

# OREGON WILDLIFE

OCTOBER 1976

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Volume 31, No. 10

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## The Cover

Icing down a load of *Pandalus jordani* taken off the Oregon coast. For more about shrimp, see feature article.

## HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### INSTRUCTORS APPROVED

Month of August .....	16
Total Active .....	1,582

### STUDENTS TRAINED

Month of August .....	771
Total to Date .....	232,792

### HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1976

Fatal .....	0
Nonfatal .....	10

## Pulling The Same Way

Though the Columbia River fisheries situation still has some knotty problems to be solved and some difficult questions to be clarified, recent developments seem to make it appear there may be light on the horizon.

Much of the time in the past the involved groups — sportsmen, commercial fishermen, Indians, and biologists — spent much of their time glowering at each other. There is still some glowering and no doubt always will be until there are so many fish that everyone can have all they want and there will be surpluses. A utopian dream, perhaps, but one worth going after.

There were strong words exchanged at a number of the hearings this year when the various seasons were set but more recently there has been a greater air of calmness as the interest groups have sat around the table and said let us reason. More tolerance and understanding seem to have resulted.

One manifestation of that was the request by the Indian tribes that the lower river gillnetters be given two more days of fishing. More recently the tribes requested the Columbia River Compact to apply greater restrictions in their fishing zone than the staff recommended to allow more upriver escapement.

Various court decisions have made management of the fishery of the Columbia River more complex than it naturally is. Many question these decisions and no doubt certain portions of them will be debated and perhaps even challenged in the future. However, the indication that the groups are arguing a bit less and trying to reach some common solutions is encouraging. A concerted effort to attack the habitat changes that have made for less fish may be, in the long run, more productive than arguing the details of legal rulings.

There will no doubt be more legal decisions but, in the meantime, face to face talks with sincere efforts to iron out some of the problems appear to be making progress in cooling an issue that has generated more steam than a geyser.

RES

## Guest Editorial Look South

After eight months of political haggling, the California State Legislature has passed a comprehensive land-use management measure that is more stringent than Oregon's Land Conservation and Development Commission.

The law gives a 15-member commission permanent control of development along California's 1,000-mile coastline. The law puts nearly all development in a zone extending from three miles off shore up to five miles inland. The commission is committed under law to policies of preserving natural areas and farmland, concentrating development where it exists already and maximizing public access to the state's beaches.

The law differs greatly from Oregon's land-use law in one way—the Oregon law was created to preserve our already beautiful coast, compared to the California law's attempt to offset the poor development that has already taken place. Our southern state still has many miles of untouched coastline, but the major thrust of the California law seems to be aimed at offsetting the development that has already taken place.

Perhaps Oregonians should take notice of the Legislature's attempt. Senate Bill 100 was created to preserve our existing natural beauties and prevent man from ruining the delicate estuaries along the coast. Legislators who passed the Oregon land-use law saw visions of a "Californiaized Oregon" in the future if some form of land-use was not enacted.

Perhaps we should again look south and see what may happen if LCDC is repealed. Oregon may someday be forced to pass legislation as stringent as the California law to keep our state "livable."

Lance Robertson, Editor  
Oregon Coast Sportsman

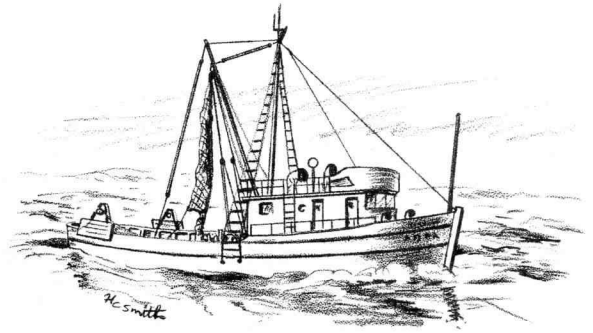
## Commission Hearing

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a public hearing on October 21 to consider the 1977 sport angling regulations. The hearing will start at 9:00 a.m. and will be held at Portland State University in Room 75 of Lincoln Hall. This building is located at the north end of the campus on S.W. Broadway. □



# Shrimp Boats Are Here

By Jack Robinson  
Ass't Supervisor, Marine Region



The housewife knows the little shrimp used for seafood cocktails and salads as the north Pacific cocktail shrimp. Fishermen harvesting them along Oregon's coast call them pink shrimp, and scientists identify them as *Pandalus jordani*. By any name, this crustacean is the object of Oregon's newest seafood fishery. This fishery began in 1957, and by 1973 it had expanded to a value of \$5.4 million. The fishery has really boomed since 1966, when the Russians began fishing off Oregon. Biologists don't know what caused this shrimp bonanza, but it is possible that the hake and ocean perch caught by the Soviets are predators on shrimp. As their number declined, the shrimp may have benefitted.

Typically, shrimp begin life as a tiny, nearly transparent larval form called a zoea. They are "hatched" in February to April from eggs carried

on the female abdomen or "tail". The zoea presumably drift with the ocean currents for the first two to four months of life. Pink shrimp undergo 11 or 12 molts, in which they shed their tough outer skin, before reaching their final adult form. They normally mature first as males at about 1½ years old, mate, and begin changing their sex to female the following spring and summer. By October (at about 2½ years old), the transition to females is complete, mating again occurs, and 1,500-3,000 blue, oval eggs are extruded. The eggs are carried on the pleopods or swimmerettes, abdominal limbs used for swimming, which are specially equipped with long setae or hairs to hold the eggs. Eggs are carried until the following spring, when they hatch. Sex is difficult to determine, but an expert can do it by examining the shape of the first pair of pleopods and the presence of certain spines on

the first three segments of the abdomen. Sometimes pink shrimp skip the male phase and develop directly into 1-year-old females. Occasionally large numbers of 2-year-old males function another year as males before changing sex. They live up to 4 years, and may function three times as a female.

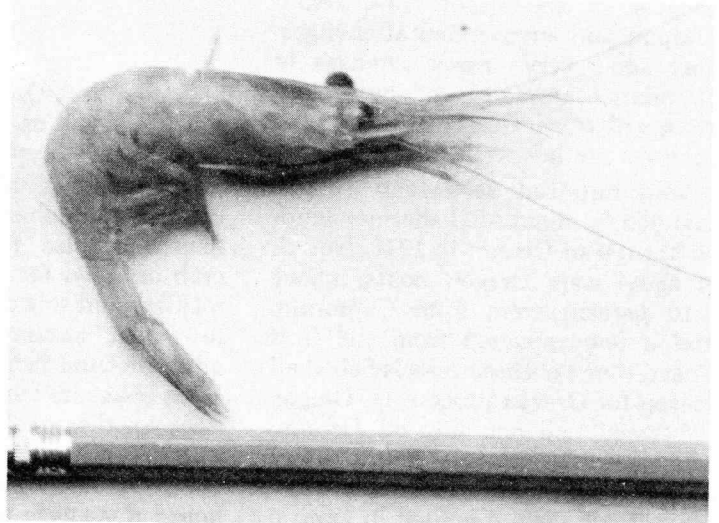
Pink shrimp grow rapidly. When they are 1, 2, and 3 years old, they "weigh" about 325, 110, and 70/lb., (1.4, 4.1, and 6.5 gm) respectively. Growth appears to vary within age groups with males growing slower than transitionals which in turn grow slower than females.

Off the Oregon coast pink shrimp feed at night on tiny drifting animals and plants known as plankton, and may also feed on small bottom-dwelling creatures during the day. They exhibit a daily vertical movement which appears related to

Luscious shrimp cocktails such as this one are served throughout the country. Many of them have their start in Oregon waters.



*Pandalus jordani* is the scientific name but more often it is known as the cocktail or pink shrimp, the basis for a relatively new commercial fishery off the Oregon coast.



feeding. At night they leave the bottom, and within 2 hours after sun-down some may swim several hundred feet to the surface. At dawn an equally rapid descent to the bottom apparently occurs. They do not burrow into the bottom during the day time. During "brown" water periods when coastal upwelling and heavy plankton blooms occur, usually in mid-summer, pink shrimp have also been found off the bottom during day time. Lateral movements undoubtedly occur also, as they are subject to strong currents when off the bottom.

Pink shrimp live in the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to San Diego. They are found in fishable concentrations between Queen Charlotte Sound and Trinidad Head, California, a distance of almost 700 nautical miles. Large numbers occur off Oregon between Cape Arago and Heceta Head in areas with a green mud or muddy sand bottom at depths of 35 to 160 fathoms. Rocky bottoms seem inhospitable to shrimp.

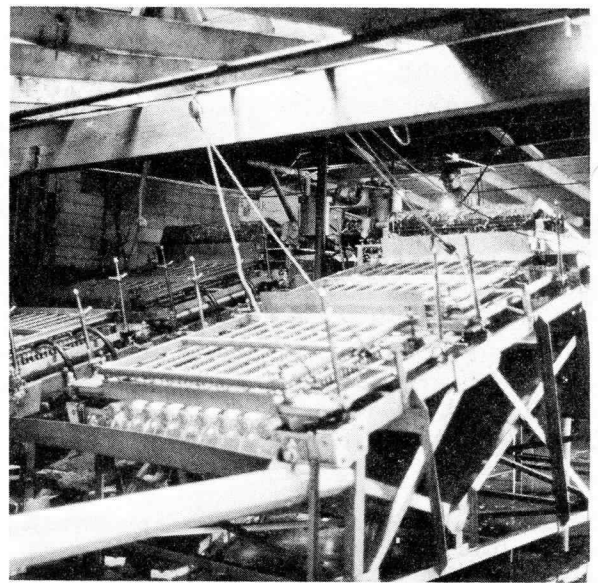
We estimate that this population has a biomass of 18-25 million pounds. The largest shrimp ground is between the Columbia River and Yaquina Head where we estimate the population ranges from 20-70 million pounds. Other good shrimp areas occur to the north and south of Cape Blanco and near the California border.

The populations, like many other marine animal stocks, fluctuate in numbers from year to year. Shrimp, because of their short (3-4 years) lifespan and environmental changes, may show very drastic changes in abundance annually and by era, or groups of years. Reasons for the fluctuations are not well understood.

One hundred seventeen vessels manned by about 410 fishermen landed shrimp in Oregon in 1974. Not all of these were Oregon boats; about 5-10 percent were from California, and a few appeared from the Gulf Coast. Some of these vessels fished all season for Oregon processors. Oregon fishermen fish not only off Oregon, but also off California, Washington, and British Columbia. Even so, the majority of shrimp landed in Oregon



Though winches and mechanical shrimp peelers make the handling of the creatures less laborious . . .



are caught off Oregon.

The vessels used in shrimping off Oregon are typical combination fishing boats suitable for use in more than one fishery. Most shrimp fishermen also fish for Dungeness crab or trawl for groundfish such as rockfish and sole during the winter. A few quit shrimping in favor of albacore tuna fishing in the summer. Most boats are between 50 and 80 feet long, wood or steel, and of the western seiner type, but these are gradually being replaced by larger, modern steel boats of western or gulf class. A few

are schooner-type vessels used in halibut fishing years ago, and some are of the Gulf of Mexico type.

Fishing occurs between April 1 and October 15 off Oregon. During these months, the weather normally permits vessels to stay at sea up to 4 days per trip. From two to ten 1-2 hour tows are made daily, yielding an average of about 1,000 pounds per tow. Other fish and invertebrates such as rockfish, sole, smelt, hake, anchovy, and sea urchins are also caught. The net is brought aboard over the side of the boat, the catch





**much hand work  
is still necessary to  
get the final  
product into the  
cans.**



dumped onto a sorting table, and the net immediately reset for another tow. The catch is then sorted between tows. Shrimp and marketable fish are stowed and iced in the hold. Unmarketable and nonfood fish are usually discarded. On many vessels, especially in the ports south of Newport, shrimp are stowed in boxes holding 75-110 pounds. Boxing tends to reduce handling and smashing, and it encourages better icing operations at sea. In other boats, mostly those based in Newport and to the north, shrimp are "bulk stowed"

loose in bins located in the hold. Shrimp are unloaded after a 1-4 day trip, often iced again at the dock, and then processed, frequently the following day.

Since 1967 machines have replaced hand processing, especially at Newport and south. The high quality of modern machine-peeled shrimp, high labor costs, and stiffer sanitation standards enforced by the FDA have combined to encourage use of machines.

Traditionally, the hand-peel operation in southern ports demanded a

fresher, firmer product than the machine-peel operation in northern ports. The machines mechanically separate the head and tail, "squeeze" the meat from the tail shell, and wash and cook the meats. Tails are packaged in tins of 4½ oz. and 1-5 lbs. capacity. About 400-500 persons are employed in Oregon to process the catch.

Shrimping has increased dramatically since the fishery landed 0.5 million pounds in 1954. The catch reached 5.5 million pounds in 1964 and averaged 11 million pounds from 1967-71. Landings jumped to 20.6 million pounds in 1972 and reached a record 24.5 million pounds in 1973.

The shrimp fishery in Oregon is managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Fishing regulations have been liberal, because the shrimp population off Oregon has consistently maintained a high level despite large catches to date. Since the complicated sex change typical of pink shrimp means that the fishery must harvest females or potential females, waters off Oregon are closed to shrimping from October 16 to March 31 to protect egg-bearing females. Oregon has also supported management of the shrimp fishery off California by enforcing regulations adopted by that state.

Oregon fishermen and processors are licensed by the ODFW. Fishermen are required to keep a log of their fishing activities, and processors must submit weekly records of deliveries of shrimp. In addition to compiling information on fishing effort, landings, and location of catch, ODFW biologists conduct studies relating to the life history and abundance of pink shrimp populations. Some of these studies have been conducted in cooperation with Oregon State University. Information on harvest levels and abundance of Oregon's pink shrimp is essential in maintaining a continuing fishery on this valuable resource.

In preparation of this article, thanks are due to the many fishermen and processors whose cooperation through the years has been very helpful in increasing knowledge of this species. □

# Mule Deer Management On Private Lands

*By Derald Walker*  
Superintendent, White River  
Wildlife Management Area

The mule deer of eastern Oregon is generally a migratory animal, traveling from higher forested areas in the summer to lower foothills and valleys during the winter. Weather and the direct effect of weather on the availability of forage and cover are most important in causing this movement. The higher summer ranges of mule deer are predominantly publicly owned lands which are usually managed under multiple-use objectives to insure the well-being of all resources, including mule deer.

Regulations for the annual cropping of surplus mule deer are proposed to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife

Commission by land management agencies, sportsmen's clubs, ranchers, merchants, legislators, the Commission staff, and many others. The seven-person Commission then must make decisions, based on these recommendations, which best provide for the welfare and proper utilization of mule deer.

Problems inherent with the management of mule deer are multiplied greatly as we move from public to private lands. We no longer have a land base which is managed or controlled by the public for public benefit. We instead have land which is managed by an individual, usually

a farmer or rancher, to provide his livelihood. The individual's objectives are by necessity often different than those of the public. The farmer or rancher must operate on a dollar profit objective or he may lose his land to someone who will. This situation sets the stage for a dilemma which has been with us for many years. We have a fully public resource (mule deer) which spends some or all of its time on private lands where objectives must be for private gain. This situation creates sportsman-landowner controversy and greatly complicates mule deer management.

**Biologists conduct big game surveys on both public and private lands. Land use changes on important ranges, such as shown on the next page, can result in catastrophe for the animals.**



Mule deer harvest regulations are set by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. However, the impact of these regulations can be modified by landowners through the control of hunter access. The Commission may elect to set a 13-day buck season in eastern Oregon and a limited antlerless deer season in certain management units to properly take the available surpluses of mule deer. Within this framework many things can happen on the private lands: 1) The landowner may close his land to all access. 2) He may open his lands to hunting by special friends only, thereby reducing the harvest of deer which would normally occur. 3) He may allow access but specify that he wants the hunters to crop only antlerless deer or only buck deer and if they do not do so, he will not allow them to hunt on his land again. 4) A landowner may charge a trespass fee, which would also reduce hunter numbers and resultant harvest on his land. As you can see, a landowner cannot broaden the mule deer hunting regulations beyond those set by the Commission but he can certainly



effect reductions in both hunter numbers and harvest on private lands. Such reductions may provide improper hunter distribution and hamper the objectives of the season.

On the other side of the access problem, the landowner often has reason to take legal actions to control or stop public access on his private land. Such reasons include: 1) Mule deer hunter numbers have greatly increased in eastern Oregon over the past several years, creating the "wave of hunters" effect which may bring problems to the landowner. 2) Acts of vandalism by a few continue to irritate landowners and cost them monetary loss. 3) Mule deer on private lands utilize some forage which could also be utilized by livestock. Some landowners feel that fee hunting compensates them for this loss.

Another important consideration is that in many cases the key winter range of a mule deer herd is located on private land. This land is very important to the animals and is also the spot where most significant gains can be made for mule deer in terms of habitat improvement. Unfortunately, there is much competition for these key lands because they are also the places where the private landowner can increase his potential income in terms of forage or other crop productions.

Often, but not always, range im-

provements designed for livestock will have some beneficial effects for mule deer. Similarly, range improvements designed for mule deer usually provide livestock benefits. Many farmers or ranchers who are planning a range development on private land which they must finance are not likely to give lengthy consideration to mule deer needs. Improved mule deer habitat will not reward him for dollars spent but additional livestock grazing will. Therefore, mule deer habitat benefits obtained will be incidental and not necessarily planned. Another example of land use conflict on mule deer habitat is when private rangeland is changed from agricultural use to subdivisions or housing. Obviously this action can result in complete catastrophe for mule deer if allowed to occur unregulated on key habitats.

Encouraging things are happening to reduce this competition for space between mule deer and other land uses. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will provide assistance to landowners experiencing heavy mule deer damage to high value crops, provided the landowner allows hunting on his lands to assist in keeping deer numbers compatible with ranching operations. This assistance is provided through physical barriers in the form of haystack panels, chemical repellents, and occasionally special hunting seasons or removal permits in extreme situations. The

Department is working to provide and insure equitable hunting access on private lands through regulated hunting areas, cooperative habitat improvement projects, and other avenues. The hunter education program sponsored by the Department is designed not only to make safe hunters but also good sportsmen who respect property rights and abhor vandalism. Several cooperative private land habitat improvement projects have been carried out in eastern Oregon involving the Department and private landowners. Through careful planning projects have been developed which provide improved mule deer habitat in key areas in addition to improving livestock forage and water supplies.

Land use planning is perhaps the greatest tool currently available to reduce conflicts and insure maximum compatibility in land use changes. Coordinated ranch management plans are currently being developed throughout eastern Oregon with combined efforts from the Soil Conservation Service, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, public land management agencies, and private landowners. These coordinated plans include all the resources of a land area regardless of ownership. These resources are then considered collectively and objectives and associated guidelines are developed which insure the protection and improvement of all the resources. City, county, and state land use planning bodies use similar procedures to coordinate all the resources of a land area. Zoning restrictions developed by the public for the public good insure that the needs of mule deer will be recognized.

The future of our mule deer resource on both public and private lands is dependent upon our being able to work together for the benefit, protection, and wise utilization of all resources. The private landowner, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, public land management agencies, resource people, and sportsmen must all work toward cooperatively established goals if we are to continue to have mule deer to observe, hunt, photograph, or otherwise utilize in a wise and careful manner. □



# Willamette Fishway

By Bob Kuhn



The Willamette Falls at Oregon City. The numbers indicate the approximate locations of the four entrances to the fishway. The counting station is located near where the number two is shown. Though

not a record run, the count of fall chinook passing through the ladder this year may be about the third highest recorded.

Another good year for the fall chinook salmon run into the upper Willamette River is going into the record books. While short of the all-time record 33,920 adults counted in 1974, this year's run could reach the 30,000 mark by mid-October when the last few fish make their way past the viewing window at Willamette Falls.

Passage around the falls at Oregon City has always been a problem for salmon. Under favorable conditions, spring chinook and winter steelhead managed to negotiate the falls but the seasonally low water traditionally barred fall chinook and coho from reaching upriver spawning grounds.

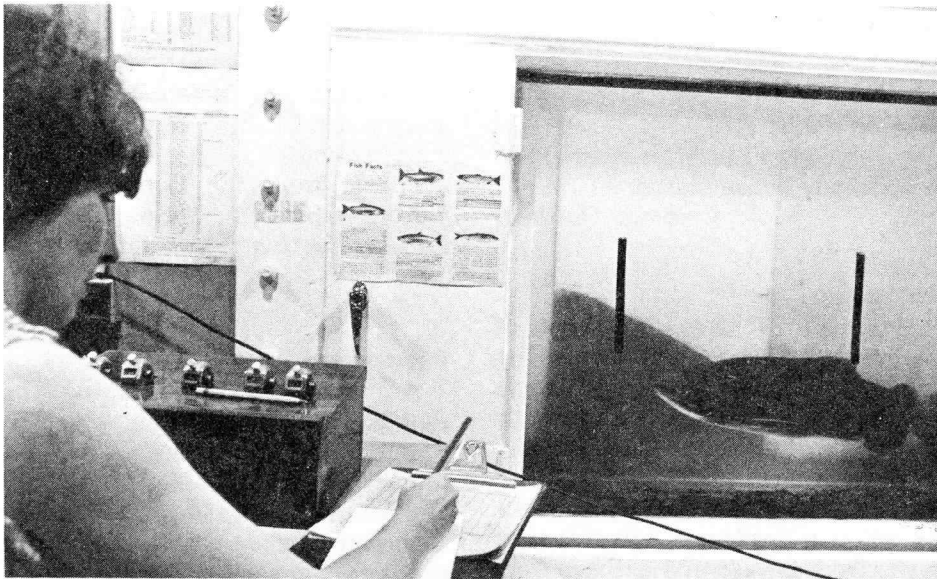
Anticipating the potentials that could be achieved by giving the fish a

hand in getting upriver, the 1882 session of the Oregon Legislature appropriated \$5,000 to build a fish ladder at the falls. The 1884 session increased the amount to \$10,750. However, this measure had its opponents which included lower river cannery men and legislators who opposed further propagation of an "inferior variety of salmon". According to the Morning Oregonian of October 1, 1885, an "amusing debate in the House" erupted over the proposed expenditure.

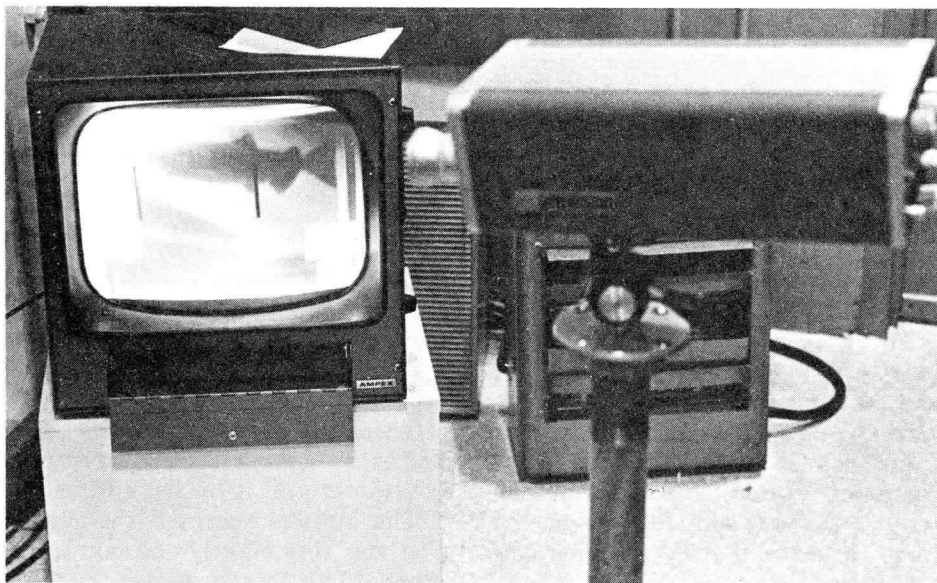
"F. C. Geer of Clackamas County advocated the bill on the grounds it would afford a means of fish supply to the people in the valley. Linen Webber of Clatsop County opposed it on the grounds that it would

propagate 'steelheads' to the serious detriment of the salmon interest, declaring that kind of salmon was unfit for dogs. Geer replied that they didn't want the fish for their dogs, but for themselves and that bad as steelheads were, he and others of equally vulgar palate liked them. Henry Coe of Columbia County opposed the ladder because he thought the valley members (Geer included) hard headed enough already." The report said the debate continued in this manner until Coe closed with a remark that all the steelhead and salmon in the Pacific Ocean were not worth the amount of the proposed \$10,000 appropriation, but the measure passed anyway. And so, with this kind of pomp and ceremony, the





Linda Karlik has been counting fish at the falls fishway for several years for the Department. During the run the counter counts for 50 minutes out of each hour. Lines on the glass are 22 inches apart and are used to separate jacks from adults.



Videotape recording machines take over during the hours the counter is not on duty. The two machines run at very slow speed and have automatic switching so that the total passage can be recorded. After the tape for the night is complete, it is played back at fast speed and counts are compiled for the 24-hour period. Here the camera is pointed at the window to the left while the TV screen shows what is being taped.

first fish ladder on the Willamette River was undertaken and the San Francisco Bridge Building Company was contracted to do the work.

Meanwhile, more problems beset fish passage at the falls as a dam was built across the Willamette in sections. Turbines were added in about 1894 which increased the flow through an area on the west side known as the cul-de-sac and attracted fish into this blind alley. In 1904 a dam was constructed across the main falls and another ladder was installed at the west end.

While the new ladder was modified and changed several times with the blasting of more pools and addition of concrete weirs and walls, the cul-de-sac continued to remain the area of greatest fish attraction but no passage. Another problem was the ladder's inability to pass fish year around.

In 1960 the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries provided federal funding of a study which led to the design of the present 3.7 million dollar fishway to provide maximum passage at all times of the year, even during flood stage.

Construction was soon begun under the supervision of the Oregon Fish Commission with most of the funding provided by the Columbia River Fishery Development Program. The final leg of the fishway was completed in 1971. Three entrances attracted the fish and passed them up a ladder and out a common exit. A fourth opening was added last year to help the fish better negotiate one of the legs.

Meanwhile, to help develop the fall runs of salmon, accelerated rearing and planting of fish was undertaken by state and federal agencies. The biggest boost to the fall chinook run occurred as the result of a rearing program in 1968 at Salem's Cascade Gateway Park, where 2 million salmon were raised and released.

A big return of these fish followed and ponds at Aumsville and Stayton were constructed to take over the duties of raising fall chinook for the Willamette system. Currently, 10-12 million fish are being raised and released annually. □

# This and that

compiled by Ken Durbin

## With Or Without Luck

The "Sportsmen's Guide to Hunting and Fishing in Natal" published by the Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, defines an angler thus: "An angler uses a hook, with or without bait, and a line, with or without a rod, in an attempt, with or without success, to catch fish."

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## Wild Turkey Stamp Available

The 10,000-member National Wild Turkey Federation has introduced the first annual wild turkey stamp. According to Executive Vice President, Tom Rodgers, the program has been designed to closely rival the Federal Duck Stamp in both investment and fund-raising potential. All proceeds will go toward education, restoration, and the purchase of wild turkey habitat.

The colorful design selected for the first wild turkey stamp (1976) was donated by noted Florida wildlife artist, Russ Smiley, and features the Florida wild turkey, *Osceola*. In addition to the limited stamp sale (50,000 printed), a signed and numbered edition of prints (1,000 printed) has been produced. With over one million wild turkey hunters in the United States today, the supply of stamps and prints should be exhausted quite rapidly.

The first wild turkey print is available for \$63 unframed and \$110 framed (stamp included). Stamps are \$3 each and all donations are fully tax deductible. Orders should be directed to Wild Turkey Stamp, P.O. Box 467, Edgefield, South Carolina 29824.

## Tracking Down Litterers

Keep America Beautiful, the coalition of industry and community groups that works to stimulate individual involvement in improving the environment, has turned up these findings in a recent research project:

- About 20 per cent of litter is produced by motorists and pedestrians.

- The rest comes from uncovered trucks, mishandled household and commercial refuse, construction sites, loading docks, etc.

- People tend to litter where litter has already accumulated.

Colorado Outdoors

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## Recycling

Because of the high cost of chemical fertilizers, in Libya a fertilizer factory is being built. There is nothing unusual in that, but this factory has a difference. Its end product will be compost, in texture and composition very like the compost made by amateur gardeners, but this time made from sewage and garbage from the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

United Nations  
Development Forum

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**Lakes Of The Willamette National Forest**, the second brochure in a series that will eventually cover the lakes of all Oregon's national forests, is now available from the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Willamette Forest covers some 1.6 million acres of forest land and contains more than 500 lakes. The brochure lists the lakes, their location by range, township, and section, the elevation of each, acreage, depth, and species of fish each contains.

There is also a section listing sources for maps which show the lakes and an explanation of how to read a map to find any of the lakes listed.

**Lakes Of The Mount Hood National Forest**, the first in the series, was made available earlier this year. Others will follow as they are completed.

Single copies of either or both may be obtained free upon request from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3503, Portland 97208.

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## Warbach Cartoons Published

A selection of excellent conservation cartoons by Oscar Warbach has been compiled and published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Warbach, the most renowned conservation cartoonist since "Ding" Darling, is a wildlife biologist by training.

Warbach's lighthearted yet serious approach to environmental education has earned him many honors and awards and has been a great force for conservation. The 80-page book is available from the Department of Natural Resources, Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48926, for \$3.60.

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## Persistence Pays

A "moving" story making the rounds in Tennessee points up the adaptability and tenacity of the house wren. It seems that one prospective mother wren incongruously chose a nest site behind the headlight of a pickup truck belonging to Bill Holladay, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency officer. The wren stayed inside the hood as Holladay drove about several counties doing field work. Three chicks hatched and the tough little mother fed them with insects from the radiator. During the four weeks of incubation and fledging, Holladay's truck was never idle for more than two days at a time.

Audubon Econotes

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## Quite A Problem

It was during the hunting season, and one day two fellows who had shot a deer started pulling it by the tail toward their car.

Then another hunter came along and said, "I think it would be easier if you would pull it by the antlers."

The hunters accepted the suggestion and very shortly one said to the other, "This is a lot easier."

Then the other man said, "Yup. But do you notice we are getting farther and farther away from the car?"

V.F.W. Magazine

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# OBSERVATIONS

## on the shooting sports

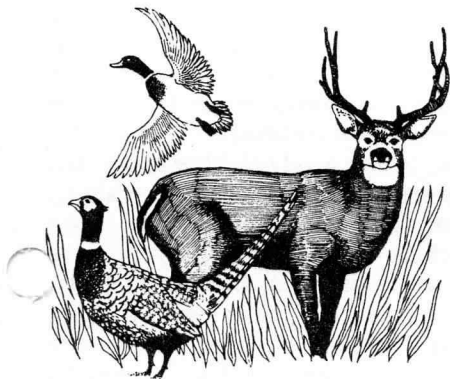
### THE UNWRITTEN LAWS

by

"Rock" Rohlfing

Executive Director

National Shooting Sports Foundation



Some time ago, in a piece on ethical hunting, one of our people here at NSSF wrote "Obey the laws, both written and unwritten." OK. It's not so hard to know what the written laws are because most states give you a little booklet with your license, and contained in that booklet are the laws you have to obey to keep straight with the warden.

But what about those unwritten laws? What are they? Is a shooter or hunter supposed to be born knowing what they are? Of course not. At the risk of attempting the impossible, I'll try to write about some of the unwritten laws. Put another way, a sportsman and gentleman does these unwritten things without really thinking much about it because he feels *right* when he does them.

First is the simple idea of knowing what your gun and load can do. Several years ago, on a spring bear hunt in Wyoming, my guide and I

sat on the rimrock looking at three bighorn rams about 900 yards away. The guide allowed as to how they made a hell of a target. Since I knew he used a .270 on sheep (in season, of course), I asked him if he'd shoot at one that far away. He said he would, but that sometimes it took up to five shots to find the range and score a hit.

What nonsense. This is no shirt-tail guide, either, but a damn good, successful man with many satisfied customers who keep coming back for the excellence of his elk and sheep hunting. I can only hope that he puts his clients a lot closer than that. He must, as they do quite well. The well-placed shot after a skillful stalk to a reasonable range for your equipment is the sporting answer. No, it's not written down, but you know what I mean. Find out what your rifle can do and learn something about group sizes, trajectories and striking power.

One more example: Another man I know, well along in years, bragged to me about his most recent elk. He hit it with one shot from a 7mm as it was running up a slope at 500 yards. That's right—running at 500 yards. I don't even want to contemplate the odds against a shot like that.

Don't for a moment think that some big game hunters have a monopoly on long-range idiocy. Duck and goose hunters surely have a fair share of optimists who think a shotgun will deliver at ranges so extreme the birds sometimes don't even flare as the shot falls harmlessly short.

But, beyond shooting at proper ranges is the grace of correct conduct in the field. I've been hunting ducks and geese for the last 23 years with a man who hogs shots. He's a polite, hard-working, decent family man who just has to have the first shot, even when it isn't really on his side of the blind or if, calling shots as they come in, it isn't his turn. You might ask why I still hunt with this man. Because I like him in all other respects, I guess. I've told him off, but his contrition lasts until the next single banks beyond the decoys and starts to pitch. That, by God, is *his* bird. Oh well, I'll keep trying.

Now, before you get the idea that I'm too decent to be true, I've pulled a few I'm not so proud of either. One sticks out. When my son was a little

fellow and just beginning to try duck hunting, there was a time once, on a slow day, when I took a shot away from him and killed the bird. I can still see the look on his face, and it happened 15 years ago. I wish I could have that day back. I've regretted my action ever since.

Worse, perhaps, than the shot hog is the claimer who just knows that anything that falls is his because he shot too, didn't he? I hunted doves in Arizona for years with a famous movie actor who was a constant delight on the trip. The rest of us wised up pretty quickly, though, and let him claim the first ten doves. This put him back under the tent fly cleaning birds while the rest of us had a more leisurely time of it. Don't be a claimer. What the heck, a bird or two can't be that important and, besides, most really good shots know who connected. If it's meat you need, it's a lot cheaper at the market.

I'll draw this wandering narrative to a close with one last example of an unwritten law. In 1972, I went to Arizona to shoot doves in September, and we had in our party several movie personalities, some of the leading sporting goods wholesalers in the country and General Jimmy Doolittle of Tokyo raid fame. When we arrived at dawn in the field we were going to shoot, we found a miserable mess. The field had been shot the previous two days by a group of wealthy people who had come to a lovely, remote bit of desert, hard by an Indian reservation, and had desecrated it by leaving empty beer cans, empty shells, shell boxes, food containers and too many dead and unrecovered doves.

We went to work and, using litter bags, we totally policed the area, giving all of us the unusual experience of seeing a retired Lt. General performing better than any of us on a work detail.

Now, no law says you have to leave a place better than you found it, but it's the right thing to do.

Be a sportsman, be a gentleman, do the fair, the right thing, and you'll obey the unwritten laws. You can't help it.

*Provided as a public service by  
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## Books Worth Noting

If you'd like to know what you're looking at while wandering the outdoors of the Northwest, two new books that have recently become available would be worthwhile additions to your reference library.

**Mammals Of The Northwest**, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia by Earl J. Larrison is part of the Trailside Series put out by the Seattle Audubon Society. The author is a professor at the University of Idaho and has written several other books on the outdoors.

In his latest volume, which is 256 pages long, he does a good job of telling about the mammals, from moles to moose, that are found on land and in the water in our part of the country. Photos accompanied by black and white sketches give the reader an idea of what the various species look like and the accompanying text concisely describes the animals and tells where they are found. You won't find great detail about each small area of the state because, in covering the whole Northwest, the author necessarily has had to paint with a rather broad brush. However, to the person who wants to have one book that includes all of the species he may see in this part of the country, this is a good one.

**Mammals Of The Northwest** is available at your local bookstore or may be ordered from the Portland Audubon Society, 5151 N.W. Cornell Road, Portland, Oregon 97210. Price is \$7.50.

If you can't tell a limpet from a piddock or a dogwinkle from a periwinkle, another new book may be just what you need. For the beachwalker, **Seashells Of The Pacific Northwest** by James Seeley White is an invaluable guide for identifying all of those shelled creatures you see on the beach.

Illustrated by many well-done color photos, this book not only will help you identify the shells of the departed creatures, but also tells you where the creature probably was growing when it was alive.

Interesting background about some species is also revealed, such as, "The Pacific Northwest has many chitons including some unusually colorful ones as well as the world's largest plated mollusk, the Giant Chiton." Lest you decide to flee in fear of such a creature, we should add it is a snail-like animal about a foot long resembling the upper half of a loaf of bread.

A short section of this book tells how to best preserve these interesting creatures in case you want to make a display of that bucketful of things the kids picked up last time at the beach.

Author White is a native of the Northwest and has written a number of articles on marine life and sea creatures. He is an avid scuba diver, so has met the creatures on their own grounds many times. For the curious person intrigued by the life along the seashore, **Seashells Of The Pacific Northwest** is a worthy addition to the book collection. The 125-page book is published by Binford and Mort in Portland and sells for \$6.50. □

### The Wrong Swallow

Several of our keen-eyed readers caught us in an error in last month's issue. The picture story about the swallows nesting outside the Portland office of the Department wrongly identified the birds. Instead of being barn swallows as stated in the story, the birds were violet-green swallows. Don't know that it bothered the birds especially, but we don't want to mislead our readers — our apologies.

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## Don't Transport The "Weed"

If you're an elk hunter headed for northeastern Oregon this season, you can make yourself a bit more welcome by taking care of your hay and straw. Though both of these items are thoroughly biodegradable and it might seem all right to leave the horse and human bedding on the ground after you depart, a problem has arisen.

Mr. E. Van Blaricom, who is resolutions chairman for the Wallowa County Farm Bureau, dropped us a note asking that we point out that straw and hay from the Willamette Valley may contain portions of the noxious weed tansy ragwort. According to Van Blaricom, there have been at least three positive discoveries of the weed in hay or straw brought to northeastern Oregon for horse food or bedding.

So, to be a good neighbor and guest, here are two suggestions passed along. First, be discriminating in your purchase of hay. This may not solve the whole problem, though, so if you go hunting and take hay or straw along for bedding, take time before leaving to gather up all of the remains and burn them. Tansy ragwort has become a real pest in many parts of western Oregon. Anything that can be done to prevent its spread to other areas is important — so be a good visitor, but don't take the "weed" along and transplant it. □

### Hunters Increase

Hunters in the United States are on the increase. The number of hunters in the U.S. jumped by 200,438 to a total of 16,597,807 in 1975. Sport hunters pour a lot of money into the economy. According to a report from the Wildlife Management Institute, hunters in 1975 paid \$154,919,518 for state hunting licenses. This was up \$12,007,246 from the previous year.



1634 S. W. ALDER STREET  
P. O. BOX 3503  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208