

Rod 'n Reel

By LEN HARRIS

It wasn't the wind that blew all those tarps off the boats Monday. It was the beautiful March 1 weather that excited impatient skippers to begin preparing their craft for the season that seemed so near upon us. And then came the disappointment. Temperatures dropped, and instead of applying a coat of copper to the bottoms, most boatmen had to pour hot water on the doors of their cars to get them open.

For all the promises March 1

gave us, it seems March came in as a lamb but will go out a lion.

Last weekend's weather was such that Tom Barges at the Yacht Base, Seaview avenue, reports a brisk sale of sandworms over the weekend. He says most of the buyers intended to try flounder fishing at the Mill Pond. Numerous flies at Calk Pasture, but neither he nor this department has received any word on how the early anglers fared.

It won't take many days like that of March 1 to bring the flatties out in large numbers, and as we said earlier, many eager anglers are now getting

We have received some reports of a flounder being taken here and there and some lobstermen have been finding them while dragging the bottom for bait.

Among the early fishermen: Mitch Pack, of Rowayton, has been trying for cod off Budd's Reef without much luck. . . . Our good friend Rampo Stebbins hasn't tried for bottom fish as yet but has been very successful with the clam rake.

Dr. Albert Franks, one of the first to get his canvas off his 331 Dec on Monday. He's usually afloat before Good Friday. . . . Lots of action around the boat yards.

Speaking of action at the

boatyards, come September and there will be plenty of activity at Cove Marina. Most of the craft moored there for the summer will have to move to make room for what is being billed as an International In-Water Boat Show.

The show will run from Sept. 16 to 19 — the same dates as the North Atlantic Boat Show at Yacht Haven West in Stamford.

The identical dates is not by coincidence: The Stamford show has been running, and very successfully, for the past four years, and is sponsored by an independent group out of Annapolis, Md., which sponsors other shows along the East Coast without outside help. This has not particularly endeared the Annapolis operators to the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers which has been running the National Boat Show in New York since 1905.

And so the NAEEM has undertaken to sponsor the show at the Cove Marina. Where Annapolis calls the Stamford show the "North Atlantic" event, the National Association goes a step further and calls the Cove Marina exhibit an "International" show.

Both shows will offer hundreds of craft afloat with additional exhibits in huge auditoriums on land.

Where Cove boasts of greater parking facilities, it is in the show area, Yacht Haven is building a bridge from its east yard area to the west to make for easier parking.

It shapes up like a battle be-

tween the two giants in the industry and it may be that the boating public may choose to attend both shows. It may be, but after paying the price of admission for one visit, it is doubtful that great numbers will shell out a similar amount to see substantially the same thing a day or two later.

And then there is the matter of boats. Chris Craft, for instance, has had as many as 26 craft of all sizes on display at the Stamford show in the past. Rex Marine Center (under same ownership as Cove) is one of the biggest Chris Craft dealers in the country—at one time it was No. 2 in the nation and possibly still is.

What will Chris Craft do? Divide its fleet between the two shows, or ignore one or the other? Luhrs was big in Stamford but Rex sells more Luhrs than any other distributor in the East. And what about the big cloud of the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers which is sponsoring the Cove show?

Yacht Haven claims most of the exhibitors and boat manufacturers signed up for the Stamford show long ago. This is probably true, but what about next year? Should be interesting.

Getting back to fishing, this should be one of the best years for striped bass. Newwings at Continental Manor, York State has banned fishing. Neptune, one of the fastest in the Hudson River, where large numbers of our bass come from, and that should bring the big beauties to our

islands in tremendous quantity. The only trouble is that New York has banned the fishing because the chemical PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) has posed a "potential danger to public health" if quantities of fish are ingested by human beings.

The Connecticut State Health Dept. has taken samples of the water in the Sound and so far has found it not to be dangerous to human health.

It is possible that the fish will cleanse themselves in the Long Island Sound before they find a fisherman's hook.

We have been in touch with the Department of Environmental Protection, have been advised that further tests will be made and it is our understanding that fishermen will be asked to cooperate with the Dept. of Health and submit early catches for examination.

How dangerous it is to eat fish with PCB remains to be seen, but it is advisable to be careful. We remember, however, when the U.S. Public Health Service warned that the tasty blowfish (sea squab) are dangerous to your health—if you eat about 20 of them at one time sitting.

Thank You notes: To Flotilla 72, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Neptune Boat Club and Striped Bass Club for delightful evenings at Continental Manor. Neptune, one of the fastest in the Hudson River, where large numbers of our bass come from, and that should bring the big beauties to our

At the start of every year, we encourage all boating and fishing clubs in the area to submit news to this column. You can write or telephone us at the office (not at home) and we'll be happy to cooperate. The column is open to all. And—as we said before — every year, we make this offer and about mid-year — every year — we get complaints that this club or that is being neglected. If it is, it is your fault. No one is calling in the

the Coast Guard volunteers saluted their new helm, Commander Jack Mackey and Vice Commander Bob Gellman, and presented a plaque to Fred Speciale, who conducts more motorboat inspections each year than any other auxiliaries. Would you believe he has a total of 1,250 courtesy inspections to his credit! The auxiliary is also proud of the fact that one of its members, Tony Casabola, a former commander, is now division captain of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Emil Reish has been elected commodore of the East Newark Boating and Yacht Club. Gordon Brown is vice commodore; Wlad Reish, treasurer, and Edward Mackay, secretary. Board of Directors: Harold Martin, Frank Jarges and Alexander Alfano, past commodore, who was presented with a gift and life membership for his guidance as commodore over the past 18 years.

news. And so we suggest (once again) that every club appoint a public relations chairman whose duty it will be to call us about club activities, about the big fish that are being caught (or that get away), even new boats purchased by members, and who goes swimming in the marina.

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