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At the present time the Bulletin is circulated free of charge to anyone forwarding a written request.

the cover

Taking steelhead out of by-pass trap at Westland Canal irrigation diversion, which takes off from the Umatilla river about a mile above the town of Echo. Young steelhead come down the stream, are stopped by a screen from going into the canal and diverted into the trap. From there the fish are transferred into a liberation truck and hauled to the Columbia River. When this picture was taken, 300 steelhead were counted at the trap. (Photo by Milt Guymon.)

HUNTING HEARING

Final hunting regulations for 1957 will be adopted on July 26 when the Commission reconvenes its hearing started on July 12. Those having comments or objections regarding the tentative regulations advertised are welcome to appear at the final hearing.

WITH THE close of the 1957 legislative session, a brief review of legislative action on matters related to the welfare of Oregon's important fish and wildlife resources is appropriate. Bills introduced at the request of the Commission, most of which were of a "housekeeping" nature received careful consideration and were adopted into law. A number of bills considered not to be in the best interest of the fish and wildlife resource were tabled in committee. Spokesmen for fish and wildlife interests, both within and without the legislature, did an exceptionally good job. The organized sportsmen presented a unified front and their views were solicited and valued.

Two of the most important pieces of fish and game legislation successfully passed include granting of authority to the Commission to set emergency big game seasons and provision for a daily angling license costing \$1.00.

The law permitting the Commission to establish emergency big game seasons will assist in controlling damage to cultivated agricultural lands. Not more than 75 animals of any species may be taken in any one such hunt and the area cannot exceed one township in size. Such a season can be used only to alleviate damage on *cultivated agricultural lands*.

The \$1.00 daily angling license for any game fish will take effect on January 1, 1958. It will be available to residents and nonresidents in lieu of the regular season or 7-day license and will replace the present \$1.00 daily salmon license.

Qualified disabled veterans will be permitted to obtain certification of disability from any branch of the armed forces rather than only from the United States Veterans Administration in connection with making application for a reduced fee hunting and fishing license. Resident veterans must be rated at least 25 per cent disabled to qualify.

Magone Lake in Grant County, Timothy Reservoir on the Oak Grove fork of the Clackamas, and Pelton Reservoir were added to the list of waters on which motor boats may not operate in excess of 10 miles per hour on the day and hours in which it is legal to fish.

A model boat law was passed which should assist in improving the boat safety record.

The statute prohibiting boat fishing on the North Umpqua was repealed. The Commission will regulate boat fish-

ing in that section of the river, keeping it closed to such angling from Winchester to Soda Springs and permitting boat fishing in the Copco reservoirs.

Boat fishing will be permitted on Pelton Reservoir when it is created.

Splash dams were outlawed and certain controls were established over dredge mining operations in other legislation that was passed. Both of these activities have had a serious impact on fish life.

An interim committee study was authorized to be concerned with consideration of the possibility of consolidating the administration of all laws pertaining to fish and wildlife, commercial and game. The committee will also study other aspects of fish and game management.

Relief was given to diking districts along the lower Columbia through a new law permitting year around hunting and trapping of beaver in that area. The possibility of extensive damage to agricultural crops and other facilities from flooding caused by beaver damage to dikes was an important consideration in the passage of this legislation. When the law becomes effective, it is imperative that interested person check with the Game Commission on the specific provisions of this act.

Two other items in which fish and game interests were concerned include passage of a bill setting up a study on the water resources of the Rogue River and passage of a memorial to Congress and the Secretary of the Interior requesting homesteading of the Klamath straits area in Klamath. The memorial was opposed by the Commission and by the organized sportsmen because of the fact that this area is one of the most important key areas of waterfowl habitat remaining in the Pacific Flyway.

And last but not least the bullfrog by legislative action again became a game fish and will be so regulated.

THE SPORTSMEN'S CREED

There is nothing in all the world sweeter than the memories of an old sportsman whose record is clean.

Let ever word and deed, said and done, in the name of sport be such that when your hair is white, your heart may be warmed by dreams of days in been-there-land.

(Author unknown — contributea by Lewis Perry, Myrtle Creek.)

setting

WATERFOWL REGULATIONS



By Chester E. Kebbe, Chief Biologist, Waterfowl

EACH fall prior to the opening of the waterfowl season, hunters take a quick look at the waterfowl synopsis or consult another hunter to learn of the changes in season dates, bag limits, and other regulations. They may not approve of the changes but give little thought to their purpose or by whom the regulation was made. This article explains the basis for certain regulations as well as the mechanics for setting them up by the various departments concerned with the preservation of the resource and the sport of hunting.

Waterfowl are migratory birds which fly north in the spring to raise their brood and return south to warmer climates in the fall. In this respect, they are quite different from our resident species such as pheasants, quail, and grouse which remain in the same general area throughout the year. Ducks and geese breed as far north on the continent as its northern shores and winter in the United States, Mexico, and even into South America. Some birds, notably several thousand pintails, even find the warm winter climate of the Hawaiian Islands to their liking.

When considering the migratory nature of ducks and geese and the right of all hunters along the flyways to take their share of the annual crop, it becomes evident the individual states or provinces could not properly regulate the harvest of waterfowl if each was to set its own season and bag limits.

The management and administration of this important natural resource,

therefore, becomes an international task with management in the United States and Alaska a responsibility of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in Canada the duty of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Both nations comply with the principles set forth for the preservation of migratory birds in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of August 16, 1916, between the United States and Great Britain. A similar treaty between the United States and Mexico was signed on February 7, 1936. Even though the management and administration of waterfowl in the United States is the direct responsibility of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the individual states have a definite obligation to assist in this continental program. Factual data gathered by the states are made available to the Service prior to the setting of regulations each summer. This information along with facts gathered by the Service's own field personnel, Canadian governmental departments, and private agencies are all analyzed and form the basis for making sound regulations. Of all the facts obtained, the most important are those showing the success of the nesting season. The size of the crop of birds produced in the "duck factories" of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba determines to a large degree the size of the flights of ducks which will be winging their way southward in the fall.

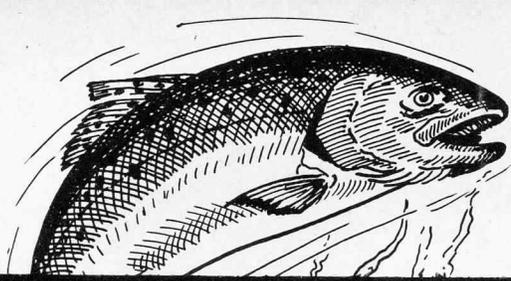
In recognition of the need for coordinated effort to supply valid information for a sound program the Pa-

cific Flyway Study Committee was formed in 1948. The Pacific flyway includes all of the migration routes west of the Rocky Mountains. The committee, when formed, consisted of waterfowl technicians from Oregon, Washington, California, British Columbia, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. By 1950, technicians from the remaining four states in the Pacific flyway and Alaska had joined. Through efforts of the committee gathering and recording of factual information on breeding ground conditions and reproduction, migrations, hunting success, winter inventories, and many other projects are now coordinated and carried out using identical methods. Results obtained are used by the Fish and Wildlife Service and also made available to various agencies.

In 1952, the directors of the seven states in the Pacific flyway organized the Pacific Flyway Council to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service in bringing about better waterfowl management in the west. Factual data gathered by the study committee are reviewed and recommendations on hunting seasons and regulations are made to the National Flyway Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Each summer after the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed its breeding ground surveys in Canada, Alaska, and the United States, and the states and other agencies have presented their findings the Service makes

(Continued on page 7)



Troubled Journey



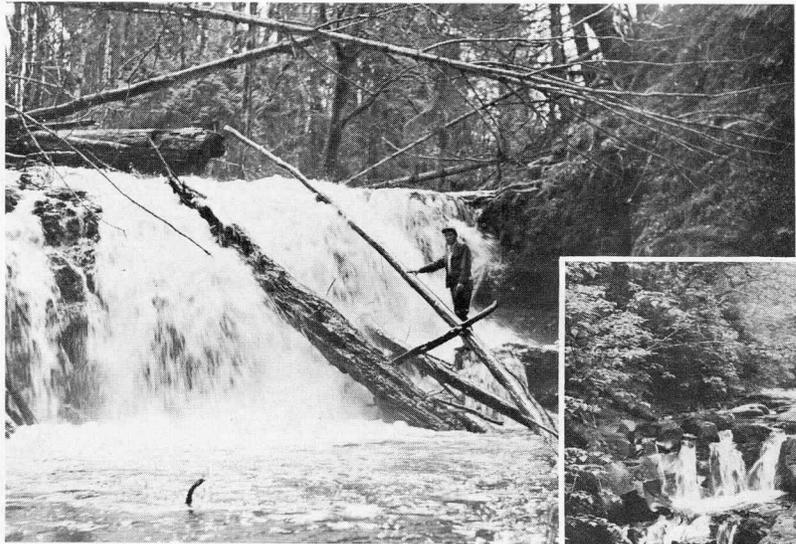
IRRIGATION One of the many fish screens being installed in the John Day area under the Columbia River development program. At the right, an irrigation ditch leading into a field, where the fish would end too if the ditch weren't screened.

Salmon and Steelhead find trip from sea to spawning beds one big obstacle course. Many never make it.



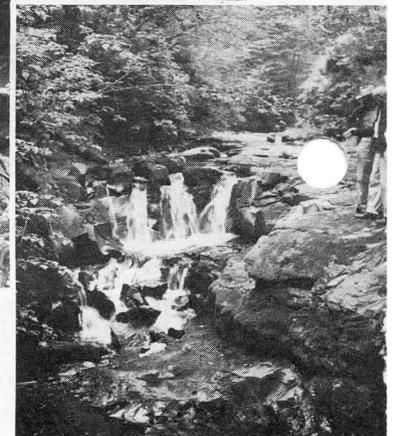
LOG JAMS

Scenes like this are common in western Oregon. Here equipment is at work to break up a jam on the Molalla River.



WATERFALLS

Hard for a fish to get over when falls are like the one above. It helps when a passageway has been blasted out as in the falls at the right.

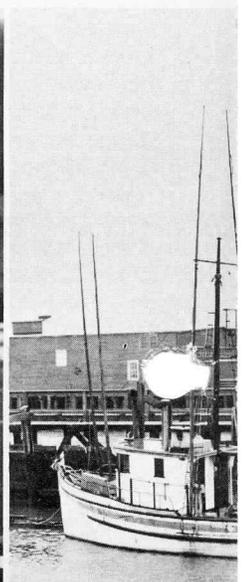
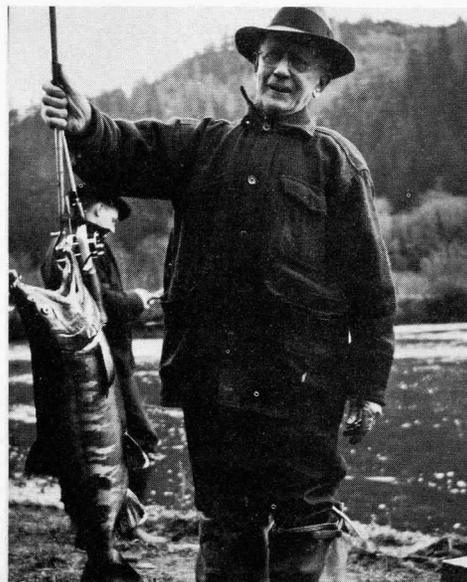


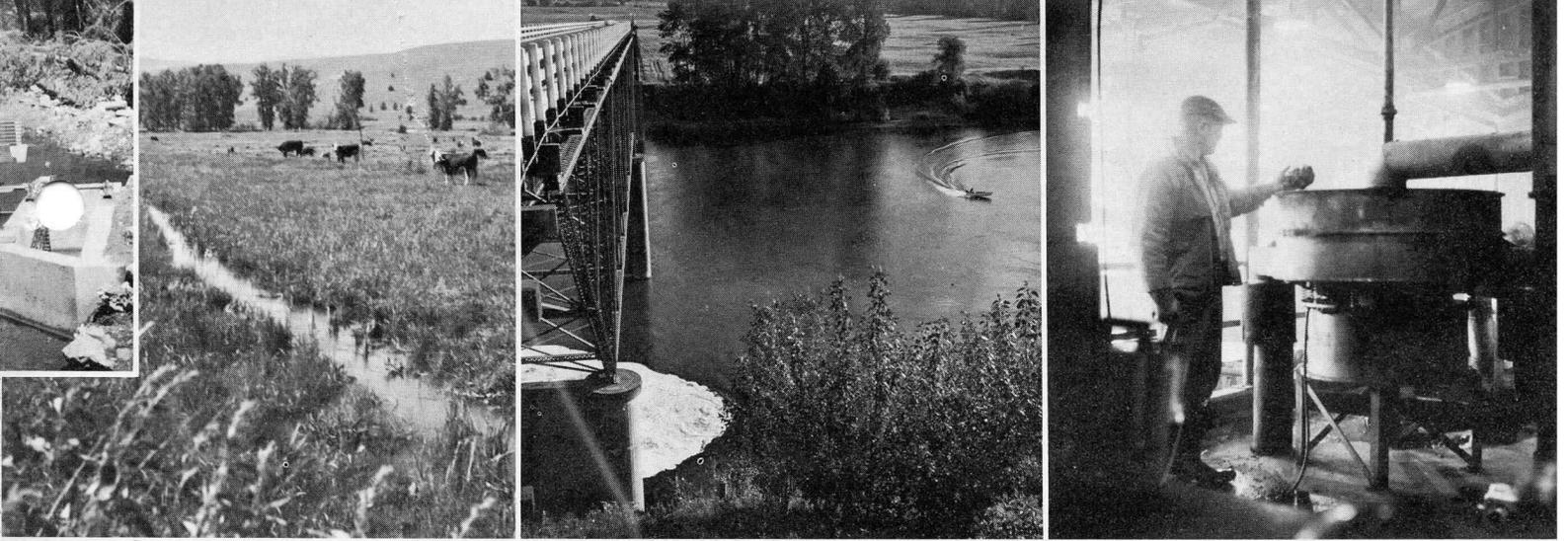
LOW WATER

Bucking low water is no fun, especially when there are spots where there's hardly enough water for a poor fish to swim through.

HARVEST

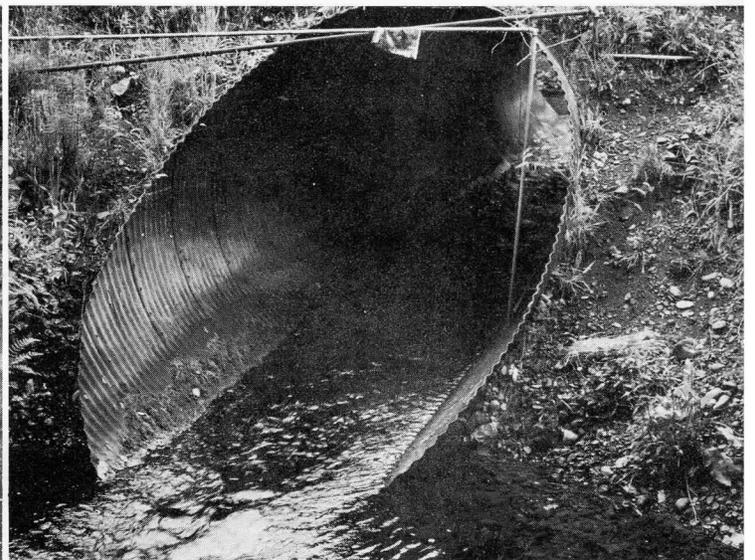
One of the big obstacles, of course, is man, whether in the ocean or in the stream. Fish are





POLLUTION

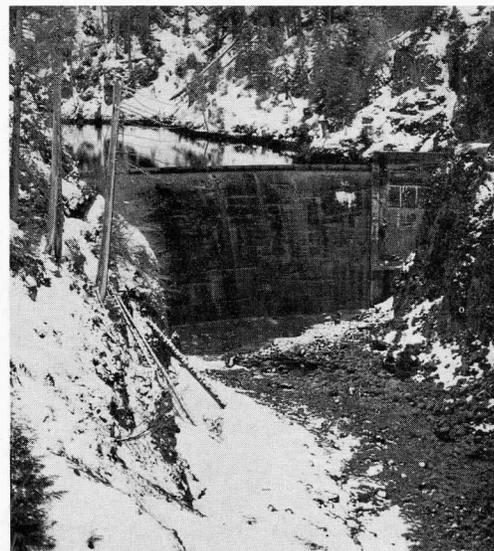
Scene on left shows discharge from nearby paper mill, formerly a common sight. With tighter pollution control, mills are taking preventive measures, such as using filters (right).



CULVERTS

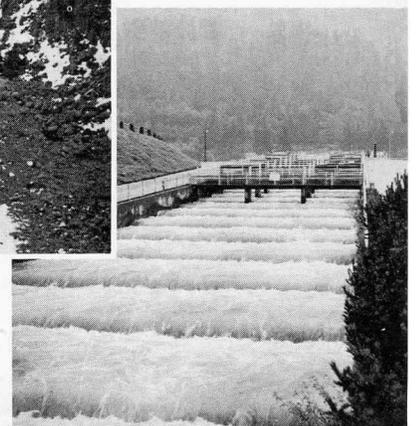
To a fish's way of thinking, the culverts on the left are not so good with only a trickle of water coming through. The nice stream of water in the one on the right is more like it.

Whether he is sport fishing, trolling or gill netting. He is out to catch fish, getting some breaks though with stricter fishing regulations in effect.



DAMS

Now what is a fish expected to do when a dam shuts off all the water... walk? The good fish ladder at the right helps to minimize the effect of man-made dams.





Up to early June, the Diamond Lake eggtake had yielded 10,000,000 rainbow eggs, way above the conservative estimate made by the staff. This is the first season eggs have been taken since treatment of the lake. Growth rate of the Canadian rainbows was higher than expected and more fish were ready to spawn. The average production per female was 1,888 eggs.

* * *

The first release of bighorn sheep from the Hart Mountain holding pen was made in June when 18 animals were driven through the gates and given their freedom. They included two young rams, four ewes, four lambs and the rest yearlings. During the winter three rams (and possibly more) escaped through a break in the fence so that at least 21 sheep are now roaming at will through the countryside. If you see any of them, please report them to the Game Commission—especially if outside the Hart Mountain area.

While only 38 sheep were actually counted the day of the release, the total herd is estimated at 49. This is more than double the original number of 20 placed in the holding pen in January of 1955, when the sheep were brought down from British Columbia. The remaining sheep in the enclosure are being held as a nucleus for future releases.

* * *

Three skin divers were used to help in making the preliminary survey on Ana Reservoir preparatory to chemical treatment later in the year. The divers were used to help locate the springs that feed the reservoir. Four of the larger springs were found after five hours of exploring the bottom. They were marked by permanent buoys. Three smaller springs were not located but it is hoped that they will appear after the reservoir is lowered following the end of the irrigation season.

BOAT SAFETY PROMOTED BY NEW LAW

Operators of boats under 26 feet overall length should make it a point to study the new law passed by the recent legislature for the purpose of improving boat safety.

General provisions for all boats under 26 feet prohibit overloading, operation of boat by anyone under influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic drugs or barbitals; and anchoring of any boat so as to obstruct passageway ordinarily used by other boats. The kind of lights required also is specified.

Motor boats must be operated in careful and prudent manner (reckless navigation is defined). Rate of speed shall not be greater than will permit boat to be stopped within the assured clear distance ahead.

Riding on gunwales or bow decking while motor boat is in motion is prohibited. Other regulations pertain to mufflers, ventilators, whistles, fire extinguishers, life preservers and devices for arresting backfire.

Fine up to \$100 may be imposed for conviction of violation of any of the provisions of the law.

At Nehalem 185 band-tailed pigeons were banded in May. Pigeon hunters are asked to report any banded birds taken during coming hunting seasons.

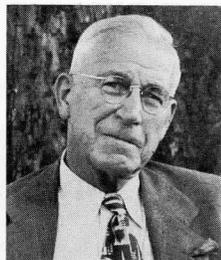
SECOND EMPLOYEE WINS CASH AWARD

Second Game Commission employee to receive a cash award in the state's Employee Suggestion Awards Program is Louis Balk, warehouseman in the Portland headquarters. Balk suggested that unused space beneath an enclosed stairway be utilized to provide additional stockroom storage. An entranceway was cut in the wall beneath the stairway to provide access. The additional area for storage relieves a somewhat congested condition which existed in the previous stockroom space.

In late May, E. K. "Gene" Morton, Superintendent of the Wizard Falls Trout Hatchery, was presented with a \$500 check by Governor Holmes for suggestions which were incorporated in the design of the new Gnat Creek Hatchery to be constructed in Clatsop County. His was the second maximum cash award to be given since inception of the Awards Program.

Fish at the Game Commission hatcheries consumed a total of 2,634,395 pounds of food during 1956. This included brood fish. The 513,950 pounds of fish released last year used approximately 1,884,000 pounds of the total amount fed. This is an average of about 3.66 pounds of food for each pound of fish.

Henry Mangold Retires



Twenty-five years of service completed with the Oregon State Game Commission, Henry (Hank) R. Mangold, chief of supplies and procurement, retired on

June 30. Hank started out in 1932 working in the field at a variety of jobs—fish liberations, bird releases, and whatever else came up. Then he came into the Portland office and in 1936 was made assistant superintendent of hatcheries, working under Matt Ryckman, the Commission's first hatchery superintendent. This job involved much shopping and bargaining for supplies for the hatchery division, particularly fish food. So when the Game Commission operations expanded to the extent that a special purchasing department was set up, it did not take much looking around to find some one to head it as

he was right there. Appointed chief of supplies and procurement in 1948, Hank has since that time been busy buying the variety of equipment and supplies needed to keep the game department going under full steam.

And now we hope he is doing everything he has been wanting to do if he had the time. We can guess how some of his time will be spent. For one thing, there are five grandchildren to keep up with. Three are in Chicago where his older son lives, and two in Portland, home of his younger son. Also, Hank and his wife both enjoy raising flowers—the old-fashioned kind as well as the new. Fishing and hunting possibly will get a little more attention than in recent years. And then, if the fire siren blows, there's nothing to keep Hank (formerly with Pendleton fire department) from following that truck to see where the fire is. So we know he won't be just sitting in a rocking chair whiling away the time, but no matter what he is doing, we all wish him well.

WATERFOWL REGULATIONS

(Continued from Page 3)

a forecast of the fall waterfowl flights based primarily on the success of nesting season. From this information it determines the length of season for each flyway, how many birds to allow in the bag and adds or alters other regulations to eliminate inequities and bring about an orderly harvest of the available crop. Each state has been given a choice of: (1) split or straight season; (2) opening date; and (3) bag and possession limit the same or a reduced bag with a double bag for possession limit.

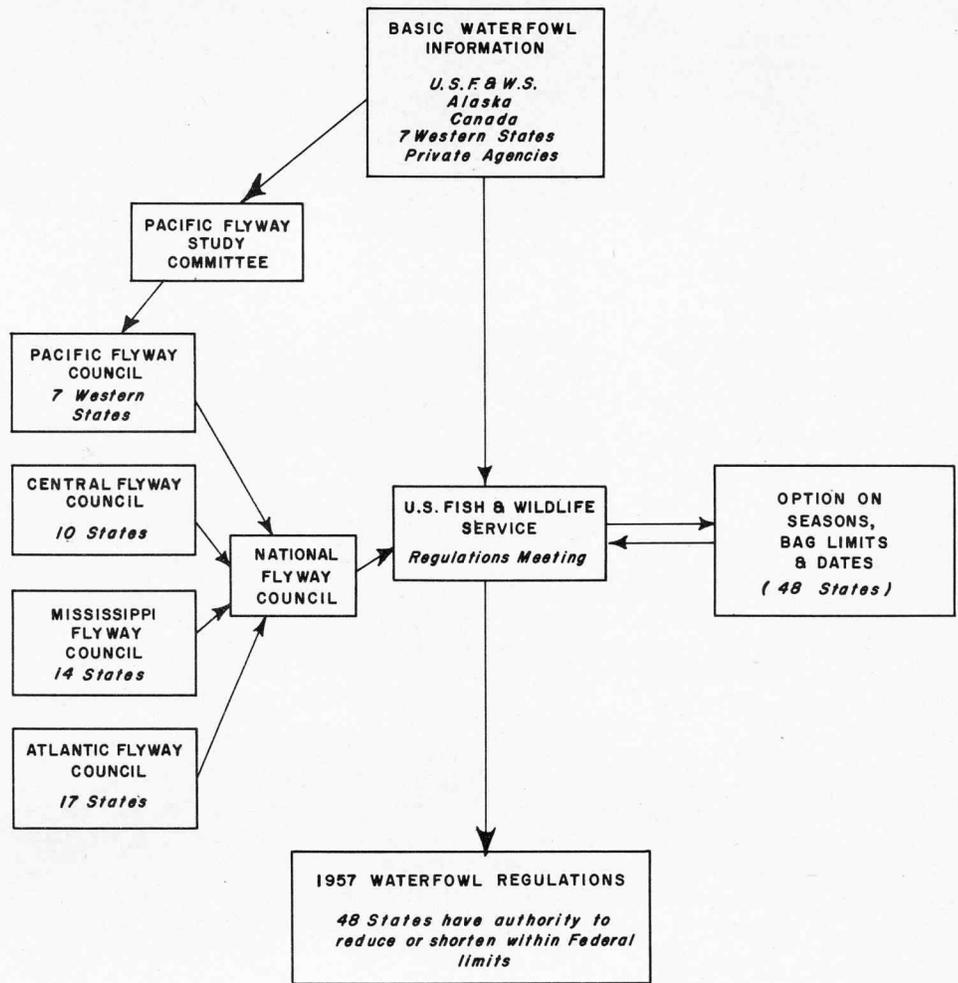
Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, no migratory bird season in Alaska, Canada, or the United States can commence prior to September 1 nor terminate after March 10. No season can extend for more than 105 days.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has adopted a policy in which no waterfowl season in the United States, with the exception of brant and coot, can open prior to October 1 nor terminate after January 15.

About the middle of August the Service notifies each state as to the length of season and bag limits and asks for their choices of opening dates for either a straight or split season and their requests on a choice on the daily bag and possession limit mentioned previously. Except for making requests through the flyway council, these are the only roles played by the state in setting federal regulations. Each state has the right through state regulations to shorten or reduce the federal laws but they cannot be lengthened or increased. As an example, the bag limit could be reduced by the state but could not be increased beyond that allowed by the federal government.

In the large marsh areas of Harney, Lake, and Klamath counties through which funnel about 80 per cent of the waterfowl in the Pacific flyway, the peak of the flights arrive during the last week in October. As many as six million birds have been systematically tabulated for the Klamath-Tule Lake basin at one time. Elsewhere in the state the arriving birds commence increasing in numbers rapidly about November 15, reaching peak numbers during the last week of the month. These birds come in to winter along the coast in the Willamette, Columbia, and Snake River valleys.

For the past two years, Oregon has been permitted an 80-day straight season. In 1955, the Game Commission chose October 22 as the opening date and in 1956, October 13. Termination dates, therefore, fell on January 9 and



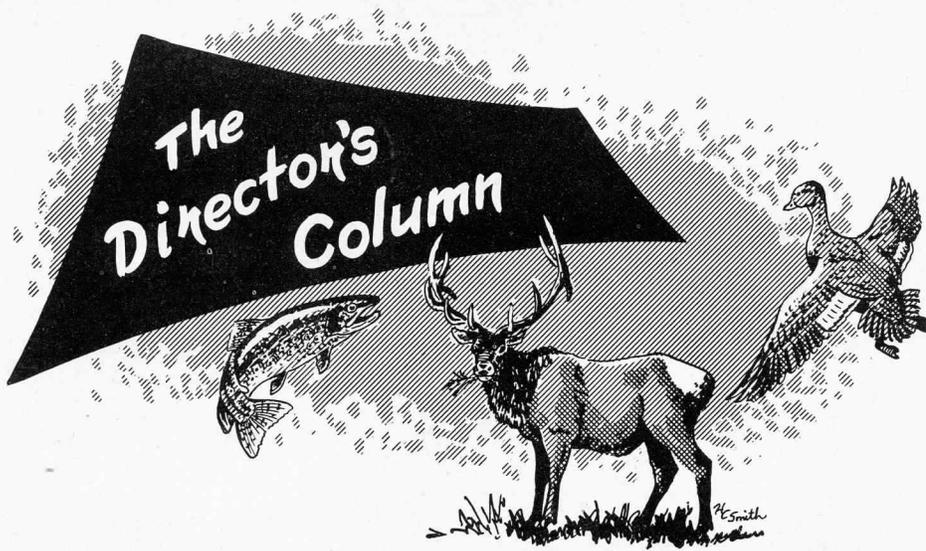
December 31, respectively. The Game Commission and the Pacific Flyway Council have in the past requested a 90-day season providing the resource could stand the added hunting pressure. Such a season would then more nearly accommodate both the southern Oregon and western Oregon hunter.

A 10 per cent penalty is attached to a split season with its two opening dates. With an 80-day season, 8 hunting days would be lost. In previous years when the state chose split seasons the majority of hunters were dissatisfied, claiming the migrations passed through their area during the closure between the two periods. After the first few days of waterfowl season, ducks become quite wary, remaining on refuges and large bodies of water during the day and feeding at night. These birds return to safety in the morning as soon as disturbed. When the season closes and no one is at the feeding grounds to disturb them, the birds remain. When this happens between periods of split season, hunters who saw few birds on their ponds during the season commence to see large flocks, which when the second

half opens, again return to safety. This leads the hunter to believe the birds passed through during the closed period, which may or may not be right. Anyway, he believes they went through and he is unhappy.

Oregon's duck hunters and the Oregon Game Commission have consistently maintained that any liberalization warranted should be in the form of additional days of recreational opportunity rather than a larger bag limit.

The Oregon State Game Commission recognizes the pattern of waterfowl migrations through the state and is cognizant of the conflicting desires of hunters in all parts of the state. The Commission must regulate within the limits established by the Fish and Wildlife Service. If a good crop of birds is produced for this coming fall, a longer season spanning the large flights of birds in the high desert counties and the wintering populations in other parts of the state would certainly be welcome, but hunters should recognize that waterfowl are intelligent enough to know when the season is open and closed and will behave accordingly.



EACH year during the month of July the annual regulations are established for the hunting of resident game and trapping of wild furbearers. The statute imposes upon the five members of the Game Commission the responsibility of conducting a public hearing and after consideration of all appropriate factors, the Commission decides the regulations for the next twelve-month period. Because of the wide interest in hunting regulations, the Commission holds its first hearing the second Friday of July as required by law, publishes its findings, and recesses for two weeks. A second hearing is held during which comments and recommendations from the public and its own staff are again received and then the regulations are adopted and become final upon filing with the Secretary of State. The second hearing, although not required by law, is an additional effort on the part of the Commission to secure all possible views and recommendations.

A cursory consideration of this brief outline tends to indicate that the process of setting the regulations is relatively simple. In reality, a great amount of effort is reflected in what finally becomes the hunting regulations so important to nearly 300,000 citizens of the state.

Normally, hunting prevails for at least some game species from August into January, almost half of the year. Oregon's large and diversified game resource obviously is important to many

people from both a recreational and economic standpoint. This is manifest, for example, by not only the number of people using the resource but by the magnitude of the harvest. In 1956 the following species were reported legally taken: Deer, 134,086; elk, 6,084; antelope, 358; pheasants, 278,000; quail, 149,000; grouse, 37,000; ducks, 800,000; geese, 92,000; salmon and steelhead, 180,000.

In providing for the public use of this resource, a dominant consideration must be the balance between cropping and capacity of each species to sustain itself. Both too conservative as well as too liberal regulations can jeopardize the vigor, distribution, and density of the species. Other land uses, carrying capacity of the habitat, and factors of administrative feasibility also become important in a given regulation for a given species.

This month the Commission is again in the process of setting new hunting regulations. Numerous recommendations have been received from the public. These originated from individuals, organized conservation groups, public agencies, industry, and others. Each is given careful and sincere consideration and is extremely helpful to the Commission in arriving at final regulations. In addition, the Commission's staff submits detailed recommendations for all species. These represent the result of intensive field work during the preced-

ing year involving data on both the species of game and pertinent elements of the environment such as forage trends on a given deer range. In dealing with wild species widely distributed in different types of environment and with management requirements peculiar to each, an extensive knowledge of the biology of each species is essential. Numerous techniques of inventory, data analysis, and related factors must be employed with skill and experience in arriving at firm and reliable recommendations. The experience gained over the past fifteen or more years on each game species affords a background of knowledge indispensable to the Commission. Through this systematic process of inventory, a large part of the regulations is established. A basic characteristic of wild bird and mammal populations is that seldom are such populations static in numbers. Most wild species are subject to fluctuations in numbers, the cause of which is not always fully understood. As a result, regulations may in turn vary from year to year when such fluctuations may be influenced by hunting.

In final analysis, one of the objectives of game management is to provide maximum sustained utilization of each species. When this use is primarily considered to be hunting in our present society and concept, the annual regulations become the culmination of a year's intensive work from the department's standpoint. To the Commission it becomes a serious and complex duty discharged with a background of the best available facts. The end product, however, is not only the best possible hunting but also the opportunity to seek and enjoy the many other values of a spiritual and recreational character available in our great forest, field and marsh areas. Perhaps the latter is the more important in our present society. Only the individual can judge that in accordance with his own conscience and philosophy. The actual job, however, of setting the regulations is a complex one fraught with many considerations which must be consolidated into a practical and sound set of rules by which an important wildlife resource may be safely but fully used.

P. W. SCHNEIDER.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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