FISH AND GAME BULLETIN
APRIL, 1958
A MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Vol. 1, No. 4

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME
COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDED IN LAST MONTH'S BULLETIN INDICATE THAT FIELD PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT ENJOY READING ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF OTHER DIVISIONS AND FEEL THAT THE BULLETIN IS SERVING A USEFUL PURPOSE. SOME 50 OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO DATE. OF THIS NUMBER, ONLY 6 HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE BULLETIN.

BECAUSE OF THE INTEREST SHOWN BY DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD, THE BULLETIN WILL CONTINUE TO BE ISSUED MONTHLY IN ITS PRESENT MIMEOGRAPHED FORM. A NUMBER OF HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS WERE SENT IN VIA THE QUESTIONNAIRES, AND WITHIN COST LIMITATIONS, WILL BE WORKED INTO FUTURE ISSUES.

* * * * *

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE GOVERNMENT WERE ASKED RECENTLY TO EFFECT SAVINGS IN THEIR OPERATIONS AS A SAFETY MEASURE BECAUSE OF THE RECENT DOWNTRENDS IN BOTH THE STATE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY. IN COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNOR MUSKIE'S ECONOMY REQUEST, I HAVE INSTRUCTED ALL DEPARTMENT DIVISION HEADS TO EFFECT SAVINGS IN THEIR BUDGETS. KEITH MILLER, OUR BUSINESS MANAGER, HAS EXPLAINED THIS IN MORE DETAIL IN THIS MONTH'S "ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATION" SECTION OF THE BULLETIN.

SINCE FISH AND GAME IS A SELF-SUPPORTING AGENCY, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO GEAR OUR OPERATIONS WELL IN ADVANCE OF CURRENT REVENUES. IT WOULD BE POOR BUSINESS ON OUR PART IF WE WAITED TO SEE WHAT EFFECT A DOWNWARD TREND IN THE ECONOMY MIGHT HAVE ON LICENSE SALES.
HERE AND THERE

CHIEF WARDEN ELMER INGRAHAM IS PROOFREADING THE NEW WARDEN MANUAL. THE BOOKLET, WHICH IS ALSO KNOWN AS A WARDEN'S BIBLE, SHOULD BE READY FOR DISTRIBUTION SHORTLY. THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR REVISION IN FIFTEEN YEARS AND AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OLD WAY OF INDEXING GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS, COURT PROCEDURE, AND OTHER MATERIAL.

LAST SUMMER'S LAKE SURVEYS ARE STILL AT THE PRINTERS. THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE I & E DIVISION SHORTLY. REQUESTS FOR THESE SURVEYS WILL BE FILLED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. REQUESTS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HIGH.

PUBLIC HEARINGS TO CONSIDER RECLAIMING 16 PONDS WILL BE HELD THIS MONTH. WARDENS IN THE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE POND IS LOCATED HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE DATE AND LOCATION OF THE HEARINGS. A REMINDER—ANY OPPOSITION TO THE RECLAMATION OF A LOCAL POND MEANS THE POND WON'T BE RECLAIMED. THESE HEARINGS ARE A GOOD PLACE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE SUBJECT AND POSSIBLY TO CLEAR UP OBJECTIONS. ALL PONDS MUST HAVE A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY BEFORE THEY CAN BE RECLAIMED.

A FISH-TAGGING CONTEST IS GETTING UNDERWAY IN RANGELEY. FISHERY BIOLOGIST CHARLES RITZI IS WORKING WITH THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF TAGS FROM FISH CAUGHT IN THE RANGELEY CHAIN. A PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN THE PERSON WHO RETURNED A LUCKY TAG TO BE DRAWN NEAR THE END OF THE SEASON.

MANY DEPARTMENT MEN ARE ANSWERING REQUESTS FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, PARTICULARLY HEAVY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. BIOLOGISTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK ABOUT THEIR PARTICULAR PROJECTS; WARDENS HAVE BEEN TALKING TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT CAREER DAYS.

IN LAND ACQUISITION, WORK ON PURCHASE OF HODGDON DEADWATER IN HODGDON IS PROGRESSING SLOWLY. KEN HODGDON, ASSISTANT GAME DIVISION CHIEF, VOWS THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN ITS NAME AS SOON AS THE AREA IS PURCHASED.
Deputy Commissioner Bucknam and Game Division Chief Russ DeGarmo attended the North American Wildlife Conference in St. Louis the first week in March. They were both interested in their visit to Nilo Farms, a model shooting preserve operated by Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation. The two were surprised at efforts being made to simulate shooting under natural conditions in the commercial preserve. Pheasants were released in good cover just prior to hunting with dogs. Shooting of mallards is entirely pass shooting. These commercial shooting preserves are growing in numbers near larger centers of population.

AT THE SAME MEETING, ASST. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROSS LEFFLER OUTLINED A PLAN CALLING FOR A $3 DUCK STAMP WITH ALL THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THESE STAMPS GOING FOR WETLANDS ACQUISITION. ORGANIZED SPORTSMEN AND OTHER CONSERVATIONISTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION ARE EXPECTED TO RALLY BEHIND LEGISLATION TO PUT THE PLAN INTO EFFECT.

THE I & E DIVISION HAS BEEN KEPT BUSY WITH REQUESTS FOR FILMS. THE DIVISION SENT OUT 129 IN FEBRUARY AND 146 DURING MARCH. FIELD PERSONNEL ARE REMINDED TO SEND REQUESTS FOR FILMS WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE BOOKING DATE.

NEW PERSONNEL


MRS. PUTNAM WAS GRADUATED FROM WHITEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND GATES BUSINESS COLLEGE. HER HOME IS IN PITTSTON.

HARLAND AND ALMOZA PUTNAM HAVE TWO GIRLS, JOAN, 15, A STUDENT AT NORTHFIELD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, AND SHARON, 8.

ANNUAL WINTER DUCK COUNT COMPLETED

THE ANNUAL WINTER DUCK COUNT WAS COMPLETED NEAR THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH. A TOTAL OF 15,108 GAME DUCKS WERE COUNTED IN THE COURSE OF THE INVENTORY. THE ANNUAL COUNT IS DESIGNED TO MEASURE TRENDS IN NUMBER OF MAJOR WATERFOWL SPECIES SPENDING THE WINTER ALONG MAINE'S COAST.
Fifteen hours of low-level flying at altitudes ranging from 200 to 300 feet are required to cover the annual 1,710 mile inventory route along the coast. As in past years, the count was a cooperative venture between the Game Division and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Aircraft and pilots were provided for the second consecutive year by the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

This winter's census indicates slight increases in black duck and scaup (bluebill) populations. More important decreases were noted, however, in goldeneyes (whistlers) and buffleheads (butterballs).

Although Maine harbors four principal wintering game ducks (black duck, goldeneye, scaup and bufflehead) inventory figures collected over a number of years by game research workers indicate that the state is not an important wintering ground for the Atlantic flyway. Average numbers of wintering ducks in Maine make up the following proportions of birds for the flyway: black duck—2 per cent; goldeneye—6½ per cent; bufflehead—10 per cent; scaup—3/10 per cent.

* * * * *

Two shifts of personnel will take place in the Game Division. Nate Dickinson, regional biologist at Gorham, will go to Greenville, where a vacancy has existed for a year. Don Stanton, who has been helping Chet Banasiak on Deer Research will transfer to Region I. This change will take place in June.

* * * * *

Seeing Red? — It May Be a Duck

If you see a red duck flying overhead, it's not a new species. The Department has received word to be on the lookout for red ducks. During the past several months personnel of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission have been engaged in banding and dyeing ducks at Titusville on the central east coast of that state. All species have been banded and Scaup dyed a bright red.

The Florida Commission hopes that information gained from observation of these birds will give them an insight as to migration routes, how far the waterfowl travel, and other data which will assist them in recommending seasons and regulations for waterfowl to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
THE MOUNT DESERT ALEWIFE PROJECT

Since 1950, the Fishery Research and Management Division has conducted a research project on the alewife, under the direction of biologist, Keith Havey. Centered at Long Pond, the largest lake on Mount Desert Island, the project work has been designed primarily to determine the success with which alewives can be re-established in lakes where runs have been destroyed by man-made obstructions to migration.

The alewife is an anadromous fish, spending most of its life in the sea but migrating to freshwater lakes, ponds, and deadwaters to spawn. Spent alewives return to the sea after spawning followed within a few weeks to a few months by their progeny. The eggs are broadcast over various bottom types and hatch in about a week at normal spring temperatures. The young migrating alewives vary from 1 1/2 to 6 inches in length.

While the primary interest in the alewife is the commercial value of the adults as food and for processing to fish meal, the young provide an excellent forage fish for game species. Both cold- and warm-water game fish utilize these little plankton eaters as food. Alewife production is roughly correlated with surface acre to the parties holding the fishing rights. The general trend over the past few years has been toward town controlled fisheries.

At the start of the project in 1950, the Long Pond alewife run had been virtually destroyed by deterioration or lack of fishways in the various dams located below the pond. However, in the early 1950's, a fishway restoration program financed by the Mount Desert Island Fish and Game Association and interested individuals cleared the way for re-establishment of the former run.

From 1950 through 1953, 6133 ripe, adult alewives, captured from the Orland River run were stocked in Long Pond to provide the nucleus of the new run. Spawning was successful to some degree in all years, and in 1954, the first significant natural run of fish resulting from the stockings occurred at Long Pond. Operation of fish traps and actual counts permitted direct evaluation of the early success of the restoration work.

The following table shows the numbers of fish stocked by years from 1950 through 1957 and total number of spawners returning naturally to the Long Pond watershed from 1954 through 1957.
Year | Number Stocked | Approximate Size of Natural Run
--- | --- | ---
1950 | 1477 | ----
1951 | 1403 | ----
1952 | 1454 | ----
1953 | 1799 | ----
1954 | ---- | 19,000
1955 | ---- | 61,000
1956 | ---- | 25,000
1957 | ---- | 33,000

A few fish returned in 1953, but counts were not made in that year. Based on samples of the 1954-56 runs (the 1957 run has not yet been analyzed), the runs have been composed of about 1.2 males for every female. The age group composition of the runs as determined by scale reading has been:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3-Year Olds</th>
<th>4-Year Olds</th>
<th>5-Year Olds</th>
<th>6-Year Olds</th>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>76.4%</td>
<td>0.76%</td>
<td>0.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>78.9%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>44.1%</td>
<td>48.3%</td>
<td>2.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The indicated increasing number of older fish in the run is a reflection of the age of the population. Since stocking was not started until 1950, 5-year old fish as first time spawners would not be expected in the run before 1955. The five- and six-year-old fish in the run in 1954 were either strays from other runs or survivors of the old run. In 1955 and 1956, 65% and 76% respectively of the 5-year old fish were judged to be second-time spawners.

The average fish sampled for size has been 11.7 inches long and weighed 9.50 ounces. Females are slightly larger than males. The average duration of the run has been three weeks.

Counts are tentatively planned for the 1958-1962 runs to obtain estimates of production of the 1954-1957 spawning escapements. The alewife is a highly productive fish, the average female producing from 60,000 to 100,000 eggs. Large escapements may not be necessary to maintain runs at a high productive level. Continued counts may eventually permit an estimate of the numbers of spawners per unit of water area necessary to maintain this run and runs in similar waters at maximum production rates.
GAME DIVISION

DEER YARD STUDIES TO BE CARRIED OUT ON A DRAINAGE BASIS

BY CHESTER BANASIAK, LEADER, DEER RESEARCH

To obtain trend information on deer yard conditions and related factors within the State's winter range problem area, a series of drainages has been selected for intensive study. Preliminary surveys by regional biologists in past years, covering 447 yards State-wide, have revealed that situations in which winter deer populations exceeded the food supply primarily occurred in the continuous forest region of the State.

In the forest region, which comprises 16,120 square miles (53 per cent) of the State's area, about one out of three yards among 284 surveyed, was classed as overbrowsed. Changes in hunting pressure, timber cuttings and winter weather can alter the relationship between deer and winter food in the future. The direction of change and responsible factors involved are necessary information for future management recommendations.

It is readily apparent that it would be impossible to gather information for the entire problem area and its estimated 2,400 yards without resorting to some method of sampling. Consequently, eight drainages within the problem area were randomly selected for study. These include, the upper Androscoggin, upper Kennebec, Pleasant Allagash, Fish, Mattawamkeag, Sebois and Dennys-Machias. In area, the above drainages comprise about one-fifth of the range problem region and are reasonably well distributed for representiveness.

Initial information required concerns the number and location of all yards within each drainage. This winter, regional biologists are flying the drainages with warden pilots, mapping the location of all yards observed. From these a number will be randomly selected and intensively surveyed in all drainages each year to obtain a measure of available food, shelter and deer use. After a three- or four-year period, the drainages will be refloated to note any changes in yard numbers and location. Following that, a sample of the yards will again be surveyed. Concurrent with the above, indices of hunting pressure, access and extent of hunting pressure, access and extent of timber cutting will be established from which changes in those factors will be detectable. The above procedures should provide, at four year intervals, an appraisal of the changes occurring in an important part of our deer range.
Eight drainage areas selected for study to obtain trend information on deer yards.
ACTIVITIES OF GAME DIVISION PERSONNEL

Work of Game Division personnel during March was not likely to have given them spring fever. The month was still a good one for deer yard work, hence, much time was spent either in their study yards or flying over "trendicantareas" or trend indicator areas.

Word coming from biologists on the effect of this winter on deer have been varied. Eastern Maine escaped snow until late in the season. The same cannot be said for western and extreme northern Maine. Crusts which formed in early February were a help. In some yards losses have apparently been sufficient to be reflected in this next fall's kill. This will show up as a shortage of yearling deer.

Nate Dickinson, Regional Biologist from Gorham, examined two deer near Brownfield on March 9. Both had been killed by bobcats. Two 'cats were involved. Nate believes they were denning nearby. The deer were in good physical condition.

Bob Boettger has found the winter so tough that he has been forced to resort to eating "fried" owl. A great-horned owl was picked up near Farmington which had alighted on a wire and had somehow caused a short circuit. There was plenty of evidence of burns over the owl's body.

The real highlight for the month was the Game Division School. We have for two years been gradually working toward cooperative ventures with some of the major timber companies. Much yet remains to be done, but during the week of March 17, we really made progress. Game biologists spent four days acquainting themselves with forest management problems and procedures. During the first day, Fishery Biologists sat in on a general round robin discussion of company policies and game and fish management objectives.

The Game Biologists were faced by quite an array of talent: John Maines, Great Northern Paper Company, Morris Wing, International Paper Company, C. B. Demerrit, Eastern Corporation, and Edwin Giddings of Penobscot Development Company. It was a very profitable day. When it was over, Mr. Giddings told the writer: "We're a lot closer together on this than I ever imagined."

On the second and third days the biologists got down to detail, learning operating methods of Great Northern and International Paper Companies. In the course of the discussion, the biologists had further opportunity to explore the effect of proposed deer yard management on company operations. Once again they found that modern forest management techniques are in the direction of what they want for deer management. Great interest was expressed by all concerned that biologists should start getting out on the ground with company foresters. Deer yard management is looking up.
AT THE GAME FARM

During the heavy snow storm on the weekend of March 15, a great deal of damage was done to the pens at the Game Farm. The weight of the heavy snow caused the rafters, that support the wire mesh in the runs, to cave in. The snow, whipped by the wind, clogged the holes in the wire, making it difficult to get at the birds.

At first it was feared the 1,800 pheasants that comprise the breeding stock at the farm, might be crushed under the snow. However, crews from the nearby Dry Mills Feeding Station assisted Game Farm employees and local men and no birds were lost.

Estimates of total damage ran between $4,000 and $5,000. Through the spring most of these pens will be rebuilt by the staff at the farm. Most of the damaged sections were those in which the young pheasant are placed after they are taken from the incubator.

This near disaster pointed out the close cooperation that exists between the different divisions of the Fish and Game Department. Every man from the Dry Mills Hatchery, with the exception of one who remained to feed the fish, worked most of a 48-hour period helping the men at the Game Farm.

Hatching of the eggs is somewhat behind schedule due to weather conditions. Within a few weeks it is hoped that most of the eggs will be obtained from the brood stock.

BLACK RABBIT REPORTED

Albert Michaud of Caribou brought in a totally black wild rabbit to Warden John Shaw. He killed the unusual animal at Stockholm March 27. Michaud donated the rabbit to the Department and it was passed along to Biologist Hank Carson who in turn sent it to the Pathologist at the University of Maine.

Russ DeGarmo, Game Division head, says that while a black rabbit is unusual they are not new. Two or three sometimes are reported each year.
ENGINEERING DIVISION

DURING THE PAST MONTH THE ENGINEERING DIVISION HAS BEEN BUSY REPRODUCING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND MAKING PREPARATIONS TO ADVERTISE THE ENFIELD HATCHERY FOR CONSTRUCTION. ON MARCH 26, THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL APPROVED THIS PROJECT FOR ADVERTISING, WITH BIDS TO OPEN APRIL 16, 1958.

BIDS ARE BEING SOLICITED FOR TWO ALTERNATE PROPOSALS, THE FIRST PROVIDING FOR A COLD STORAGE-HATCHERY BUILDING, ONE DWELLING, 1800 FEET OF CONCRETE POOLS, AND A PIPELINE TO COLD STREAM POND. THE SECOND PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR TWO ADDITIONAL DWELLING, TWO TWO-CAR GARAGES, AND AN ADDITIONAL 1800 FEET OF CONCRETE POOLS. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS WILL DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.

DAM GATES HAVE BEEN FABRICATED IN THE GOVERNOR HILL WORKSHOP BY RAY LEMELIN FOR THE TWO GAME DIVISION DAMS ON THE PENNAMAQUAN RIVER IN PEMBROKE. IT LOOKS NOW AS THOUGH RAY WILL BE TIED UP MOST OF THE SUMMER AND FALL REBUILDING THESE DAMS, INSTALLING HOIST OPERATED GATES, AND FISHWAYS.

ON RAY'S AGENDA THIS SPRING IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISHWAY AT SAGO FALLS IN THE TOWN OF COLUMBIA IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. THESE FALLS PRESENT AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM IN THAT NO DAM OWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OBSTRUCTION. THE OBSTRUCTION IS CAUSED BY WATER DROPPING 22 FEET OVER LEDGE. THE ENGINEERING DIVISION EXPECTS TO TAKE OUT NEARLY 500 CUBIC YARDS OF LEDGE IN ORDER TO MAKE A DIVERSION CANAL UP WHICH FISH CAN SWIM.

CLAYTON GRANT IS CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE MARSH AREAS FOR THE GAME DIVISION AND TO DESIGN DAMS FOR THEM. AMONG MARSHES INVESTIGATED ARE: HYDEN MARSH IN WINSLOW, ETNA MARSH IN ETNA, SORRENTO MARSH IN SORRENTO, AND ROCKLAND Bog IN ROCKLAND.

FISHWAYS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR SCRIBNER DAM IN OTISFIELD AND DUDLEY BROOK DAM IN CHAPMAN. JOHN KETNER HAS STARTED DESIGN COMPUTATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW PLANE HANGAR AT GREENVILLE.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ENGINEERING DIVISION, MARYELIZABETH MITCHELL, IS MARRYING CLYDE ROTH, NOW EMPLOYED IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, ON APRIL 5.
THE HATCHERIES

The weather has played an important part in the Hatchery program as it has in other Fish and Game activities. The stocking program is at least two weeks behind last year.

Small amounts from Dry Mills and Palermo have been released in brooks and streams. Two major problems are confronting the hatchery men. Many brooks and streams are not clear of ice and the back roads are nearly impassable. It will be some time before the roads are solid enough to support the tank truck filled with fish and water.

Over 300,000 brook trout have been allocated for stocking in reclaimed ponds. This too has been held up by the winter weather. Stocking requests from Maine Fish and Game clubs are being received daily by the Hatchery Division. Beginning this year, these requests for stocking should be sent to the Regional Fishery Biologists. The biologists will study the pond, lake and stream and give his recommendation to the Hatchery Division.

Requests for stocking of lakes not previously surveyed will be given priority this summer. The Fishery Research and Management and the Hatchery Division plan eventually to classify brooks and streams as to stocking requirements.

A new tank for the Embden Unit is nearly completed. The tank will be installed on a truck and will be used during the spring stocking.

Lawrence Hamm, field superintendent for the northern division, has been ill two weeks and is still confined to his home with a respiratory condition. Sperry Cameron of Embden unit has been hospitalized with the flu.
ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATION

Many employees of the Inland Fisheries and Game Department are questioned by interested parties as to the number of licenses sold. As a result, Keith Miller, head of the Accounting Division has published the sales of those licenses that might be of interest to the inquiring parties.

The following license sales do not represent final sales for the years under which they are captioned, particularly those on resident and non-resident hunting and fishing. They do include, however, all sales reported by agents at the close of books at the end of February, 1958, and will not vary greatly with a final sales figure. These figures are given on the following page.

License sales for 1957 exceed expectations. However, there has been considerable speculation around the country regarding the business recession which has affected many industries. Although the Department is not pessimistic regarding a business recovery, we should not overlook the fact that approximately 50% of our revenue is from the sale of non-resident licenses. Any reduction in employment in other States would, without doubt, be reflected in the sale of non-resident licenses.

The major source of income of the Inland Fisheries and Game Department is from the sale of licenses. The Commissioner has asked all division heads to assume that we will be affected by the business recession. They are to plan their budget for the 1958-59 fiscal year with a reduction of $1.2% below the 1957-58 fiscal year which we are now in. This new budget will be prepared so as not to affect salaries of all permanent employees. State departments operating out of the General Fund have been requested to save $5% out of the current fiscal year operations.

Business Manager Miller has submitted this information in order that all employees will understand that each division is being reduced by a proportionate amount. This may result in some expenditures or purchases being delayed in order that each one may operate within his budgeted amount.
### REPRESENTATIVE SALE OF LICENSES

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MAKING THE ROUNDS WITH THE WARDENS

DIVISION A

Maynard Marsh, Supervisor

The largest beaver tagged during the beaver season in Division A measured 80 inches.

A good number of togue were taken through the ice on Ossipee Lake. One day the lines were so numerous that one togue tripped three other traps in the area before it was retrieved through the hole. The average length of the legal fish taken is between fourteen and sixteen inches.

One man, ice fishing on Clemons Pond in South Hiram, saw a hawk fly down, pick up a three pound pickerel, and fly off with it.

Ice fishing picked up in many parts of Division A during March. The wardens have reported on some of the more popular lakes. Warden Bryant says that Swan Pond in Lyman furnished some very good brown trout during the last few weeks. Vernon Walker reports that brown trout fishing at Great East Lake in Acton was very good. One fish taken weighed eleven pounds with many taken in the five pound class. Walker heard of one fisherman who has taken 39 legal togue from that lake.

For the first time in many years, smelt fishing was excellent on Long Pond in Parsonsfield, according to Warden Gilpatrick. George Briggs reported good salmon fishing on Long Lake during the past few weeks. White perch fishing was excellent, some weighing from one to two pounds. Warden Lombard noted good trout and smelt fishing at Coffee Pond in Casco.

Both Briggs and Lombard report that no cusk were taken from Sebago this year. Oldtimers say the same thing happened about forty years ago when for a period of years no cusk were taken.

Wardens Libby and Lombard both note less of a dog problem than in former years. Orchardists in the Division have been having some trouble with deer and partridge budding.
Moose have been moving during the month in some of the coastal areas. Cecil Beane reports one hit by a car. The moose was not killed but moved off under his own power. Moose have been seen in the Phippsburg section. They were apparently driven out by dogs chasing foxes. Supervisor Gray has seen more fox signs in this area than any other section this winter.

Some dog trouble has been noted in the Rockland area. Warden Walter Bisset had two deer killed there recently. Some scattered reports of dog trouble in the Augusta area have been received. The Litchfield problem has been cleared up some.

A few geese have been seen on the coast. Warden Cecil Beane saw Canadian geese in the Brunswick section and a few hundred black ducks in the Phippsburg area. Ed Baker, federal game biologist, and Gray saw about 200 scaup at Merrymeeting Bay.

Woodsmen in Division C have been going out of their way to cut down cedar for deer. Many of the herds yarded near the end of February and the first of March. Some of the men even carried apples and hay to the yards.

Rabbit hunters were stopped by the deep snows leaving plenty of rabbits in the woods. Warden Basil Closson of Winterport has seen several Fisher signs near Dixmont Mountain. He also sighted two large snow owls and a wild turtle dove near Winterport.

Despite the comparatively slow ice fishing season some good catches were recorded. Richard Stevenson of Belfast caught a 10-pound brown trout at Swan Lake that measured 27 inches long. Echo Lake gave sportsmen the best fishing in that area with mostly Togue being caught. Some pickerel were taken at Newport Lake. In most other districts fishing activity was slow.

Warden Louis Chute of Anson checked a few fish taken through the ice from Embden Pond. One party of five men took six Togue and one salmon; the smallest Togue was four pounds, the largest 6\frac{1}{4}, and the salmon 7\frac{1}{4}. Warden Scribner reported too much water on Unity Pond for ice fishermen.

This has been a very quiet month in Division D. Ice conditions since the opening of the season have been such that many people would not take a chance on fishing. Duck Lake, Hancock County,
PRODUCED NOTHING OF NOTE WHILE LITTLE SEBAGO IN THE SAME LOCALITY
PRODUCED A FEW NICE TROUT AND SOME BIG PERCH.

SUPERVISOR BROWN HAS NOT HAD MUCH DOG TROUBLE SO FAR AND
EXPECTS LITTLE THIS SPRING.

BROWN HAD 755 BEAVER STAMPED IN HIS DIVISION THIS YEAR. MANY
COLONIES WERE NOT TOUCHED. THE AREA SOUTH OF CHARLESTON, HOWEVER,
IS PRETTY WELL TRAPPED OUT. HE FOUND THE TRAPPERS TOOK ONLY THE
BIG BEAVER AND LEFT THE SMALL ONES FOR NEXT YEAR.

DIVISION E  
RAYMOND MORSE, SUPERVISOR

ONLY ONE SALMON WAS TAKEN THROUGH THE ICE AT LONG POND, MT.
DESERT ISLAND, THIS WINTER. LARRY BOLSTER OF FREEPORT LANDED A
4½-POUND SALMON.

SUPERVISOR MORSE HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS OF DOGS
CHASING DEER RECENTLY. SO FAR THE WARDENS ARE RECEIVING VERY GOOD
COOPERATION FROM THE DOG OWNERS IN CONTROLLING THESE DOGS.

THE TOTAL BEAVER KILL FOR DIVISION E WAS 553. THAT WAS A
GAIN OF 93 BEAVER OVER THE 1957 SEASON.

DIVISION F  
LLOYD CLARK, SUPERVISOR

WINTER REALLY HIT DIVISION F THE FIRST OF MARCH. THE DEER
BEGAN TO BUNCH UP SOME IN THE NORTH COUNTRY. THE ADDED SNOW MADE
IT EVEN POORER RUNNING FOR THE BOBCAT HUNTERS. DESPITE THE POOR
CONDITIONS MILTON MCLURE AND EUGENE MAHAR, BOTH IN THE 60 TO 65
AGE GROUP, ACCOUNTED FOR FIVE CATS.

DYER CROSBY OF COOPER HAD A RUN-IN WITH A LARGE CAT AND
EMERGED THE WINNER. DYER'S YOUNG DOG BROUGHT A CAT TO BAY AND
WHEN DYER WENT TO SHOOT IT, HE FOUND THE FIRING PIN BROKEN IN
HIS SHOTGUN. THE CAT TOOK A CUFF AT THE DOG AND LEFT; IN A FEW
MINUTES THE DOG HAD HIM BACKED UP AGAINST AN OLD ROOT. WHILE
THE DOG KEPT THE CAT BUSY DYER TOOK A SWING AT HIM WITH THE GUN. THE
CAT MERELY GRUNTED HIS DISAPPROVAL AND WENT A SHORT DISTANCE AND
TREEED. DYER DECIDED TO GO TO HIS CAR AND GET ANOTHER GUN. SINCE
THE DOG WANTED TO GO WITH HIM THE HUNTER TIED HIS COAT AROUND THE
TREE TRUNK.

ON THE WAY BACK TO THE CAR DYER MET TWO OTHER HUNTERS WHO
AGREED TO COME BACK AND SHOOT THE CAT. THEY FOUND THE ANIMAL IN
THE TREE LOOKING DOWN AT THE COAT TIED AROUND IT. THIS TIME THEY
WERE ABLE TO SHOOT IT.

SUPERVISOR CLARK HAS HAD 900 BEAVER STAMPED IN HIS DIVISION.
Several deer herds have been sighted in Division G. Biologist Francis Dunn reports counting 44 deer in a small bog near Hay Brook. Warden Erwin Bonney of Weston saw about 40 deer while flying over his district. A large deer yard has been noted in the Abol Pond area.

Ray Porter of Patten, a veteran trapper, had just removed a beaver from one of his sets and was skinning it when another beaver stuck its head up through a hole in the ice. This beaver took a look around and not liking what it saw, hastily departed. Ray says from the expression on the animal's face, it doesn't expect to get caught in one of his traps.

Beaver pelts were in good demand near the end of the season. There is one female fur buyer from Canada in the Division.

Smelt fishing at Cold Stream Pond in Enfield was good from the middle of February through the first week in March. They ran as well in the daytime as at night. Wardens Robert Thomas and Warren Hasson checked more than 50 fishermen on at least one night.

Supervisor Priest reports little dog trouble so far this spring. He attributes the lessening of the problem to the new law.

Biologist Aiken and Supervisor Priest checked a bobcat kill recently. The deer was a buck between ten and twelve years of age. Judging from its tracks, the bobcat was a small one. Wardens Cyr and Knowlton and Pilot Maheu also found a deer apparently killed by a lynx.

In the last March storm, Division G received a deep snow blanket, one leaving as much as 16 inches. Priest has noticed many barn and shed roofs which have collapsed under the heavy weight of the damp snow.

Ice fishermen at Chesuncook Lake took quite a few white fish and an occasional salmon and trout. Mrs. Richard Rideout took a 9-pound togue recently. This is only the second time that this species has been taken from Chesuncook in the last ten years.

Wardens stamped 770 beaver in the Division this year. During the 1957 season, 705 were tagged.
Division H

Warden William Atkins noted an increase of deer in his district while cruising the Fish Lake watershed by air. Most of the brooks and streams have deer along them. Deer seem to be increasing in the deeper back country. He also saw four moose at the head of Smith Brook tributaries. These animals are sinking into the deep snow.

In some of the deer yards that Atkins visited, he found deer are able to travel on the snow fairly well. They sink in about a foot or less except for cases in which they were running or jumping.

Supervisor Atkins feels that with normal spring weather all of our waters will open up much earlier than usual, due to the thin ice conditions. He also believes that residents of his Division may expect high water this spring, since the ground is well saturated with a cover of heavy snow yet to disappear.

Trappers Sterling Cook and Elwood Buck of Mapleton finished the season taking 98 beaver. All were taken comparatively close to civilization, mostly from nuisance areas. Atkins reports that his beaver take of 663 was considerably larger than last year's total of 408.

Fishermen are encountering difficulty getting their fishing huts off the lakes, due to extreme slush and thin ice conditions. Actually there is only about 8 to 10 inches of blue ice, with about 12 to 14 inches of crusted snow and slush. At Squa Pan Lake many of the huts will be burned rather than allow them to become afloat.

Division I

Supervisor Cooper recently checked a beaver, taken by a Stockholm trapper, Clarence Anderson, that weighed slightly over 70 pounds with a skin that stretched 83 inches. This is the largest beaver that Anderson has ever had recorded officially.

Warden Charles Allen talked with two trappers Albert Turner and William Grouley from East Corinth and Milo who have returned home after taking 32 beaver from his district. Most of these beaver were taken from waters where they had been a problem.

One of the newer wardens, John Leathers, noticed a large number of deer yarded along the Little Black River. He counted 21 in less than two miles along the river. He reports, as do most
WARDENS IN DIVISION I, THAT THEY ARE GETTING ALONG VERY WELL. THE DEER ARE ABLE TO REACH BROWSE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET NEAR FOR THE LAST FEW WINTERS. THE SNOW IS PACKED ENOUGH TO CARRY THEM WHILE FEEDING.

MOST OF THE WOODS ROADS WERE CLOSED BY THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH AS THE OPERATORS HAD FINISHED HAULING.

ICE WAS DANGEROUS IN THE DIVISION DURING MOST OF MARCH. MOST OF THE FAST WATER BROOKS WERE OPEN THE FIRST WEEK AND THE ICE ON THE RIVERS LOOKED UNSAFE. COOPER BELIEVES THERE WILL BE AN EARLY ICE-OUT.

DIVISION J

WALLACE BARRON, SUPERVISOR

MOOSEHEAD LAKE PRODUCED SOME GOOD TOGUE THIS WINTER. WARDEN DARRAH GAUVIN CHECKED ONE TAKEN BY WARREN MCKENNY OF GREENVILLE THAT WEIGHED 17 POUNDS. WARDEN NORMAN HARRIMAN CHECKED A TOGUE AT BRASSUA LAKE IN THE MIDDLE OF MARCH. THIS WAS THE FIRST TOGUE HE HAS SEEN THERE IN THE SIX YEARS HE HAS WORKED THE LAKE. FIFTY YEARS AGO, ACCORDING TO THE NATIVES, BRASSUA HAD GOOD TOGUE FISHING.

HARRIMAN HAS TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE YEAR'S MEANEST FISHERMEN. THEY HIRED A FISH HOUSE FROM JACKIE RANCOURT OF ROCKWOOD, PRACTICALLY DESTROYED THE HOUSE ON THE INSIDE WITH AN ICE CHISEL, AND LEFT WITHOUT PAYING FOR THE USE OF THE HOUSE. THEY WERE STRANGERS TO JACKIE.

PULPWOOD OPERATORS WILFRED TERRIOR AND MARTIN MUNSTER OF ROCKWOOD SAW A DEER RUN OUT OF THE WOODS WITH A WILDCAT IN HOT PURSUIT. THE DEER GOT INTO MOOSE RIVER AND SWAM ACROSS THE RIVER TO FREEDOM. THE CAT SAT DOWN AND WATCHED THE DEER, PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE TWO MEN NEARBY, TURNED BACK TO THE WOODS ONLY AFTER THEY SHOUTED AND STARTED TOWARD IT.

SUPERVISOR BARRON DIDN'T HEAR OF ANY DOG TROUBLE UNTIL THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH. BOTH WARDENS WALKER AND LONGLEY REPORTED TROUBLE.

DIVISION K

JOHN SHAW, SUPERVISOR

SUPERVISOR SHAW MEASURED 49\(\frac{1}{2}\) INCHES OF SNOW NEAR THE LANG WARDEN CAMP THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ONLY EIGHT INCHES OF ICE ON THE PONDS IN HIS DIVISION.

WARDEN DWIGHT LANDER OF STRATTON HAS FOUND THAT DEER IN HIS DISTRICT ARE WINTERING WELL. BIOLOGIST ROBERT BOETTGER OF FARMINGTON AND LANDER TALKED WITH A CANADIAN LUMBERMAN WHO IS
working in Coburn Gore Twp. He agreed to leave a strip of black growth for cover along Hatham Bog so the deer would have a better chance of staying in the area.

The beaver take in Division K was 364. Last year it numbered 294.

Warden Gray Morrison had a deer killed by two dogs above Carrabassett. He cruised the area without seeing the dogs. The same day the owner of one of the dogs, Harold Johnson of Stratton, came upon the two with a deer down in the Carrabassett River. He immediately shot and killed his own dog and the other got away. These animals had left home and gone wild.

Pilot Andy Stinson landed his plane on Haley Pond at Rangeley and was just taxiing to a stop when the right ski went through the ice at a weak spot. He shut the motor off and left it with the right wing touching the ice and the left ski on solid ice. Pilot Supervisor George Later, Pilot Malcolm Maheu, Pilot Andy Stinson assisted by Mechanic Howard Lambertson, Wardens Charles Tobie, Neal Edwards and Supervisor Shaw erected an A frame with blocks and tackle lent them by the Oquossoc Light and Power Co.

Warden Edwards, who is an electrician ran a wire cable from a light pole on Pond Street to the plane and the electric chain falls was used. The plane which weighed a ton was picked up very nicely, clear of the ice, and the men ran planks underneath it. After putting wet snow and slush on the planks they slid the plane to solid footing. A new propeller was installed and Stinson and Lambertson took off for Greenville after five hours on the ice.

Shaw said the biggest job of the operation was getting the equipment together and then picking up and returning it.

Division L

Wayne Lindsay, Supervisor

Supervisor Lindsay has had several reports of Fisher in his Division. Arman Mitchell turned in a large male Fisher which he ran over near his home in Fayette. Harlin Hutchinson, a Bethel Trapper, turned in two dead Fisher caught in traps set for Bobcats. He stated he had released two other Fisher and had taken his traps up--too many Fisher.

Warden Adams of Dixfield reports Ralph Griffin of Dixfield shot a 40-pound Bobcat in the Siberia area of Dixfield last week.

Warden Jordan answered a dog complaint in Hartford during the recent snowstorm. Upon arriving at the scene there were 15 deer running towards him. Dean stated it reminded him of a stampede on a TV Western.
DEER ARE WINTERING IN FAIR SHAPE IN MOST OF THE DIVISION. THERE IS A LARGE YARD IN THE DEAD CAMBRIDGE RIVER AREA IN UPTON. FEED IS GETTING SCARCE AND THERE IS ABOUT FIVE FEET OF SNOW STILL ON THE GROUND. WARDEN SWASEY HAS BEEN CUTTING CEDAR FOR DEER.

WITH OPEN WATER JUST AROUND THE CORNER THERE IS A LOT OF INTEREST IN BOATS. THERE ARE 13 DIFFERENT MAKES OF BOATS FOR SALE IN RUMFORD, WHILE LAST YEAR ONLY FOUR KINDS WERE AVAILABLE.

LESS DOG TROUBLE REPORTED

REPORTS FROM GAME WARDENS THROUGHOUT MANY AREAS OF THE STATE INDICATE LESS TROUBLE HAS BEEN CAUSED BY DOGS IN DEER YARDS THIS WINTER. GAME AUTHORITIES FEEL THAT THE NEW DOG LAW (SEC. 96-A OF THE INLAND FISH AND GAME LAWS) HAS HELPED TO REDUCE THE PROBLEM.

THE NEW LAW, ENACTED BY THE LAST LEGISLATURE, STATES THAT FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO MARCH 31 OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR, BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE, IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR THE OWNER OR KEEPER OF ANY DOG TO PERMIT IT TO ROAM-AT-LARGE IN ANY AREA FREQUENTED BY DEER. PERSONS VIOLATING THE PROVISION ARE SUBJECT TO FINE. ESSENTIAL CHANGE IN THE LAW IS THE INCLUSION OF DEFINITE DATES WITHIN WHICH DOGS MUST BE KEPT UNDER IMMEDIATE CARE OR SUPERVISION.

DEAD DUCK BAGS HUNTER

A "DEAD" DUCK HELPED MAKE A DEAD DUCK OUT OF AN OUT-OF-SEASON HUNTER IN MISSOURI RECENTLY. A CONSERVATION AGENT SAID IT APPEARED THE MAN WAS A HUNTER BUT THE MAN DENIED IT AND TOLD THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT HE WAS LOOKING FOR A LOST HOG.

AT THAT STRATEGIC TIME, A MALLARD DRAKE POPPED HIS HEAD OUT OF THE SNOW, WHERE HE HAD BEEN BURIED, WAGGLED HIS FEATHERS AND WADDLED OFF. THE AGENT THEN FOUND THE "HOG HUNTER'S" SHOTGUN BURIED IN THE SNOW.

THE CONSERVATION AGENT COMMENTED THAT THE "DEAD DUCK" DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A HOG AND ASKED THE MAN TO TELL THE JUDGE ABOUT HIS HOG-HUNTING EXPERIENCES.

MISSOURI NEWS RELEASE
WARDEN PILOTS

PILOT ANDY STINSON FLEW BIOLOGIST BLANCHARD ON MOOSE SURVEYS THE EARLY PART OF MARCH. AT THAT TIME THEY HAD DIFFICULTY SEEING MOOSE TRACKS BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH SNOW, ABOUT SIX TO TWELVE INCHES.

IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH STINSON SPOTTED CARS ON MOST PONDS IN HIS AREA. THERE WAS LITTLE SLUSH ON THE ICE AND NOT TOO MUCH SNOW.

WHILE FLYING WITH BIOLOGIST BILL PEPPARD, STINSON COUNTED OVER 50 DEER AND TWO MOOSE.

PILOT MALCOLM MAHEU FLEW OVER KATAHDIN PARK WITH WARDEN CYR AND PARK RANGER TAYLOR. THEY NOTED THAT THE MOOSE WERE WINTERING AT THE VERY LOWEST LEVELS. THE TOPS AND SIDES OF THE MOUNTAINS IN THAT REGION WERE COVERED WITH A HEAVY SNOW WITH THE TREES ICED AND BENT OVER.

MAHEU FLEW BIOLOGIST CARSON AND WARDEN WILLIAM ATKINS ON A DEER YARD SURVEY THE FIRST OF THE MONTH. THEY REPORT A STEADY BUILD-UP OF DEER POPULATION AROUND THE BIG FISH LAKE AREA. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, THERE WERE FEW DEER THERE.

THE WARDEN PILOTS ALSO PREDICT AN EARLY SPRING BREAK-UP. ON MARCH 8, MAHEU REPORTED ALLAGASH RIVER OPEN FROM THE FALLS TO ROUND POND AND THE ST. JOHN OPEN IN MANY PLACES.

MAINE RANKED SEVENTH IN THE SALE OF NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES FROM JULY 1, 1956, TO JUNE 1, 1957 ACCORDING TO FIGURES RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

DURING THE PERIOD MAINE SOLD 78,056 NON-RESIDENT FISH LICENSES. THE SIX STATES THAT SOLD MORE WERE WISCONSIN, 354,897; MINNESOTA, 303,339; MICHIGAN, 267,217; FLORIDA, 195,925; TENNESSEE, 169,047; AND COLORADO, 119,288.

THE FIGURES ALSO SHOWED THAT A TOTAL OF 34,195,183 HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES WERE SOLD THROUGHOUT THE NATION DURING THE PERIOD—1,031,352 MORE THAN IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS. FISHING LICENSES ACCOUNTED FOR THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF THE INCREASE—574,784 AS COMPARED WITH 456,568 FOR HUNTING LICENSES.

TOTAL FEES PAID FOR ALL LICENSES AND PERMITS, NOT INCLUDING THE FEDERAL DUCK STAMP, WAS $90,617,039, AN INCREASE OF $829,145 OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

WYOMING NEWS RELEASE
A NEW 16MM SOUND AND COLOR FILM ENTITLED "MOOSE BABY" HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR THE DIVISION'S FILM LIBRARY. "MOOSE BABY" IS AN EXCELLENT CLASSROOM FILM PRODUCED PRIMARILY FOR THE ELEMENTARY GRADES, BUT IT ALSO HAS CONSIDERABLE ADULT APPEAL, AND WILL HELP FILL THE DEMAND FOR PROGRAMS FOR GARDEN CLUBS AND OTHER NATURE CLUBS. THE NEW FILM RUNS 16 MINUTES AND FOLLOWS THE LIFE OF A BABY MOOSE FROM BIRTH TO AN ADULT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT "MOOSE BABY" WILL BE A POPULAR FILM IN MAINE'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, SINCE THE NARRATION WAS PREPARED FOR THAT LEVEL.

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THE DIVISION IS PREPARING A NEW EXHIBIT ON THE CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM AT CHRISTOPHER LAKE. THE EXHIBIT, WHICH WILL UTILIZE THE SAME PHOTO PANELS USED AT THE BANGOR SPORTSMEN'S SHOW, WILL BE SHOWN AT THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB CONVENTION AT YORK, MAINE, IN MAY. LATER IN THE YEAR THIS EXHIBIT WILL BE TAKEN TO CLEVELAND BY MEMBERS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SHOWN IN CONJUNCTION WITH A NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

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PRODUCTION HAS STARTED ON THREE NEW SOUND AND COLOR FILMS. TWO OF THE FILMS WILL BE DOCUMENTARY; ONE TELLING THE STORY OF MAINE'S HATCHERY SYSTEM AND UTILIZATION OF HATCHERY PRODUCTS, AND THE OTHER WILL OUTLINE THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS OF ALL DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE THIRD FILM UNDER PRODUCTION IS DESIGNED TO TELL THE STORY OF MAINE'S WILDLIFE RESOURCES, AND WILL BE AIMED AT BOTH YOUNGSTERS AND ADULTS.