

OREGON WILDLIFE

March-April 1989



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The Cover

This photograph of a bald eagle by Carol Kuehnert of Silverton is the first place winner in the annual Wild & Fishy photo contest "Wildlife" category. Other winning entries begin on page 4.

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1988 — JANUARY 1989

Instructors Approved	16
Total Active	896
Students Trained	627
Total to Date	340,104
Hunting Casualties Reported in 1988	
Nonfatal	18
Fatal	2

High Seas Piracy

Oregonians work hard to protect and enhance our salmon and steelhead resources — so do the people of Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. Now it appears that other people are stealing the products of this labor and financial investment.

As you read this, there are boats from Japan, Taiwan and Korea supposedly fishing for squid in international waters of the Pacific Ocean far from Oregon's shores. This fleet is largely unregulated and unmonitored, but it is becoming clear that these boats may be taking much more than squid.

Evidence is mounting that many of these vessels are fishing, illegally, outside boundaries established for the squid fishery. As each boat lays out miles of fine-mesh drift nets to catch squid, they also catch and kill porpoises, sea birds, other marine mammals and non-target fish species, including salmon and steelhead produced in Northwest rivers and hatcheries.

Understandably, these pirates do not allow observers to monitor their catches. Many of the boat operators mask their identification numbers and run from the authorities who try to investigate the fishing activity. So far, the countries that support these fleets have not adequately cooperated in addressing the issue or correcting the problems.

Recent investigations by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Coast Guard have found tons of illegal salmon and steelhead of suspicious origin appearing in markets of the Far East and even in the United States. Criminal charges have been made. Some people may pay fines and even go to jail, but the illegal fishing goes on.

Something must be done to bring this fishery under control. To that end, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission recently asked the help of Governor Neil Goldschmidt to push this issue higher on the federal priority list. The governor responded by writing President George Bush and key members of Congress, including the Northwest delegations.

In his letter to the president, Governor Goldschmidt asked for four specific actions:

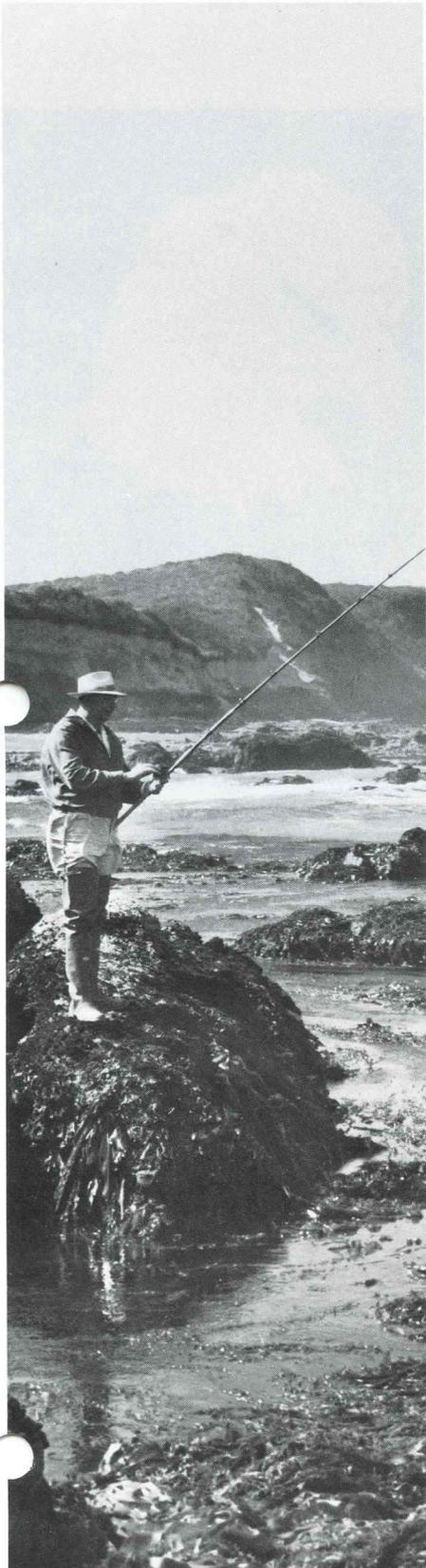
- Pursuit of a working relationship with the Soviet Union to jointly reduce or eliminate high seas salmon and steelhead interception since Russian-produced salmon are likely caught in these fisheries as well.
- Gathering of hard information on illegally-caught salmon sold in world markets, and the origin of those fish.
- Presidential action to successfully complete negotiations with the involved countries to control these fisheries, or levy sanctions if talks fail.
- Sufficient funding for National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Coast Guard enforcement actions against offending nations.

These are reasonable requests to correct a very unreasonable situation. We will all watch closely for results.



Randy Fisher
 Director, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

UPDATE



. . . A Helping Hand

How would you like to ease the spring cleaning chore, remove a little-used item from your garage or shop, help Oregon's fish and wildlife and get a tax break at the same time? You can do all this in one step by donating the item or material through the department's Alternative Resources Program.

Needs for equipment, services, supplies and materials to meet the challenge of managing our valuable resources are increasing. Many of these needs cannot be met through the regular budget processes. That's where you can give our fish and wildlife a helping hand.

Listed below are some of the needs currently going unfilled:

- Outboard motor, 9-18 hp in good condition, any make, for use by fish and wildlife biologists on bays, estuaries and lakes.
- Video camera, VHS or Super 8 format, with battery pack, for making visual record of wildlife lands, improvements, and appraisals.
- Travel trailer, self-contained, 20-25 ft., for use as base camp in wildlife research projects in southeastern Oregon.
- Construction of take-down "chuckwagon" style cart for showing consumer sale items at the new Department education exhibit at the Oregon State Fair.
- Chest waders, adult sizes for use in evaluating boat ramps and other aquatic areas.

These and many other items are needed to better manage your fish and wildlife. Look around your garage, storage area or back yard for things you would be willing to donate. Spring cleaning can be fun and helpful too. The fair market value is deductible on both state and federal taxes.

For more information on needs and ways you can help, contact Cliff Hamilton, Alternative Resources Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 59, Portland, OR 97207, or call 229-5409.

Angling Rules Meetings Planned

Angling regulation work sessions have been scheduled in several locations around the state to review proposals for the 1990-91 sport fishing season. The following is a list of towns and dates. Check your local news media for details on locations.

May 25 — Tillamook
May 30 — Clackamas
June 6 — Roseburg
June 7 — Medford

June 8 — North Bend
June 12 — Newport
June 13 — Eugene
June 14 — Salem

WILD & FISHY I

Starting a photo contest is always a risky business. How many people will respond? Will the submissions be any good? Well . . . in the case of Oregon Wildlife's First Annual Wild & Fishy Photo Contest, the answers are "plenty" and "absolutely!"

One thing learned in the process, however, is that most people prefer to take color slides. There were so few black and white entries that the separate category for those pictures was dropped and submissions were judged along with the slide entries.

The following photos were judged the top three entries in the categories of scenics, wildlife, fishing scenes and hunting scenes. First place winners in each category will receive an Oregon "Watchable Wildlife" T-shirt. Second place finishers will receive a copy of the Oregon Wildlife Viewing Guide. A special certificate of recognition will be sent out to runners up.



First Place

Carol Kuehnert of Silverton captured this photograph of the grand bald eagle, which is also featured on our cover.

And the winners are



Second Place

Ernest Adams of Grants Pass captured this photo of an upset rattlesnake.



WILDLIFE

Honorable Mention

Keith Swenson of Portland found this mule deer doe with fawn at Cove Palisades Park.



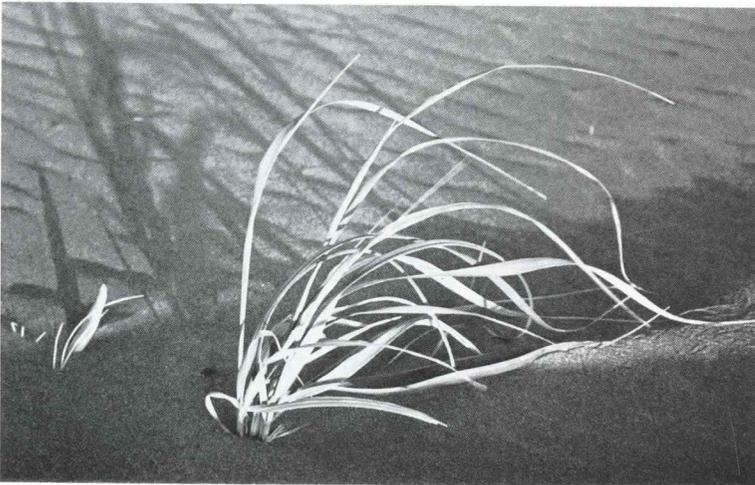
First Place

This winning photo by L. Arlow Irvin of Gresham captured a seldom-seen view of Detroit Reservoir.

SCENICS

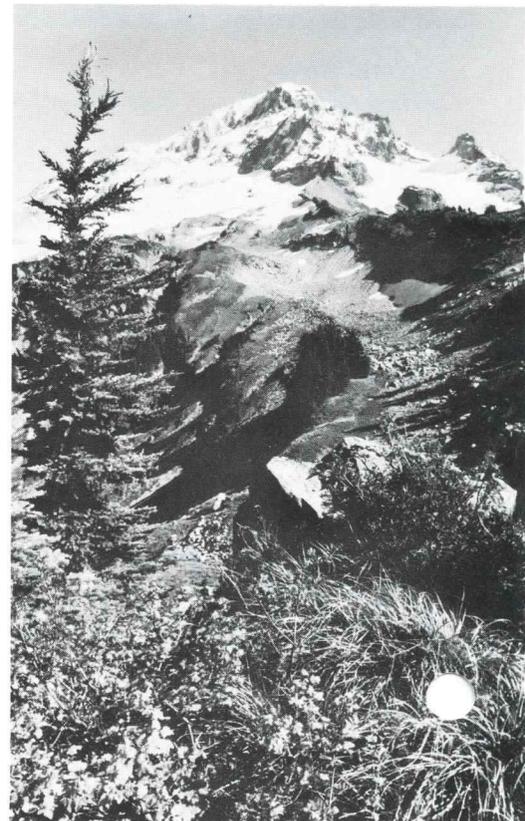
Second Place

Beach art was the focus of this shot by Rance D. Hill.



*Honorable
Mention*

This time, Keith Swenson of Portland had to do some climbing to get this picture of Mt. Hood from Yocum Ridge.





First Place

Kyle Kinyoun of Clay Center, Nebraska picked just the right moment to capture the joy of a child. This is an Oregon photo, but Kyle did not say where.



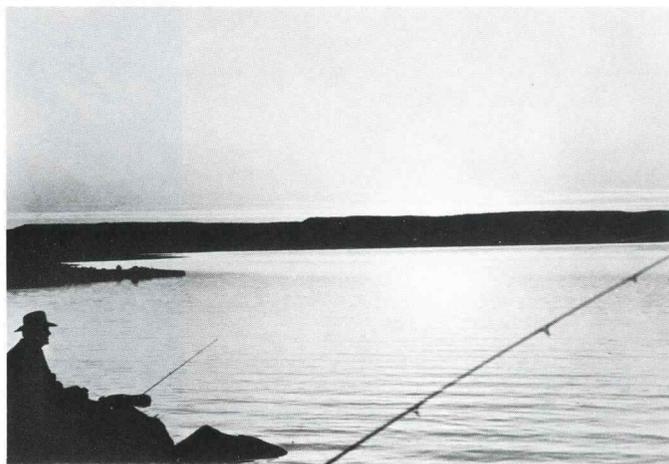
Second Place

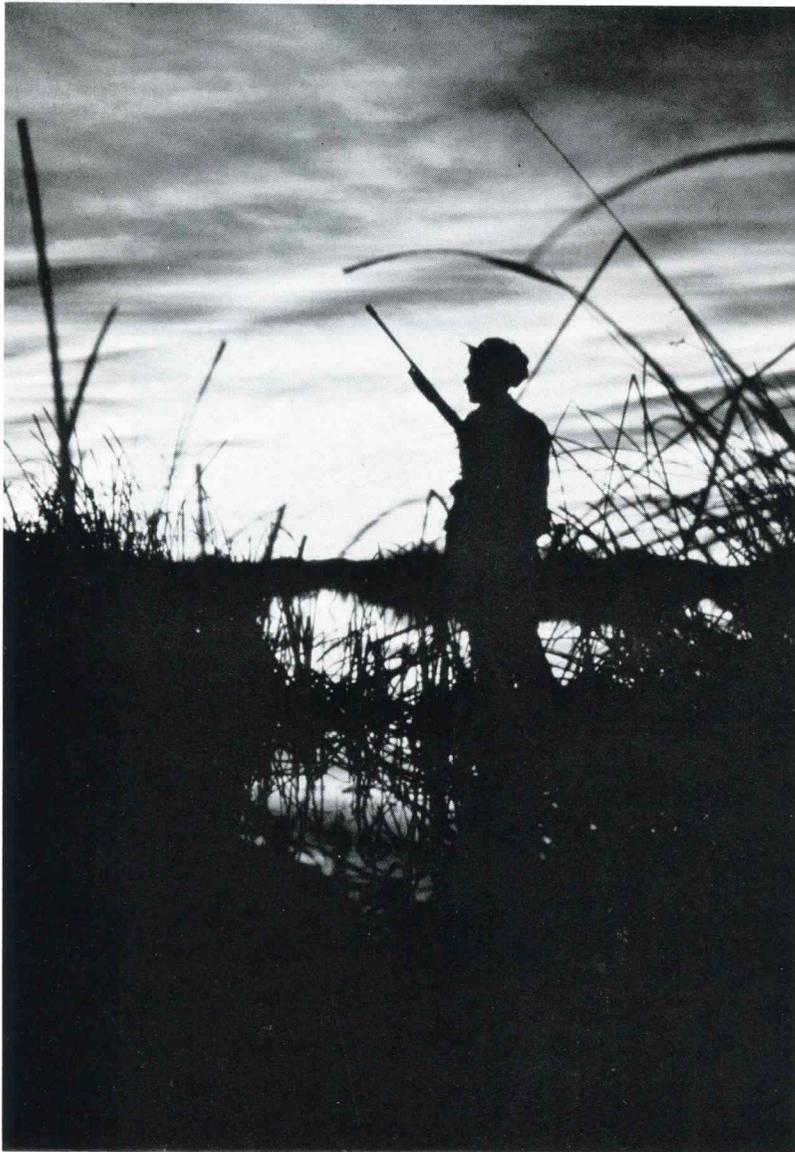
Joyce Dietzman of McMinnville found these early morning anglers in the mists of Paulina Lake.

FISHING SCENES

Honorable Mention

Delores Benedict of McMinnville framed this shot of an angler awaiting the first bite. Location unknown.





*Honorable Mention
L. Arlow Irvin scores again as this
hunter contemplates fall foliage.*

HUNTING SCENES

*First Place
Birds should be arriving anytime at this
Malheur Lake hunting site photographed
by L. Arlow Irvin of Gresham.*



*Second Place
This campfire scene before the hunt was
entered by Kelly D. Laberee of Corvallis.*

“Wild and Fishy II”

Oregon Wildlife’s Second Annual Photo Contest

Oregon is a state with abundant wildlife, outstanding scenery and tremendous opportunities for outdoor experiences. That is the only conclusion a person can reach after viewing the photos submitted to *Oregon Wildlife’s First Annual Wild and Fishy Photo Contest*.

The good response to the first effort demanded that there be a round two this year. The deadline for entries will be January 5, 1990. *Oregon Wildlife* is also interested in hearing from businesses around the state that might be willing to sponsor some prizes for winners of the second annual contest.

CONTEST RULES

Divisions:

Entries may be either 35mm color slides or unmounted, 8 x 10 black and white prints (no framed or mounted photos please).

Categories:

1. **Wildlife**— This includes all animals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. It does not include photos that show people in the scene.
2. **Scenics**— This category offers entrants a chance to celebrate Oregon’s beauty. It includes photos of all geographic regions with emphasis on landscapes.
3. **Fishing Scenes**— There will be two sub-categories in this level: one for sport, and one for commercial.
4. **Hunting Scenes**— This includes photos afield or in camp.

Rules:

1. All entries in this photo contest will become the property of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and available for repeated use in department publications and audio-visual productions. No submissions will be returned. Duplicate slides will be accepted.
2. Entrants may submit a maximum of two entries per category.
3. Each entry must be accompanied with the completed form. Forms must be affixed to the back of prints or clearly associated with slide entries. Slides should be in some form of protective sleeve.
4. All entries must be received by the department no later than January 5, 1990.

“WILD AND FISHY”
Photo contest entry form
A form must be submitted with each entry.

(Please print)
Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY: (check one)
1. Wildlife 2. Scenics 3. Fishing Scenes 4. Hunting Scenes

FORMAT: (check one)
1. 35mm slide 2. print

I understand that this photo or slide entry automatically becomes property of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and will not be sent back to me. This entry is released to ODFW for use at agency discretion with recognition of the photographer.

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail all entries to WILD AND FISHY, PO Box 59, Portland, OR 97207.

Managing Oregon's Fish and Wildlife

Part 2: Putting Theory Into Practice



Pat Wray

Lingering patches of snow still covered the ground. Frost added a sparkling cover to branches making the first effort to produce spring buds. The horse stamped and snorted; its breath clouding the cold, morning air as if it knew a winter of inactivity was over.

A biologist saddled the impatient mount in preparation. Their work

this day would contribute another year of data to the spring big game census. While final conclusions awaited completion of this count, experience told the biologist that nature had likely been kind to the deer and elk that used this winter range. Hunters would likely be pleased this fall.

As the human/horse team made its way up the ridge, they followed a

trail ridden by their predecessors since the late 1930's. Elsewhere in the state, other biologists used horses, pick-up trucks, airplanes, helicopters and good old boot leather to perform this annual ritual. Their findings would determine the length, location, harvest level and other components of hunting seasons for the coming fall and winter.

A Practical Science

When Aldo Leopold and others first developed their principles of wildlife management, they made quite clear that the basic science of studying wildlife population dynamics was not an end in itself. Rather, this "biological mechanism," as Leopold called it, served as a foundation for active human intervention in/ and control of natural processes. Management was not theory alone. This was a practical science, meant to be used.

In future parts of this series, we will examine closely the multi-faceted role of the biologist in identifying and protecting critical habitats, as well as other jobs they must accomplish to fulfill management responsibilities.

Fifty-plus years of management science has expanded the views and abilities of wildlife managers to encompass a range of species, both hunted and unhunted. At this point, however, we will continue to stick to the basics of original "game" management theory.

This science of game management was born and raised under the guiding interest, influence and funding of people who wanted plentiful populations of birds, mammals and fish to hunt and catch. These people were willing to pay for the privilege to harvest "biological surpluses." They were also willing to accept cut-backs in traditional harvest rates to achieve objectives based on the "new" science.

While much has changed in the mix of today's management programs — while non-hunted species receive increasing attention, and the focus on non-consumptive use of these resources grow; most of the rules are still being paid by the same group of people that helped support management efforts a half-century ago: license-buying hunters and anglers.

A History of Regulation

The Oregon Legislature originally set the first big game hunting seasons and bag limits. As early as 1899, the need to protect species from overharvest was recognized by legislators — who set a July 15 through October 31 deer season with a five-deer, either-sex bag limit statewide.

During the 1900's, the "conservation" theory reigned. This time-frame featured establishment of hunting closures and tighter bag restrictions on areas that remained open. This phase also included major declines in hunting success, serious depletion of winter ranges and disastrous deer die-offs, particularly in the late 1930's.

This troubled environment of management by legislation prompted the 1941 Oregon Legislature to grant broad management powers to the already existing state agencies. The theories of game management had achieved notoriety. Many of the Leopold-schooled class of 1938 and 39 were now employed with the Fish or Game commissions. The time was right for the legislature to turn responsibility over to this new breed of managers.

The political hot potato had been passed. The clear message — "Okay, hotshots, put up or shut up." Aldo Leopold was still out there at this time, no doubt watching and alternately smiling and frowning as his disciples practiced what he preached.

Putting the Theory To Work

Game management as a science lived by the principle that, under proper circumstances, there will be harvestable surpluses of game species that hunters may take for sport and, ultimately, the dinner table.

In addition, this regulated harvest would balance game numbers with available habitat and therefore promote healthier wildlife populations.

Our biologist at the beginning of this venture was setting out to determine the status of deer and elk in

that particular district. The findings of that day would help establish what harvestable surpluses were available, and thus influence hunting regulations for the area.

Game Census

Wildlife managers rely on two basic techniques to assess big game herd strength: *trend counts* and *herd composition surveys*.

Trend counts: For deer, this activity usually occurs in March and April. The biologist covers the same territory each time, so changes from year to year can be compared and analyzed.

The objective is two-fold: get a general sense of herd size by counting the number of deer seen per mile on the survey route; and determine the over-winter fawn survival. This latter finding gives a clear picture of how many yearling animals will be available during the fall hunting season.

Biologists measure pronghorn antelope numbers in February to determine herd sizes. This is primarily a count of animals seen per mile.

During January through March, elk herd trends are also studied. Since bull elk drop their antlers much later than deer, however, biologists can also conduct herd composition studies at the same time.

Herd Composition: For deer, this survey occurs after the hunting season in late November and early December. The objective is to determine post-season buck survival — recorded in the form of buck/doe ratios — and fawn survival going into winter. This latter statistic is noted as a ratio of fawns to does.

Biologists gather elk statistics the same way, and note them in bull/cow and calf/cow ratios. Antelope get a similar review during July and August.

From these statistics, biologists can judge hunting season impacts in particular areas, and also get a picture of fawn and calf production as well as early fawn survival. Both findings play key roles in future management decisions.



Counting For The Birds

Waterfowl and upland bird hunting seasons are also set by the numbers. Counting game birds, however, is much more basic for some species while considerably more complex for others.

For upland species such as pheasant and partridge, biologists frequently get a sense of population size while conducting big game counts. Although statistics from these observations may not be as specific as for deer or elk, the end result is similar — a general picture of population trends in a specific area from year to year.

In some cases, biologists can make detailed assessments of pheasant populations by annual study of a particular area, called a quadrad. Here too they look for general population trends, but also data such as the ratio of roosters to hens. This approach works for pheasant because the bird is one of the few upland species where the sexes are visibly different. For other species, such as quail and grouse, only the birds know for sure.

More detailed population statistics for most of these species comes after the fact through harvest surveys and wing studies. Grouse hunters, for example, are sometimes asked to turn in wings from birds they take. Feather development can tell biologists a great deal about sex and age composition as well as nesting success. Both factors are good indicators of population health.

Birds of a Different Feather

The approach with ducks and geese is to count them once, count them twice, then count them again. Since these species are migratory, however, the first and third counts can be separated by thousands of miles.

Managing a bird population that may nest in Alaska and winter in Mexico is obviously not a job just for an individual state or even single

countries. These birds fly through so many jurisdictions that international treaties are required for coordinated efforts.

The United States, represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is party to a migratory bird treaty that also includes Canada, Mexico, Japan and the Soviet Union — which provides nesting grounds for the snow geese that migrate through Oregon during the winter.

In the U.S., federal and state biologists first count nesting pairs on breeding grounds to assess breeding potential. This survey is followed by a later count to determine nesting success. From this second census comes the fall flight forecast which estimates the numbers of each species expected to migrate south to wintering areas. This data is used to set waterfowl hunting seasons nationwide.

Then the effort moves south for a coordinated, mid-winter survey in January that counts birds in their winter homes from coast to coast. This tally provides a reasonable perspective on survival through the migration and hunting periods. It also sets a benchmark for a repeat of count #1 on the nesting grounds next spring.

Sex and the Management Strategy

This is a good point to re-state that Leopold and others viewed game management as an active science, rather than one devoted mainly to passive study.

Counting critters, be they bird or mammal, fills in blanks about species population status, but then the other shoe drops and managers move to decisions about how these numbers will be used. Make no mistake — for the game manager, “use” means harvest of biological surpluses.

At its most basic level, game management means killing some portion of a population annually. Level two then becomes a question of how

many; level three a determination of which sex shall be targeted.

A Matter of Style

Let's go back to the basics for a moment. Production of offspring, except in some very unusual cases, falls to females of the species. Males play an obvious role in this process — but, depending on the species, some males are more important than others.

In human terms, males in the rest of the animal world break down into two groups: the one-woman man and the playboy. Or, to use the scientific terms: monogamous or polygamous breeding behavior.

Waterfowl, for example, are usually monogamous. At the beginning of the breeding season a single male and female form a breeding pair and mate. The female lays the eggs, then both share egg-brooding, nest defense and rearing of young. The male normally does not mate with other females during that period.

This "pair bond" is strongest in geese, which mate for life — meaning the mates stay together year after year. If one of the pair is lost, the other might not seek another partner. Ducks are only loyal to a point. Their bonding is usually on a year-to-year basis.

Deer, elk, antelope and bighorn sheep males are definitely playboys. A relatively small percentage of available males mate with several females during the breeding period. Once breeding is completed, the female takes on full responsibility for the offspring.

Birth Control

Big game harvest regulations are based on a combination of three basic objectives:

- *Providing recreational harvest of surplus males*
- *Allowing female or either-sex harvest to reduce herd size*
- *Requiring zero, or greatly reduced harvest when natural conditions have decimated herds*

The first option is most common; usually seen in the form of male-focused general game seasons. The latter approach is used rarely as an extreme response to extreme trouble. In between are the management strategies designed to maintain adequate game populations in harmony with their available habitat.

Managing big game herds relies on known sexual behavior. Since one male can breed many females, there is no need to maintain a one-for-one ratio of the sexes. Depending on the species and location, a 10 to 30 males per 100 females ratio is generally considered healthy. At such levels, most or all fertile females will likely be bred and produce offspring.

If a herd of deer, elk or antelope begin outgrowing their habitat and/or causing agricultural damage (a frequent outgrowth of insufficient natural foods) the emphasis shifts from low-impact male harvest to measures that will reduce herd production.

Getting at the Source

Does and cows are the producers. Slowing down reproduction, and thus reducing the herd, means either decreasing the number of females, or cutting males down to a point that not all females are bred. The latter approach is often unacceptable because hunters traditionally prefer to hunt bucks and bulls. This also endangers the long-term health of the herd.

Killing females also causes controversy, again because of tradition and hunter disagreement with management methods. Hunters prefer male targets. They are also naturally interested in keeping herd numbers high. Harvest of producing females runs counter to both desires.

The design of any management plan must then take into account not only the biological facts, but also the factors of human needs or wishes as well. A balanced program will usually include varying components intended to:

- *Maintain healthy game populations at appropriate habitat levels*
- *Reflect user preferences*
- *Meet concerns of landowners affected by animals causing damage*

As noted earlier, management decisions are frequently political hot potatoes. Nobody likes controversy or criticism, but somebody has to act. Given the diverse interests of user groups and landowners, managers can usually assume that some individuals or organizations will feel their views were not properly addressed.

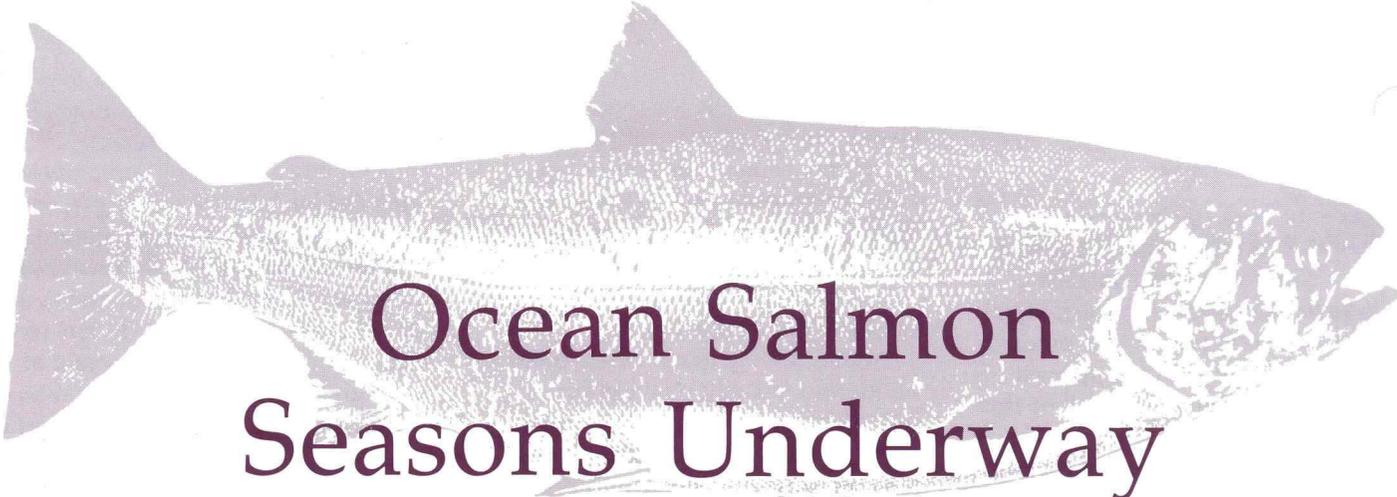
Leopold taught the science of managing game. Wildlife and people share the same environments, however, and this interaction means effective wildlife management also requires people management as part of the process.

On one hand, there are people who appreciate abundant wildlife populations for harvest or viewing. On the other, are folks who like wildlife no less, but also must deal with the impacts these populations have on crops and livestock.

Then there is the issue of human development changing fish and wildlife habitats. The impacts can range from reduced water or land-carrying capacity brought on by farming or timber removal, to wildlife disturbance from backcountry roads or housing developments.

In the years since game management became official policy, Aldo Leopold has gone to meet his creator. Managers schooled in the science he helped formulate must wonder if he watches from above upon the product of his work. 

Part 3 of this series will look at the shared use of lands and waters by fish, wildlife and people.



Ocean Salmon Seasons Underway

Anglers who like to spend their summers fishing for salmon in the ocean will have some of the best opportunities in years. Fishing off most of the Oregon coast began May 1 and is expected to continue into mid and late September.

Even anglers who fish out of Columbia River ports in ocean waters north of Cape Falcon will see some improvements following the shortest ocean season in history in 1988.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a recreational season package featuring a May 1 opener for all waters south of Cape Falcon, near Manzanita.

Fishing in the area between Cape Falcon and the Orford Reef Red Buoy, near Port Orford, will be limited to waters inside the 27 fathom line through May 26, then open to 200 miles May 27-September 15. A 0-200-mile, all-salmon season, south of the Orford Reef will run from May 1 through September 30.

In both areas, salmon catch quotas are expected to be large enough to prevent premature season closures. Between Falcon and Mexico the coho quota will be 285,000. That is lower than the 298,400 quota of 1988, but still above the actual catch of 250,000 coho last year. There is no chinook quota. Fishing south of Cape Falcon to Port Orford during 1988 ran without interruption from May 1 through mid-September.

Anglers fishing south of the Orford Red Buoy will share the south of Falcon coho quota, but will not face early closure should the quota be reached. There will be a harvest guideline of 80,000 chinook for the area between the Orford Reef Red Buoy and the U.S./Mexico border.

That upper limit is not expected to be a problem, however, since the largest sport chinook catch on record was 76,000 with an annual average of 25,000 fish.

Ocean anglers north of Cape Falcon will still have restricted, but much improved, fishing opportunities. Once again, the need to conserve troubled stocks of coho from the northern Washington coast will keep quotas relatively tight.

Fishing starts May 28 with a brief season for all species except coho between Cape Falcon and the U.S./Canada border. Angling will be allowed on Sundays and Mondays only through June 12, or until a 5,000 chinook harvest guideline is reached. Open area for this fishery will be confined to waters inside six nautical miles.

Fishing resumes June 26 with all species season in waters between Cape Falcon and Leadbetter Point which will run through September 28 or until either a 14,300 chinook harvest guideline or a 111,400 coho quota is reached. Fishing days will be restricted to Sundays through Thursdays only to reduce angler pressure and prolong the fishery.

Last year, anglers had less than two weeks of ocean fishing time north of Cape Falcon before a 30,000 coho quota was consumed. This year, the largest coho catch allowance since 1983 is expected to support a season for at least six to seven weeks, according to Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

Commercial seasons

Commercial chinook salmon fishing also began May 1 off much of the Oregon coast. Once again, however, fishing time north of Cape Falcon will be very limited with just two days scheduled for late August.

Trollers in waters south of Cape Falcon will have a 474,000 coho catch quota, and a 30,000 chinook quota in the area between Humbug Mountain on Oregon's south coast and Punta Gorda, California.

About all the commercial salmon fisheries between Cape Falcon and northern California do have in common is the May 1 opening date. Seasons throughout the summer feature a complex mix of strategic closures and catch restrictions. These regulations, designed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and troll representatives, are intended to distribute the catch among ports while protecting weak salmon stocks from overharvest. As one biologist put it, "We are trying to squeeze every possible economic benefit from these fisheries." 

OREGON

1989

Ocean

Recreational
Salmon Seasons

Quotas/Regulations

(Single-point, barbless hooks required in all seasons)

Leadbetter Pt. to Cape Falcon

5/28-6/12 Sunday-Monday only inside
6 naut. miles. No coho. Chinook guideline: 5,000
(Applies to area from Cape Falcon to Canada)

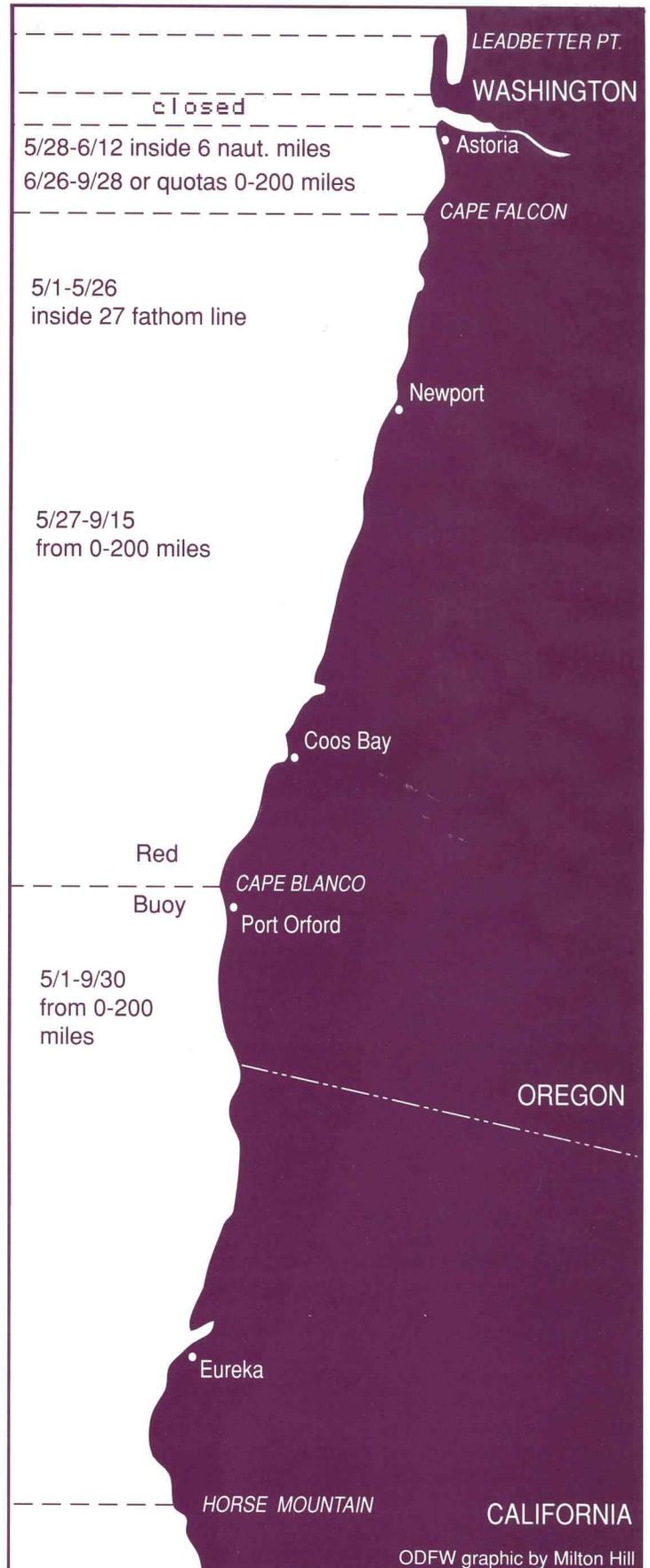
6/26-Sept. 28 Sunday - Thursday only.
All species, Coho quota: 111,400
Chinook guideline: 14,300
Bag: Two fish per day
Minimum sizes: Chinook 24" Coho 16"

Cape Falcon to Orford Reef Red Buoy

Open 7 days per week
Coho Quota: 285,000 (Applies Falcon to Mexico)
No chinook quota
Bag: Two fish per day, all species
Possession: Six fish in seven consecutive days
Minimum sizes: Chinook 20" Coho 16"

Orford Reef to Horse Mt., CA

Open 7 days per week
Chinook quota: 80,000
Coho quota: included in south of Falcon limit.
(Season will remain open to scheduled end even if
coho quota reached)
Bag: Two fish per day, all species
Possession: Six fish in seven consecutive days
Minimum sizes: Chinook 20" Coho 20"



HERE'S THE BAIT.



FISHIN' & FRIENDS

It's Catching On

NATIONAL
FISHING
WEEK

1.9.8.9

JUNE 5-11



506 SW Mill Street
PO Box 3349
Portland, OR 97208