

returned, with their young to the wintering grounds at Aransas. There are seven other cranes at a New Orleans zoo, and an additional injured bird is being cared for at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge, Colorado, making an overall total of 50.

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Ancient Oyster Reefs Found Along Atlantic Coast

Woods Hole, Mass.: Two fishery biologists working at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution here observed and studied two ancient oyster reefs dating from about 8,000 and 11,000 years ago, respectively.

The oyster reefs were discovered at depths of 115 and 180 feet and extended from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras.

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Advantages Seen From Further Study of Oceanography

Washington, D. C.: The Committee on Oceanography of the National Academy of Sciences--National Research Council, estimates benefits to the Nation of \$6 billion a year by 1980 from continuing Federal investment in oceanographic research.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, is one of the leading Federal agencies engaged in oceanographic research. Production increases totaling \$3 billion a year are forecast from the use of oceanographic knowledge in developing ocean fisheries, marine mineral deposits, and marine recreation facilities.

Annual savings of \$3 billion are forecast from improvements in shipborne transportation, long-range weather forecasting, and other scientific advances.

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Lobster Is Highest Priced Crustacean

Boothbay Harbor, Maine: The American lobster, (Homarus americanus), is the largest and commercially most important crustacean in Maine waters. It supports the seventh most valuable United States fishery, and brings the highest unit price of any major species in North America.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, part of the Fish and Wildlife Service, reports that records kept for 64 years show a wide variation in production of Maine lobsters. The high point came in 1889 when 24.5 million pounds of lobsters were taken and the low point was reached in 1936 with only 5.1 million pounds caught. Preliminary data indicate that the 1964 Maine lobster catch will be down slightly from the 1963 figure of 22.8 million pounds.

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Whale Catch Down Five in 1964

Richmond, Calif.: The United States catch of whales in 1964 totaled 254, according to figures gathered by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior. This was five less than the 1963 catch.

All but one of the whales were taken by catcher boats operating out of California ports. An Oregon firm reports taking only one whale in 1964--a finback.

Finbacks, the most valuable, accounted for 148 of the total catch. Other species, and the number taken in 1964 include: Sperm, 63; Humpback, 27; Sei, 13; Blue, 2; and Bottlenose, 1.

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Further details regarding any of these items can be obtained from the Information Office, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., 20240. (Area Code 202, 343-5634).

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