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State of Maine

Department of Inland Fisheries and Game
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

In my April Newsletter, I discussed the June 12 meeting to be held on the Colby College campus under the auspices of the Northeastern Resource Committee. This is an important meeting and sportsmen throughout the State should be urged to attend.

There is sufficient detail in the April Newsletter to enable you to inform clubs and interested persons in your area as to the reasons for the meeting and the subject matter to be discussed.

There will be two sessions at Colby on June 12. In the morning everyone in attendance will be briefed on plans for developing the State's natural resources, including a progress report on NENYIAC. In the afternoon three separate hearings will be held on the following subjects: "The Competition for Land and Its Products," "The Competition for Water and Waterways," and "The Utilization of Coastal Resources."

Sportsmen will be particularly interested in participating in the sessions on water and waterways, and on land utilization. The June 12 session affords Maine people an opportunity to make their feelings known on such subjects as the proposed Rankin Rapids Dam on the St. John, among others.

As I have stressed a number of times before, this Department is anxious to obtain support for an alternate plan for developing the St. John River -- a plan which would result in relatively little damage to the famous Allagash fishery. So whenever the opportunity affords, make it a point to explain the need for strong sportsman representation at the June 12 meeting at Colby. Registration is from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and a noon lunch will be available.
HERE AND THERE

THE SECOND MAILING OF THE ANNUAL GAME KILL QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SENT OUT APRIL 25. REPLIES ARE ALREADY COMING IN. THE GAME DIVISION ORIGINALLY SENT OUT 11,208 CARDS, ASKING THEM TO REPORT RESULTS OF THE 1957 HUNTING SEASON. OUT OF THIS NUMBER BETWEEN 3700 AND 3800 WERE RETURNED. IN ANOTHER TWO WEEKS A THIRD REQUEST WILL BE SENT OUT. SHOULD ANY FIELD PERSONNEL TALK TO A HUNTER WHO HAS RECEIVED ONE OF THESE CARDS AND NOT RETURNED IT, GIVE HIM A SLIGHT NUDGE.

* * * * *

THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DIVISION HAS ADDED ANOTHER FILM TO ITS LIBRARY INCREASING THE TOTAL OF FILMS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC TO 52. THE NEW SOUND AND COLOR MOVIE, "OUR MAGIC LAND," DESCRIBES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOIL AND THE OTHER RESOURCES OF FORESTS, WILDLIFE AND WATER. THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ARE CLEVERLY WOVEN INTO A STORY OF CONSERVATION AS TOLD IN MAGICIAN STYLE TO A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE. THE FILM IS EXCELLENT FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN ABOVE GRADE 3 AND EQUALLY ENTERTAINING TO ADULTS.

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SUPT. OF HATCHERIES GERRY WADE HAS HAD A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS BEFORE FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER SPORTSMAN'S AND SERVICE CLUBS. HE USUALLY SPEAKS ON THE CONSERVATION PROGRAM AS CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT THEN ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON THE HATCHERY DIVISION'S POLICIES. SUPT. WADE IS HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE BAKED BEAN CIRCUIT IS FINALLY GIVING AWAY TO FRIED CHICKEN.

* * * * *

LEIGH PERRY HAS STARTED THE FISH RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES CREEL CHECK. PERRY, A TEMPORARY WARDEN DURING THE FALL HUNTING SEASON, HAS DONE THE CENSUSING IN PAST YEARS. HE WILL CHECK BOTH SALMON AND TROUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FISH RIVER SALMON STUDY BEING CONDUCTED BY FISHERY BIOLOGIST KENDALL WARNER.

* * * * *

THE I AND E DIVISION HAS ISSUED A PLEA TO FIELD PERSONNEL TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR POSSIBILITIES FOR GOOD WILDLIFE PICTURES. KEN GRAY IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A NEW SOUND AND COLOR FILM ON MAINE WILDLIFE AND WILL NEED FOOTAGE ON MAINE ANIMALS. THE DIVISION ALSO WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS FROM PERSONS IN THE FIELD FOR NEWS STORIES ABOUT THEIR OWN PROJECT OR PROGRAM. IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE WITH THE COOPERATION OF OTHER DIVISIONS FOR I & E TO BUILD UP A FILE OF NEGATIVES AND PRINTS COVERING ALL PHASES OF DEPARTMENT OPERATION. THESE PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL USE TO FISH AND GAME PERSONNEL.
LAKES RECLAIMED LAST FALL ARE BEING STOCKED WITH FISH THIS SPRING. THE BIOLOGISTS TEST THE WATER TO MAKE CERTAIN NONE OF THE CHEMICALS REMAIN BEFORE THE FISH ARE STOCKED. ONE POND, TOOTHAKER POND IN PHILLIPS, RECLAIMED A YEAR AGO HAS PRODUCED FISH UP TO NINE INCHES IN LENGTH AND WEIGHING UP TO ONE POUND.

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MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONFUSED BY THE VARIOUS STORIES WHICH HAVE APPEARED RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF CANADA GEESE IN MERRymeeting Bay THIS SPRING. WHILE THE GAME DIVISION DOES NOT HAVE ACCURATE COUNTS OF THE NUMBER OF GEESE THIS SPRING, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MIGRATION PATTERN HAS BEEN DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS.


JANUARY WATERFOWL INVENTORY FIGURES TAKEN UP AND DOWN THE ATLANTIC COAST HAVE SHOWN ONLY A SLIGHT DROP IN THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GEESE IN THE ATLANTIC FLYWAY. OF COURSE, THERE ARE A LOT OF GEESE IN THE FLYWAY WHICH DO NOT COME NORTHWARD THROUGH MERRymeeting Bay. IT IS THEREFORE VERY DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE MEANING OF ANNUAL FLUCTUATIONS OF BIRDS SEEN AT ONE POINT IN THEIR NORTHWARD MIGRATION ROUTE.

* * * * * *

THE BRANCH LAKE SMELT STUDY IS UNDER WAY DURING THE SPRING SPAWNING RUN. THIS WORK IS BEING CARRIED ON BY ROBERT RUPP, REGIONAL FISHERY BIOLOGIST FOR HANCOCK COUNTY.

* * * * * *

THE STATE AUDITORS ARE MAKING THEIR ANNUAL VISIT TO THE DEPARTMENT OFFICE CHECKING YEARLY EXPENSE DATA. TWO MEN HAVE SPENT TWO WEEKS IN APRIL AND WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN THE OFFICE DURING THE MONTH OF MAY GOING OVER THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM. IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORT THESE MEN SUGGEST WAYS OF IMPROVING THE METHOD OF BOOKKEEPING.
NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON ICE OUT AND FISHING CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAVE KEPT THE I & E DIVISION BUSY SINCE THE OPENING OF THE OPEN WATER FISHING SEASON. A DAY-BY-DAY ACCOUNT OF LAKES FREE OF ICE WAS MAINTAINED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS. REQUESTS WERE RECEIVED FROM NEWS MEDIA THROUGHOUT THE EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

FIELD PERSONNEL CAN HELP THE I & E DIVISION GIVE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE MAINE FISHING SCENE BY SENDING IN FISHING INFORMATION ON THEIR PARTICULAR AREA. THERE IS A BIG DEMAND FOR UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS—ANY BIG FISH CAUGHT OR LARGE CATCHES REPORTED AS WELL AS GOOD FISHING WATERS.

* * * * *

NEW PERSONNEL


MRS. HUGHES AND HER HUSBAND CLIFTON LIVED IN SEVERAL PLACES BEFORE MOVING TO AUGUSTA. SHE LIVED ORIGINALLY IN BELFAST. FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS SHE HAS GIVEN PIANO LESSONS IN THIS CITY.

THE HUGHES HAVE THREE CHILDREN, AGED 18, 10 AND 8 YEARS.

* * * * *

THE SPRING CREEL CHECK ON THOMPSON LAKE WAS STARTED AS SOON AS THE LAKE OPENED. DWAIN MURPHY, CENSUS CLERK, IS CHECKING TOGUE AND SALMON TAKEN FROM THE LAKE BY ANGLERS. THE PROJECT IS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF STUART DEROCHE, REGIONAL FISHERY BIOLOGIST FOR THE SEBAGO LAKES AREA.

* * * * *

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S BULLETIN IS A SEPARATE DESCRIPTION OF THE SPRING WOODCOCK COUNT TECHNIQUE. THESE COUNTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY APPRECIABLE LOSS OF BIRDS OVER LAST YEAR. THE EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER IN THE SOUTHERN COASTAL STATES DURING THE PAST WINTER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FAR ENOUGH EASTWARD SO THAT THE MAJOR WINTERING GROUNDS OF THE WOODCOCK IN LOUISIANA ESCAPED SERIOUS FREEZING. IN COUNTS ON THREE LINES NEAR READFIELD, DEGARMO FOUND HIGH COUNTS OF 41 BIRDS ON THREE ROUTES. THIS COMPARED WITH 37 BIRDS ON THESE SAME ROUTES LAST YEAR. THESE ROUTES, OF COURSE, REPRESENT A VERY SMALL SEGMENT OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE WORK WHICH REMAINS TO BE DONE IN MAINE.
During 1957 fishways were built into Middle, Upper, and Rangeley Dams in the Rangeley chain. These fishways permit upstream migration from Rapid River, the outlet of the Richardson Lakes, to the headwaters of Rangeley Lake for the first time since the construction of the three large dams.

The biological reasons for installing these fishways are not complicated. Each year salmon and brook trout drop down over the dams in search of spawning areas below. Research has shown that a large percentage of these fish will return to the lake from which they came—if there is a way to move back up over the dam at the outlet. The Rangeley fishways now provide that passage upstream and fish previously lost to the lake above may now return after spawning. Equally as important, the young salmon and trout produced by these spawning fish may reach the lakes above to grow and live out their adult lives.

To check the number of fish using the fishways, traps were installed in the Middle and Rangeley Dam fishways as soon as they were completed. The Upper Dam fishway will not be operative until ice out of 1958.

Both fishways now operating have passed fish successfully. Seventeen salmon (7.5 inches to 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) pounds) and 35 brook trout (5.2 - 17.5 inches) were taken at Middle Dam between August 29 and November 26. Sixty-one salmon (12.6 - 6\(\frac{1}{2}\) pounds) and 24 brook trout (7.6 - 13.7 inches) have been taken at Rangeley Dam since November 8. All fish are being tagged or fin-clipped for later identification and released above the dams.

The fishways have not as yet been operative through the spring period of active fish migration or through a complete spawning season. A true estimate of their importance to the Rangeley Lakes cannot be made until the fishway traps have been operated for several years and additional data is available.
ANNUAL WOODCOCK COUNT

MEMBERS OF THE GAME DIVISION ARE CONDUCTING THE WOODCOCK SINGING GROUND CENSUS THIS SPRING AS THEY HAVE IN PAST YEARS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CENSUS IS TO DETERMINE AN "INDEX" OF WOODCOCK ABUNDANCE DURING THE SPRING BREEDING SEASON IN MAINE. THIS INFORMATION, PLUS SIMILAR INFORMATION FROM OTHER STATES, IS SENT TO THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR STUDY AND CONSIDERATION IN REGULATING WOODCOCK SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS.

BIOLOGISTS MAKE USE OF THE FACT THAT MALE WOODCOCK CAN BE HEARD CALLING (PEENTING) OR FLYING (FLIGHT SONG) WHILE TRYING TO ATTRACT FEMALE WOODCOCK DURING THE BREEDING SEASON. A CENSUS TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO COUNT THESE NOISY MALES.

CENSUSING IS DONE BY USE OF A CAR ALONG A SECTION OF ROAD, USUALLY FIVE OR SIX MILES LONG, LOCATED IN GOOD WOODCOCK HABITAT. THE CENSUS ROUTE HAS DEFINITE STOPPING POINTS ESTABLISHED, USUALLY EIGHT OR NINE STOPS PER ROUTE, AT WHICH THE PERSON CONDUCTING THE CENSUS WILL STOP AND LISTEN FOR A PERIOD OF TWO MINUTES, THEN CONTINUE TO THE NEXT STOP. THE SAME STOPS ARE USED FOR LISTENING EACH YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF MALE WOODCOCK HEARD AT EACH STOP ISRecorded. Each route is censused from one to three times and censusing takes place between mid-April and mid-May, depending upon season and locality. The proper time to conduct the census is described as that period of time between migration and the peak of hatching.

WOODCOCK CENSUSES SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED TWO DAYS BEFORE A FULL MOON, ON THE FULL MOON OR ONE DAY AFTER DUE TO ERRATIC BEHAVIOR OF THE MALE WOODCOCK; NOR SHOULD THEY BE CONDUCTED DURING FREEZING WEATHER, HEAVY RAINS OR SNOWSTORMS BECAUSE THE MALE WOODCOCK IS INACTIVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. DURING WINDY WEATHER IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE OBSERVER TO HEAR WOODCOCK AND CENSUSING SHOULDN'T BE DONE.

WARM, QUIET EVENINGS ARE DESIRABLE FOR HIGH COUNTS. THE CENSUS TIME ITSELF IS LIMITED TO A HALF HOUR, STARTING 10 TO 30 MINUTES AFTER SUNSET, DEPENDING ON LIGHT INTENSITY, AND CONTINUES UNTIL DARK. SONG BIRDS HAVE NEARLY ENDED THEIR CHIRPING FOR THE DAY WHEN IT IS TIME TO START THE WOODCOCK CENSUS.
A peculiarity of the woodcock ground call and flight song is that many people's ears are unable to pick up the sounds. When this happens to a biologist he often takes his wife out to listen for him. So if you see a biologist out at dusk with a female companion, take care in accusing him of extracurricula activity.

An index of woodcock abundance is determined from comparable lines, so called, and is recorded as the average number of males per stop. Data from the previous year is utilized to enable this comparison. After completion, reports are submitted to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Boston. From there they eventually reach Washington and are used in determining the length of open season for "timberdoodles."

Signs of Spring in the Game Division

Duck Breeding Pairs and Brood Counts

This work during the current season is being concentrated on counts which will be needed in an evaluation of the role of small man-made marshes, together with efforts to obtain information on our various state-owned management areas. Skip Spencer will write up a more complete description of this work in a coming bulletin.

In the meantime, game biologists have already started the first phase of this study, which represents an effort to determine the number of breeding pairs of waterfowl which will eventually settle down and nest on the various marshes. General observations this spring have led game officials to believe that there is a very good breeding population of ducks at this time. It will remain to be seen, of course, how successful the breeding and rearing seasons will be.

Log Road Seeding

Plans are pretty well completed for doing a substantial amount of log road seeding this spring. In fact, work is underway this week (May 1) on the Penobscot Experimental Forest where 13 1/2 miles of log roads will be limed and seeded to ladino clover. Following completion of this operation, the liming crew will move to Hank Carson's region where the operation will get into high gear. Approximately 36 miles of log roads will be seeded in Hank's region this spring. It is anticipated that this seeding will make available great amounts of spring, summer, and fall food for grouse, deer and rabbits.
MARSH SURVEYS

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, NATE DICKINSON, REGIONAL BIOLOGIST IN YORK AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, HAS BEEN SINGING THE BLUES OVER HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING GOOD SITES FOR SMALL MARSHES. THIS SPRING, HOWEVER, HE HIT THE JACKPOT WHEN HE TOOK A CAREFUL LOOK AT THE EXTREME SOUTHERN END OF YORK COUNTY. THERE, HE FOUND QUITE A NUMBER OF MARSH SITES AND VERY QUICKLY LINED UP FOUR OF THEM FOR SURVEY. THESE FIELD SURVEYS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND DESIGNS ARE IN PROGRESS.

DEER YARD MANAGEMENT

RESULTS OF THE RECENT SCHOOL FOR THE GAME DIVISION HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING. MYRON SMART, DAN AIKEN, AND JACK GILL HAVE BEEN BUSY WORKING ON LANDS OF THE PENOBSCOT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY AND THE INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY IN THE TOWNS OF WILLIMANTIC AND MATTAWAMKEAG, ACTUALLY WORKING WITH TIMBER MARKING CREWS AND FORESTERS MAKING PLANS FOR ADJUSTING THE TIMBER CUTS IN AND AROUND DEER YARDS IN THESE AREAS SO THAT THE NECESSARY WINTER SHELTER WILL REMAIN.

ONE EXAMPLE OF THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION WHICH IS BEING OBTAINED CONCERNS A YARD AROUND WHITTEN LAKE. AFTER EXAMINATION OF THIS YARD, GAME OFFICIALS PROCEEDED TO ASK LYLE CHAMBERLAIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAVING A 12-ACRE STRIP AROUND THE EDGE OF THE LAKE. HE SAID OK AND INVITED THEM TO ACCOMPANY THE MARKING CREW. NOTHING BETTER THAN THIS CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE WAY OF COOPERATION.

SID HOWE PASSES ALONG WORD THAT HE HAS TAKEN PROFESSOR QUICK'S CLASS IN GAME MANAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OUT ON A FIELD TRIP TO COMPLETED MARSHES AND SITES ON WHICH FUTURE MARSHES WILL BE BUILT. HE ALSO FILLED THEM IN ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MARSH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

SID ALSO TELLS THAT DURING RECENT AERIAL SURVEYS OF DEER YARDS HE FOUND THEM CONCENTRATED IN THE SAME PORTIONS OF YARDS AS WERE USED IN PAST YEARS. THIS PATTERN IS CHARACTERISTIC OF DEER ACTIVITY, BUT OCCASIONALLY WE FIND DEER CHANGING THEIR HABITS SO THAT THEY WILL USE A DIFFERENT PORTION OF A YARD OR MOVE TO A NEW YARDING AREA.
ENGINEERING DIVISION

On April 16 bids were opened in the Council Chamber for the construction of the Enfield Hatchery. Only two were received, the lowest being submitted by Norman E. Jackson, Inc., of Pittsfield. On the same day the Council approved the award of a contract to Jackson for Proposal No. 2 in the amount of $353,625.15. This proposal covers the complete installation described in the previous issue of the Bulletin.

Construction is expected to start at once. John L. Ketner of the Engineering Department will be resident engineer, and he will be assisted during the summer months by Jon Whitten, an engineering student at the University of Maine.

Clayton Grant is still assisting the Game Division in their marsh dam program, and has worked on designs for Etna Marsh Dam in Etna, Verney Marsh Dam in Sheepscot, Gray Marsh Dam in Gray, Reed Marsh Dam in Winslows Mills, and Winslow Hyden Dam in Sheepscot. For the next couple of weeks Grant will be with Ketner at Enfield assisting in laying out the project.

The Division's secretary, Mary Roth, formerly Miss Mitchell, is leaving May 9 in order to live near her husband who is now employed at Pownal.

Ray Lemelin has a crew at Saco Falls on the Pleasant River in Columbia blasting ledge for a fish pass. It is hoped that this fish pass can be completed in time to pass alewives this spring.
MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH THE WARDENS

DIVISION A

Maynard Marsh, Supervisor

Salmon fishing at Sebago Lake improved steadily throughout the month of April. No large fish were checked the first two weeks of open fishing but several were caught from legal size to two pounds. Supervisor Marsh reported that, in general, salmon fishing has been better than a year ago.

DIVISION B

Roy Gray, Supervisor

Dog trouble continued in Supervisor Roy Gray's Division throughout most of the month. The Litchfield area was the biggest headache as the wardens were not able to determine how many dogs were causing the trouble. German Shepherds and Mongrels were the breeds that seemed to plague the deer the most.

Streams were high in Division B but the wardens managed to stock fish. Some trout were taken from the brooks by fishermen following the planting trucks.

Geese and ducks moved into Merrymeeting Bay in full force during the month. On April 5, Gray estimated that there were over 10,000 birds in the area. Hundreds of people watched the waterfowl along the Eastern River from Bath to Richmond. As migration progressed the warden supervisor reported that in his opinion the black duck population was very good but the geese were smaller in number this year as compared with last year.

A Freeport resident reported that he watched a seal catch and kill a Whistler duck. The man said that he saw the seal come up in a group of ducks and then dive and keep this up until he finally caught one of the ducks.

Wardens are checking a few fish caught in the early days of the season. Walter Harris had a few good trout taken from the Summer Haven Ponds. Winfield Gordon said a few trout were taken from the Waldoboro coastal region ponds. Walter Bisset reports fishermen taking a few salmon at Megunticook Lake.

Near the end of April fishing picked up as the streams cleared up and dropped some. Good fishing was reported in the following places: good white perch fishing in the Island Park...
AND FIVE BRIDGES SECTIONS OF COBBOSSEE LAKE, GOOD TROUT FISHING FROM ADAMS POND AT BOOTHBAY AND NEQUASSET STREAM IN WOOLWICH, SEVERAL LARGE BROWN TROUT TAKEN FROM LAKE AUBURN WITH SALMON BEGINNING TO SHOW IN FAIR NUMBERS.

DIVISION C

ARTHUR ROGERS, SUPERVISOR

FISHING ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SLOW IN DIVISION C WITH MANY LAKES ICE BOUND THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. WARDEN BASIL CLOSSON OF WATERPORT CHECKED 36 FISHERMEN WITH NO FISH IN THE FIRST WEEK OF FISHING.

PLANTING ACTIVITIES ARE GOING ON IN DIVISION C. WARDEN LEON GILPATRICK PLANTED SOME FISH DURING APRIL WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE WALDO COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB. WARDEN MILTON SCRIBNER OF UNITY HELPED PLANT SOME NICE TROUT FROM THE PALERMO FEEDING STATION.

DIVISION D

WENDELL BROWN, SUPERVISOR

WARDENS NOTED INCREASING ACTIVITY IN DIVISION D AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL. WARDEN DOWNS HAS HAD REPORTS OF MANY PHEASANT IN THE CORINTH-BRADFORD AREA. WARDEN REEVES TALKED WITH TWO HUNTERS FROM DEXTER WHO HAVE BAGGED OVER 100 RABBITS DURING THE PAST WINTER. DOWNS HAD ONE 40-POUND BOBCAT TAKEN IN THE BRADFORD AREA BY HAROLD STROUT. STROUT HAD BEEN AFTER THE ANIMAL FOR FOUR YEARS. ONE CITIZEN TOLD SUPERVISOR BROWN HE COUNTED 35 DEER IN THE ROAD AND FIELDS IN BOWERBANK ON EASTER SUNDAY. THE LARGEST COUNT LAST YEAR WAS 44.

A CREEL CHECK ON SCHOODIC LAKE FOR THE WINTER BY WARDEN TUKEY SHOWED ONLY THREE SALMON. NO DEFINITE COUNT WAS TAKEN OF TOGUE CAUGHT, BUT A SIX POUNDER WAS BELIEVED TO BE THE LARGEST CAUGHT OF THAT SPECIES. MOST TOGUE AVERAGED ABOUT 2 1/2 POUNDS.

DOG TROUBLE WAS TERRIFIC DURING THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF APRIL ACCORDING TO SUPERVISOR BROWN, BUT THE SITUATION WAS FINALLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. ELEVEN DEAD DEER WERE REPORTED TO BROWN: 7 BY DOGS, 2 BY CAR, AND 2 BY DROWNING.

WARDEN MCAULIFFER CHECKED THREE SALMON TAKEN FROM SEBEC LAKE WEIGHING 3 1/2, 2 1/2 AND 2 POUNDS. THESE WERE THE FIRST FISH TAKEN FROM THAT LAKE THIS SEASON.

DIVISION E

RAYMOND MORSE, SUPERVISOR

ICE WAS SLOW IN LEAVING PONDS AND LAKES IN SUPERVISOR MORSE'S DIVISION. ON APRIL 13, 1957, ALL BODIES OF WATER SOUTH OF THE AIR LINE ROAD, ROUTE 9, WERE CLEAR OF ICE. THIS YEAR ON THAT DATE NOT ONE WAS CLEAR. THE BROOKS ARE EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH AND COLD. ON APRIL 19, WARDEN EDWIN WUORI OF AMHERST CHECKED 42 BROOK FISHERMEN, ALL WITHOUT ANY TROUT.
Hancock Pond, Bucksport, was the hot spot for good fishing in Morse's area the beginning of the month. There was about an acre of open water at the mouth of the brook coming into the pond on April 1. Fishermen took limit catches of trout up to 14 inches in length. By April 19, word of the good fishing on this reclaimed pond had spread and Warden Homer Edgecomb checked 52 fishermen in one day.

Green Lake cleared on April 19 and about 35 salmon were taken that day. About all of these fish were landed off the "Sand Bar" at the mouth of Great Brook. Warden Robert Hogan reports that the salmon are running larger than last year.

The last week in April, Green Lake was producing some large fish. Ray Martin of Old Town landed a 5 pound 1 ounce salmon which is the largest Hogan has checked so far. At Beech Hill Lake, Otis, Robert Robinson, Bangor, landed a 5 3/4 pound salmon. At Branch Lake, Ellsworth, Harry Honey, Bangor, landed a 5 4/16 pound brown trout and a 4 11/16 pound togue.

The Frenchman's Bay Fish and Game Association held a successful fishing derby on Tunk Lake April 27. About 350 fishermen were present with no accidents and about 30 fish caught. Ray Daily, Bangor, took a 13 pound togue for first prize; Bob Carney of Bangor landed a 5 lb. 10 oz. fish for second prize. Almond West of Sorrento took a two pound brook trout for first prize in the trout division and this was the only trout landed. In the salmon class two men tied for both first and second prizes. Vincent Carter, Hancock, and Fred Russell, Bangor, each landed a one pound two ounce salmon for first prize. Chester Stevens, Hancock, and John Hamilton, Ellsworth, both landed a one pound one ounce salmon for second prize. Percy Potvin of Winterport bought the lucky ticket for the gate prize, a 5 1/2 H.P. Johnson motor.

**Division F**

What had looked like an early spring at first began to take on a backward tinge as April began in Division F. Muskrat trapping and a few fishermen provided about the only activity. (Washington and York Counties have a special muskrat season from March 20 to April 20.)

A big catch of muskrats was taken from the lower end of the St. Croix River. Eight school boys in that area have purchased trapping licenses. The best pelts went for $1.10 compared to $.75 for the best fall skins. The northern areas of Washington County didn't open up in time to give good trapping.
On opening day a few trout were taken at Tomah Dam. At Vanceboro trout were taken from the St. Croix River. Warden Noble reported these to be fish stocked by the Canadian government.

Fishermen missed the usual fall stocking of trout at the Moosehorn Refuge. Ordinarily they would be having good fishing in the opening weeks of the season. No trout have been taken from the area so far. The first salmon of the season from Nashes Lake was a plump three pounder taken by Carl Peterson of Milltown on April 21.

The big smelt run at the St. Croix was in full swing by the middle of April. The popular method is jigging with a bamboo pole and gang hooks. Occasionally a large black salmon is hooked and that provides real action.

The first log drive on Oldstream in 30 years was carried out in April according to Warden Feeney.

Division G

David Priest, Supervisor

The fishing season opened in Division G with no ponds free of ice. A few brooks had open water in places. There were about 50 fishermen at the Big Eddy and on the Sourdnahunk Deadwater of the West Branch of the Penobscot. About six fish, mostly salmon, were taken on opening day.

Smelt runs were good in Supervisor Priest's area. He commented that as many smelters seemed to be out as in other years but the liquor wasn't flowing as freely—could be a sign of recession Priest thinks! Warden Hasson checked 760 quarts of smelts in one week.

Near the middle of April Warden Cram reported limit catches of trout being taken from Swift Brook in Stacyville. Smelts are starting to run at Eastern Grand Lake and Ambejejjis Lake. Cold Stream Pond in Enfield cleared of ice five days earlier than it did last year.

Division H

Wilfred Atkins, Supervisor

The fishing season opened in Division H with brooks and streams in organized townships free of ice and with low water levels. A number of limit catches of trout were taken in the Easton and Westfield sections, mostly from waters of the Prestile Stream and River De Chute. One limit catch was taken by fly fishing in a portion of open water from a pond located in the built-up section of Easton.

Fishing success slowed up somewhat later in the month as the water levels began to rise. Air Force personnel are responsible for about 75% of the fishing pressure in Supervisor Atkins' Division at this time of year.
Otter made the news in Division H last month. Milton Hall, operator of the Bradford Camps at Munsungan Lake was a very surprised fisherman. While using live bait fishing for togue through the ice on Munsungan Lake, he hooked on to what he thought was a heavy fish. After struggling and using his very best ice fishing skill, what should present itself but a medium sized otter, hooked under the chin. In an effort to release the animal it was finally killed and the incident reported to Warden Atkins at Portage.

On April 10, an otter was found in the hen pen of Ernest Chasse of Ashland and he killed it with a stick of wood. The otter had already killed 20 chickens.

Quite a number of pheasant wintered over in the Easton, Westfield and South Presque Isle area. At one farm in Easton they stayed in the barn except when the dog was put out. In another place at the head of a brook and edge of a cedar swamp another bunch wintered. Local residents put out food for these birds.

A great deal of interest was shown in the Ice-Out Contest at Portage Lake. Signs at the beginning of April pointed to a clear lake around the first of May.

A plane from Greenville landed on the ice of Portage Lake April 5. When it slowed down on the turn it went through the top crust.

Division I

Curtis Cooper, Supervisor

On April 1 only one fish was taken at Long Lake Thoroughfare. No fish was taken in the Cross Lake Thoroughfare. On Sunday, April 20, fishing picked up on the chain of lakes. The opening in the ice at the mouth of Cross Lake provided fair fishing. Reports are that 8 or 10 salmon were taken.

The St. John River was not free of ice until the third week in April. That week there was a fairly heavy run off which settled on April 20. Water was not too high shortly after the run off. The last week in April the river overflowed the banks. This is the first spring that Supervisor Cooper has known water to get in the basement at the Pilot's residence in Eagle Lake. Warden Maynard Pelletier and Cooper pumped water for over two hours Saturday afternoon.

All wardens in Division I are reporting signs of bobcats as being numerous, but no reports of any deer killed by them were received. All cats certified for bounty have been very thin.
Warden Leonard Pelletier observed where an otter had been eating alder limbs near Young Brook on the St. John River during March. He called it to the attention of a trapper, who claimed he had never heard of otter eating alder twigs. Otter have become very numerous in this Division. Several trappers have had beaver destroyed by them while in the traps the past season.

Wardens Dumond, Hill, and Noyes report a very good maple syrup run this spring along the Maine-Quebec border. Most sugar makers report that this will be one of their best seasons.

Warden John Leathers reports seeing two pair of black duck and three pairs of buffleheads along the St. Francis River on April 3. The three border wardens saw there snow geese, two killdeer and one woodchuck April 5 along the Little Southwest Branch of the St. John River while on patrol.

A yearling moose was run ahead of a car a distance of four miles on the Clayton Lake road recently. The animal was so badly injured it had to be killed. This seems to be great fun for some people as it is quite common in this area. However, Wardens Noyes, Hill, and Dumond, who were not too far behind, were successful in getting enough evidence to learn the identity of the driver of the vehicle.

The heavy winds of April 25 cleared the ice from all the Fish River chain of lakes in this division. The fishing has been very good at Long Lake the past week. Gregoire Ouellette of Sinclair boated the largest one, a 1 3/4 pound salmon. Henry Chasse of St. Agatha got a 5 1/4 pound trout; Edmond Dumont of Sinclair a 3 3/4 pound square tail.

On April 26 Supervisor Cooper was notified that an Air Force Sgt. had gone fishing Friday morning accompanied by his seven-year-old son and had not returned. Wardens Allen and Leathers patrolled twelve miles on Long Lake that all others had shied away from due to gale winds. The man, Tech. Sgt. Dooley, and son were found on the east shore of Long Lake where they had been since 10 a.m. the day before. They were very comfortable and had built a shelter. They were not planning to leave the area until the wind dropped. They would not even get aboard a 20-foot cruiser until Warden Allen and Leathers said they would be OK. Then the Sgt. said, "It's OK if you let us follow you."

Division J

Wallace Barron, Supervisor

The fishing season opened with a bang in the Kennebec River at Bingham. One unusual note—short salmon were hitting fast there. They usually don't start until the water warms up. Fishing was not so fast at the Forks but a few salmon and trout were taken. Most of the fish taken in both places were taken on deep fished worms and spinners.
WARDEN GAUVIN CHECKED AN ICE FISHING PARTY AT CHARRETTE'S CAMP AT BRASSUA LAKE WHO COMPLAINED THEY COULDN'T KEEP A BAIT ON THE LINES AS THE OTTER WOULD TAKE THEM OFF. THEY STATED THEY HOOKED ONE AND GOT HIM UP INTO THE HOLE BEFORE HE GOT AWAY.

WARDEN HOWE REPORTS THAT WINTER ICE STORMS HAVE LEFT THAT PORTION OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL THROUGH TA R11 AND TA R12 IN VERY POOR SHAPE WITH MANY BROKEN TREES IN THE TRAIL.

WARDENS PERRY AND HUTCHINGS SAW A PAIR OF BLACK DUCK AT BAKER LAKE IN UPPER SOMERSET COUNTY ON APRIL 6. TWO TO FOUR FEET OF SNOW WERE ON THE GROUND AT THAT TIME.

HIGH WATER HELPED BREAK UP THE ICE BY PUSHING IT AWAY FROM THE SHORE SO THE WINDS COULD GET AT IT. WYMAN LAKE AND SOME SMALLER PONDS IN THE DIVISION WERE OPEN BY APRIL 27. ON APRIL 26 THERE WAS OVER NINE SQUARE MILES OF OPEN WATER ON MOOSEHEAD LAKE AT ROCKWOOD ACROSS TO KINEO.

**DIVISION K**

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON OF KINGFIELD REPORTS THAT DEER WHICH HE OBSERVED IN A YARD LOCATED IN FLAGSTAFF TOWNSHIP NEAR FLAGSTAFF LAKE WERE WINTERING WELL IN SPITE OF NINE FEET OF SNOW. THE WARDEN MEASURED IT AT VARIOUS PLACES IN THE YARD NEAR THE FIRST OF APRIL. THERE WERE 28 DEER IN THE YARD, SOME LYING DOWN IN THE SUN, WITH NO SIGN OF PREDATORS.

WARDEN RAY ELLIS OF PHILLIPS REPORTS THAT TROUT FRY THAT WERE STOCKED LAST SPRING AT TOOTHACRE POND HAVE APPARENTLY GROWN TO NINE INCHES IN LENGTH. QUITE A FEW SIX TO NINE INCH TROUT ARE BEING TAKEN AND SEVERAL ONE POUND TROUT. ONE PLACE AS LARGE AS THE PALM OF A HAND WAS MELTED AWAY NEAR AN OLD LOG AND FIVE TROUT WERE BROUGHT UP THROUGH THERE IN AN HOUR. THIS POND WAS RECLAIMED TWO YEARS AGO THIS SUMMER.

THE FIRST SMELT RUN IN THE RANGELEY AREA STARTED APRIL 13 AS WARDEN NEAL EDWARDS CHECKED SIX SMELTERS RETURNING FROM UPPER DAM POOL WITH THEIR 24 QUARTS OF SMELTS, ALL LARGE ONES. IT IS A FIVE MILE WALK TO UPPER DAM POOL WHICH IS THE OUTLET OF MOOSELOOKMEGUNTIC LAKE.

WARDEN NEAL EDWARDS IS RESIGNING AND IS GOING TO RETURN TO HIS FORMER POSITION WITH THE RUMFORD LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY. MARTIN SAVAGE OF TEMPLE REPLACED EDWARDS ON APRIL 27 IN THE OQUOSSOC DISTRICT.

WARDEN GRAY MORRISON OF KINGFIELD SAW 20 YOUNG SNOW GEESE AT KINGFIELD IN A FIELD WHICH HAD BEEN SEEDED TO OATS. THEY STAYED THERE THREE DAYS RESTING AND FEEDING. THE BIRDS DID NOT SEEM TO BE AFRAID OF PEOPLE AS MANY PHOTOS WERE TAKEN BY ONLOOKERS 50 FEET AWAY.
DIVISION L

WAYNE LINDSAY, SUPERVISOR

FISHING HAS BEEN GOOD AROUND MEXICO. WARDEN ADAMS REPORTS MICHAEL OLSON, RUMFORD, CAUGHT A 14-INCH RAINBOW FROM SWIFT RIVER ON OPENING MORNING. A FEW HAVE BEEN TAKEN SINCE. KIDS HAVE CAUGHT A FEW TROUT FROM ABBOTT BROOK, MEXICO--THE LARGEST ABOUT 12 INCHES. WARDEN JORDAN REPORTS RALPH MARCEAU, LIVERMORE FALLS CAUGHT A 2½ POUND BROWN TROUT AT LONG POND, LIVERMORE. JORDAN IS ANTICIPATING GOOD BROWN TROUT FISHING AT LONG AND ROUND PONDS, THIS SPRING. WARDEN SPEED REPORTS FISHING IS SLOW IN HIS DISTRICT.

THOMPSON AND NORWAY LAKES CLEARED OF ICE APRIL 19, TWO DAYS LATER THAN IN 1957. KEZAR LAKE, LOVELL, CLEARED APRIL 20, ONE DAY LATER THAN LAST YEAR. SOME SALMON ARE BEING TAKEN AT THESE LAKES BUT ACTION IS SLOW TO DATE.

WARDEN LORD REPORTS CUSHMAN, IN LOVELL, A RECLAIMED POND WHILE ONLY PARTIALLY FREE OF ICE, IS PRODUCING LIMIT CATCHES OF TROUT. THE SMELT RUN STARTED IN MEADOW BROOK, STONEHAM, AND BOULDER BROOK IN LOVELL APRIL 19. THE PLEASANT POND, CASCO AND KEOKA, WATERFORD RUN STARTED APRIL 20. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT AS MANY SMELTERS AS SMELTS AND NO LIMIT CATCHES HAVE BEEN CHECKED.

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NEW WARDEN

MARTIN SAVAGE HAS BEEN NAMED WARDEN IN THE OQUOSSOC DISTRICT REPLACING NEAL EDWARDS WHO RESIGNED RECENTLY. SAVAGE STARTED HIS DUTIES APRIL 27.

THE NEW WARDEN IS A NATIVE OF TEMPLE AND FORMERLY WAS MANAGER OF A STORE IN FARMINGTON. HE SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE ARTILLERY FROM 1947-1951. SAVAGE HAS WORKED AS A TEMPORARY WARDEN.

HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE CHILD.

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ASST. CHIEF WARDEN ON SICK LIST

ASST. CHIEF WARDEN CHARLES HEAD HAS RETURNED HOME AFTER SURGERY IN A BOSTON HOSPITAL. CHARLIE WILL BE CONFINED TO HIS HOME FOR SOME TIME.
THE HATCHERIES

The stocking program of the Hatchery Division is three to four weeks behind the normal schedule due to the comparatively late spring and bad weather. All stocking efforts have been confined generally to the southeastern part of Maine and coastal areas.

Gerry Wade, Superintendent of Hatcheries, hopes that in the immediate future more northerly sections can be stocked as scheduled. This should take place as soon as back roads dry enough to permit the heavy tank trucks to travel over them.

All eggs, both salmon and trout are hatched and with very few exceptions are feeding.

Lawrence Hamm, reported ill in last month’s Bulletin, is still on the sick list. Sperry Cameron has returned to work at Embden. Richard Morton has reported back to his unit following surgery.

Recent figures released by Asst. Hatchery Superintendent Linscott give data on the number and pounds of fish reared in each station last year. Linscott feels that these figures should start some thinking by personnel on the efficiency of some units. The data depict which hatcheries and feeding stations are operating on a sound business basis and those which are not.

HOW FAST DO FISH SWIM?

The speed of fish is a controversial subject. As the reel screams out its line with the catch struggling on the end, an angler might estimate the speed of his fish to be much greater than it actually is. On the other hand, a sportsman observing a fish lazily drifting along in a pool may guess his subject is a very slow swimmer.

All fish speeds should be considered in comparison with the world speed record for a human swimmer, which is 4.01 m.p.h. Another point to consider is the resistance of water which is something like 700 times that of air.

The fastest fish of all is the sailfish, a variety of swordfish, known to have reached a speed of 70 m.p.h. Among the smaller species, the trout follows the salmon with a maximum speed of about 23 m.p.h. and the salmon has been proved to swim over 60 miles per day for more than ten days in succession. The usual daily mileage for a salmon in the seas had been estimated at nearer 25 miles per day.

Pennsylvania Angler, February, 1953