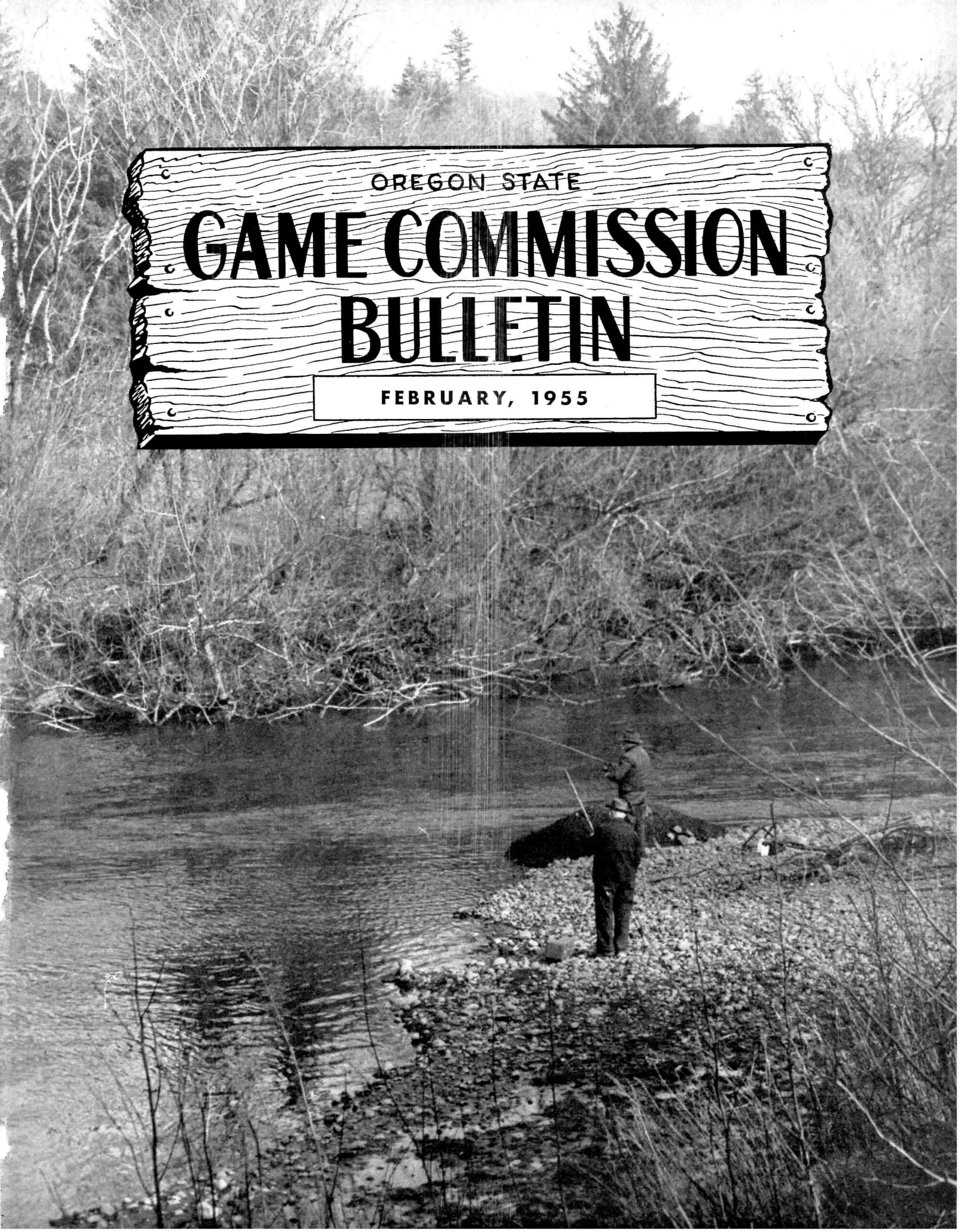
OREGON STATE

GAME COMMISSION BULLETIN

FEBRUARY, 1955



An index of the 1954 Game Commission Bulletins has been prepared and copies are available upon request.

* * *

Sauvie Island Management Area statistics show that during the past hunting season 9,972 hunters killed 15,431 ducks, 290 geese and 897 pheasants. The year before 9,774 hunters took 9,518 ducks, 212 geese and 973 pheasants.

* * *

The 1953-54 biennial report of the Game Commission has been prepared for the current session of the legislature. Others interested in having copies may obtain them by writing to the Commission office in Portland.

* * *

A simultaneous count of waterfowl was made during the first week of January throughout the Pacific Flyway. Each year under the direction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an effort is made to tabulate all of the waterfowl in the flyway. Federal and state game management agencies cooperate and in Oregon field men and officers of the Game Commission, State Police and Fish and Wildlife Service participated. Canadian provinces of the Pacific Flyway also took part.

* * *

A banded valley quail released in March, 1953 near Grass Valley was killed this past season across the Deschutes river, some 15 miles from the liberation site.

* * *

Hunting success varied for the three controlled elk hunts held this fall. In the North Fork of John Day area, the 302 hunters who participated, bagged 108 elks (10 bulls, 73 cows and 25 calves). This was a success ratio of 36 per cent. In the Walla Walla area, 302 hunters killed 163 elk (12 bulls, 99 cows, 52 calves), making a success ratio of 34 per cent. For both of these areas 400 permits had been issued. In the Promise area of Wallowa county, 153 of the 225 permittees checked in. They took only 33 elk (1 bull, 22 cows and 10 calves), a success ratio of 22 per cent. Heavy hunting pressure during the general season scattered the animals.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE WEEK DATES SET

National Wildlife Week has been set for March 20 to 26 and has for its theme "Save America's Wetlands!" Goal of Wildlife Week, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, is twofold: (1) to disabuse the public of the common but erroneous idea that every marsh or swamp is a nuisance area that ought to be drained, and (2) to set in motion a series of constructive actions designed to preserve or restore our living wetlands.

The new issue of wildlife conservation stamps may be purchased from the National Wildlife Federation, 232 Carroll Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Printed copies of the official synopsis of the 1955 angling regulations will be available for distribution around the first of March.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin

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OREGON STATE GAME COMMISSION
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MIRIAM KAUTTU, *Editor*
H. C. SMITH, *Staff Artist*

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Please report promptly any change of address. Send in both the old and new address with notice of change.

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

COVER

Trying to hook and land the wily steelhead is favorite pastime of the winter angler. These two are trying their luck on Salmon river in Lincoln county. (Photo by R. C. Holloway)

JANUARY MEETING OF THE GAME COMMISSION

At its January meeting, the Oregon State Game Commission elected Delbert Gildersleeve of Baker as chairman for the 1955 calendar year. He succeeds J. H. Van Winkle of Oregon City. This is Mr. Gildersleeve's second term as chairman.

Routine matters acted upon by the Game Commission at its meetings on January 14 and 28 included the following:

Capital outlay expenditures authorized: $358 for wire pen to protect Atlantic brood stock at Klamath hatchery; $3,000 for new fish racks at Spencer Creek in Klamath county; $1,000 for pheasant brood coops at E. E. Wilson Management Area; $300 for wide angle lens and field tape recorder for information and education division and $500 for water ditch at Camp White area.

It was decided to file a provisional protest against the Lincoln county P.U.D. application on Drift Creek, tributary of Alsea river.

A contribution of $266 was authorized toward the repair of the Oak Island bridge owned by the drainage district in order to provide for increase in capacity to 15 tons.

Consideration was given to report prepared by the Water Resources Committee for the legislature. Director was instructed to present the Game Commission's reactions and comments to appropriate agencies and committees.

Contract for construction of a fence for the big horn sheep pen at Hart Mountain was awarded to Robinson and Robinson, Caldwell, Idaho, who submitted the low bid of $12,652. Ten other bids ranged from $15,180 to $39,900.

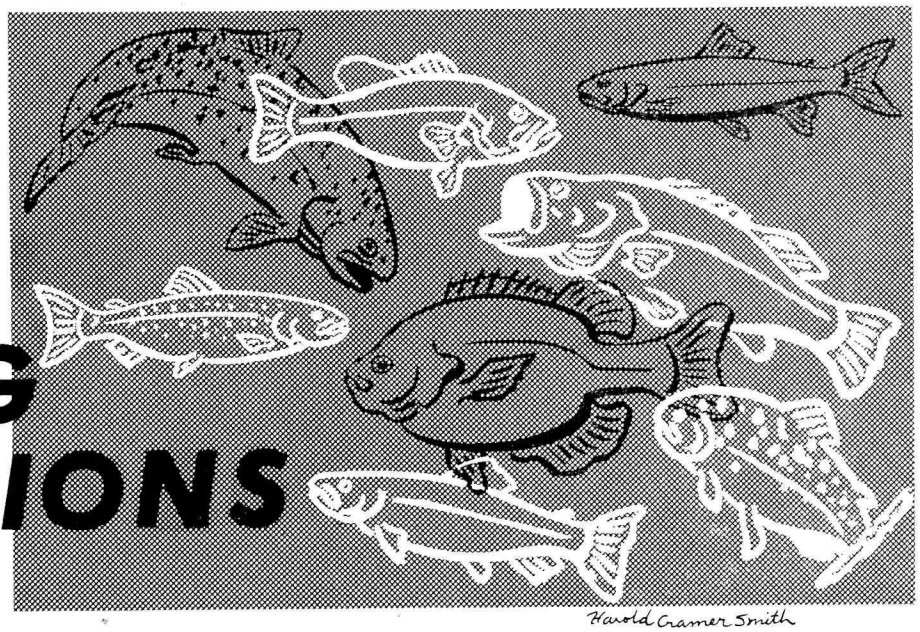
Expenditure of $1,964 was approved for grading of the abandoned ferry slip at Sauvie Island to provide fishing access.

Option for access property at Depoe Bay was not taken up. Proposed access project at Yaquina Bay was tabled.

The Commission went on record as not objecting to application filed with the Hydroelectric Commission by the Western Craft Company mill for a proposed paper mill near Albany, if certain conditions were met.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11 at Corvallis. This is in accordance with policy to hold a meeting there every other year for the benefit of the Department of Fish and Game Management students.

1955 ANGLING REGULATIONS



By F. E. LOCKE, Chief, Stream and Lake Management

CHRISTMAS trees and twinkling lights are but a memory, and the long winter nights ahead afford the angler an opportunity to reminisce of past seasons' catches. The tackle box is brought down and plugs, spoons, flies, and reels examined. There are fond recollections as the rod is flexed, and an imaginary fly is dropped into the crystal pool beneath an alder shaded bank. Yes, the salmon angler too has strung his rod and placed his thumb on the spool, leaned back in the chair, and is all set to haul back and let go with "Fish On!" There is great anticipation as the clan of Izaak Walton begins to think of the coming season. Perhaps the calendar is examined and a week-end visualized as the perfect spot for an opening day.

Fishing buddies discuss the previous season opening and agree that they would have a better chance of taking coastal cutthroat if the season had started a few weeks earlier. Further discussion reveals that they have the privilege of either attending the Game Commission hearings which are held in January and expressing their views to the Commission, and/or submitting a written request.

The local paper indicates that the first of the two public hearings will be held on Friday the 14th of January. Plans are made to write a letter asking for an earlier trout season for the Oregon coast. They see no reason why an earlier opening date would harm the cutthroat, especially if a uniform opening date were requested so that angling pressure was distributed over the state.

Let us pass on to another angler who is also interested in determining an opening day for the coming season. He is behind a desk piled high with recommendations both from sportsmen and fishery agents in the field. These recommendations cover all phases of fishery regulations. There is no time to dream of favorite trout streams, as all requests have to be carefully read, evaluated, and if possible, integrated in a preliminary set of regulations. Let us sort through this huge pile of recommendations and see what is suggested for the opening date for the summer trout season. Yes, here is the letter from our fishing buddies along with similar requests from several sportsmen's clubs on the coast. We see letters from sportsmen in eastern and central Oregon requesting an opening along about the 1st of May. They indicate that even at that date some of the roads are impassable and a few rainbow trout will just be recovering from spawning. Fishery agents who have worked on the coast and observed previous openings indicate in their recommendations that a May 1 date is preferred, as it permits some escapement of small steelhead which are on their way to the ocean. The brood cutthroat also have largely disappeared from the stream. Our fishing buddies were not aware that many of the blueback or harvest trout they were fishing for last summer and fall remained in the stream over winter and would have been passing out to the ocean about the time they requested the season to be opened. Another irate angler suggests that the Commission had better do something rather drastic in protecting the cutthroat before they have gone the way of the dodo bird. Innumerable requests are concerned with a uniform opening date. The concentration of anglers resulting from a split opening not only puts undue stress on favorite streams but makes fishing difficult for all, and many anglers will have no part of it, indicating so in letters to the Commission.

What's to be done about these diverse requests? First of all, let us examine the resource with which this regulation is concerned. Studies indicate that the cutthroat is not as plentiful as it once was, and that it should receive some protection from excessive angling. It is logical to assume that this species should be harvested in greatest numbers when they come into the streams from the ocean in prime condition, rather than at a time when they are returning to the sea to recover from spawning. Small downstream migrating steelhead removed from the stream by the angler enjoying an earlier trout season will certainly not return to the stream as an 8 to 10 pound adult a few years hence. Small salmon too will be taken in greater numbers with an earlier season. We see that a later season would certainly be beneficial to the cutthroat, steelhead, and salmon. A May 1 opening will permit a few large cutthroat to be taken on their way back to the ocean, but in general this opening affords adequate protection to the run.

Many problems concerning regulations are studied thoroughly before seasons, bag limits, deadlines, and length

(Continued on page 7)

OREGON'S Furb

BEAVER:

Traditionally the animal of the state, the beaver still is one of the most important furbearers. They are found along waterways in most of Oregon.

MUSKRAT:

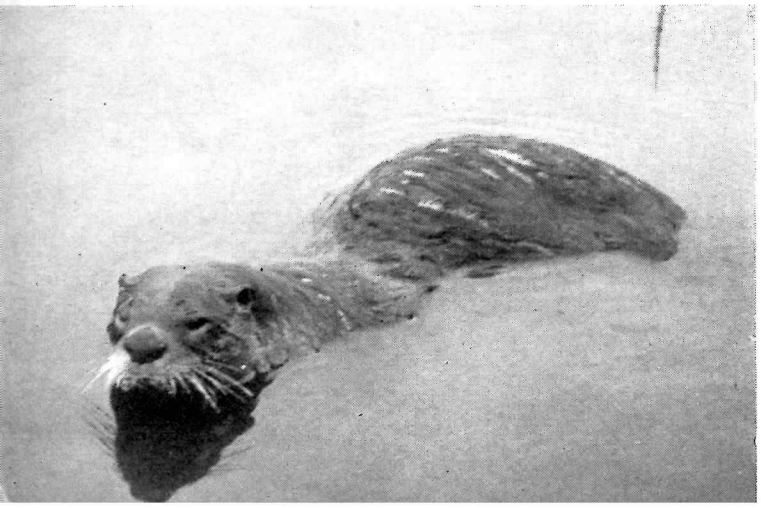
This little fellow is the nation's most important furbearer. Though individual fur prices are low, volume sales raise the total value. He is found in areas with the beaver in our state.

OTTER:

Playboy of the waterways is the otter. His fur is rated as one of the three top wild furs and he is one of the fastest swimmers of the group. He is found on the majority of the larger streams of Oregon.

MARTEN:

An elflike face coupled with a curious streak mark this fellow. Often called the tree-top weasel, he is one of the most striking of the furbearers. Timbered mountainous regions are his home.



earers

RACCOON:

Black mask and ringed tail are the trademarks of this well known furbearer. They are found in all areas of the state, with the eastern Oregon sub-species being one of the largest in the U. S.

RING-TAILED CAT:

The ring-tailed cat has the most limited range of any of our furbearers. Only found in the southwestern part of the state, he is even less apparent because of his nocturnal feeding habits.

FISHER:

This enlarged version of the marten is quite uncommon in Oregon at present. No open trapping season has been held in recent years. He is a wilderness dweller and nocturnal hunter, hence seldom seen.

MINK:

Wild mink are found in most areas of Oregon. Their fur in prime condition is consistently one of the most valuable. They are the worst enemy of their streamside neighbor, the muskrat.

Angling Regulation Changes

Following is a summary only of changes made in the angling regulations, which will become effective February 12, 1955 (not February 5 as printed in last month's Bulletin). Complete angling regulations for 1955 will be listed in the 1955 Official Angling Synopsis, which will be available at license agencies and Game Commission offices sometime after the first of March.

Warm Water Fish

Tributaries of Deschutes River above Warm Springs bridge open entire year.

Whitefish and Dolly Varden

No bag or length limit. May be taken from any water open to trout, salmon or steelhead angling.

No bag or length limit for Dolly Varden except in Odell lake and they may be taken from any water open for trout, steelhead, or salmon angling.

Summer Regulations for Trout, Salmon, Steelhead, and Jack Salmon

Open season—April 30 to October 9 in all zones. May 28 to October 9 for lakes, reservoirs, and their tributaries within national forest boundaries in the Cascade mountains. (Includes Paulina mountains)

Bag limit—Steelhead and salmon 20 inches and over including Rogue river trout 20 inches and over—2 fish per day and 4 in possession or in 7 consecutive days. Not more than 40 such fish in the aggregate of which not more than 20 may be salmon in any calendar year.

Zone 1

Beaver creek (Lincoln county) closed to all angling from the bridge on highway 101 downstream to the mouth and the ocean within a 250 yard radius except from April 30 to August 31.

Gnat creek closed from the Fish Commission rack to the mouth of Rock creek.

North fork of the Siletz river and north fork tributaries closed to all angling except from April 30 to June 30.

Nehalem river closed from 200 feet above ladder at Nehalem Falls down to Narrows.

Zone 2

McKenzie river—Leaburg powerhouse tailrace closed from powerhouse downstream 200 feet.

Walterville canal is closed for a distance of 200 feet below the salmon rack, and Walterville powerhouse tailrace closed 200 feet below powerhouse.

McKenzie river closed from Hendricks bridge upstream to Fish Commission racks during time of operation.

Sandy river above Marmot dam closed to salmon.

Scott lake closed to fishing from motor boats.

Pine lake open July 1 to August 22.

Willamette river middle fork salmon closure above Dexter creek removed.

Zone 3

Diamond lake and tributaries closed.

Lake creek, outlet of Diamond lake, closed above the forks at hatchery.

Loon lake tributaries opened.

Umpqua river (north fork) closed from the Soda Springs dam down to a point 50 yards below power plant.

Umpqua river (north fork) and tributaries (exclusive of lakes) closed to angling in any manner other than with an artificial fly from the presently established winter deadline near the mouth of Rock creek upstream to a point 50 yards below Soda Springs power plant.

Zone 4

Bolan lake closed.

Rogue river closed from the Gold Hill Irrigation District spillway to a point 700 feet upstream from January 1 to July 15.

Zone 5

Deschutes river from Little Lava lake down to Deschutes bridge opened.

Elk lake opened within a radius of 200 yards of mouth of Elk creek.

Elk creek opened.

Lake creek and tributaries (outlet of Suttle lake) opened.

Metolius river tributaries open from the mouth of Lake creek down to bridge 99 on the river loop road.

Paulina lake is closed in that portion from the dam to a line starting from a point 400 yards north of the Paulina lake resort boat house extending diagonally across the lake to a marker 200 yards north of the boat dock in the Forest Service camp grounds.

General trout bag limit to apply at Sparks, East, Paulina, Davis lakes and Crane Prairies and Wickiup reservoirs.

Fall River closure in vicinity of hatchery removed.

Walton lake (Ochoco national forest) to have general season and bag limit.

Wickiup Reservoir open April 30 to October 9.

Zone 6

Drews creek above reservoir closed.

Lake of the Woods tributaries opened.

Lofton reservoir is open entire year but closed to angling from motor boat.

Wood river open from May 28 to October 9.

Zone 7

Birch creek (Umatilla county) below confluence of east and west forks closed for steelhead and salmon.

Canyon creek (Grant county) below south city limits of Canyon City closed for salmon and steelhead.

John Day river below Indian creek is closed for salmon and steelhead April 10 to June 1.

John Day river (south fork) below Jackass creek closed for salmon and steelhead.

Lake creek (Grant county) opened between Olive lake and what is known as upper reservoir.

John Day river (middle fork) below Sunshine Guard Station is open to steelhead and salmon angling except from April 10 to June 1.

John Day river (north fork) below highway 395 is open to steelhead and salmon angling except from April 10 to June 1.

McKay reservoir bag limit is 10 fish 6 inches and over in length and 20 in possession.

Rock creek (Gilliam county) below highway 19 at Olex closed for steelhead and salmon.

Strawberry lake tributaries, exclusive of Little Strawberry lake, opened.

Umatilla river below Mission bridge open to steelhead and salmon angling from January 1 to April 10.

Walla Walla river below the confluence of north and south forks open to steelhead and salmon angling from January 1 to April 10.

Zone 8

Owyhee reservoir open entire year.

Owyhee river closed for a distance of 200 yards below the dam.

Silver Creek reservoir (Moon lake) open entire year. Bag limit is 10 fish a day, 20 in possession.

(Continued on page 7)

REGULATION CHANGES

(Continued from page 6)

Zone 9

Camp creek and tributaries (Higgins reservoir) closed.

Catherine creek below the city of Union water intake is open to steelhead and salmon angling from January 1 to June 15, except that portion from the upper Davis dam downstream to a point 200 yards below the lower Davis dam is closed to all angling the entire year.

Eagle creek below the bridge at Newbridge open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 29 to August 31.

Grande Ronde river below the bridge at Beaver creek open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 10 to June 1.

Imnaha river below Freezeout bridge open to salmon and steelhead angling except from from April 10 to June 1.

Minam river below Squaw creek is open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 10 to June 1.

Pine creek below north fork open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 29 to August 31.

Powder river below Thief Valley dam open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 29 to August 31.

Razz lake closed.

Wallowa river below Lostine river is open to steelhead and salmon angling except from April 10 to June 1.

That part of Wallowa lake at the head of the lake is closed to all angling south of markers established by the Game Commission.

Wenaha river below Crooked creek is open to salmon and steelhead angling except from April 10 to June 1.

WINTER REGULATIONS

Zone 1 . . . February 12 to 28, 1955, and October 10, 1955 to February 28, 1956.

Zones 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 . . . February 12 to April 29, 1955, and October 10, 1955 to April 29, 1956.

Zone 1

Cook creek up to south fork opened to steelhead and salmon angling.

Coos river (south) up to Cox creek opened.

Kilchis river open up to marker at upper end of county picnic ground.

Salmon river open up to Van Hyning bridge, approximately 2 miles above Rose Lodge bridge.

Zone 2

Abiqua creek open up to 200 feet below fish ladder at Silverton water dam.

Butte creek open up to Scotts Mills bridge.

Crabtree creek open up to highway 226 bridge.

Eagle creek open up to marker at bridge below Dwyer falls.

Pudding river open up to confluence of Abiqua creek.

Thomas creek open up to highway 226 bridge above Scio.

Calapooya creek open up to bridge at Dollar camp.

Zones 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Changes made concur with summer regulation changes.

(Continued on page 8)

1955 ANGLING REGULATIONS

(Continued from page 3)

limits can be determined. Integrating minor changes in the general broad set of established regulations often becomes a staggering task, as even small changes in the wording of one entry may necessitate revisions of many paragraphs.

Tentative regulations are made by the Commission following the first public hearing at which time reasons are given for any changes made in existing angling laws. Requests for changes are thoroughly evaluated before being rejected or adopted into the regulations. Final regulations are released following the second public meeting. In general, the more restrictive measures are introduced in the tentative regulations, and if changes are to be made between the first and second hearing, they are likely to be less restrictive in nature. This is not an infallible rule but one preferred by the Commission as being in keeping with public desires.

Regulations for 1955 have few major changes from those of 1954.

A change from the season limit of 20 salmon or steelhead over 20 inches to a season limit of 40 fish, not more than 20 of which may be salmon, at first appears to be a sizeable increase in the bag limit of steelhead and salmon and a regulation which would result in a tremendous increase in the over-all take of these species. An examination of salmon and steelhead punch cards which have been returned to the Commission, however, reveals that a relatively small portion of the anglers even approach the season bag limit of 20 fish and that the statewide catch resulting from the increased bag would be very small indeed.

A regulation to be effective must be accepted by the public. The 20 fish season bag limit introduced a number of years ago met with considerable opposition, and it was the feeling of many sportsmen that the regulation was too restrictive. This feeling has persisted not only with the few anglers who were able to catch their season limit, but also with many who had fished so few times that it would have been impossible to legally catch an aggregate bag of 20 fish.

The steelhead and salmon punch card was designed to obtain information on salmon and steelhead streams of Oregon. Observations relative to the use of the punch card indicated that there was considerable reluctance on the part of the angler to use the card as it was designed. It is thought that better cooperation from the angler will be obtained by increasing the season bag limit. The punch card for salmon and steelhead is a relatively new management tool; hence, it may be necessary to change regulations regarding its use from time to time. Anglers will be pleased to learn that the subsequent issues of the salmon and steelhead punch cards will be issued on a calendar year basis to avoid the confusion which has been experienced in the past as the result of a March 31 expiration date.

A summary of other changes is presented on page 6.

1954 FISH STOCKING

Watershed	Rainbow	Cut-throat	Steel-head	Silver Salmon	Eastern Brook	Kokanee	Brown Trout	Lake Trout	Chinook	Golden Trout	Total
1	96,356 **15,727**	149,445 **11,829**	75,531 **1,855**	40,277 **6,577**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	361,609 **35,988**
2	1,677,603 **125,239**	41,840 **6,764**	35,891 **164**	.....	933,427 **3,476**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,688,761 **135,643**
3	177,866 **38,907**	1,498 **442**	.....	.....	53,834 **404**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	233,198 **39,753**
4	75,000 **14,124**	.....	.....	.....	13,260 **102**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	88,260 **14,226**
5	2,337,971 **96,022**	.....	40,818 **4,550**	.....	2,120,053 **14,903**	848,930 **3,147**	118,743 **1,259**	4,898 **700**	.....	.....	5,471,413 **120,581**
6	111,848 **7,878**	.....	.....	.....	29,576 **53**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	141,424 **7,931**
7	223,480 **4,688**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	223,480 **4,688**
8	162,367 **21,824**	.....	.....	.....	.....	128,340 **30**	.....	.....	.....	9,769 **2**	300,476 **21,856**
9	94,609 **4,834**	.....	.....	.....	.....	10,010 **7**	.....	.....	.....	.....	104,619 **4,841**
10	101,650 **2,543**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	101,650 **2,543**
11	6,500 **839**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,500 **839**
12	32,969 **7,179**	.....	.....	.....	1,014 **260**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33,983 **7,439**
13	51,882 **9,566**	.....	.....	.....	6,784 **1,331**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58,666 **10,897**
14	786,968 **16,047**	.....	.....	.....	68,272 **3,185**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	855,240 **19,232**
15	492,560 **36,909**	15,010 **3,118**	.....	66,744 **5,779**	10,832 **52**	.....	.....	.....	113,761 **9,014**	.....	698,907 **54,872**
16	208,843 **32,047**	7,112 **2,134**	.....	28,307 **3,690**	10,042 **46**	.....	.....	.....	190,635 **11,093**	.....	444,939 **49,010**
17	53,393 **12,283**	120,438 **11,820**	.....	24,557 **4,875**	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	198,388 **28,978**
18	108,756 **14,416**	122,885 **17,107**	14,457 **1,381**	32,155 **1,804**	.....	49,950 **13**	.....	.....	.....	.....	328,203 **34,721**
TOTALS	6,800,621 **461,072**	458,228 **53,214**	166,697 **7,950**	192,040 **22,725**	3,247,094 **23,812**	1,037,230 **3,197**	118,743 **1,259**	4,898 **700**	304,396 **20,107**	9,769 **2**	12,339,716 **594,038**

Note: Upper figures signify numbers of fish and black figures signify pounds of fish.

WATERSHEDS

No.	Counties
1	Clackamas, Columbia, Tillamook, Yamhill, Washington.
2	Washington, Yamhill, Benton, Linn, Marion, Clackamas, Polk, Lane, Douglas.
3	Multnomah, Columbia, Clackamas, Marion.
4	Hood River, Wasco.
5	Sherman, Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath, Lake, Grant.
6	Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, Jefferson, Grant, Umatilla, Morrow.
7	Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla.
8	Umatilla, Wallowa, Union.
9	Baker, Malheur, Union.
10	Malheur, Grant, Harney.
11	Malheur, Harney.
12	Harney, Lake, Crook, Grant.
13	Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Harney.
14	Klamath, Lake, Jackson.
15	Klamath, Jackson, Josephine, Curry.
16	Douglas, Lane.
17	Curry, Coos, Douglas.
18	Douglas, Lane, Benton, Lincoln, Tillamook.

REGULATION CHANGES

(Continued from page 7)

UMPQUA RIVER SYSTEM

Trout season closed September 6 for North Umpqua and tributaries from Steamboat Creek to Soda Springs dam.

ROGUE RIVER SYSTEM

Rogue river, exclusive of tributaries, below mouth of the Applegate open for trout over 12 inches, January 1 to 31.

Applegate river below the mouth of the Little Applegate river (exclusive of all tributaries and of that part of the Applegate between Laurel Hill Dam and Williams Creek) open for trout over 12 inches, January 1 to February 28.

Oregon State Game Commission Bulletin
1634 S.W. ALDER STREET
P.O. BOX 4136
PORTLAND 8, OREGON

F STANTON
2127 SW BERTHA BEAVERTN
HIGHWAY
PORTLAND 19, OREGON