Your casualty loss may be a tax deduction!

Residents in 12 New York coastal counties whose property has been damaged physically by a sudden, unexpected or unusual event may file for casualty loss deductions on their federal income tax returns.

According to the Syracuse office of the Farmers Home Administration, President Carter declared these coastal counties eligible for emergency loans in 1977 because of damages and losses caused by excessive rainfall, severe storms, heavy snow and freezing or frost: Cayuga, Chautauqua, Erie, Franklin, Jefferson, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Suffolk and Wayne. (Please note, this does not include areas declared disaster areas in January 1978 because of snow or ice storms.)

If your county was not declared a disaster area by the President, but you still suffered casualty losses in 1977, you still may be eligible for tax exemptions. A casualty loss is one that is swift and unanticipated—it does not occur in the course of day-to-day living. The loss must be caused by natural or other external forces in a sudden, unexpected manner.

Information about disaster and other casualty losses is available from Sea Grant in Insight Booklet #8, “Tax Information on Casualty Losses for Coastal Property Owners.” This booklet describes the types of losses that may be deductible on federal returns and helps shoreline owners understand how federal tax laws may assist in minimizing losses. Insight #8 was listed in the I WANT MORE section of our last issue. Two Sea Grant specialists also can answer additional questions about casualty losses. Call Bruce DeYoung, Fredonia (Great Lakes) at 716-672-2191, or John Scotti, Stony Brook (Long Island) at 516-246-7777. Gay Hawk, Media Specialist.

Critters + cooler + coins = catch!
by Michael P. Voiland, Sea Grant Extension Specialist

Paul and Jerry Miller of Hilton, New York, are now in the “fast food” business—if you happen to be an anxious angler who is after even more anxious game fish!

These proprietors of Skinner's Marina on Braddock Bay near Rochester have an interesting way of offering game fish “a meal in a minute.” This unique approach involves selling bait through the use of a vending machine—a cold sandwich vending machine to be exact. (See photo.)

The Millers invested in the used machine so they could dispense pre-packaged varieties of bait to anglers at any hour of the day or night. The live bait machine offers night crawlers, crayfish and bloodsuckers, which are packed in plastic or cardboard containers with water, bedding and some cornmeal for sustenance. This, plus the cool temperature provided by the machine's refrigeration unit, keeps the critters fresh and ready to invite a hungry strike once they're at the end of a line.

Paul claims, “it has worked out beautifully! The machine alone dispensed over 10,000 worms last season. There's no telling how many we would have sold if the possession ban and advisory against eating certain Lake Ontario fish hadn't been in effect.”

To be sure, the folks at Skinner's are happy with how things have worked out. And, there probably are many late-night and early-morning fishermen who are happier since it is easier to obtain bait during off hours—assuming they have the right change and no Canadian coins, please!

The January 30th issue of Sports Illustrated reported a fellow in Pennsylvania started using fresh bait “fast food” machines a couple years ago. New York's own version seems to be as effective.

Have YOU completed the readers' survey from our last issue? Please do!
New York takes a lead in mariculture research
by Nick DeGeorges, Sea Grant Extension Intern

New York industry has been a leader in mariculture, an evolving form of marine husbandry. For example, its fresh-water counterpart, aquaculture, the basic end product of mariculture is an increased supply of fresh-water fish, shellfish and other seafood for future sale. In New York, a more common form of mariculture is the propagation of seed oysters and hard clams in hatcheries for transplanting onto bay bottoms. Some mariculturists are also using polyculture methods, raising two or more species together.

In the United States, the commercially important salmon and oyster industries are increasingly dependent on hatchery methods. Of the approximately 30 percent of the total landings of Pacific salmon are reared in hatcheries, to fingerling size for release in rivers, lakes, and streams. And New York's Great Lake Salmon fishery is dependent on hatchery production. Also, some 40 percent of the U.S. oysters are produced by private culturals.

In New York, cultural practices are not new. Throughout history the oyster industry gradually has lessened its dependence on natural populations and increased dependence on cultural ones. In 1920, we began to raise oysters and other shellfish in hatcheries. Several years before that, two million lobsters were raised from eggs for release into Long Island Sound. Hard clam mariculture—raising seed clams in hatcheries and transplanting these on a bay bottom—is now on the increase in New York. Sea Grant funds are being used to support research into shellfish health and water quality in hatcheries used to raise seed oysters and clams.

All the apparent potential exhibited by mariculture does not necessarily mean it will succeed. There are many questions to be answered.

On Long Island, mariculture has important biological, economic, and social and political implications. A forum where these concerns could be aired was sponsored last fall by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York Ocean Sciences Laboratory, the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Board, the Marine Sciences Research Center at Stony Brook, Southampton College and Sea Grant.

The symposium brought to light the positions of involved state agencies, some of the problems mariculture faces in New York, as well as some of its successes, and the views and concerns of local fishermen and baymen.

Fishermen and baymen said they fear that the plentiful production offered by mariculture will mean the eventual leasing of all bay bottoms to large companies, which will cause the death of public shellfishing grounds and their independent way of life. One mariculturalist reported on the problems involving local government, coastal landowners and baymen in establishing his operation.

Other problems and issues addressed reflected the need for continued educational efforts to help explain the nature of mariculture. Like an iceberg, there is more to mariculture than meets the eye. Many problems need to be identified and resolved. Biological, technological, water quality, user conflict, and institutional problems (zoning, waste control, and licensing) are but a few. In the meantime, mariculture in New York state will continue to be experimentally and cautiously for some and challenging for others.

Lake Ontario levels critical
by Brian Doyle, Sea Grant Extension Specialist

As a result of above normal precipitation in the Great Lakes Basin and decreased outflows through the St. Lawrence Seaway, the lake level during the summer and fall of 1977, the water level of Lake Ontario was nearly two feet above its long term average for the month of February. This situation has caused concern among shoreline owners and marine operators alike because springtime levels are expected to reach a height of about 247 feet.

For the past 6 months, precipitation in the Lake Ontario Basin has been significantly above average. In addition, record inflows from Lake Erie have contributed to the water level problems.

Sand mining in NY Harbor's Lower Bay
by Peter T. Sanko, Sea Grant Extension Specialist

When large quantities of fill material are needed for major construction projects or on New York's waterfront, it's often more economical and practical to mine underwater sand than it is to bring it in by trucks from inland deposits. This is why the Lower Bay of New York Harbor is the most significant source of sand for fill in the New York Metropolitan area.

According to Jim Marotta of the New York Office of Geologist, some two million cubic yards of sand have been mined from the Lower Bay between the years of 1950 to 1973. This sand has been used for construction projects on Battery Park City, Ports Newark and Elizabeth, portions of the New Jersey Turnpike, and the Newark Airport extension. One of the most significant projects was the construction of the New Jersey Sports Complex. Four million cubic yards of lower Bay sand were pumped through a pipeline from the Hudwik River to Hackensack.

Two economic benefits obtained by being able to dredge and transport such large volumes of sand, some serious environmental concerns have been voiced. The future of sand mining will depend on a large extent on how it affects the environment. Considering that New York Harbor has been this state's largest port, solid evidence is found surprisingly little about its natural environment, and a lot less about dredging's effects on it.

For questions being raised by environmental and regulatory agencies, as well as by concerned New York citizens, are being addressed by Sea Grant. At present, a team of scientists, initially provided by the New York Sea Grant Institute, is now coming from the State of New York, through the New York State Office of General Service.

Research on study Long Island Bay sand mining & dredging
by Peter T. Sanko, Sea Grant Extension Specialist

What are the effects of dredging on the biology of the Lower Bay? Dr. Boudewijn Brinkhus and Harry Campbell of the Marine Sciences Research Center are trying to answer this question. Right now they're in the process of an effort to compare the biota in the bottom that previously has been dredged with the bottom of the Lower Bay that never has been dredged.

Preliminary results of this ongoing study indicate that undisrupted sediments on both the East and West Banks generally are impoverished of biota. Many of the West Bank dredged areas have been invaded by very fine silt, rich in organic matter, such that large numbers of macroinvertebrates were found in these fine sediments. Future research efforts will continue to obtain biota samples, to determine the amounts of suspended particles in the water column during mining operations, and to determine the composition, abundance, and distribution of the bottom-sediment collecting in the dredged areas.

Dr. Brinkhus will also be taking a look at what is happening to dredged spoil that was disposed in a deep hole resulting from previous mining operation. This hole, dredged to a depth of 90 feet is being filled to the 35 foot level. Thus far, about four million cubic yards of uncontaminated dredge spoil from the inner harbor have been deposited in it, and it has the potential to receive another 2.5 to 3 million more cubic yards of material. It is suspected that this dredge sclop would be dumped in the ocean. By using the dredge hole itself as a receiving area for sand similar to that on the surrounding surface, some environmental and economic benefits may accrue. Many of those facing the problem of having to dispose of dredge spoil are now beginning to think in terms of dredging holes for disposal of sand that could later be used for the disposal of dredge spoil or other materials such as sewage sludge.

Dr. Brinkhus' study of the uncontaminated dredged spoil should provide a little more insight into this important problem. Since changes in bottom topology or bottom contours have important affect on circulation, the question of how mining affects circulation in the Lower Bay also arises. Dr. Robert Wilson of the Marine Sciences Research Center is working on a mathematical model that predict the changes in water circulation that might be expected from mining operations in the Lower Bay.
Sand Mining continued from page 3

Why not squid?

There is nothing permanent except water. So if you're in the mining industry, you'll know this is true because of new regulations which have been passed. As one for Sea Grant said, "Before, when I shovelled off the dock there was only me and the "old lady" there, now you're suddenly likely to be a Coast Guard patrol plane."

A line of traditional and butter stocks like cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder resulted in legislation restricting fishing for these species (even closing the fishery the last week of 1977). Foreign fishermen are cut in half. It's the loss of access of foreign to stocks they traditionally depended on.

The options for foreigners and U.S. fishermen are similar. To stay in the fishing business means directing your efforts in accord with the new regulations. For many foreigners, this means forming joint ventures with Americans or going else-where in the world. Americans may mean forming non-traditional partnerships in the same or new areas, using modified or new gear.

Currently, foreign fishermen are permitted to take total allowable catches of fish like squid and hake. However, the foreign fishermen don't have a capacity to take in a year. But as efforts gradually are turned toward these, the volume, if the species, foreign fishing will be decreased.

As with any changes, problems may jeopardize such a new balance. Some of you would like to see squid and hake season for offshore fishing.

To cover costs, you need 15 cents a pound rather than the $1-2 a pound now offered. If you can't cover costs, you're stuck with smaller volumes and higher values. Squid and hake are bu- nks. Other New York fishermen will accept $150-200 per ton for hake when squid rather go out of business.

Development potential

So is it the potential for development for fisheries for New York and the Mid-Atlantic states? We need to know what the species like the striped bass, where and how to catch them. Fishermen need a price that will make New York worth while and a suitable market with the right handling and processing requirements. Two groups that fall into this category are squid—the long-finned squid have been designated as the finned summer squid (illex)—and red and silver hake.

Both species are abundant on the edge of the outer continental shelf—illex in the fall and spring; Long Island Sound. In addition, catches of squid traditionally have been less than 2,000 tons per year and are currently less than 2,000. Species. Catches in the Atlantic States increased by more than 4,000,000 by the 1974 season.

This past season, fishermen in New York were geared up take the summer squid and other species; however, low water temperatures delayed coastal migrations inhibiting potential catches. There still are markets, but eight cents a pound for illex is considered too low by many fishermen to warrant an effort. A 1977 summer survey showed bottom and mid-water trawls caught nearly two tons of squid per tow using mid-water gear. After you catch the squid, you don't have to keep it. Squid may be a replacement for the decreasing stocks of bottom fish in the area.

Preservation and preparation

Squid should be cleaned and blast frozen, but using a large capacity, deep-freeze summer stock. The fishing industry has an ability to take in a year. But as efforts gradually are turned toward these, the volume, if the species, if foreign fishing will be decreased.

As with any changes, problems may jeopardize such a new balance. Some of you would like to see squid and hake season for offshore fishing. However, to cover costs, you need 15 cents a pound. Squid and hake are by-products. Other New York fishermen will accept $150-200 per ton for hake when squid are not as good. There is a need for squid and hake. Squid being sold for the summer.

The 200-mile limit: One year later

A year ago, the Fisheries Conserva- tion and Management Act went into effect. It established regional fishery management councils around the country. Councils are now developing a management plan for each important species of fish. For New York, the council meets the Mid-Atlantic Council (covering Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York) sharing responsibility for developing the management plan for squid from 3 to 200 miles from our shores.

What has been the effect of this act over the past year? One thing is clear; foreign fishing is down. It decreased by some 50 percent from a year ago, and foreign fishing for certain species (such as Atlantic cod, yellowtail flounder, haddock, tilefish, and all invertebrates except squid) has been halted. Of equal importance, New York and other U.S. fishermen have found constraints on their fishing. American fishermen are required to have gear restrictions and to record keeping and identification requirements.

Councils have major role

Perhaps of maximum significance, a group of councils—Councils—now have legal involvement in establishing regulations for managing commercial fishing for major resources. The Council's role is to allocate stocks of fish considering the biological supply (sustainability) and demand factors (the stocks and the social and economical consequences of regulations).

This means the Councils have to determine a maximum sustainable yield of the stock, then plug in social and economical considerations to determine the allowable amount of species. U.S. fishermen are allocated the portion of this yield which they can harvest. There is any left over may be allocated by quota to foreign fishermen.

New regulations

While pleased with the reduction in foreign, illegal, and erroneous fishing, New York fishermen have found it difficult to grapple with this new management. Both foreign and domestic fisheries have to be regulated if the objectives of the act are to be achieved. The requirement for fishermen to keep logs books is new for most, such as charter and party boat operators. A significant number have not kept logs off such vessels; so, it's easy to see why regulations concerning with fish stock sizes have been so important to the management of the industry as well.

Clear recognition that the significant impact on the boat and sport fishing catch is not known is another pattern of the act's first year. Councils are working to get a better handle on that catch.

New management plans

The 200-mile limit has perhaps most clearly been seen in the management plans developed. The surf clam management plan is the plus quarterly quotas regulated by controlling the number of days fished per month, plus one year recently the new vessel entry into the fishery, possible closure of clam beds to protect immature clams, and mandatory record keeping and reports on activities.

The ground fish plan (cod, yellowtail and haddock) certainly has been one of the more controver- sial plans developed. The council has decided that the fishing for the ground fish, like the Northeast, and the basis of the fishery, many Americans love, are in decline. The council has established fishing areas; daily, boat trip and per man quota; size and gear restrictions; weekly reports; and inspection requirements. Charter and party boats in New York saw a problem with too much identification numbers on their boats, as well as with some problems in implementing the act. As was corrected—numbers now can be displayed on removable placards. Much of the same story for the surf clam and the two species of squid were also produced by the new regulations. The council is working on plans on flounder, surf, butterfish, fluke, river herring, black sea bass, and longspine spiny dogfish. Council has been busy in other ways, too, such as the resolution of the conflict between mobile gear (such as trawlers) and fixed gear operators (such as lobstermen, crabs, and oysters) will be likely that mandatory marking, identification reporting, and setting orientation and legal fishing in some areas. Boundary questions between the United States and Canada and better communication affected fisherman and other con- cerned agencies have also received attention.

The Fisheries Management and Conservation Act has had major impact on the fisheries of the state. As was envisioned by those who sought the act, the 200-mile limit has changed, will change. There will probably be more restrictions placed on foreign fishing, because this is a U.S. fleet. Regulations more readily compounded will probably be developed. Most important, more effective management and conserva- tion of the fisheries stock is imminent. As New York consumers and other fishermen will evolve.
More winter recreation!

by Michael P. Vollant, Sea Grant Extension Specialist and Jean L. Kinser, Sea Grant Extension Intern

Frost fishing, frost biting and bird watching may seem a bit unusual to folks who don’t think about using our Great Lakes for winter recreation, but they are fun winter/early spring activities just like ice boating, ice diving, ice fishing and ice watching described in our last issue.

Again, cold, wintry weather is the common factor. If you’re not up to trying those mentioned last time, maybe you’ll give these a try.

Frost fishing

You have to cut a hole to fish through the ice, but frost fishing only requires a rod and reel and, of course, a willingness to withstand the cold temperatures and waters of unfrozen bays and tributaries. Frost fishing really has come into its own with the successful introduction of salmon and trout (rainbow and steelhead) to Lakes Erie and Ontario.

“There’s good winter fishing if you’re serious about it in lake tributaries such as the Salmon and Niagra Rivers and Maxwell and Oak Orchard Creeks,” notes Ed Maxon, President of Rochester Trout and Salmon Anglers Association. “By using normal trout catching techniques with spawn (egg) sacks or spinners, latchin’ onto a Great Lakes steelhead is an exciting possi-

bility,” he added.

“Frosting” also is possible where warm water effluent from power plants attracts fish and keeps the surface waters from freezing. Os- wego Harbor, waters off Russell Power Station in Rochester, and Dunkirk Harbor on Lake Erie are frost fishing hot spots where salmon, trout, bass and other species are found.

According to Dunkirk Harbormaster Frank Napierski, the Dun- kirk City Pier can be quite an active mid-winter fishing spot when salmon and trout gather in the warmer harbor waters.

Frost biting

Frost biting refers to the mid-winter “wet water” fishing phenomenon gaining popularity at the mouth of the Rochester Harbor, where the Genesee River meets Lake Ontario, and to a lesser extent at Youngs- town on the mouth of the Niagara River. Here, frost biters such as Dick Wattle, professor of physics at Mon- roe Community College, race in open, frigid harbor waters. There are about 40 members in the Roch- ester Frostbiters Association who sail and sharpen their racing skills all winter long,” Dick said. The pro- fessor reports it is cold when they are sailing, but “you get used to it, and the day real early.”

Bird watching

Perhaps the most active and enthu- siastic of the winter recreationists is the confluence of great lakes or Atlantic waters should know how to survive in cold water. An increased awareness of the cold and of the potential for hypothermia, according to Chip Perrigo, a student at SUC/Brockport and member of the Lake Ontario Birding Association. “The lake, its wetlands, and other habitats are attractive to all sorts of birds and fishing throughout the colder months—water fowl, winter finches, and wintering warblers are a few ex- amples,” he said.

The Genesee Ornithological So- ciety sponsors field trips in the winter months to locations such as Nancy K. Geeli, East Hampton, Ex- ecutive Director of Group for Amer- ica’s South Fork, and William R. Pell, Greenport, proprietor of Pell’s Fish Market and Seafood Transportation. If you or your organization wish to suggest nominations for represent- atives to the council, contact the Governor’s Office of Marine Affairs. The Gov- ernor will submit his recommenda- tions to the Secretary of Commerce, and appoints representatives to the Council.

Opportunity for recreational fishing for swordfish has developed in the last couple of years and may be a possibility for Long Island charter boat operators. Swordfish have been caught in 900 to 1100 feet of water on squid baits fished from 60 to 200 feet below the surface at night in Florida.

In one Florida swordfish tourna-

ment, 60 swordfish totaling 11,296 pounds were taken, the largest weighed in at 491 pounds. Since that tournament, a fish weighing 1,915 pounds was caught!

The squid baits used are rigged with two hooks on 250 pound monofilament leaders about 13 to 14 feet long. Upright lure is made from a cut-up piece of old mackerel with a piece of rope. The fish is put in the air and descends, crosswise, in the current. The line is made of hemp and is lighter in weight than nylon.

Ice fishing is one of the most popular winter recreational activities in the Great Lakes region. Other winter recreational opportunities are discussed in the article on this page.
New York's Coast: The diverse Western Ontario—Erie shoreline

It's part of the coastline, yet it's separated from the Port of New York by hundreds of miles of mountains, valleys, and plains. It's an area of generally uniform, low relief, yet it displays one of the nation's most unique topographic features. Rural countryside dominates the landscape, yet it is the home of the greatest concentration of industrial activity in the State.

If the Western Ontario-Erie region were summarized in a word, that word would be "diverse." The region is more accurately described as a strip of land and water, extending linearly for about 575 miles. Portions of Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties are included in this swath. Offshore, the region spans the adjacent waters and underwater lands of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and Lake Ontario.

Geologically, most of the region lies within the Erie-Ontario Plain, but in eastern Wayne County drumlin formations interrupt the relatively flat landscape. At the shoreline, however, the edge is often defined by bluffs, rising to over 120 feet at Chimney Bluffs in Wayne County. In some places, rivers slice through shoreline gorges as they descend into the lake, creating gorges at Eighteen Mile Creek in Erie County, the Genesee River in Monroe County, and the lower Niagara River gorge. The spectacular Niagara Falls, 182 feet high and 1,075 feet wide on the American side, provides the State with its largest tourist attraction.

Glaciation formed the Great Lakes, first scouring out the lake beds as the thick masses of ice moved south, then filling them in with glacial melt waters as the glacier receded northward. Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes with an average depth of 62 feet, an occurrence caused by the presence of relatively resistant limestone in the lakebed. Beneath the limestone strata, the Medina Sandstone group is estimated to hold the bulk of the natural gas deposits under New York's portion of Lake Erie, which may be the subject of offshore drilling in the future.

Climate has had a profound affect on the region's growth and economy. The lakes serve to moderate onshore temperatures, creating 30 more frost free days during the growing season. Combined with good soils, the coastal region has been an ideal location for fruit farms. Vineyards along Lake Erie and orchards along Lake Ontario are now a distinctive characteristic of the landscape. The lakes also have been the source of a less beneficial phenomena: "lake effect" snowstorms result from substantial differences in air and water temperatures and can produce snowfalls of three feet or more in one day. The January 1977 storm which crippled Buffalo resulted from such a phenomena.

Today, Buffalo is one of the county's leading centers of heavy industry, and a major transshipment point in the northern United States. Abundant hydroelectric power has influenced the area's industrial development greatly. The Rochester metropolitan area also is outstanding for manufacture, focusing on light industry. Between the two metropolitan centers, orchards and vineyards, strip shoreline development, and vast open spaces distinguish the landscape.

The Western Ontario-Erie region reflects the problems of urbanized coastal areas across the state: declining economies, decaying waterfronts, and polluted waters. However, the level and extensiveness of industrial concentration in the Buffalo area, and the size of the city itself (second largest in the state), intensifies these problems in this urban setting. Rural needs such as preservation of farmlands, a statewide concern, also take on great importance in this region where specialized farming is dependent on unique coastal climates. Other problems, such as flooding and erosion of shore property, are particularly volatile issues in this time of high water level in Lake Ontario.

The Coastal Management Program can best address these and other issues in the Western Ontario-Erie region by first recognizing the diversity of the area and the uniqueness of its resources. Based on this awareness, a balanced plan can be devised which promotes increased economic activity and an improved quality of life for the future.
The Coastal Energy Impact Program

In order to encourage development of domestic energy resources and protect and manage the Nation’s coast, in harmony with the objectives of the States’ developing coastal management programs, Congress amended the Coastal Zone Management Act in 1976 to create a ten-year $800 million Coastal Energy Impact Fund and provide, for a period of eight-years, $400 million in formula grants. The CEIP monies, once they are actually delivered to the state, can be used throughout the state’s coastal area. Formula grants, or OCS Energy Activity Related Grants, on the other hand, are geared to those marine areas affected by Outer Continental Shelf Activities though monies can also be used elsewhere to prevent, reduce or mitigate any adverse effects caused by increased energy activity.

Local coastal communities feel the impacts of energy facility development most directly. In response to their needs, the CEIP aims to respond to development of energy resources in a manner consistent with the New York State Coastal Management Program.

The CEIP can provide assistance to help State and local governments meet needs caused by three categories of energy activities.

The most general category is Energy Facility. This category includes any equipment or facility used in the exploration for, or the development, production, conversion, storage, transfer, processing or transportation of any energy resource. This includes such facilities as electric generating plants; petroleum refineries; oil and gas storage tanks; ports and docks necessary for transfer of petroleum, gas, coal, or any other energy resource, as well as manufacturing facilities for energy-related development.

The second category, Coastal Energy Activity, refers to an energy activity that is dependent on or significantly affects coastal waters and requires that the facility be sited, constructed, expanded or operated in or near the coast. Such activity is limited by federal law to: Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) — related energy activity; Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) — energy related activity; and energy activity related coastal transportation, transfer, and storage of coal, oil or gas.

The third category, and most restrictive, is OCS Energy Activity. This is an activity directly related to Outer Continental Shelf development.

Although the CEIP is intended primarily to assist coastal cities and counties, as well as other eligible agencies within the defined coastal area, inland cities within coastal counties might also be eligible for funds, but only if impacts are clearly linked to a Coastal Energy Activity. For example, an inland community which is the site of pipeline fabrication to support offshore oil drilling could be eligible.

The CEIP provides five basic types of assistance: planning grants, environmental and recreational grants, Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) energy activity related grants, credit assistance, and repayment assistance.

Planning Grants are available on an 80% federal, 20% non-federal basis to help grant recipients prepare for the consequences of any new or expanded energy facility in the defined area.

Environmental and Recreational Grants, available on a 100% federal basis, are designed to help states prevent, reduce, or repair damage to or loss of valuable environmental or recreational resources caused by coastal energy activity. Environmental grants may be used to alleviate impacts resulting from previous coastal energy activity which cannot be traced to one party.

OCS Energy Activity Related Grants, or Formula Grants, are available on a 100% federal funding basis to plan for, mitigate impacts of, and develop public facilities and services as a result of OCS related energy facility development.

These funds are also the primary source of assistance to help local communities prevent, reduce or mitigate any adverse effects of energy or recreational resources as a result of a coastal energy activity that affects any part of a state’s coastal area as defined by the Coastal Management Program.

Another important feature of the Formula Grants is that monies can be used to pay the difference in cost between the least expensive method of providing a public facility and a more environmentally sound method.

Credit Assistance is available in the form of direct loans or guarantees of loans or bonds for the purpose of providing new or improved public facilities and services required as a result of coastal energy activity, especially when there will be a time lag between the time a facility is needed and the time the new facility and residents are generating local revenues.

Repayment Assistance is available to applicants who cannot meet CEIP credit obligations because expected revenue fails to materialize. Repayment assistance includes modification of credit terms, refinancing, a supplemental loan, or a repayment grant.

Capital improvement projects can be covered by CEIP funds if: (1) the community has borrowed money directly from the CEIP, or has used a CEIP guarantee; and (2) there is a change in scope of the energy activity so that projected revenues do not materialize.

For federal fiscal year 1977, New York State has been allotted $334,624 for Planning Grants. These funds must be allocated within the state by the Department of State prior to October 1, 1977.

Planning Grant monies are to be allotted to New York State by the federal government for fiscal year 1978 should be announced shortly. The other forms of CEIP assistance for fiscal year 1978 will depend, as with the fiscal year 1977 allotments, on OCS activities and finalization of the CEIP extended lateral seaward boundaries.

The beautiful Niagara Falls. Photo by the New York State Department of Commerce.
In the best tradition of the sea

by Bruce DeYoung, Sea Grant Extension Specialist

Gale-force winds which swept across Lake Erie in late January set the stage for a chilling rescue of stranded boaters by Dunkirk Harbor-based commercial fishermen.

The 12-hour ordeal began at 6 a.m. when two high school youths launched a 15-foot aluminum boat in Dunkirk Harbor to go fishing. Within four hours, a weather front dropped the 48°F temperature to 20°F and gusted winds to 50 knots.

As the two attempted to row to shore, wind pushed the boat into the rocks along the Harbor’s shores. One youth scrambled to safety, but the other apparently remained behind to save the craft. Shortly thereafter, the open boat was swept into ice-jammed Lake Erie.

Sensing his friend’s crucial dilemma, the land-bound angler sought help from Joe Vacanti, operator of Joe’s Marina, and his assistant Bill Gage. They launched a 14-foot outboard motor boat and raced to the rescue. Unfortunately, after reaching the stranded boat, their own rescue boat became disabled in the freezing water.

The U.S. Coast Guard in Buffalo and the Chautauqua County Sheriff’s Department in Mayville were then called in. Because the weather was severe, they could not use a rescue helicopter; however, they could use the sheriff department’s 26-foot “jet” boat. Sheriff navigation officers Robert “Toby” Pleszewski and Ernest Cowan set off about noon. They reached the previous rescuers and the fisherman in an hour, but because wind-driven snow obscured vision of the shore, the sheriff department’s boat also was stranded in the midst of ice floes reported to be 400 yards in diameter. Flares and community fire horns were used to no avail in an attempt to guide rescuers home.

The stranded group huddled in the frozen boat, now a part of the fast moving ice floe which began to move farther out into Lake Erie.

Another call for help went out to Stanley “Casey” Case of the “Gloria Mae” and “Red” Russel of the “Mary S,” two Dunkirk-based fishing tugs. Since the tugs were in winter storage, it took an hour to prepare them for launching. By then, it was nearly dark.

Despite known hazards and potential harm to their tugs, the skippers set out in search of the stranded group. After seven hours of searching in blinding snow and darkness, the “Gloria Mae” sighted the revolving blue light of the sheriff’s boat and took aboard five grateful people.

Because blowing snow had disabled the tug’s radar antenna, the skipper navigated by dead reckoning to return the survivors safely to Dunkirk Harbor at 11 p.m. The skippers saved the stranded people from certain death by exposure.

Although these actions speak for themselves, Chautauqua County Executive Joseph Gerace later summarized it best by noting that it was the persistent determination of the crews of two private fishing tugs which kept a major tragedy from occurring. “Their actions, above all others, were in the best tradition of the sea and should be especially commended,” he said.

The messages for Great Lakes recreators are clear—consult weather forecasts before venturing out and be prepared!

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