

OREGON STATE

# GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

APRIL, 1956





**Oregon State  
Game Commission Bulletin**

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request.

**March Meeting  
Of Game Commission**

The Oregon State Game Commission at its meeting on March 16 acted upon the following matters:

**DEPOE BAY.** Approved construction of a boat hoist to provide angling access.

**DELPH CREEK HATCHERY.** Accepted the bid of R. N. Mills for \$17,599 for the property.

**RED HAT DAY.** Approved participation in the 1956 Red Hat Day program.

**KEEP OREGON GREEN.** Authorized annual contribution of \$250.

**DEVILS LAKE.** Announced hearing to be held April 13 to consider liberalization of game fish bag limit.

**FIELD TRIALS.** As an experiment, consented to holding of field trials April 5 to 8 on E. E. Wilson Management Area by the Pacific Coast Dog Championship.

**OAK ISLAND.** Authorized negotiations with Multnomah Park Commission regarding cooperative program on Oak Island area.

**WALTON BEACH.** Accepted offer of Beaver Izaak Walton League to install sanitary facilities and garbage cans at Walton beach on Sauvies Island.

**GAME FARM SCHEDULE.** Approved 1956 game farm production schedule as outlined by staff, proposing a reduced production for pheasants and chukars.

**ROGUE RIVER ACCESS.** Exercised option for \$8,000 for new access project near town of Rogue River.

**NEXT MEETING:** Decided to hold next meeting on Friday, April 13.

April 28 opens the trout season in all sections of the state except for waters having special seasons or closures. A major exception is the season for Cascade national forest lakes which have a season opening on May 26.

General trout bag limit remains the same—10 fish per day, not more than 5 of which may be 12 inches or over. This is doubled for the possession or 7 consecutive day limit.

\* \* \*

The 1955 Game Commission Bulletin index has been printed and copies may be secured upon request.

\* \* \*

Time to put up wood duck nest boxes—those of you who have spent part of the long, cold winter building them. Game department personnel have constructed 203 new boxes for the Willamette Valley area.

\* \* \*

This winter's receding flood waters left fish stranded in many potholes in the coast area and kept personnel busy trying to salvage as much as possible. Rescue of 1,500 yearling silver salmon from overflow ponds of the Coquille River was accomplished with the assistance of the Myrtle Point Sportsman's Club and the Bay Area Spin Club.

\* \* \*

Deer herd composition surveys during late fall and early winter included the classification of 3,426 blacktail deer and 14,186 mule deer.

For the western Oregon blacktails the ratios were 31 bucks per 100 does and 65 fawns per 100 does. This is a decline of 8 per cent in the number of fawns from the last four year average.

For mule deer the fawn ratio remained the same but buck percentage was higher. This improvement in the sex ratio, 29 bucks per 100 does, probably is due to last fall's more liberal harvest of antlerless deer.

**QUESTION BOX**

Q. I have held a disabled veteran's fishing and hunting license for several years. I cannot understand why this year in order to renew the license I have to get another letter on my disability rating from the Veterans Administration.

A. The 1955 legislature amended the law by providing that each year the Game Commission must receive information as to the applicant's **current** disability before renewing the license. In some instances this rating could change and fall below the 25 per cent disability rating required for the special license.

By next year we hope to have a plan worked out whereby the Veterans Administration will send us a list of all the disability ratings against which we can check each application when received. If this can be done, then you will not in succeeding years have to submit a letter with each year's application.

★ ★ ★

Q. Does the Game Commission regulate the taking of clams, crabs and other shellfish for personal use?

A. No. Shellfish, whether taken for commercial or personal use, come entirely under the jurisdiction of the Fish Commission of Oregon.

★ ★ ★

**Question:** The law says you do not need a license to angle for other than game fish in salt water. What fish are defined as game fish?

**Answer:** Besides all species of trout, the following anadromous fish when taken by hook and line come under the game fish classification: salmon, steelhead, striped bass, shad and sturgeon. Other species classified as game fish are whitefish, channel catfish, bullfrogs, bullhead catfish, black bass, sunfish, crappies and perch.

**COVER**

Game Commission field agent checks week-end trout anglers at Suttle Lake. (Photo by Ron Shay)

# So You Want To Go Fishin'?



By RON SHAY, Information Representative

SO YOU WANT TO GO FISHIN'? Well, take off. What with the large variety of water and types of country in Oregon, fishing is available in some form the year around.

From the ocean to the high lakes of the Willows, Oregon's 15,000 miles of streams, 400 miles of coast and over 1,000 inland lakes provide some type of fishing to satisfy all tastes.

It is not possible here to describe in detail all of the various kinds of fishing. However, if we have stirred up a bit of interest on your part, write in to the Game Commission for a copy of the leaflet "FISHING IN OREGON," which gives you more information on the fishing available in the state and the areas where it may be found.

The pictures and chart accompanying this article will give you an idea of what the state offers. We'd like to point out a few of the fishing opportunities shown on the chart although we can't discuss them all.

The ocean supplies a year around opportunity to catch bottom or rock fish and presents one of the most interesting forms of fishing to be found in the state. There is no license or bag limit for this kind of fishing and the most intriguing part is the fish caught. You never know what is liable to be on the end of the line when you pull it in. Though some of the specimens that come from the briny are rather weird looking, the majority of them make mighty fine frying pan fixin's.

Another year around fishing is the one for warm-water species. Of course, as the name implies the best time of the year for these fish is when the weather man gives forth with some summer weather. Included in this group are the bass, crappies, perch and catfish, species often ignored by anglers here in Oregon but

furnishing some of the most important fishing in the United States as a whole.

Also providing a year around challenge to the angler is the bottom cruising sturgeon. Summer months seem to be most popular for fishing for these monsters though more and more are being caught at other times. The main draw-back to fishing for them during the winter months is the weather. It isn't particularly an active type of fishing and that cold rain and wind can be mighty miserable.

Whitefish and Dolly Varden offer year around fishing in many waters as they may be fished whenever and wherever there is an open season for trout, salmon or steelhead. And, contrary to many rumors, whitefish and Dollys provide good eating. The former has the same bony structure as the trout and in many areas of the country is highly prized. Dolly Varden taste about the same as trout of comparable size.

Trout anglers also have year around fishing available in a few places. A close check of the angling synopsis should be made before you embark on this type of fishing, however. One area that is quite popular in the winter is that part of Klamath lake open to rainbow trout fishing. Some whoppers are taken there at times.

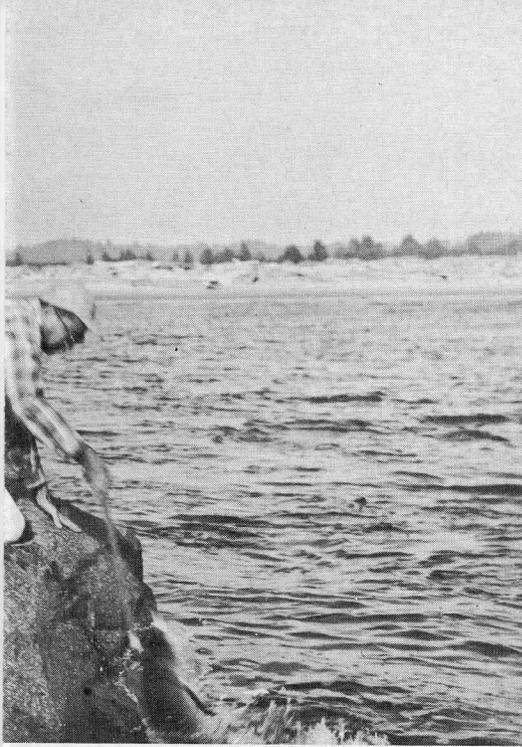
It might be well to mention some of the newer types of fishing being developed in the state, or those that are somewhat different than the regular trout fishing.

Recently a new kind of trout fishing was created when golden trout were planted in some of the high Willows lakes. One comment that might come up here is, why make the darn things so inaccessible? Mainly, because that is the

Continued on page 7







Activities of coast streams a thrilling sport.

The Little Deschutes River produces some good-sized rainbow trout for fly fishermen.

In other cases, though the season is open year around but the fish are caught at certain times only, this is shown on the chart.

This chart shows general dates only . . . the official angling synopsis should be consulted for exact dates, open areas and bag limits.

# FISHING

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Umpqua				FALL CHINOOK SALMON	
NOOK & SILVER SALMON			SILVER SALMON		
	STEELHEAD- <i>John Day - Deschutes</i>				STEELHEAD- (Zone 2)
				STEELHEAD- (Zone 1)	
PACIFIC WATERS					
TROUT					
E. BROOK TROUT- <i>Wallowa Mtns.</i>					
COAST TROUT					
W TROUT ( <i>in Trout, Salmon or Steelhead Seasons</i> )					
RED BASS					
( <i>offish, etc.</i> )					
PERCH					
SHRIMP ( <i>Shore &amp; Offshore</i> )					
BULLFROGS					

## NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE CONFERENCE HELD IN SOUTH

The 21st North American Wildlife Conference was held in New Orleans March 5 to 7 under the general theme of "PULLING TOGETHER FOR CONSERVATION." The meeting is sponsored by the Wildlife Management Institute and is attended by representatives of conservation groups from all over the United States as well as Canada and other countries.

Three general sessions covered the following subjects: "What Conservation Means Today"; "How to Get Coordination in Conservation"; and "International Teamwork in Waterfowl Management." Technical sessions were held on conservation education; disease, nutrition and environmental controls; wetland and inland water resources; marine and coastal resources; and upland game and big game resources.

The Wildlife Conference was attended by P. W. Schneider, director of the Oregon State Game Commission. He also participated in the meetings of the Co-operative Wildlife Research Units, the Pacific Flyway and the National Flyway Councils; and of the executive and legislative committees of the International Association of State Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

The legislative committee considered at length national legislation involving various important conservation issues.

## Is Your Pet Gun Housebroken?

Just as we have rules for safe hunting, so are there rules for guns at home.

**TREAT EVERY GUN AS IF IT WERE LOADED.** Since "unloaded" guns have caused injury, consider them all loaded.

Before storing your gun, clean it thoroughly. When cleaning your gun, be by yourself. The only time you need ammunition is in the hunting field or on the range so leave it locked away separately.

Friends will probably want to see your guns when they come to call. **OPEN THE ACTION.** The first thing to do is open the action and make sure there are no cartridges in the chamber or magazine. An open action is the most dependable safety because the firing pin cannot reach the cartridge.

Even with an open action—or if it must be closed to get the right "feel"—**POINT THE MUZZLE IN A SAFE DIRECTION.** An expert is easily recognized by the way he handles a firearm.

BILL CLEDE,  
National Rifle Association.

# Devils Lake Rehabilitation

**I**N December, the Game Commission took action to the end of authorizing the rehabilitation of the Devils Lake fish populations.

Carp, silver salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead and many varieties of warm-water game fish are present. The biological productivity of the lake has been substantially curtailed by the carp and perch populations which limit the production of other species. There were less than 100 silver salmon on the spawning beds in 1954. The existing population pressures are not suited to the best interests of the salmon and trout populations and the lake will not be a worthwhile producer of trout or salmon in its present condition.

All species must be eliminated and a new start given with a controllable population of fish. It is the history of mixed populations of fish, such as occur in Devils Lake, that unless they are limited in numbers to the carrying capacity of the water, the result is a stunted population. Control of the species is the most important part of the management of the lake and the hodge-podge that is in Devils Lake is very difficult to maintain in balance.

We must consider the presence of salmonoid fishes in any plan for restocking. One of the main reasons for rehabilitation is our desire to increase the salmon population. In addition, we are certain that we can produce better fishing than that which has occurred in Devils Lake in recent years. During the summer of 1955 for example, a creel census was maintained on the lake during alternate week ends and on a weekday every other week. During the period there were four days when there were no fishermen in evidence. An attempt was made to interview all anglers. There were 220 fishermen and they caught 203 yellow perch, 47 cutthroat, 1 young steelhead, 23 silver salmon, 3 largemouth bass, 6 bluegills and 1 yellow bullhead. An analysis of the

catch indicated there were 1.33 fish of all species or one warm-water game fish per angler. Fish were taken at the rate of 1.6 fish per hour but fishing was so slow that there was no persistence. That, then, is the condition today.

We feel that it will be very easy for an angler to take trout once the lake is restocked. Fishing will be available on the incoming adult salmon population in the fall of 1956, since the lake will be non-toxic when the salmon come in from the sea. Trout fishing will be available in the spring of 1957.

The fish stocked will be trout, salmon and steelhead whose history of providing sport is well known. After the initial stocking of large trout for the production of angling for the first year, we shall be stocking fingerlings which will be of legal length or better at the time trout season opens in the year following planting. There will not, then, be any year when fish of legal length will not be available. We shall kill some salmon and steelhead young at the time of poisoning, but hatchery stocks will replace those killed.

It is our experience in Oregon, that the economic returns to the community and the state as a whole, resulting from our rehabilitation projects where trout are planted, are always greater than the returns inherent within the type of fishery presently existent in Devils Lake.

The application of fish poison will in no way harm water users, be they animal or human.

It is expected that the large carp will be removed either by public-spirited participants in the program, Game Commission crews, or by the ever present and always hungry sea gulls. Ideally, it would be best if the fish killed are allowed to disintegrate in the lake since they would provide fertilizer of benefit to the new fish populations.

The level of the lake will not be disturbed during the poisoning operation.

## HUNTING, ANGLING LICENSE SALES INCREASE

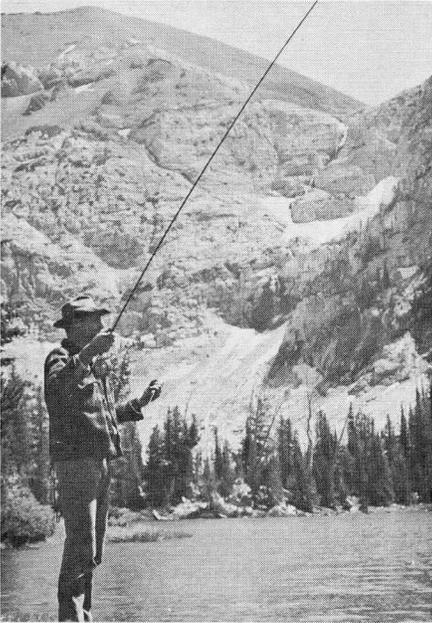
A record sale of 33,046,361 licenses for hunting and angling is indicated for the 1954-55 fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, according to compilation prepared by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. This is an increase of 392,162 licenses over the previous year. Fishing license holders totalled 18,854,809 and hunting licensees, 14,191,552.

Oregon placed 23rd among the states with a sale of 318,207 angling licenses

and was in 19th place with the sale of 265,516 hunting licenses.

Minnesota led in the sale of fishing licenses, 1,374,942 and Michigan sold the most hunting licenses, 1,186,454. Michigan also came in third on the sale of fishing licenses, 1,188,134. California was second with 1,285,980 angling licenses.

Nearly \$87,000,000 was paid out by sportsmen for all types of licenses and duck stamps. Fishermen spent a total of \$39,501,838 in license fees and hunters, \$47,153,275, which includes federal duck stamp fees of \$4,363,132.



Pack trips into the high Wallows pay off with both good fishing and beautiful scenery.

## So You Want to Go Fishing?

(Continued from Page 3)

type of habitat the fish need to retain the bright colors for which they are famous. Though the bag limit is small on these fish and it will take some leg work to get to them, they offer a type of fishing most rewarding. The fact that the fish are so brightly colored puts them into a class of their own and makes them a worthy challenge.

Another fish that provides variety to the angler is the kokanee. These fellows, caught mainly during the early part of the trout season, are the land-locked version of the blueback salmon. In scrapping ability they equal trout and the final catch is a very pretty sight to behold because of the artistry of Mother Nature.

In recent years one other species has become increasingly important to sports fishermen. The eggs of the shad have long been known as a delicacy, but now taking of these fish on sports tackle has assumed new interest. Though not long-winded fighters, they are fast, vicious scrappers when taken on light tackle and have been providing much sport in the Sandy river and on the south coast in the Coquille river.

For the fisherman who wants to catch a large number of fish and is not after the big ones, one lake in Grant county and a number of lakes in Wallowa and Baker counties are open the entire year for eastern brook trout angling. The bag

limit . . . thirty fish per day and sixty in possession with no minimum length limit in effect. If you plan on taking this ruling to heart, it's best to check the angling regulation synopsis under zones 8 and 9.

Along the south coast, the "striper" or striped bass has been giving nimrods thrills lately, especially in the Coos Bay area.

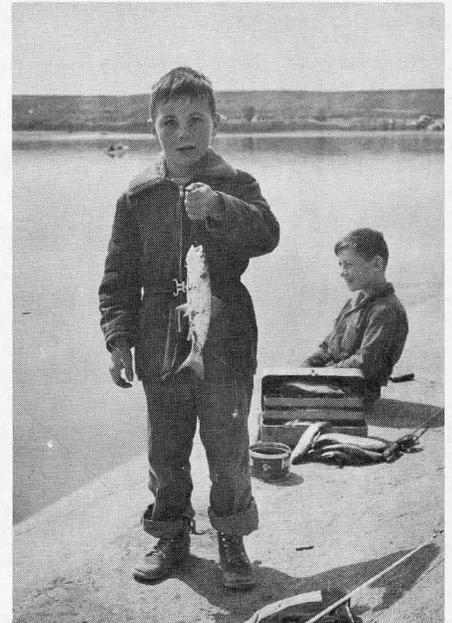
Numerous and sundry ways are used to take the more popular fish of the state. Salmon may be caught from a boat in the ocean, by casting from the shore, by fishing the short coastal streams, and even by working the streams of eastern Oregon.

Steelhead are caught under the same variety of conditions, being found in almost all areas of the state during some time of year.

Of course, the most popular fish of the state, the trout can be caught in a large variety of waters from small inconspicuous potholes to the largest lakes of the state.

Most of the other fishing shown on the chart is familiar to you fishermen. Often the fish being caught go by different names, but they fit into one of the categories of the chart. Good examples are the kokanee, also known by the names of yank and blueback; and the sea-run cutthroat which carries the handle of blueback, harvest trout, or salmon-trout.

No matter what you call them, they are providing a lot of recreation to the people of Oregon. Last year over 300,000



These boys prove there is no better way for youngsters to spend their time.

people were licensed to fish in the state and numerous youngsters under the age of 14 took part in the sport legally without having a license.

You say you haven't time to go fishing. Well now, perhaps the statement of some philosopher of the past is the one to apply to the hours you spend fishing. According to the thoughts of some sage of the past, "The Lord does not deduct from one's allotted time on earth, the time spent fishing." 'Nuff said!



Bank fishing for winter steelhead requires a lot of patience but once a fish is on, all the waiting is made worthwhile.

# To Keep Up the Fishing

TAKES more than planting fish in our lakes and streams!

Just to maintain the fishing status quo in face of ever increasing demand for water use is a time-consuming job for Game Commission field agents throughout the state. The following excerpts from their monthly reports show the extent of activity required in trying to ride herd on all the problems that arise in their areas:

"... The east fork irrigation system was examined to determine the extent of game fish losses at the conclusion of the irrigation season. In one and one-half mile section of a canal, 217 rainbow trout averaging from 3 to 12 inches, 237 silver salmon from 2 to 4 inches and 6 cutthroat trout from 4 to 12 inches were collected. Approximately 30 redds of various sizes were observed."

"... upon request by local lumber company, a meeting was held to discuss further fish passage facilities at his mill pond."

"... Fish placed in two live boxes below packing plant apparently were not injured by the effluent. Plant has apparently found methods of detoxifying materials which had previously destroyed fish."

"... Manufacturing company has completed fishway over mill pond."

"... Correspondence continued with logging company concerning stream clearance..."

"... Flushing of plywood glue from plywood plant caused kill of several hundred trout... resident engineer of Sanitary Authority investigated in absence of field agent and is enforcing correction."

"... board of directors of irrigation district were interviewed concerning installation of a ladder on their dam."

"... With California Department of Fish and Game personnel a search has been made of Oregon streams which head in California in an endeavor to locate impassable barriers."

"... BLM has promised to remove culvert which is creating fish passage difficulties in a tributary of the Coquille... Work has begun to obtain better fish passage at a county culvert at the mouth of Wolf Creek."

"... Heavy silting in Fall Creek was investigated with representatives of the State Sanitary Authority..."

"... A small rock quarry with a stream

running through the middle of it was inspected and the operator informed of the need to channel the stream away from the operation. Rectification was promised."

"A chronological list of observations has been made since December of 1954 relative to pollution. This is to be presented to the State Sanitary Authority for action..."

"... The development of a settling basin at the placer mine is under surveillance."

"Constant surveillance and repeated warnings have been necessary to prevent lumber company from disposing wood fiber into river..."

"... On December 21 and January 5 fish screens on power company diversion were found to be inoperative. By-passes between the screens not functioning satisfactorily because of debris... matter has been called to attention of company maintenance man."

"... State highway engineers and a contractor were consulted regarding proposed channel clearance and highway relocation along Camas Creek... Highway engineers gave their assurance that construction would be done with a minimum of damage to fish life."

"... Creeks were investigated to determine spawning grounds, topography, etc., as an aid in making recommendations to the plywood company who plan to divert water for use in a Kraft mill."

"... Assistance was given basin investigation agent in the testing of turbines through the use of the balloons and gauze bags."

"... Big Creek was checked... five small jams exist... will have to be removed at a lower water stage."

"... The falls on Bald Mountain Creek were checked... one or two logs are lodged above the falls but appear to be causing no fish barrier."

## 45 YEARS AGO...

The first board was created having responsibility for protection and propagation of game fish and wildlife. The 1911 legislature established the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners (replacing a previous board having jurisdiction over commercial fishing only). To the new board was turned over the Game Protection Fund in which had been accumulating funds received from the sale of hunting and angling licenses by county clerks. Until 1911 there had been no legislative authorization for the expenditure of these funds for trout propagation and other game management purposes.

## SHOOTING GROUNDS HAVE GOOD SUCCESS RATIO

FINAL figures tabulated for the last waterfowl season at the Sauvie Island, Summer Lake and Warner Valley shooting grounds operated by the Game Commission show a success ratio of 2.38 birds per hunter, the highest ever recorded for the public shooting areas.

The 15,200 hunters checked in killed 36,228 waterfowl of all species. The duck harvest totalled 25,767 and geese, 10,461.

Summer Lake had the best shooting with a success ratio of 2.98 birds for the 6,342 persons hunting on the area. They took 9,484 ducks and 9,407 geese, a total of 18,891 birds. Mallards and snow geese formed the larger part of the harvest.

Sauvie Island shooting ground had its most successful season in spite of flood conditions the last half. Total harvest by 8,297 hunters was 16,438 birds, of which 247 were geese and the rest ducks. This was a success ratio of 1.98 birds per hunter. Baldpates, mallards, pintails and green-winged teal were, in the order named, the most prevalent.

Warner Valley did not have ideal hunting conditions with too much clear weather and the lack of water. However, the 561 hunters who tried their luck harvested 92 ducks and 807 geese, a total kill of 899 birds.

In the 1954 season 35,613 birds were taken, of which 24,381 were ducks and 11,232 geese. Hunters using the public shooting areas totalled 18,477.

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