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NEWSLETTER

J.F. Payne and J. Huner, editors

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Jay Huner and E. Evan Brown have edited a new book entitled: "Crustacean and Mollusk Aquaculture in the United States." Contributions from sixteen specialists describe the current state of aquaculture of freshwater crayfishes, freshwater prawns, penaeid shrimps, homarid lobsters, oysters, marine clams, marine mussels, and abalones in the United States. Additional contributions deal with culture of miscellaneous crustaceans like soft-shelled blue crabs and spiny lobsters and the monitoring and controlling of water quality in aquaculture systems. Chapters are well-written and well-organized with each containing a liberal dose of excellent illustrations. The editors were successful in maintaining a good balance of subjects in all chapters. Excellent discussions of the general biology and diseases and parasites of many species are included. The volume is available from:

AVI Publishing Company, Inc.
250 Post Road East
P.O. Box 831
Westport, CT 06881

The economics of freshwater crayfish farming in New Zealand is described by J. B. Jones in an article of the same title in *New Zealand Agricultural Science*, Volume 19, Number 2, 1985. Jones investigates various economics of the aquaculture of Paranephrops planifrons and Paranephrops zealandicus. He noted that "The costs of establishing and running a freshwater crayfish farm are estimated for farms from 2,000 m² to 6,000 m² in pond area and at stocking densities of 20, 50, 80 and 100 adult crayfish per square metre. It has been assumed that 20% of crayfish (Paranephrops spp.) are harvested at two years old, 80% at three years of age. Only at stocking rates of greater than 80/m and with total pond size of at least 6,000 m² would such a farm become marginally profitable. Even if the crayfish could all be harvested at two years old, a farm size of 6,000 m² stocked at 50 crayfish/m² would be necessary to produce crayfish at less than NZ \$20/kg. Stocking densities above 20/m² have not been sustainable under experimental conditions. Crayfish farming is therefore uneconomic in New Zealand at present unless most of the costs, such as land and wages, can be written off against other farming activities."

LOUISIANA CRAWFISH SEASON—Crawfish production has been estimated at 50-60 million pounds this year. Low prices curtailed pond production and the wild crop never materialized. Low water in the Atchafalya Basin is blamed for the first poor wild crop in 4 years.

CRAWFISH TECHNOLOGY AND MARKETING CONFERENCE-This conference is scheduled for July 31-August 2, 1985 at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Topics to be discussed include: State of the Industry and Outlook; Technology Session: (1) Getting Off to a Good Start: Quality Raw Material; (2) Taking Crawfish from Whole to Wholesale: A Processing Primer; (3) Packaging, the Final Touch; (4) Making Crawfish a Year-Round Seafood: Methods of Preservation; (5) Increasing Versatility: Prepared Crawfish Dishes; (6) Quality, a Key to Success: An Introduction to Sanitation Concepts; and (7) Consistency of Production: Establishment of a Basic Quality Control Program; Marketing Session: (1) A Corporate Assessment of the Crawfish's Food Potential; (2) Focus on Plant Management; (3) A Realistic Method for Estimating Cost of Production; (4) Overcoming the Effects of Seasonality; (5) Business Management for Profit; (6) Minimizing Product Loss; and (7) Establish a Consistent and Standardized Product to Sell More Crawfish Out-of-State. Further information about the conference may be obtained from Dr. Michael W. Moody, Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, Room 202-D, Knapp Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803 USA.

CRAWFISH IN FRANCE-Dr. Jay Huner recently returned from a week (7-15 June 1985) visit to France where he was hosted by Professor Pierre J. Laurent, IAA President. France continues to import most of its crayfish from Turkey but is receiving several hundred metric tonnes of red swamp crayfish from Kenya during the January-May period when Turkey prevents export of narrow-clawed crayfish. Import of living red swamp crayfish is illegal but they arrive through Belgium where there is confusion at the border. Current French plans are to ban the import of all living crayfishes of the genera Procambarus and Orconectes in July 1986. Interest in cultivating crayfishes in France continues to be minimal.

POLISH CRAWFISH BOOKS IN ENGLISH-Two Polish crayfish books have been translated into English for several years now but this information is not widely known. They were translated by the Division of Foreign Fisheries of the U.S. Department of Commerce. They are available through the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22151, USA, who should be contacted for costs and ordering information. The books are:
Paladino, Jerzy. 1966. Manual for Crayfish Catchers (Poradnic dla towcow rakow). Translation No. TT70-55115, 1972.
Kossakowski, N. 1966. Crayfish (Raki). Translation No. TT70-55114, 1971.

MARRON CULTURE IN REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA- Mr. Gerald Cubitt writes that he is interested in joining IAA and that he cultures maron, Cherax tenuimanus, in the Republic of South Africa. He is currently setting up an experiment to try Pregnyl (a chorionic gonadotrophin) and Jumegon (a chemical ovulation stimulator) to induce spawning in this species. He notes a general lack of information about effects of such hormones on crustacean reproduction and invites correspondence on the matter. Mr. Cubitt's address is : P.O. Box 1371, George 6530, Republic of South Africa.

RED SWAMP CRAWFISH IN ZAMBIA - Mr.C.J. Grubb of Livingstone, Zambia writes that his small crayfish farm is producing excellent quantities of this crayfish which is sold to tourist restaurants. Recently he was visited by representatives of FAO who expressed interest in cultivating this species in other African areas.

INTRODUCTIONS OF EXOTIC SPECIES-The Transplantations Committee has recommended that IAA adopt the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (FAO) protocol for evaluating introductions of exotic crayfishes. Members of IAA will be interested to learn that the Exotic Fish Section of the American Fisheries Society has recommended use of the EIFAC protocol in developing a position on introduction of exotic aquatic species in the USA. (RE: Newsletter of the Exotic Fish Section, American Fisheries Society, Volume 5, Number 2, 7 May 1985.)

STATUS OF CRAYFISH IN CALIFORNIA/COMMERICAL EXPOLITATION—The two most recent issues of California Aquaculture, the official aquaculture newsletter of the University of California Cooperative Extension Service/California Sea Grant College Program, have been entitled "Crayfish Aquaculture". Part I (Feb. 1985 CA-85-1) dealt with crayfish aquaculture in the deep South emphasizing the experience in Louisiana with red swamp and white river crayfishes. Part II (May 1985 CA-85-2) dealt with the species of crayfish in California and the potential for cultivating them there. Editor Fred Conte, a member of IAA, notes that there is no significant crayfish culture activity in California at this time. He suggests that "...A good approach when considering new aquaculture development is cautious optimism. If crayfish culture is to development in the state, it will do so on its own merits and not on sudden major shifts in traditional agricultural directions...." For copies of the two newsletters, write to: Dr. Fred S. Conte, Aquaculture Specialist, Aquaculture Extension, University of California, Davis, California 95616 USA. Note that conditions for culturing red swamp crayfish in Sacramento River rice fields are very similar to those in southern Spain.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE—By the Associated Press June, 1985. Louisiana's crayfish cuisine king can keep his crown, but only by a tail. A panel of judges scored the recipes of New Orleans chef Paul Prudhomme only six points above those of chef Marcel Lahsene of Jake's Crawfish Restaurant in Portland, Oregon. It happened Thursday at the second Crawfish Culinary Cup Cookoff, a tongue-in-cheek competition begun a year ago to promote the crawfish industries of Oregon and Louisiana. Prudhomme also won last year. This year's final score: Louisiana 263, Oregon 257. Prudhomme said the winning entree was a last-minute invention that got its slam-bam taste from a veal glaze. It was called "Crawfish Slam-Bam."

MEETING OF ASZ—The IAA will meet with the American Society of Zoologists at Baltimore in December. Planned are a session of papers on crayfish biology and a social mixer to recruit new members for the Association. Our association with ASZ began with a symposium a few years ago and has brought the association much favorable publicity.

WE WILL HAVE INFORMATION ON MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND THE NEXT IAA SYMPOSIUM IN VOLUME 8, NUMBER 2.

MEETING OF

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR SOCIETY

THE CRUSTACEAN SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASTACOLOGY

SOCIETY OF SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY



**HYATT REGENCY BALTIMORE
INNER HARBOR HOTEL &
OMNI INTERNATIONAL HOTEL**

Friday-Monday
December 27-30, 1985

Meeting Hosted by Towson State University
Philip D. Creighton — Donald C. Forester
Co-Chairpersons of Local Committee