johnson Held, physician; William E. Volz, manufacturer; Milton Latz, hotelman; William D. Smith, merchant; J. Clifford Rosenbarten, society man; Henry W. Stelwagon, manufacturer; Julian Dupuy, banker; R. M. Hause, merchant; John Kennedy, merchant; James Spear, stove manufacturer; W. J. Nelson, banker; New York City, and Leonard Acme, manufacturer.