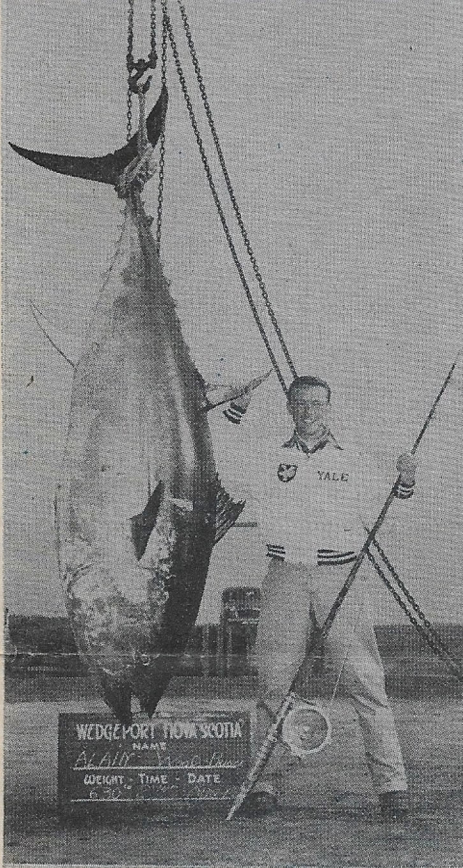


# JOE COLLEGE GOES FISHING

By Edward Migdalski

The second International Collegiate fishing competition will be held this month at Wedgewood, Nova Scotia, with teams representing St. Francis Xavier, Dalhousie and Yale Universities and Dartmouth College. The writer played a leading part in the organization and conduct of this unusual event.



Al Wood-Prince, captain of the 1956 Yale team, registers contentment with his prize-winning tuna.

**T**ODAY in the United States sport fishing holds a place of great importance for it directly and indirectly affects millions of Americans.

Statistics are dry—interesting only to the specialist. A volume could be written on tabulated and recorded data proving the importance of sport fishery and its many ramifications. I believe a few examples will suffice. More people (approximately .30 million) actively participate in fishing in the United States today than in any other sport or recreation. The production of fishing tackle is now a multimillion dollar industry. California's sport fishing for striped bass, salmon and steelhead is worth over \$35 million annually. The game fisheries are responsible for providing more jobs for fish scientists and other trained personnel than ever before.

Physicians and mental therapists recognize the great value of fishing and prescribe it as an important contributing factor towards good health, just as they prescribe medicines on a pad of paper. Industrial personnel managers, sociologists, juvenile delinquency officers and leaders of our churches attest to the value (in their respective fields) of fishing. The United States Government recognizes the necessity of recreational fishing. Our Fish and Wildlife Service now publishes "Sports Fishing Abstracts." This publication furnishes educational institutions with abstracts of the current literature in sport fisheries.

The latest indication of the truly tre-



Author Migdalski, right, shares some of his worldwide fishing experience with student competitors. Eddie Jaladas, extreme left, a student at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, plans to take some fishing lore back to his native Pakistan.

mendous rise of game fisheries to a place of importance in America took place during the 84th Congress. On July 27, 1956, the Fisheries and Wildlife Act was passed. The bill was signed by President Eisenhower August 8th. In brief, this act established for the first time a Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife and a Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, each with its own director.

It is not surprising, then, that the academic world is taking notice. Uni-

versities and colleges are making greater attempts to increase opportunities for students in the study of various phases of fishery science directly pertaining to sport fishing. Approximately 60 schools of higher learning have some means of treating the subject. School attitudes toward the matter differ; some take only the most formal academic approach while others lean completely to the other side by offering courses of instruction in actual fishing. (Turn to page 39)



# Joe College Goes Fishing

Continued from page 8

To make a sharp division between the academic and sporting problems of fish and fishing is wrong. It is amazing that many fishery scientists have only an academic interest in fish; in other words, just a choice of matter for study. On the other hand it has been demonstrated time and again that some sportsmen, who vociferously oppose the policies of good fish and game departments, do not have the foggiest idea of the academic problems involved. Therefore, I believe an attempt should be made in schools to integrate, in some measure, the academic and the popular phases of the study of fishes and fishing. I like to call this combination the "popular academics" of game fishes. I am sure that both the future scientist and the student interested in sport fishing would benefit greatly.

At Yale, the Bingham Oceanographic Laboratory recognizes the value of proper instruction in this field and contributes towards its development by instituting the Intercollegiate Game Fish Seminar and Fishing Match. The first annual event took place in Wedgeport, Nova Scotia, last year from July 31st to August 4th. Wedgeport was chosen as the spot to hold the seminar, not because fishermen from distant places have been attracted to Nova Scotia since the 16th century, but because it possesses all the requirements necessary for this event. The area has an isolated rustic beauty which is appealing; the famous "Novie" fishing boats and their colorful crews are there; heavy tackle and light tackle fishing is available; the accommodations are comfortable and the people are cooperative. Furthermore, housing facilities for lectures and demonstrations are within easy reach.

The program consisted of evening lectures on big game fish — tuna, black marlin and striped marlin—their identification, distribution, economics, etc. Demonstrations were held on baiting methods and techniques of tackle handling. During the day the students experienced actual fishing on big game fishing boats. To make the event more interesting, a fishing competition was introduced.

Since the idea was a new one a decision was made to start the affair on a small scale with two universities participating. Yale invited St. Francis Xavier University, of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, to participate in the first try. The entire effort turned out so successfully that the continuation of the seminar and match as an annual affair was assured. Each team consisted of five members and a coach, or faculty advisor, and two boats were assigned to each team. The students came from different parts of the

United States and Canada. Eddie Jaldas, of the St. Francis Xavier team, is a student from Pakistan, India, who displayed great enthusiasm and will attempt to interest school authorities in his country to sponsor scholastic fishing.

The big game fishing match between St. Francis Xavier and Yale was the first intercollegiate event of this kind ever to take place. The original idea of the meeting of college teams in a contest of angling skill, however, was the brain child of Ted Rogowski, while a senior at Amherst College. In May, 1949, Williams, Amherst, Dartmouth, Norwich and the University of Massachusetts gathered at Amherst for a two day match. One day was spent in competitive fly and bait casting for accuracy and distance and the next day the teams fished for trout. The affair was held again in 1950 and 1951 and then dropped.

In the fall of 1954, I met Mr. Reuben Trippensee, professor of Wildlife Management at the University of Massachusetts, and with him reorganized the event. Yale joined the group and in the last three years the tournament has taken place at the University of Massachusetts with great success. Mr. Trippensee, who has taught for many years, states "no man is going to continue to play football or do complicated calisthenics as he gets older, but he does need exercise. The idea of a fishing competition not only adds a new and pleasant phase to the in-school athletic program; it also encourages an interest and form of exercise that can be followed up through later life."

Not a single student attending at Wedgeport had previous big game fishing experience. Al Wood-Prince, Captain of Yale's team, captured a 630 pound tuna in an expert manner; thereby proving that the instruction given by the fishing faculty was successful. Mr. Robert Crandall, vice-president of Ashaway Lines, did a fine job of demonstrating the proper use of tuna tackle.

It was twenty minutes to four when Bob Crandall and I, in the judges boat, were preparing the four o'clock gun when we saw, about two hundred yards away, directly off our port bow, a huge boil as if a depth charge had gone off the stern of one of the contestant's boats. A tuna had struck! Immediately there was a frenzy of excitement as the lucky boat gunned its motors and peeled off and away from the rest of the boats. The throttle was wide open as they dashed after the speeding tuna with the "Novie" gracefully splitting the rough waters. The judges boat followed cautiously and ten minutes later Bob and I could see the white jacket of a member of the Yale

team in the fighting chair. We spotted the field glasses on it and saw that the angler was Captain Al Wood-Prince. We nosed around at a safe distance and watched Al do a tremendous job of working that tuna. Bob and I shook hands—we were sure that one of our pupils had not slept through our instructions.

The rules required that all boats were to stop fishing and to leave the rip at four o'clock—excepting, of course, any boat which had a "fish on." The judges boat had to return to fire off the gun. It was with reluctance that we tore ourselves away from the scene of action—we had been praying that somebody, anybody, would land one of the giant tuna. Two hours and fourteen minutes of suspense later, Al boated his tuna which won the trophy for the Yale team.

The objectives of Yale's Game Fish Seminar are: first, to instruct college students in fish lore and techniques of game fishing; second, to provide practical experience to support the theory; third, to provide fellowship on a common ground for young men from all states, Canada and, eventually, other countries; fourth, to give enjoyment to encourage learning.

Many incidents of fine sportsmanship were displayed by both teams and the St. Francis Xavier boys were the first to shout congratulations when Al Wood-Prince landed his tuna.

The Intercollegiate event again will take place this year from August 9 to 13 at Wedgeport. Yale has invited two more schools to send representative groups. The following university teams will compete for the huge Hulman Trophy—St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie, both of Nova Scotia, Dartmouth and Yale. The seminar and match is drawing country wide interest and I am certain the program, academically speaking, will again be a success—but we pray for giant tuna!

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