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IT USED TO BE

This month FLORIDA WILDLIFE is proud to present the first in a regular series of conservation cartoons by J. N. (Ding) Darling, America's foremost outdoor cartoonist. Ding's first drawing, "It Used To Be," which appears on the back cover, tells the story of our fading natural resources far more graphically than any printed word. Perhaps the cartoon exaggerates the situation a little, but sometimes we have to exaggerate to put over our point. And Ding certainly puts over a point—a very true and very tragic point. Like the pompous gentleman in the cartoon, we, here in Florida, are still proudly boasting of our wildlife wealth. But, ironically, while we are boasting, our crop of game and fish is growing steadily thinner. It doesn't take an expert to see that. Anyone fished or hunted the state twenty years ago is aware of the slow but steady decline of our wildlife population. Florida is lucky. She was born with a bulging back stock of wildlife. But the funds aren't unlimited. If we continue to spend that wealth with the careless abandon of a drunken sailor, the result is a foregone conclusion. . . . In fewer years than you think we too will be sadly observing that "It Used To Be".

Florida is generally conceded to be one of the nation's choice angling paradises. But when it comes to cashing in on the sport other states leave us at the post. Department of Interior statistics show that the Land of Sunshine ranks 30th among the states in the number of licenses issued and 20th in total fees collected. Our arch tourist competitor, California, led the list in revenue collected and was runner-up in total licenses issued. Last year she reaped over a million and a half fishing dollars from 764,557 licenses. During the same period Florida issued 84,999 permits for a return of $201,399.

A resume of fish bills introduced during '47 session

The 1947 session of legislature may have been just another session to some, but it was a field day for Florida fish. The finny tribe barged into the spotlight at the opening gun and stayed there until the law-making machine skidded to a halt early in June. It is doubtful if there has been so much discussion on aquatic life since the whale swallowed Jonah. During the 60-day conclave some 52 local and general fishing bills were introduced. They affected everything from the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to Henry, the pole-vaulting bass from Wakulla Springs. Of the 52, eleven became laws and the remainder fell by the wayside. Only one of the approved measures was a strictly local bill, three were general bills of local application, and the other seven were local legislation.

The general measure that passed was the famous "no-penalty" bill designed to reopen Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns river to commercial fishing. Introduced by Senator Pearce of Palatka, the act specifically exempts fishermen on Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns from punishment under game and fish commission regulations. The bill brought indignant protests from sportsmen throughout the state. Ralph C. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, pointed out that fish here bore no postmarks and that under such a law game fish could be netted from any lake and stream in Florida and sold under the pretense they came from Okeechobee or the St. Johns river. Despite these protests, however, the bill passed the senate by a one-vote margin and was whirled through the house in a landslide of ayes. Governor Caldwell would not sign the bill because he felt it was "bad legislation," but neither would he veto it, so it went on the statute books without his signature.

To plug a few of the more obvious loopholes in the measure, Representatives Hendry and Peeples, the two most ardent champions of the commercial fishermen, hustled through three general bills of local application to act as backstops. Two of the bills provided the manner and method of netting fish from the two bodies and the third placed a cent-a-pound levy on all bream and crappie taken by commercial netters. The tax goes to the State Board of Conservation, which was given supervision of the waters on the grounds they have been "legislatively" classified as salt water.

In the final analysis the above measures were the only commercial fresh water fishing bills enacted. However, the grab-every-doak boys were in there pitching every minute. By the time the lawmakers were settled in their seats, Rep. Hendry and Rep. Peeples began danging bills in the hopper. One, a bill of definitions, purported to clear up the disturbing question of what is a fresh water fish and what is a salt water fish. The legislative definition, however, did not altogether please with biological definitions, so the bill died in committee. Still another bill would have made the no-penalty legislation retroactive to
MISSING A BET

By
O. EARL FRYE

A LITTLE less than two years ago, one of Florida's most valid quail hunters would bend me in a little knee crease from Ponce de Leon and wave hand at the foxhounds that surrounded us.

"Ten years ago," he said, "I could see the birds go up in the wind and think the limit of quail on this one hundred-acre tract. Five years ago I could see a little fur and work my dog a little harder and do the same thing. But for the last two years . . ."

The hunter shook his head successfully.

"I could see, without a doubt that during the last two seasons I've spent at least 50 solid days chasing this area with all of the best dogs in the state, and last date I haven't won a single cover? Would you believe it?"

I solemnly assured him I would believe.

"But why," I asked, "is he deserted? What's the trouble? You've got to admit this is a quail paradise. Why aren't they living in it?"

I looked around. It was typical South Florida cattle country—open pasture, stud- ded with palmetto and sporting a thinner than pleasant aspect of some scrubby growth. Yes, as far as physical geography was concerned it was a quail paradise. That was as show- man as you can in any Greater Y. Yet it was equally obvious the area was barren of quail at the Goliath down. The hunters had found it out; the landowners had found it out, and officials of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission had found it out.

The hunters and landowners were discouraged but philosophic about the matter. Most of them took the stand that quail could not exist on some mysterious whim of nature, and that the quail is the only answer in a thin harvest. The Game and Fish Commission, however, knew better. They knew that, generally speaking, quail respond to cultivation and good land use the same as wheat, corn or any other product of nature. They felt that somewhere along the line South Florida was neglecting a bet on the bobwhite. It became my job to find out how, and what, if anything, could be done about it. That's how the so-called "Charlotte County Quail In- vestigation" came about.

Today that investigation is 18 months old, with each month it has become more evident that South Florida is indeed missing a bet on the bobwhite.

If properly managed the five-county area of Lake Oklawaha could well be- come a veritable mecca for the quail hunter. Nature has blessed it with enough ground cover to give the bobwhite comfortable living quarters, there is normally enough food for the birds, to keep the birds healthy and robust, and perhaps equally important is the flat open land which the bird can go and use the bird to show that the bobwhite has found a home.

Right now most of this country is used for cattle grazing. Many of these ranches, particularly in the Lake Okeechobee area, are able to pay their taxes by leasing hunting rights to eager nirudos. Yet their interest in preserving the quail is virtually non-existent.

This attitude is understandable to a certain extent. Many ranchers are firmly and honestly convinced that they can do no way that could promote the quail population without cutting their cattle feed. I recently discussed the matter with a prominent cattleman whose attitude was typical.

"Sure," he said, "I'd like nothing better than to be able to invite my friends here for a little sure-fire quail hunting. But beef is my bread and butter. You can't expect me to stop burning off any range and improving pastures just for the sake of a few days good quail hunting." He is right. I don't expect him to ren- tail his cattle the sake of the bob- white, because, fortunately, he doesn't have to. There is no reason why a landowner can't raise cattle or cut timber to his heart's content and still practice good quail management. All it takes is good judgment and a little effort.

There is no guaranteed method of quail management. You always have the weather and natural fluctuations in populations to contend with. But aside from these un- controllable element, there appear to be three main factors influencing quail crop in South Florida. They are hunting pressure, indiscriminate burning and cattle pasture improvement. There is no magic way of controlling burning, but there are ways to eliminate quail, hunting pressure, and cattle pasture improvement. There is no magic way of controlling burning, but there are ways to eliminate quail, hunting pressure, and cattle pasture improvement.

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**OCHLOCKNEE RIVER**
You'll find good bream fishing on the upper end of the Ochlocknee near the Georgia boundary. Best catches have been reported at Panama City. Bank fishing however, is poor, so be sure to make arrangements for a boat. You'll probably find earthworms the best bait. Water is a little too high for good angling on the south portion of the river.

**ST. JOHN'S RIVER**
Black bass are striking enthusiastically all along the St. John's, but the best catches have been reported south of Lake George. Parties from Orlando, Sanford and surrounding towns, have been claiming the limit daily on Decker Lake. Several 10-pounders have been reported. Best results have been obtained with the water plugs. Specially designed plugs are also doing well in the early morning.

**LAKE APOPKA**
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**APALACHICOLA RIVER**
Bluegills and shellcracker fishing along the upper reaches of this West Florida stream are striking worms with wild abandon. It offers particularly good angling in Goldberg and upper Calhoun Counties. Fishing is good time, but best in the late afternoons.

**ORANGE LAKE**
Located at the south end of Alachua County, this is one of the best bass fishing spots in the state. Currently fishermen are having the best luck near Red Rock Island and Grassy Bay. Flies are bringing good strings, but big ones seem to be coming for shiners. This lake covers approximately eight square miles, so you'll need a little more than a half-hour to cover the water if you want to try all of it.

**DEAD LAKES**
The Big Branch area in Gulf and Calhoun Counties has long been a favorite fishing ground for out-of-state anglers. Consequently some sections of the lake are weedy, particularly for bass. In the Five Stump area, however, they're catching the limit of bream and shellcrackers every day. Earthworms seem to be the best bait with catfish.

**LAKE TRAFFORD**
Big-mouths and blue bream are all striking with gusto in this Collier County lake. The big-mouths are going for a Johnson spoon aided, and obeyed by pork. Both the shellcrackers and bream prefer an earthworm diet. However, several anglers have reported good results from "pat-bellied" minnows. Lake Trafford is about five miles south of the Hendry County line, west of Bunker Hill.

**BLUE SPRINGS**
As a bream heaven this beautiful Jackson County body of water is second to Ochlocknee Pond. Practically anyone who can carry a pole and line is landing the limit here. Catfish worms are the best bait, with grasshoppers and crickets high on the list. Casting for bass is also good in the early morning.

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**SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS**

**IT WAS hard on the bream when the Lake Area Sportsmen's Club gathered on the shore of beautiful Crescent Lake for a giant fish fry. More than 100 members and their families had their fill of the delicious fish fry, cooked from the lake earlier in the day. The affair marked the beginning of an intensive drive for membership in the Round Lake organized. The Lake Area club, one of the most active small clubs in the state, has been responsible for obtaining more than 120,000 bream fryings for restocking Jackson County waters this year. Membership of the club now numbers 140. —C. S. Bryan.**

Clark Myers, Jack Albrecht, H. V. Pierce, Tom Chaires, W. F. Hinton, George Wallace, R. P. Woods and Joe Potter have been named directors of the recently-revived Manatee County Fish and Game Association. The new directors were elected at a meeting held in Palmetto.

President J. B. Tippin of Indian River County Rod and Gun Club discloses that through efforts of the club and with the cooperation of county commissioners and private landowners, Blue Cypress Lake will soon become a vast recreational area for local sportmen. Tippin says 25 acres along the shore of the beautiful lake has been donated for recreational purposes by Landowner R. L. Holman. Holman also contributed $1,000 to go toward improving the area. Rancher Hamp Sc人均 donated an extensive right-of-way to the 25-acre square mile fishing spot. A road to the area will be constructed by the county commission. The lake has been virtually inaccessible to fishermen for many years.

Porter H. Lansung of Sanford has been reelected president of the Seminole County Sportsmen's Association. This marks the fourth time Lansung has been named to head the organization. John Malish was elected vice-president, Elmer Moughton, Jr., secretary and George Stine, treasurer. W. E. Jamison was reelected custodian. Charles Brown and R. Lossing were reelected to serve on the board of directors, along with new officers R. A. Frank and Jack Russell.

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The Anglers' Club of Pensacola, Inc., was reelected new officei, Brown Rainwater, president; D. R. Bowman, vice-president; A. Swift, secretary, and Ed Courser, treasurer. The club, one of the largest in the state, now has a paid membership of nearly 800. Recently Anglers, Inc., accepted responsibility for feeding approximately 1,000 young quail distributed by the Game and Fish Commission in Escambia County. To date the growing birds have made away with over 400 pounds of feed. The club has also won its long campaign to halt industrial pollution of nearby Eleven Mile Creek. Officials of the local paper met told the club recently that equipment is now being installed to eliminate this condition. —Brown Rainwater.

Through the efforts of the Highlands County Game and Fish Association Lake Jackson in the northwest part of the county has been restocked with 6,000 bass fryings. The little fish, produced at the Winter Haven hatchery, were supplied by the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

At a meeting in Ft. Myers last month the Caloosa Hatcheries Conservation Club adopted a resolution asking the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission to open the closed lands in Collier County to hunting, subject to approval of that county. Resolution was proposed by Guy M. Strayhorn, city attorney and district vice president of the Florida Wildlife Federation. The club's fish commissioner, headed by Virgil Davis, also recommended that the Tamiami Trail be set as the dividing line between fresh and salt water for Lee County anglers. All waters west of the Trail would be labeled salt and those east fresh water. This would be to the suggestion of the county commission. This body approves, the proposal will be presented to the game and fish commission.

First place in the Kissimmee Sportmen's Club May fishing contest was taken by Club President Harry Milford. The prize was a state standard. Second place, a tackle box, went to Roy Bronson, and third place went to Roy Portin. Other prize winners included Marion Tendall and Tony Rotundo.
FISH AND THE LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page 7)

include "all personally procured." It was also stated by the committee on game and fish.

On the basis of these proposals, a joint committee for a constitutional amendment was established to present its findings to the Florida Water Fish Commission from passing out.

In any case, the amendment would provide for the conservation and propagation of Florida water a federal amendment, as well as the constitutional amendment under which the commission is now operating.

Approaching this whole problem of fish conservation, along came a bill which would have made it possible for Game and Fish Commissioners to do what was being done by other states.

The bill, now before the legislature, would have set up a system of licensing for various types of game fish and fishing privileges, and still another would have established uniform rules and measures in fish conservation.

All measures, but as in each instance developed.

Midway in the session Rep. Carter of Alachua County introduced a bill providing for licensing. Fishing and trapping licenses for all Florida counties were now showing disbursements, and with the advent of a natural water supply, there are now 16,000 such users in the state. Baker of Liberty County went a step farther and introduced a proposal which would grant the same privilege to all counties regardless of whether they were fishing or not. The former passed the house but died in the upper chamber without reaching a vote, while the latter was killed in committee.

Several measures, designed to produce better conservation results, were introduced, but all met a still wall of opposition. One would have provided a new method of fishing license, with exceptions; another would have raised the annual non-resident fee from $17 to $15, still another would have limited the number of tags allowed. Lastly, another would have provided for all fishing guides, and a fourth would have changed 20 per cent of all fees derived from the sale of gasoline for motor boats to the Game and Fish Water Fish Commission.

Another 20 per cent of this revenue would have gone to the State Board of Conservation, and the remainder toward the improvement and preservation of all waterways.

These three bills were voted by the committee and the other two on the floor.

Other general bills that died abroad were: One to change the expiration date on fishing licenses to one year from the date of issue; one which would allow the legislature to control the power of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and a third that would have made the laws on netting game fish applicable to "those who acted in good faith and in compliance with legislative provisions."

One of the seven local bills that went through without a hitch was a measure authorizing the Everglades River, wild life refuge to fishing. The 900-acre sanctuary, one of the beauty spots of North Florida, was "legislatively" approved despite the fact that it and all other state refuges fall under the jurisdiction of the Game and Fish Commission.

Other local measures included a "no-hunting" bill pertaining to fishing on Lake in the County; a bill providing for a license fee of $8 for non-resident fishing in Washington County, and a bill permitting residents of Jackson Count to fish in private ponds without a license.

These, in a nutshell, were the procedural problems that the 1947 legislature had to deal with. The flood of bills had a disturbing influence on some of the legislators. When the brow-beating body adjourned, one member of the house game and fish committee swore he had become so fish-minded during the 40-day session that he couldn't pass a 2000-foot wire without striking at it.

WILDLIFE FLEES FLOODING GLADES

Wild game in the Everglades was forced to forsake their homes for higher ground only this month as virtually incessant downpours virtually inundated the whole vast area.

State wildlife officers in the area said coons, opossums, deer, wildcats and other animals were fleeing before the rising floodwaters. In some sections young quail and turkey have been trapped by the water. In most areas, however, it appeared that the game bird crop would not suffer too much.

In the western section of the glades, best known for quail hunting, young bobwhites are apparently still able to find feeding and nesting grounds.

Ben C. Morgan declared wildlife officers were doing what they could to protect game in the area, but added that they "weren't much they could do."

Snakes are also moving out of the inundated section. One family near Paokoee were forced to move from the area because of the torturing reptiles.

A beautiful buck, startled by the camera as he flees the flooded Glades area.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

GAME and FISH VIOLATIONS

Name of Violator | Violation | Fine | County | Arresting Officer
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
A. Smith, Oakland Park | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
B. Smith, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
C. G. Morgan, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
D. R. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
E. R. Worsham, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
F. G. Morse, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
G. E. Homan, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
H. C. Miller, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
I. C. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
J. H. Pinther, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
K. T. Pitler, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
L. T. Mounce, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
M. C. Muncie, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
N. B. Moss, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
O. W. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
P. M. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
Q. W. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
R. M. Noonan, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
S. L. Muncie, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
T. B. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
U. G. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
V. R. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
W. W. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
X. M. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
Y. R. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
Z. C. Martin, Orlando | Possession and sale of bass | 10 | Orange | J. Smith
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---

* Bond pending. ** Suspended sentence. ** S.D. Barnes released.


COMMISSION SETS '47-'48 HUNTING SEASON

Florida moved a step closer toward a uniform hunting season last month when the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission adopted a statewide Nov. 1 to Jan. 5 season for 1947-48.

At their June 23 meeting here, the five-man board set a uniform opening and closing date for all five conservation districts. Hunting will run unchanged in the First, Second, and Fourth Districts, while the Third District will be allowed to open and close eight days earlier than in the First and Fourth Districts. Each district hunting will be prohibited on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays in the First, Sixth District. The season will be the same as the deer season in the First, Second, and Fourth Districts.

Qual and squirrel may be shot from Nov. 20 to Feb. 1 in all districts except the Third, where the closing date was set at Feb. 15.

The commission also recommended a Feb. 1 closing date on dove to the federal government, with the opening date set as early as possible.

In view of the expected short waterfowl season, also set by the federal government, hunting of these birds will be allowed every day in all districts.

The same "within-the-season" hunting days set for deer will apply to all other game.

In reply, Commission Chairman Lester Vann of Jacksonville declared the commission was "as eager to see uniform game laws as anyone."

"However," he explained, "each commissioner on this board represents the people of his district and he must follow their demands as far as is reasonably possible.

"It seems," he added, "that each district wants uniform law, but the folks in the other districts want to keep their law. For that reason the people themselves will have to determine how soon Florida gets a uniform hunting season."

The commission also approved the 1946 game management plan for the Ocoee, Ocala and Apalachicola National Forests. The controlled deer hunt for Ocala was reset for the entire month of December. Forest service officials had requested that the hunt be cut to 15 days. The trapping laws for Apalachicola were also reappraised. The bear hunt for this forest differs only one day from that for Munson.

Last year three were allowed, this year the number was doubled.

"In order to improve waterfowl conditions in the Second and Fifth Districts," the commission approved prehunting the use of all air-propelled guns in these areas from Nov. 20 to Jan. 5 of 1948. The act would prevent hunting from three to five hours of daylight and three hours of darkness.

In the Third District all motorists were banned from Lake Okeechobee, Jackson and Monocomee from Oct. 15 to Mar. 15.

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WHO SAYS FLORIDA HAS NO BIG GAME?...Kern Burton, Baker County hunter, killed a 204-pound black bear within "bulletin distance" of Mackinac. The bear was spotted crossing the road at Mile 191, just north of town. Less than an hour later Burton's dog had him in a large tree. The hunter said it took four charges of buckshot to bring him down. A week later E. M. Martin, Citrus County hunter, trapped and shot a 45-inch wildcat near his home in the Lake Lindsey area.

A. S. McEwen, wildlife officer in Alachua County, recently confiscated 350 yards of drug seen taken from Lochlosha Lake.

Wildlife Officer H. A. Atkinson predicts a better-than-average deer season for Nassau County this year. He reports the breeding stock is good and says the young will thrive this year. He said, however, that the weather's been coarse to a very bad hunting season.

In Dixie County the turkey crop is looking up. Officers Green and Martin report there appears to be some bombs and better hunting than last year.

THEY DOUBLE AS LIFEGUARDS

Wildlife Officers Rhodus N. Hill of Quincy and W. L. Stoff of Javascript do not only enforce game and fish laws, but are double in dress as life-

guards.

Between the two officers they have saved nine lives in the past few years. Hill hit the jackpot when he rescued five persons from Lake Tal-
quin in one day. Creating the lake,

later in the day as he was re-


cursing the lake he spotted two more men struggling in the water for
day. It developed their boat had also been powered by rough

water.

Stoff was credited with saving the lives of three teen-age girls and a three-year-old boy after he saw their boat capsize in Lake Maconore.

Stoff said the small child had gone down the second time when he returned. The officer rescued the child after and administered artificial

respiration until he was revived. The youngest was out with a fishing

party from Marianna, Ga.

Warden School Planned

Two schools of instruction for all state wildlife officers and honorary game ward-

en will be conducted early in August by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

A two-week instruction period will be held in Tallahassee Aug. 5-15 for officers in the Second, Third and Fourth districts, while another session will follow in Orlando Aug. 7-8 for agents in the remaining three districts.

State enforcement agents of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, officials of the FBI, and Red Cross first aid experts would be acting as guest instructors at the sessions. Judges and presenting officers from the other districts of the state also have been invited to give their views on the enforcement of game and fish laws.

Officers E. F. Campbell and Thomas Staniford recently rescued seven 3,000 fish from an abandoned boat at Little Big Cape Harbor.

The fish, some of them whales, were removed to near-by


depth water.
A well-known fisheries authority presents some new and important views on—

FISH CONSERVATION

By DR. R. W. ESCHMeyer
Tennessee Valley Authority
Reprinted from the Tennessee Conservation

If a dozen individuals were asked to define fish conservation we would get a dozen different answers. This would probably be true of fishermen, it would probably also be true of conservationists.

To some the answer is, "Fish conservation is to restrict the number of fish taken by any fisherman, so that there will be fish left for others." Others would think it meant a fish hatchery program. Still others would think of closed seasons, in which no fishing is allowed during certain periods. Yet others would think that fish conservation is not possible, since even conservationists have no clear-cut views of what fish conservation is.

This confusion of ideas comes from our lack of knowledge of the fish we are trying to save. Actually, a lake or stream differs little from a pasture. The "haymakers" in those days would object to the act of a farmer cutting away hay. Fishermen have caused serious destruction of natural conditions and understanding of conservation, and this has delayed its development.

Fish as a crop. If they are not harvested within a reasonable length of time they die, as do many annual creatures. That reasonable length of time is much shorter than most of us realize. In TVA waters most of the fast-growing fish must be harvested during their first four years of life (White bass during their first three years) or they are lost to the fishery at all. Of course, an occasional fish lives longer, but as an occasional man or woman woman lives far beyond the average life span of both species the accomplishment is considered exceptional.

The fish crop should be harvested. The fishery which provides someone a livelihood and eventually ends up in a bygone past serves a much more useful purpose than one which never samples the angler's line. Too, since fish are"living' crops and since a body of water will support only a limited number of fish, a substantial portion of the crop must be removed each year to make room for the next crop. Fishing rights on most waters belong to all citizens residing in the state. Our forefathers were democratic enough to prevent development here of the European type which makes fish and game the property of the chosen few. The question of equitable distribution of fishing opportunities is therefore a most significant one in the fish harvest problem.

The owners must harvest the crop. The owners of the fish, the public, are more interested in harvesting fish than in preventing others from taking more than their share of the crop. For this reason sport fishing must be restricted to the use of hook and line, in most instances. While it is true that some, call of course, there will be some illegal fishing, single breed stock is generally present regardless of fishing intensity, and serving the purpose of fish regulations, other than that limiting the bear, is to provide fair distribution of the catch to the fish crops. Fishermen administrators frequently worry a great deal over the possibility of "hunting out" our waters. In this section we have now evidence to suggest that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to reduce the sport crop to any great extent by "hunting out" a water to the point where an adequate breed stock remains. Fishing become unprofitable, the sport crop increases its share of the fisheries resources.

Conservation Practices

Of the various fish conservation activities, several major ones deserve mention, and these are:

1. Stocking—When we realize that a single female fish may produce from 5,000 to 100,000 offspring per year, we

2. Law enforcement—Certain limits are necessary to provide a fair distribution of our fish resources. The one hunting our harvesting equipment to the back and use is certainly most significant in this respect. Some regulations, however, that may made without benefit of scientific investigation, may do more harm than good.

3. Environment improvement—More fish of the desired kind can often be produced by making changes in the aquatic pasture. We all know that adding lime makes it possible to raise maize on land which would otherwise not grow water corn. So too, aquatic pastures can be treated to provide improved growth conditions. Growing grass can be improved, more shelter can be provided, fertilizer can be added to unproductive crops, and, in some instances, (for example, fertilizing is excessive), and water levels can be adjusted.

4. Keeping the population in balance—There are other methods of fishing, including weanling, netting, and seineing which might be considered forms of recreation, and probably they are not without fishing methods. For this reason sport fishing must be restricted to the use of hook and line, in most instances. While it is true that some, call of course, there will be some illegal fishing, single breed stock is generally present regardless of fishing intensity, and serving the purpose of fish regulations, other than that limiting the bear, is to provide fair distribution of the catch to the fish crops. Fishermen administrators frequently worry a great deal over the possibility of "hunting out" our waters. In this section we have now evidence to suggest that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to reduce the sport crop to any great extent by "hunting out" a water to the point where an adequate breed stock remains. Fishing become unprofitable, the sport crop increases its share of the fisheries resources.

5. Creating more water—Aquatic pastures like other pastures, will produce only a given amount of livestock. If we want more fish, we must increase the area that can support crops or bigger waters. The farm fish pond program is greatly increasing the amount of fishing water. The teaching of fish conservation would progress much more rapidly if we taught the sport crop to any great extent by "hunting out" a water to the point where an adequate breed stock remains. Fishing become unprofitable, the sport crop increases its share of the fisheries resources.

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No Penalty Bill Ruled Invalid

The 1947 legislature's act creating commercial restrictions on lake Okoskabah and the St. John river from railroad ends under the Canadian water pollution regulation has been declared unconstitutional.

In another case handed down in the late July, Judge H. A. Siegel has signed the "null and void" order and the State Fish and Game Commissioner has been given authority to enforce its commercial fishing laws on the St. John and Kasahegan rivers.

The case came during a hearing on a petition for injunction filed by the Maine State Game Association against the State of Maine, the Department of Fish and Game and the St. John river. The case, not yet set for trial, remains on the calendar.

The action of the Commissioner described Judge Siegel's decision as the first step in clearing up the "confusion and chaos" created by the state law, which went into effect on Lake Okoskabah and the St. John river at the beginning of this year. The State Fish and Game Department has kept the situation on the St. John river at a standstill since the beginning of the season.

In effect this left the Commissioner with a court-approved regulation and no means of enforcing it.

The Commissioner has also attacked the validity of the three other acts, which give the State Fish and Game Department the power to erect fishing and hunting restrictions on Lake Okoskabah and the St. John river. In a "friendly" suit filed in the Lewis County court, the Commissioner has asked that the salt-water spirits be taken out of the lake, the game and fishing laws of the State be upheld.

The decision of the court in that suit has also been declared invalid.

In Pennsylvania the law has been upheld.

PENSACOLA LA ASSURED

According to reports from Washington the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service laboratory in Pensacola will continue to operate despite the severance of the service's recent budget.

A superreddition of appropriations has authorized Albert M. Y. Bishop, director of the fish and wildlife service, to rearrange funds to keep the laboratory in operation.

This service had been instructed to cancel plans to close the laboratory in response to the severance of the service's recent budget.

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Books


This book is the first comprehensive attempt to treat environmental improvement for wildlife as it can be accomplished by land use. It discusses field borders, windbreaks, streambanks, windbreaks, gulleys, ponds, swamps, and other land features—treatment and wildlife values. Sections of the book also discuss the use of coupland pasture, range, woodland, and forest in relation to their influences upon wildlife. Much that has been learned during the past decade by U. S. Conservation Service biologists as the book is dedicated—will be found in this treatise.

"The Land and Wildlife" is more than a consideration of land improvements, however. The introductory chapter gives cultural values of wildlife, the second presents a readable chronology of the history of wildlife management in the United States, while the third tells of the importance of the land-use approach to wildlife welfare. Other chapters deal with wildlife values, harvest, and other matters of interest. The final chapter, annual food patches, and winter feeding grounds in for criticism from the land-use standpoint, and an eyebrow is even raised at the value of refuge. The author's comments on sportsmen's relations are much to the point. It has a splendid bibliography and index.

ALASKA'S ANIMALS AND FISHES—by Frank D. Rumin. 297 xvi pages. 14 splendid full-page color plates and numerous reproductions of original line drawings by Bob Hines. Published by A. A. Shaw and Company, New York. Price $5.00.

This beautifully illustrated, superbly written book is the enduring kind that you will cherish year after year and hand down to your intimate friends. It is a comprehensive treatise on the strange and disappointing animal and fish life found in that far-reaching wonderland—America's last frontier—which every outdoorman has longed to see. The author, a born naturalist, who spent nearly twenty-five years in Alaska, really knows the strange land and sea creatures of which he writes. Their habits and characteristics unfold in a pleasing fashion.

THE RUFFED GROUSE—by Frank C. Edmonds. 383 xvi pages. 56 plates, numerous tables and charts illustrating and emphasizing important points in the text. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York, 1947. Price $5.00.

In this delightful, well-illustrated monograph is a factual account of one of America's most popular and fascinating game birds. No other bird has been cited as frequently in the pioneer records of the New World. The ruffed grouse or "partridge" is legendar in many parts of its former range, and here are the facts on the native species that is too frequently confused with the European Turdus. This is the life story, the ecology and a guide for the management of the ruffed grouse. The text is backed up with wide experience, with many observations and numerous reports on the fundamental factors that influence the numbers of wildlife of all kinds. With the accuracy and care with which it is written, this book fills a long-existing need. The wildlife technician, land management biologist, and student will use it as a reference. The specimen will find it in the practical things that have to be done if ruffed grouse are to be perpetuated, and are to increase.

CATCHES OF THE MONTH

June was a great month for the Florida angler. Good catches were reported from all over the state. Here are a few of the choice strings hooked during the month. (ABOVE) Fred Engle and Lloyd Fleming of Kissimmee with a beautiful string of black bass they took early in the month. (RIGHT) Little Bobby Rogers of Leesburg proudly displays a whopping 14 pound 12 ounce bass hooked in Lake Griffin. The big-mouth beauty was caught by T. E. Strine of Bloomingtown, Indiana. (LEFT) Earl Tranflom of Wimauma Lake with a one-day catch from Wimauma Lake. (BELOW) These two strings of bream and shellcrackers held by John Owen were caught in Bear Creek, near Camp McAllister with pole and line.