

OREGON WILDLIFE

MAY 1977

OREGON WILDLIFE

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OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION
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RON E. SHAY, Editor

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Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 3503
1634 S.W. Alder
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The Cover
COUGAR

Photo by Ron Shay

HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

INSTRUCTORS APPROVED

Month of March 23
Total Active 1,476

STUDENTS TRAINED

Month of March 423
Total to Date 240,630

HUNTING CASUALTIES REPORTED IN 1977

Fatal 0
Nonfatal 2

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LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME

In the operetta *The Mikado* there is a musical sequence having to do with how individuals should be punished for their crimes and after much singing, discussion, and commotion, the group resolves, "Let the Punishment Fit the Crime."

In recent months here in Oregon there has been an increasing amount of discussion concerning fish and game law violations and the amount of punishment the violators get as a result of the crime. In past issues we've run examples of a few selected samples of the outcomes of some cases.

However, in the minds of many the punishment still cannot fit the crime because all fish and wildlife violations are considered Class A misdemeanors with a maximum of fine of \$1,000 and up to one year in jail.

An article in the current (April 1977) issue of *OUTDOOR LIFE* magazine throws some rather interesting light on the subject. The article, entitled "I Was A Big-Time Poacher", is told by a one-time commercial poacher from Texas. It tells of intimidation of various officials and citizens by the poachers and of the market for the ill-gotten game. The fact that there is a market is one of the things that makes the fining of such individuals almost useless, according to the author. He ends the article with an explanation of how the poachers had gone out and ruined the hunting for a judge who had a reputation for assessing heavy fines on poachers. They killed a number of deer the night before season opened and stacked them up for the judge to see the next morning.

According to the article, "Several days later one of the gang phoned the judge and asked him how he liked his deer hunt. The judge quietly told him that the next time a poacher showed up in his court, he'd be sent to jail for such a long term he'd wish he'd never heard of deer."

The article continues, "This approach is the only answer to ending the commercial killing. A fine doesn't mean anything to a clever operator. If he gets fined several hundred dollars, he'll just kill more game to make up for the loss."

Though talking about big game poaching in Texas, what the author says would seem to have application here in Oregon. In the past, commercial deer poaching rings have been stopped here and the commercial poaching of salmon is all too common. Recently the Clackamas County sheriff and Oregon State Police came up with a net full of fish from the lower Willamette. Unfortunately, the net setter was not caught but the 14 fish in the net sold for \$864.80 as confiscated material. The maximum \$1,000 fine would have meant little to the individual who set the net if he had been able to get away with it for two more nights with equal success. He could have paid the fine and still made a tidy profit.

Drying up the market for such illegally taken fish and game would possibly put a halt to it but such a task seems almost insurmountable. Fines approaching the maximum are rarely imposed but even if they were, perhaps the words of the big-time poacher-author in *OUTDOOR LIFE* should be contemplated. "A man who poaches year around is just as wild as the game he hunts. He wants no part of time clocks, regular schedules, and the rules and regulations of society. And he's terrified of jail — the ultimate confinement."

"If you honest sportsmen could get legislation requiring long jail terms for commercial poaching offenses, you would stop most market hunting." ... and illegal commercial fishing?

RES
(Quoted material reprinted from *OUTDOOR LIFE* (April 1977); copyright ©1977, Times Mirror Magazines, Inc.)

COMMISSION MEET

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a public hearing starting at 9 a.m. on May 21 to consider the big game hunting regulations for 1977. The hearing will be held at the Bonneville Power Administration Auditorium, 1002 NE Holladay Street in Portland. All individuals present will have an opportunity to testify. If you have suggestions concerning the seasons and cannot attend the meeting, the suggestions may be sent to the Portland office of the Commission. They should be sent to arrive before the 18th, if possible.

MAY 1977

1976 BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS

By Paul Ebert
Staff Big Game Biologist
ODFW



Mule deer

Conservative hunting regulations, new regulations to distribute hunting opportunities, a new application and drawing procedure, and dry and mild hunting conditions all contributed toward reduced participation in deer and elk hunting. The harvest of deer increased from the take of the previous year, while the elk harvest dropped. Results from the annual questionnaire survey sent to a random sample of the 377,900 individuals who purchased 1976 hunting licenses indicated that Oregon's big game hunters spent 2,359,364 days afield and bagged 80,700 deer, 13,190 elk, 1,074 bear, 877 antelope, 14 cougar and 15 bighorn sheep.

Deer hunters had to choose between the hunting of either black-tailed or

mule deer bucks in 1976 by the purchase of an area tag. Fifty-four percent of the hunters purchasing deer tags selected to hunt bucks in western Oregon, while 46 percent preferred to hunt mule deer. Although climatic conditions did not favor the hunters during the general season, the take of bucks increased from 49,930 in 1975 to 68,460 in 1976. Most of this increase in buck harvest occurred in eastern Oregon. Controlled unit permits were allowed in 12 units of western Oregon and in 12 units of eastern Oregon, producing a harvest of 9,060 deer. Total deer harvest, including all seasons, increased from 54,980 in 1975 to 80,700 in 1976. Hunter numbers dropped from 251,930 in 1975 to 246,850 in 1976.

Mule deer buck hunters were allowed

a 12 day season with a bag limit of one buck with forked antlers or larger, with the exception of three southeastern Oregon units where bucks had to be at least a four-point. The season was increased five days over the previous year because of improved fawn survival and population trends. There was some moisture and snowfall during the opening weekend, but storms were not adequate to cause any herd movement. An estimated 112,800 hunters harvested 39,720 bucks and averaged 35 percent success.

For the first time, individuals successful in drawing a controlled antlerless permit for a mule deer unit were required to hunt by themselves during a five day period when bucks were protected. For the 6,200 unit controlled permits authorized, 4,200 individuals hunted in the 12 units and harvested 3,080 antlerless mule deer. Also, 2,230 deer were taken during other early and late seasons, including the bowhunting seasons.

Black-tailed deer hunters had 37 days of general buck hunting in 1976 for bucks with two antler points or more, which was seven days more than allowed in 1975. A total of 122,000 individuals hunted western Oregon during the general deer season, harvesting 28,740 bucks and averaging 24 percent success. This was a decrease of 18,000 participating hunters but an increase in harvest of 2,750 bucks in comparison with the 1975 season. In twelve units where population levels justified some antlerless harvest, 19,500 controlled unit permits were authorized which generated an additional harvest of 5,980 deer. Controlled black-tailed deer permits were also authorized for the High Cascade buck hunt and for nine agricultural damage areas. Under the new drawing system permits could not be issued on a first come first serve basis for unfilled areas and, as a result, the applications for these last hunts fell far short of the authorized quotas. Hunters reported taking 780 deer during the High Cascade buck season and early bow seasons, and 1,170 deer during late bow and agricultural damage hunts.

Elk

Hunters were again required to choose between Rocky Mountain elk hunting and Roosevelt elk hunting when purchasing an elk tag. For the

(Continued Page 7)

1976 DEER SEASON

Units by Region	GENERAL DEER SEASON					ADDITIONAL DEER HARVEST		ALL SEASONS		
	Number of Hunters	Bucks	Unit Permit Harvest	General Season Total	Percent Hunter Success	Early Seasons	Late Seasons	Total Harvest	Total Hunter Days	
Alsea	16,310	3,280	1,740	5,020	31	280	170	5,470	117,060	
Clatsop	8,600	1,520	340	1,860	22	0	0	1,860	69,960	
McKenzie	16,540	2,500	1,460	3,960	24	150	150	4,260	116,620	
Nestucca	2,380	350	0	350	15	0	0	350	13,860	
Polk	4,970	780	150	930	19	0	20	950	28,620	
Santiam	14,930	1,890	760	2,650	18	100	180	2,930	103,700	
Scappoose	3,050	350	60	410	13	0	20	430	19,820	
Siuslaw	5,810	1,070	270	1,340	23	0	30	1,370	38,330	
Trask	11,050	1,250	300	1,550	14	0	160	1,710	60,280	
Willamette	10,830	1,400	150	1,550	14	0	300	1,850	68,230	
Wilson	7,170	750	270	1,020	14	0	0	1,020	38,740	
NW REGION TOTALS	79,580*	15,140	5,500	20,640	26	530	1,030	22,200	675,220	
Applegate	5,470	920	220	1,140	21	0	0	1,140	34,430	
Chetco	2,810	510	0	510	18	0	0	510	17,710	
Dixon	9,620	2,420	0	2,420	25	110	0	2,530	57,700	
Elkton	4,570	1,210	0	1,210	26	0	0	1,210	25,850	
Evans Creek	4,210	720	260	980	23	0	0	980	26,630	
Melrose	7,190	2,460	0	2,460	34	0	70	2,530	43,990	
Powers	3,880	1,080	0	1,080	28	0	0	1,080	17,560	
Rogue	12,240	2,050	0	2,050	17	110	70	2,230	93,280	
Sixes	5,000	1,040	0	1,040	21	30	0	1,070	38,650	
Tioga	4,410	1,190	0	1,190	27	0	0	1,190	27,400	
SW REGION TOTALS	45,730*	13,600	480	14,080	31	250	140	14,470	383,200	
BLACK-TAILED DEER TOTALS	122,000*	28,740	5,980	34,720	28	780	1,170	36,670	1,058,420	
Deschutes	6,750	1,060	0	1,060	16	80	0	1,140	43,760	
Grizzly	4,150	930	0	930	22	0	0	930	15,000	
Hood River	1,390	160	0	160	12	0	0	160	5,200	
Keno	1,860	110	0	110	6	0	80	190	8,060	
Klamath	6,150	1,220	0	1,220	20	0	0	1,220	23,730	
Maupin	790	260	0	260	33	0	0	260	2,550	
Maury	1,560	430	0	430	28	0	0	430	6,180	
Metolius	2,940	610	0	610	21	0	0	610	11,120	
Ochoco	10,240	2,760	0	2,760	27	0	0	2,760	41,490	
Paulina	5,020	1,110	0	1,110	22	0	0	1,110	20,110	
Sherman	2,330	840	220	1,060	45	0	0	1,060	8,740	
Sprague	1,700	320	0	320	19	0	0	320	6,400	
Wasco	4,830	710	300	1,010	21	70	0	1,080	32,810	
CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	44,350*	10,520	520	11,040	25	150	80	11,270	225,150	
Baker	4,510	1,550	0	1,550	34	170	0	1,720	21,390	
Catherine Creek	2,440	610	120	730	30	0	0	730	8,930	
Chesnimnus	1,160	540	0	540	46	0	0	540	5,240	
Columbia Basin	870	300	0	300	34	0	0	300	2,470	
Desolation	3,070	860	70	930	30	100	0	1,030	15,450	
Heppner	7,500	2,420	280	2,700	36	0	100	2,800	29,280	
Imnaha	1,790	680	0	680	38	30	0	710	7,830	
Keating	2,380	830	490	1,320	55	190	0	1,510	14,350	
Lookout Mountain	1,360	600	0	600	44	0	0	600	3,450	
Minam	2,270	720	30	750	33	50	0	800	11,440	
Murderer's Creek	5,860	1,530	500	2,030	35	30	0	2,060	28,720	
Northside	5,070	1,920	480	2,400	47	0	0	2,400	24,770	
Pine Creek	1,050	210	0	210	20	0	0	210	4,450	
Sled Springs	2,450	1,160	0	1,160	47	0	0	1,160	9,320	
Snake River	1,160	490	0	490	42	0	0	490	5,200	
Starkey	2,080	550	0	550	27	130	0	680	11,110	
Ukiah	3,600	860	160	1,020	28	0	0	1,020	14,700	
Umatilla	4,130	1,080	150	1,230	30	80	0	1,310	18,490	
Walla Walla	860	80	0	80	10	0	0	80	3,270	
Wenaha	1,220	250	0	250	21	0	0	250	5,770	
Wheeler	5,620	2,540	280	2,820	50	0	0	2,820	20,310	
NE REGION TOTALS	52,960*	19,780	2,560	22,340	42	780	100	23,220	265,940	
Beaty's Butte	620	110	0	110	18	30	0	140	4,060	
Beulah	3,120	1,330	0	1,330	42	0	0	1,330	10,500	
Fort Rock	3,000	850	0	850	28	0	0	850	13,100	
Interstate	4,430	1,260	0	1,260	28	0	0	1,260	19,390	
Juniper	330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,110	
Malheur River	3,590	1,250	0	1,250	35	0	0	1,250	13,440	
Owyhee	1,240	670	0	670	54	0	0	670	3,340	
Silver Lake	2,950	630	0	630	21	0	0	630	15,200	
Silvies	4,820	2,020	0	2,020	42	0	0	2,020	22,840	
Steens Mountain	790	210	0	210	27	0	0	210	3,410	
Wagontire	270	70	0	70	28	0	0	70	1,450	
Warner	2,320	860	0	860	37	90	0	950	9,670	
Whitehorse	620	160	0	160	26	0	0	160	2,130	
SE REGION TOTALS	26,600*	9,420	0	9,420	35	120	0	9,540	119,640	
MULE DEER TOTALS	116,980*	39,720	3,080	42,800	37	1,050	180	44,030	610,730	
GENERAL SEASON TOTALS	231,880*	68,460	9,060	77,520	33					
EARLY SEASON TOTALS	15,530*	1,830								
LATE SEASON TOTALS	8,530	1,350								
GRAND TOTALS	246,850*								80,700	1,669,150

*Total omits duplication of hunters participating in more than one unit or region or species or season.

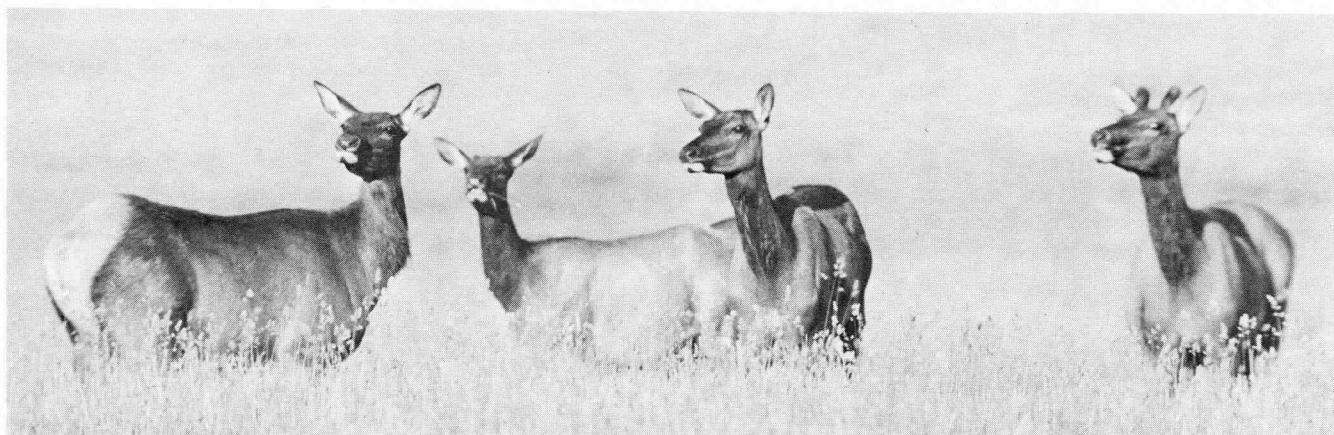
1976 ELK SEASON

Units by Region	Number of Hunters	Hunter Days	ELK HARVEST			Percent Hunter Success	Percent Yearling Bulls
			Bulls	Antlerless	Total		
Alsea	1,640	7,210	127	0	127	8	67
Clatsop	10,470	52,450	680	285	965	9	83
McKenzie	2,310	11,670	83	0	83	4	68
Nestucca	830	2,740	27	0	27	3	89
Polk	360	870	33	0	33	9	55
Santiam	1,010	4,940	92	0	92	9	32
Scappoose	640	1,900	27	12	39	6	78
Siuslaw	500	1,700	30	0	30	6	60
Trask	3,090	14,560	121	5	126	4	98
Willamette	150	1,270	15	0	15	10	60
Wilson	4,410	18,510	225	69	294	7	87
NORTHWEST REGION TOTALS	22,630*	117,820	1,460	371	1,831	8	78
Applegate	40	160	0	0	0	0	0
Chetco	310	1,200	41	0	41	13	64
Dixon	2,260	10,900	115	0	115	5	77
Elkton	1,720	7,660	121	12	133	8	66
Evans Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Melrose	1,620	5,970	77	8	85	5	62
Powers	980	4,290	130	0	130	13	84
Rogue	1,450	6,890	47	0	47	3	88
Sixes	210	420	15	0	15	7	60
Tioga	4,430	19,890	369	194	563	13	80
SOUTHWEST REGION TOTALS	11,090*	57,380	915	214	1,129	11	76
Deschutes	360	1,160	3	0	3	1	100
Keno	120	650	0	0	0	0	0
CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	480*	1,810	3	0	3	1	100
ROOSEVELT ELK TOTALS	33,800*	177,010	2,378	585	2,963	9	78
Grizzly	130	760	10	0	10	8	0
Hood River	220	1,090	26	7	33	15	88
Maury	80	120	0	0	0	0	0
Metolius	40	120	0	0	0	0	0
Ochoco	1,120	4,600	29	5	34	3	33
Wasco	1,630	10,900	62	53	115	7	63
CENTRAL REGION TOTALS	3,080*	17,590	127	65	192	6	56
Baker	5,740	31,350	402	176	578	10	63
Catherine Creek	1,770	7,900	108	75	183	10	70
Chesnimnus	3,790	18,720	735	235	970	26	87
Columbia Basin	30	100	0	0	0	0	0
Desolation	5,510	31,260	523	146	669	12	78
Heppner	5,210	28,540	546	204	750	14	85
Imnaha	2,630	13,220	216	83	299	11	77
Keating	1,020	4,640	56	85	141	14	53
Lookout Mountain	470	1,290	7	26	33	7	50
Minam	3,230	17,450	219	114	333	10	55
Murderer's Creek	1,130	6,480	56	7	63	6	24
Northside	1,460	6,340	72	17	89	6	32
Pine Creek	710	3,800	95	22	117	16	69
Sled Springs	5,180	26,930	604	258	862	17	88
Snake River	1,790	11,080	222	91	313	17	76
Starkey	8,230	45,890	921	295	1,216	15	84
Ukiah	7,520	43,230	657	307	964	13	84
Umatilla	8,290	44,650	752	271	1,023	12	90
Walla Walla	1,580	7,630	183	187	370	23	79
Wenaha	4,770	26,810	781	161	942	20	89
Wheeler	540	1,920	26	3	29	5	38
NORTHEAST REGION TOTALS	58,260*	379,230	7,181	2,763	9,944	17	81
Beulah	520	2,740	29	10	39	6	33
Malheur River	880	4,530	26	0	26	3	50
Silvies	510	2,760	26	0	26	5	38
SOUTHEAST REGION TOTALS	1,780*	10,030	81	10	91	5	40
ROCKY MT. ELK TOTALS	61,300*	406,850	7,389	2,838	10,227	17	80
STATE TOTALS	95,100*	583,860	9,767	3,423	13,190	14	79

* Total omits duplication of hunters participating in more than one unit or region.

DEER HUNTING TRENDS 1952-1976

STATE TOTALS				MULE DEER						BLACK TAILED DEER					
Year	Hunters	Deer Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	General Season Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antler-less Harvest	Percent Antler-less	General Season Hunters	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Percent of Total	Antler-less Harvest	Percent Antler-less
1952	188,250	77,897	41	126,719	53,030	61	68	20,570	39	61,531	24,867	40	32	5,210	21
1953	204,808	105,275	51	121,356	64,607	53	61	24,652	38	83,552	40,668	49	39	13,045	32
1954	215,047	112,622	52	134,617	76,877	57	68	22,410	28	80,430	35,745	44	32	8,043	22
1955	230,585	133,834	58	148,566	90,126	61	67	37,752	42	81,919	43,708	53	33	13,446	31
1956	233,842	146,568	54	146,568	85,394	58	68	37,978	44	87,274	40,277	46	32	13,340	33
1957	221,960	116,409	52	140,627	81,873	58	70	26,853	33	81,333	34,626	43	30	8,877	26
1958	233,885	116,251	50	139,183	71,250	51	61	19,308	27	94,702	45,001	47	39	15,251	34
1959	248,701	146,003	59	138,856	88,261	64	61	23,685	27	104,750	56,670	54	39	20,108	35
1960	259,739	157,504	61	141,102	96,122	68	61	28,254	29	110,725	61,382	55	39	20,133	33
1961	265,326	163,939	62	147,597	97,951	66	60	30,538	31	101,971	65,988	65	40	24,529	37
1962	263,838	139,712	53	143,580	76,776	53	55	24,977	32	108,343	62,936	58	45	21,932	35
1963	258,375	117,619	45	136,676	64,678	47	55	15,403	24	105,603	52,941	50	45	16,754	32
1964	249,080	143,023	57	148,215	84,665	57	59	19,931	23	110,555	58,358	53	41	18,807	32
1965	267,840	119,369	45	143,618	71,637	50	60	19,242	27	108,281	47,732	44	40	13,348	27
1966	270,770	147,975	55	147,975	88,516	56	60	22,821	26	110,384	59,459	52	40	14,687	25
1967	272,150	142,000	52	153,950	87,180	57	61	29,518	34	109,250	54,820	50	39	15,089	27
1968	284,600	151,380	53	163,260	89,020	55	59	23,374	26	111,940	62,360	56	41	16,586	27
1969	264,900	101,500	38	166,350	68,860	41	68	14,265	21	88,850	32,640	37	32	5,757	18
1970	282,000	101,600	36	180,150	72,200	40	71	14,453	20	92,050	29,400	32	29	4,347	15
1971	279,220	87,800	31	162,180	47,240	29	54	7,840	17	109,120	40,560	37	46	7,990	20
1972	245,770	73,400	30	110,700	29,380	27	40	95	0	127,200	44,020	35	60	7,970	18
1973	296,290	103,470	35	124,040	41,340	33	40	62	1	153,360	62,130	41	60	19,099	31
1974	286,560	76,400	27	118,980	30,960	26	41	1,018	3	155,420	45,440	29	59	10,511	23
1975	251,930	54,980	22	112,430	23,620	21	43	390	2	151,430	31,360	21	57	2,230	7
1976	246,850	80,700	33	116,980	44,030	38	55	3630	8	122,000	36,670	30	45	4,530	12



Roosevelt elk

ELK HUNTING TRENDS 1933-1976

	STATE TOTAL					ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK					ROOSEVELT ELK				
Year	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Total Harvest	Percent Hunter Success	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success	Hunters	Bulls	Antlerless	Number Harvested	Percent Hunter Success
1933	2,440	579	0	579	24	2,440	579	0	579	24	No Open Season				
1940	6,152	1,350	1,179	2,529	41	4,809	1,152	1,179	2,331	48	1,343	198	0	198	15
1945	8,597	2,398	67	2,465	29	7,270	2,176	67	2,243	31	1,327	222	0	222	17
1950	22,802	3,157	2,234	5,391	24	16,726	2,210	1,234	3,444	21	6,076	947	1,000	1,947	32
1955	27,709	4,228	1,855	6,083	22	21,504	3,361	1,749	5,110	24	6,205	867	106	973	16
1961	51,349	9,707	2,384	12,091	24	36,514	7,098	1,863	8,961	25	14,835	2,609	521	3,130	21
1962	52,991	7,998	2,178	10,176	19	39,432	6,460	1,925	8,385	21	13,559	1,538	253	1,791	13
1963	54,724	10,082	3,606	13,688	25	41,216	6,959	3,606	10,565	26	13,508	3,125	0	3,123	23
1964	62,898	11,846	5,311	17,157	27	41,010	7,576	4,879	12,455	30	21,888	4,270	432	4,702	21
1965	67,387	8,066	4,200	12,266	18	47,651	5,768	3,594	9,362	20	19,736	2,298	606	2,904	15
1966	68,178	8,030	3,372	11,402	17	49,504	5,529	3,189	8,718	18	18,674	2,501	183	2,684	14
1967	64,200	7,660	2,870	10,530	16	46,100	5,220	2,690	7,910	17	18,100	2,440	180	2,620	14
1968	65,900	7,160	2,250	9,410	14	45,600	4,170	1,980	6,150	13	20,300	2,990	270	3,260	16
1969	66,000	7,800	2,118	9,918	15	46,300	5,800	2,080	7,880	17	19,700	2,000	38	2,038	10
1970	73,560	10,150	2,530	12,680	17	52,190	6,920	2,420	9,340	18	21,370	3,230	110	3,340	16
1971	74,550	7,830	2,440	10,270	14	51,640	5,330	2,260	7,590	15	22,910	2,500	180	2,680	12
1972	79,100	8,075	2,235	10,310	13	53,700	5,742	2,188	7,930	15	25,400	2,333	47	2,380	9
1973	98,300	11,087	2,913	14,001	14	65,100	7,626	2,735	10,361	16	33,200	3,461	178	3,640	11
1974	106,200	9,527	4,543	14,070	13	69,100	6,628	4,036	10,664	15	37,600	2,899	507	3,406	9
1975	110,830	11,481	3,870	15,351	14	73,280	7,393	3,476	10,869	15	37,550	4,087	395	4,482	12
1976	98,510	9,767	3,423	13,190	13	64,970	7,389	2,838	10,227	16	33,800	2,378	585	2,963	9

first time in eight years, elk tag sales declined with a 13 percent decrease noted. Again, elk hunters favored hunting in eastern Oregon, with 64 percent purchasing Rocky Mountain elk tags and 36 percent purchasing Roosevelt elk tags. Excellent forage conditions on the summer ranges prior to and during the hunting season allowed the elk in both western and eastern Oregon to remain scattered and caused little animal movement during the season. Warm temperatures and dry conditions during the eastern Oregon season were a disadvantage to the hunter. As a result, elk hunters harvested 13,190 elk, which was a decline from the 15,351 reported in 1975.

The elk hunter had to choose between bull hunting and antlerless hunting for the first time in 1976. If the hunter applied for and was successful in drawing a controlled elk permit, he had to turn in his bull tag and could only hunt the controlled hunt area if he accepted the permit. Most controlled elk hunts occurred after the general bull season. The 7,500 authorized controlled permits generated an additional harvest of 3,423 elk.

The Rocky Mountain elk season was reduced to 16 days and the area previously open to general either-sex hunting was restricted to bulls only during the general period. The bag limit remained one bull with antlers longer than its ears. A reported 55,390 general season hunters took 7,389 bulls and averaged 13 percent success. The 1976 bull harvest was very close to the harvest reported in 1975. Although 6,325 controlled permits were authorized, only 5,685 hunters participated in the

hunts and harvested 2,728 elk averaging 48 percent success.

Roosevelt elk hunters had 12 days of general bull hunting. A total of 32,680 general season hunters reported taking 2,378 bulls and averaged 7 percent success. This was a reduction in harvest of 1,709 bulls compared with the take of 1975. The quota of 1,175 controlled permits produced 1,079 hunters who reported taking 503 elk and averaged 46 percent success.

Antelope

Controlled hunts were allowed in 19 areas for rifle hunters with a total of 1,460 permits authorized for the taking of buck antelope with horns larger than the ears. An additional 10 permits were allowed in the Murderer's Creek Unit for the taking of doe antelope. Excellent range conditions prior to and during the five day season allowed favorable distribution of the animals. Rifle hunters reported taking 877 antelope and averaged 71 percent success.

Bear

The bear season was similar to that of last year except for a month shorter season in the Coast Range and north-eastern Oregon units. The 11,043 hunters reported taking 1,074 bear and averaged 10 percent success. This was a reduction in both hunters and harvest from the 16,247 hunters and 1,841 bear harvest reported in 1975.

Cougar

One hundred twenty-five cougar tags were authorized in 5 areas of north-eastern Oregon and one area in western Oregon. Report cards and a follow-up survey indicated that 60 individuals hunted and harvested 16 cougar and averaged 27 percent success.

Bow Hunting

The general bow season extended from August 28 through September 26, with 21 areas open to deer hunting and 11 areas open to elk hunting during all or part of this period. Four western Oregon units were open to deer hunting during a late period extending from November 8 through November 30 and 3 western Oregon areas were open to elk hunting for varying periods during December, January and February in areas of damage.

A new law required all elk bow hunters to purchase an elk bow tag which restricted them to hunting with a bow during any of the elk season. This also restricted the person who purchased a rifle elk tag from switching over to a bow. The sale of 2,715 elk bow tags was an estimated 65 percent reduction in elk bow hunters from 1975. This law appeared to reduce all bowhunters and, as a result, 14,057 individuals reported hunting big game with a bow in 1976 and harvested 1,600 deer, 163 elk and 33 bear. Hunter numbers decreased from the 19,840 reported for 1975.

Bowhunters also had a 9 day antelope season in the Gerber Reservoir area where 150 controlled permits were authorized. Less than one hundred hunters participated in the season and were successful in taking 6 antelope bucks.

The accompanying tables show results of the 1976 big game seasons. Estimates are based on projected information from questionnaires returned by hunters selected at random, from special controlled hunt surveys, and from report cards sent in by elk, bear, antelope and cougar hunters. □

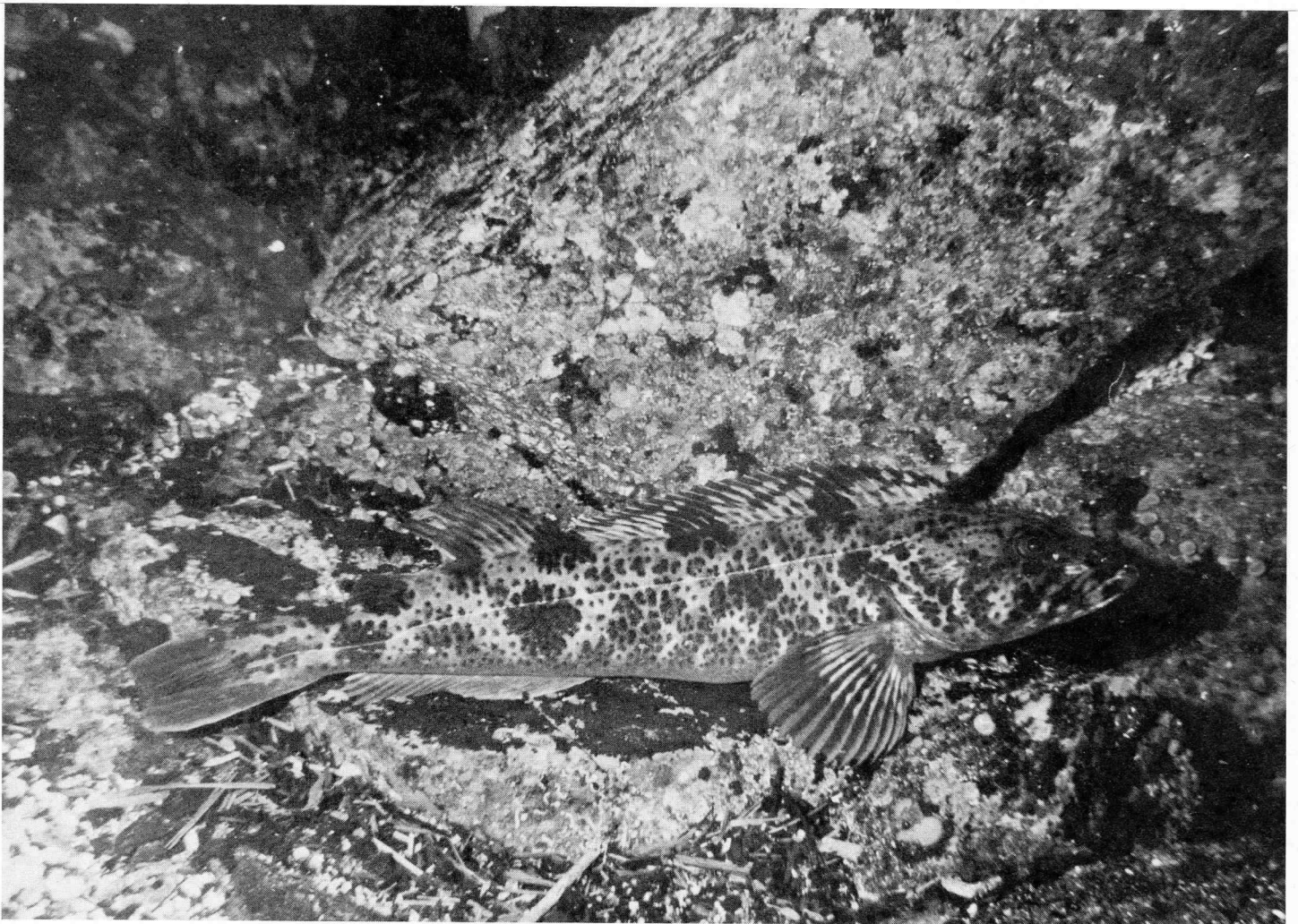
1976 ANTELOPE SEASON (74% Report Card Return)

Hunt Number	Name of Area	Tags Issued	Report Cards Received	Number Did Not Hunt	Number Hunted	Reported Harvest	Percent Success	Hunter Days
435A	Part Paulina & Wagonire Units	50	45	1	44	25	57	115
436	Maury Unit	50	35	1	34	21	62	77
437	Ochoco Unit	50	41	3	38	31	82	68
446	Murderer's Creek Unit	15	13	—	13	13	100	13
446A	Murderer's Creek Unit	10	10	—	10	10	100	18
451	Baker Unit	15	14	2	12	12	100	29
464	Lookout Mountain Unit	10	9	—	9	9	100	19
465	Beulah Unit	75	58	—	58	38	66	96
466	Malheur River Unit	150	121	2	119	98	82	249
467	Owyhee Unit	125	82	4	78	46	59	187
468	Whitehorse Unit	200	145	5	140	87	62	349
469	Steens Mountain Unit	160	106	6	100	62	62	239
470	Beatys Butte Unit	160	142	3	139	116	83	261
470A	National Antelope Refuge	15	8	—	8	8	100	13
471	Juniper Unit	125	97	1	96	77	80	100
472	Silvies Unit	50	40	1	39	27	69	81
473A	Part Wagonire Unit	50	35	—	35	24	69	90
474	Warner Unit	80	65	—	65	33	51	91
475A	Part Interstate Unit	50	40	2	38	25	66	90
476A	Fort Rock & Silver Lk. Units	20	19	2	17	11	65	46
TOTALS		1,460	1,125	33	1,092	773	71	2,231
475B	Part Interstate Unit (bowhunting)	150	67	8	59	6	10	303

ESTIMATED TOTAL HARVEST: 877

PISCATORIAL PARENTHOOD OF THE LINGCOD

By Jim White, Training Officer ODFW



Male lingcod rests on a flat rock, ready to drive off any intruders. Egg mass, tucked in a crevice, is partially visible to the right above father ling's head.

The scuba diver was sputtering as he broke the surface and slid his mask back.

"Did you see that? It was just laying there like a log. Then it took off, circled around, and came back — right at me!"

What the diver had experienced was the nesting behavior of the lingcod, a marine fish found in rocky areas the length of the Pacific Coast of the United States and Canada. The scientific name *Ophiodon elongatus*, which means elongated fish with snake teeth, aptly describes this creature which in its larger individuals (up to 5 feet/1.5 m. in length but usually closer to 3 feet/1 m.) resembles a water-soaked log. It is also descriptive in that the lingcod's multiple canine teeth look just as long, sharp and threatening as the fangs of a giant rattlesnake. If that's hard to conceive of, just ask the scuba diver that has been threatened by a nesting ling.

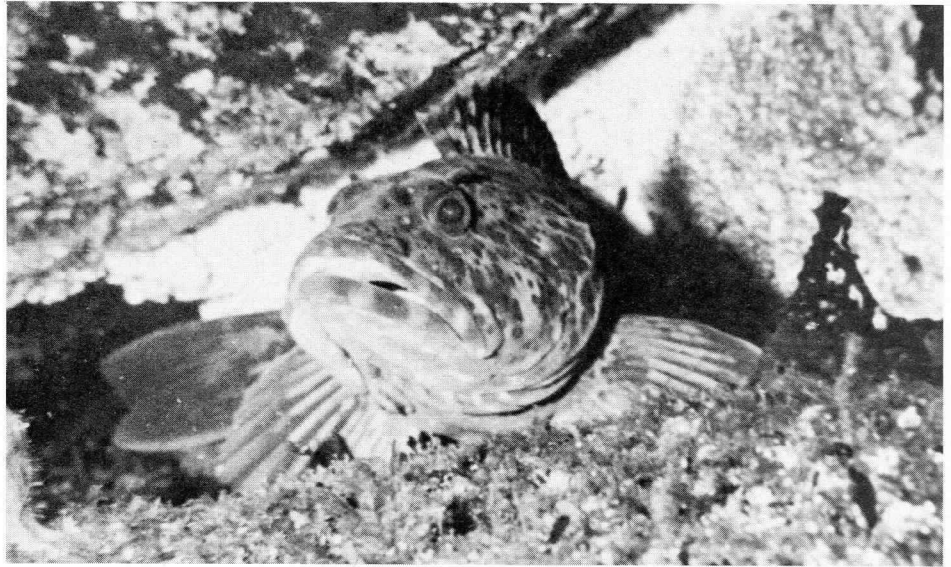
Each December through March lings pair off and select a nest site, usually a crevice between large rocks or a narrow ledge on a steep rock face. The larger female lays a mass of eggs, very much looking like a chunk of styrofoam broken from some huge ice chest. In the case of a large female (over 40 inches/101 cm. in length), she may lay up to a half million eggs. After this act she becomes a totally liberated female, wandering off to fulfill her career of gobbling up herring, rockfish, flounders, and even little lingcod.

It is the male that takes parenthood seriously — for awhile. After fertilizing the eggs, he sets up a station on a nearby flat rock or ledge and remains on guard. On into the month of March, he remains approachable by divers, snapping at anything that offends him.

In such a mood, father ling is also easy prey. He can be stabbed with a

(Concluded on Back Page)

OREGON WILDLIFE



Growl! Snarl! Anyone reaching into the nest for a handful of these white eggs is going to pull back a bloody hand.

When disturbed, the male may circle the nest site and make passes at intruders larger than himself. This one, passing over a sea cucumber, is starting to veer from a charge at the camera.





Biologist Bill Robinson watches as boat owner John Tarabochia removes a salmon from one of the test gill nets. The Department contracts with Tarabochia for the test fishing. (Photos by Ken Durbin)

Bill Robinson removes a scale sample from one of the salmon caught in the test gill net. The scales tell much about the life history of the fish. Live fish are returned to the river; dead fish are sold. The fish are anesthetized for easier handling and actual mortality is quite low, so most are returned to the river.



TEST FISHING

*by Jim Gladson
Oregon Wildlife staff*

Fish cannot talk. Yet they can carry volumes of information needed by biologists. A scale tells age of the fish; a fin clip tells which hatchery was home.

All of this information is compiled annually by Department biologists in the spring test fishery on the Columbia River. Since 1959 the Fish Commission of Oregon and now the Department of Fish and Wildlife has worked a "diver" gillnet over a 1 mile (1.6 km) drift near Woody Island in the lower Columbia.

The primary catch is the much sought after spring chinook. From fin clip notations and scale samples comes the first view of how the run is doing. Age distribution of the fish gives a good hint at run size, while the fin markings tell where the fish are headed.

Two distinct chinook runs mix for a time in the lower river. One is bound for the Willamette, Cowlitz, and Kalama systems below Bonneville Dam while the other group is headed upriver as far as the upper Columbia and Snake River systems.

This year the test fishery ran every other day from April 2 through April 24. The tide determines when the drifts are made. The net goes in for the first drift one hour after high slack. The second and final drift is usually completed by low slack tide.

Biologists netted 371 fish last year and have tested up to 849 in one spring during the history of the study. Because the nets are removed quickly, mortality is very low. All live fish are returned to the river.

A similar test fishery is conducted by the Washington Department of Fisheries farther upriver near Corbett. □

We're Moving

As of this writing, May 13 is set for moving day. After that, Fish and Wildlife Department personnel that had formerly been occupying former Fish Commission facilities in the State Office Building and the former Wildlife Commission building at 17th and Alder will be consolidated under one roof in a new headquarters at 506 SW Mill Street in Portland.

The building was purchased from the State Welfare Department and has been undergoing remodeling and facelifting. Department personnel moved from the State Office Building several months ago when part of the work was completed and have been cheerfully struggling to do their work amidst the pounding of hammers, whine of saws, and fumes from paint. The last of the work is nearing completion and all services and personnel will be located in the building at 5th and Mill beginning Monday, May 16.

Fix That Dripping Faucet

According to a bulletin issued by the Madison, Wisconsin Gas and Electric Company, leaky faucets can be a drain on both water and energy supplies. The report notes that, "A leak of just one drop a second can cost as much as four gallons of water a day." And if that leak is coming from a hot water faucet, precious heat energy is being lost as well. Ironically, last winter municipal water commissioners in parts of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa were urging residents to leave a small stream of water ("as big as a lead pencil") running from the cold water tap to prevent water line freezing. AARGH!

Conservation News

Wildlife Leaflet Available

"Facts About Wildlife Conservation" is a new six-page leaflet outlining general principles of the science and art, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. It was published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Single copies can be obtained free by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Box 30028, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Information on bulk orders is available from the Department.

OREGON WILDLIFE

THIS AND THAT

compiled by Ken Durbin

Encouraging Quote

"If development can be accomplished without harming the environment, we'll come down on the side of development, but if development cannot be accomplished without destruction to the environment, I'll come down on the side of the environment every single time."

Cecil D. Andrus
Secretary of the Interior

Meanmouth

The Bass Research Foundation has given its largest grant to date to Dr. William Childers of the Illinois Natural History Survey. The funds are earmarked to determine the ill effects, if any, of introducing hybrid largemouth-smallmouth bass into waters with established bass populations. Dr. Childers successfully hybridized northern smallmouth and largemouth bass by manually stripping milt and eggs in the laboratory. Hybridization between largemouth and smallmouth bass in their native habitats is extremely rare or does not occur.

While several questions must be answered before any hybrid stockings would be allowed in bass-populated waters, the critters have stirred considerable interest among sport fishermen. For instance, the crosses showed significantly faster growth rates than either of their parent species, when stocked under conditions of low competition. Unlike the largemouth and smallmouth bass, which in Illinois reproduce at two years of age, the hybrids reproduced at one year. But will the hybrids offer anglers more fight for their money? This question may already have been answered by the hybrid's generally aggressive nature. This mean streak was demonstrated through attacks on a dog and swimmers who tried to share some of the hybrid's territory!

Outdoor Oklahoma

Repelling Birds from Spills

Recent oil spills have heightened interest in searching out ways to reduce the losses of birds which become contaminated with oil, even though "bird cleanup" has become much more successful in recent years. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in this connection, is attempting to develop methods of repelling birds from the area of a spill. One possibility is unusual, to say the least. Since some birds dive under water rather than flying away from approaching boats, the Service is considering a plan to broadcast under water the sounds made by killer whales. These, they speculate, could frighten birds away from the area.

EQ Index Down

For the seventh consecutive year the "quality of life" in the U. S. continued its downward trend in 1976. This bad news comes to light in the eighth annual "Environmental Quality Index" (EQI) survey compiled by the National Wildlife Federation. The EQI slipped to 347 (on a scale of 700), three points below the 1975 Index and 48 points below the first EQI in 1969.

Conditions improved in only two of the seven environmental areas monitored: air quality (for the second consecutive year) and forest resources. The "yardsticks" which slipped again were water quality, wildlife, living space, soil and minerals.

Regarding wildlife, the index specifically points to the problem of habitat loss. Steps are being taken to remedy the inequities of federal land given in mitigation for habitat lost to channelization, dams, and other construction projects. However, the federal government for many years has destroyed more habitat than it has replaced.

Adding to this woe, urban sprawl ate up more than 750,000 acres in 1976 and more than one million acres of rural lands were consumed by haphazard development. Another 100,000 rural acres have been consumed each year for road construction. While the nation's birth rate was at its lowest, America's population jumped another 2.5 million, and those people will require more space in which to live — and in which to dump their garbage.

LOCAL TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold a series of meetings in various parts of the state to receive public input on the 1977 big game hunting seasons. The Department staff presented its suggestions to the Commission at the April 30 meeting. The final rules will be adopted following the May 21 hearing in Portland. In the meantime, the following

schedule of meetings has been set up to allow the Commission to get further public input and reactions.

All persons attending the meetings will have an opportunity to present their views on the 1977 seasons. Opening dates have already been adopted but the details of the seasons will not be decided until the May 21 meeting.

May 6, Friday

Corvallis, 1:30 p.m., Human Resources Center, 850 SW 35th.

Eugene, 7:30 p.m., Harris Hall, Lane County Courthouse.

May 7, Saturday

Roseburg, 1:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex.

Coos Bay, 7:30 p.m., Public Library Auditorium.

May 13, Friday

Bend, 1:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room, Bend Police Station, Wall Street.

Klamath Falls, 7:30 p.m., Courthouse Annex, Third Floor, 3rd and Main.

May 14, Saturday

Medford, 1:30 p.m., County Extension Auditorium.

Smokey Dead

Smokey Bear, 26, died in his sleep last November at the National Zoo, Washington, D. C. He was more than 72 years old in human terms. Smokey served as U. S. Forest Service's forest fire prevention symbol for 25 years. Old Smokey was flown to New Mexico where he was buried in Smokey Bear Historical Park near the Capitan Mountains, where he'd been found as a 5-pound cub clinging to a burnt tree in 1950. Arthritis retired Old Smokey in 1975 and his duties were assumed by a foster son, Smokey Bear, 6.

*

Boozy Birds

Swedish residents along the southern portion of the country have witnessed an inordinate number of intoxicated waxwings this winter. According to local ornithologists and eyewitnesses, the berry-loving birds have apparently overindulged in their favorite food — the rowenberry. Because the berries were in the process of fermenting, the waxwings became "high" after consuming large quantities of the fruit. Observers report that the inebriated birds were found sitting in the middle of roadways, flying erratically and divebombing windshields. Officials do not plan to press charges against the drunk and disorderly birds.

Conservation News

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Piscatorial Parenthood *(Continued from Page 9)*

diving knife almost as easily as he can be speared. If a spear misses the first time, he will be back for another shot. Because of this, both British Columbia and Washington have closed seasons to protect the lingcod during nesting months.

After the eggs hatch, parental care ceases and the males leave to feed on the same species as the females — even little lings. Fortunately, the little ones do well by themselves. They grow rapidly on a diet of copepods

and shrimp, then little fish, and reach a size of about 18 inches (45 cm.) in their second year. Home may become anywhere from shallow water to hundreds of feet of dismal depth but they usually don't wander far. The same fish appear to be found in the same general area year after year, if the area does not get fished out.

Lingcod are important food and sport fish. Five or six million pounds are landed each year, mostly in the commercial trawl fishery. The pres-

ures are uneven, however, and certain regions, like the Strait of Juan de Fuca, have declining populations.

By the third year, the surviving baby lingcods reach reproducing size and more nest sites are picked. For the first years the still growing females will only lay a few hundred thousand eggs. Even those will be guarded, however, by a father that snaps at approaching fish — maybe even at a diver or two.



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