New Boat Registration Requirement

Since the hunting seasons are winding down, many sportsmen are turning their
to angling and there's a new requirement in boat registration which
apparently a good many are not yet aware.

Beginning this past Nov. 1, all applications for boat registration, whether new,
Renewal, transfer, or address change, must include the hull identification num-
bers to obtain boat registration certificate and numbers.

Hull identification number is a 12-digit combination of letters and numbers placed on all boats manufactured since 1973 and are located on the outside transom in quarter inch minimum lettering.

Owners of craft built prior to '73 should check for a metal tag serial number located somewhere in the boat. These numerals are required on all boats constructed before 1973 for registration by Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.

Backyard or other builders of homemade boats will be allotted a hull ID number by the Department when a registration application is submitted. Small boat building firms must apply to the U.S. Coast Guard for a hull ID number prior to sale of any boat.

These ID numbers serve as permanent identification to assist the owner in case the craft is stolen, according to Jesse Guidry, Department Secretary.

"Registration is mandatory on all motorized boats regardless of horsepower," pointed out the Secretary.

Louisiana currently has close to 300,000 registered boats, he emphasized, and the department processes thousands of applications monthly. Therefore, it's vital for expediting the registration procedure that the application instructions be carefully followed with correct information in all blanks, including the one for hull ID number, Guidry stated.

Sports anglers fishing Toledo Bend are being urged to cooperate in a three-year tagging program aimed at securing information on seasonal movements of striped bass on this large reservoir.

Fishermen catching striped bass at Toledo are asked to note any fish containing a blue plastic tag attached behind the dorsal fin. They are requested to report the tag number, date of catch and the area of the big impoundment where the fish was caught to Department of Wildlife & Fisheries, Toledo Bend Fish Station, Route One, Box 348, Anacoco, La. 71403.

Data obtained from this study will enable biologists to gather needed information on seasonal migration of the lake's stripe population.

Between the weather fronts which have plagued the Alexandria-Shreveport Diocese lately, anglers are taking good catches of crappie and black bass. Best baits for the crappie are shiners, jigs and small goldfish.

Some of the crappie fishers are also utilizing yo-yos to increase their catch. Bassers are using a variety ranging from plastic worms, jigs with pork, and deep divers.

Hotspots include Cleco Lake near Alexandria; Toledo Bend, Bisteneau and Cross near Shreveport and Black Lake near Natchitoches.

Nimrods are reminded that the quail and rabbit seasons end Feb. 28.