

INFORMATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILDLIFE IN WARTIME

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MAKE AMERICA "CONSERVATION-
CONSCIOUS" DURING WILDLIFE
WEEK URGES SERVICE OFFICIAL

"Even greater wildlife resources than we now have will be required and demanded by the American nation for public enjoyment after the war is ended," Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, predicted today in calling attention to the observance of National Wildlife Restoration Week, March 18 to 24.

"The enjoyment derived from out-of-doors recreation in America is one of the things that makes this country worth fighting for," said Dr. Gabrielson. Because men now overseas are eagerly looking forward to the time of their return home when they will again be free to seek recreation in our woods and waters, we can rightfully expect that increased demands for hunting and fishing opportunities will immediately follow the war."

Data covering the last World War showed that there was a gradual increase in the number of hunters and sport fishermen during the war and a pronounced increase immediately following. The increases were 1.6 percent from 1916 to 1917, 2.6 percent from 1917 to 1918, and nearly 30 percent immediately after the war from 1918 to 1919.

In addition, as Dr. Gabrielson pointed out, large numbers of men now serving in the armed forces who have learned to shoot as part of their military training will swell the ranks of hunters after the war.

During National Wildlife Restoration Week, sponsored annually by the National Wildlife Federation, Dr. Gabrielson urged that every effort be made to make America "conservation-conscious".

"Our fishery and wildlife resources are a very important part of the national wealth. Their multiple values to our citizens make them worth whatever effort and expenditure is necessary to maintain them at a high productive level of abundance. Like any form of wealth, these resources--that provide food, recreation, clothing, pharmaceutical products, and many other necessary products--may be misspent and wasted through want of care.

"During the war we have pursued the policy of promoting the maximum utilization of our fishery and wildlife resources wherever they can contribute. At the same time we have not lost sight of the long-time objectives of restoring our previously misspent resources and of insuring, by all feasible means, that the Nation's wildlife may serve all of its citizens in greater measure for all time to come."

NEW DUCK STAMP SHOWS
THREE SHOVELLER DUCKS

NOTE: A photograph of the artist's design is available upon request to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Information, Chicago 54, Illinois.

The Federal "duck stamp" for the 1945-46 hunting season will feature as its central design three shoveller ducks in flight, Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes announced today.

The design for the new stamp is the work of Owen J. Gromme, curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum in Milwaukee, Wis. The original sketch, in black and white water color, shows two male and one female shovellers in full spring plumage.

Twelfth in the series, the new migratory bird hunting stamp, universally called "duck stamp" is now on its way to the engravers and will be available to hunters and philatelists at all first and second class post offices on July 1, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sold for \$1, the duck stamps provide funds that help finance the Federal Government's refuge program. Ninety percent of the money realized from the sale of the stamps is used by the Fish and Wildlife Service to supplement other funds for the purchase and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country. The remaining 10 percent is used for the printing and distribution of the stamps, enforcement of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act, and other Federal activities for migratory bird conservation.

Required by law of all migratory-waterfowl hunters over 16 years old, the so-called duck stamps provide the only available index to the number of wildfowlers in the country, says the Service. During the ~~1944-45~~ 1943-44 hunting season 1,169,352 stamps were sold.

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SALES OF HUNTING AND FISHING
LICENSES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Hunting and fishing license sales during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1944, show very small declines in comparison with the previous season, according to a preliminary statement issued today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

During the 1943-44 hunting season, 7,483,058 licenses brought in revenue to the States of \$13,538,606 as compared with the previous season when 8,080,678 licenses sold for \$13,576,383, it was stated. The number of licenses declined 7.4 percent while the decline in revenue was only .3 percent.

Anglers purchased 7,825,206 fishing licenses in 1943-44 for \$9,829,166, against 8,028,674 for \$10,024,329 in 1942-43. The decline in number amounted to 2.5 percent and in revenue to 1.9 percent, the figures show.

The number of non-resident hunting licenses sold in 1943-44 increased from 90,972 in 1942-43 to 109,513, or 20.4 percent, while the non-resident fishing licenses decreased 16.8 percent in 1943-44, or from 744,897 to 619,870.

An analysis of the data obtained from the various State fish and game departments reveals upward trends in the sale of hunting licenses in the New England, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast States; the principal decreases in such sales occurred in the Southeastern, Middle Western and Middle Atlantic States.

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced that federal migratory-bird hunting stamps, commonly called "duck stamps", were issued to 1,169,352 sportsmen for use in the 1943-44 season. This figure falls 214,277 short of the 1942-43 season when 1,383,629 stamps were sold at \$1 each to all waterfowl hunters over 16 years of age. These stamps are required in addition to the State licenses.

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118,879 PREDATORY ANIMALS
TAKEN IN 29 STATES IN 1944

The taking of 118,879 predatory animals in Federal-cooperative control operations carried on in 29 States during the fiscal year 1944 has resulted in the saving of thousands of sheep, calves and poultry needed to increase the production of food and wool, according to a report made to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Despite insufficient manpower, this total represented an increase of 3,592 over the take of 115,267 predators in the preceding year, and consisted of 108,050 coyotes, 8,900 bobcats, 1,170 wolves, 592 bears and 167 mountain lions.

The greatest number of coyotes were taken in Texas--14,756. Wyoming was second with 12,002, followed by Oregon with 10,343; Colorado, 9,832; Nevada, 9,790; Idaho, 8,800; California, 8,211; and Montana, 7,035. Of the methods used for taking predators, trapping accounted for 72,727.

From July 1, 1915, to June 30, 1944, the Service reports that control operations have destroyed a total of 1,771,663 predators, of which 1,569,625 were coyotes.

The Service conducts control operations in cooperation with States, counties, livestock and farm associations, municipalities, and individuals to protect sheep, cattle, and poultry from destruction by coyotes, wolves, bobcats and mountain lions. Some 37,000,000 adult sheep and lambs graze upon predator-infested lands principally in the 11 western states. Co-operators provide funds for this work in a ratio of more than \$2 for each dollar of Federally-appropriated money.

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PRODUCTS OF ALASKA FISHERIES
INCREASE IN AMOUNT AND VALUE

Products of the Alaska fisheries as prepared for market in 1943 totaled 332,719,560 pounds, valued at \$66,516,317. Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, disclosed today in releasing the report entitled Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1943.

These figures represent an increase of more than 8 percent in quantity and 18 percent in value from the preceding year, according to Ward T. Bower, Chief, Division of Alaska Fisheries, who prepared the annual report.

Of the total 1943 production, Mr. Bower pointed out, salmon products represent 91 percent of the whole. Halibut accounted for 4 percent, herring about 3 percent, shellfish slightly over 1 percent, and all other fishery and fur-seal products for the remaining 1 percent. The number of persons engaged in the industry was 23,711 as compared with 23,216 in 1942. There were no whaling operations from Alaskan stations in 1943.

The pack of canned salmon was 5,428,269 standard cases valued at \$57,823,679, an increase of about 7 percent in quantity and about 20 percent in value as compared with the 1942 production of 5,075,856 cases valued at \$48,298,913.

The fishery license tax collected by the Territory of Alaska for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1943, amounted to \$994,171.45, of which \$744,985.91 was paid by the salmon canneries as pack tax.

Herring production increased more than 61 percent over that of 1942. Continued demand for cured fish, fish oils, and meals, together with substantially increased quotas in the Kodiak and southeastern Alaska areas, and the relaxation of certain military restrictions on fishing, made the increase possible.

The products of the herring fishery, amounting to 32,404,362 pounds, were valued at \$1,813,991, an increase of \$912,537 above 1942 when the total value was \$901,454.

Seven vessels, with a complement of 37 men, 6 speedboats, 3 launches, 4 open boats powered with high-speed outboard motors, and a power dory, were engaged in fishery patrol work in Alaskan waters in 1943. The patrol vessels, exclusive of open boats, cruised more than 84,000 miles during the year.

Government-owned airplanes also were employed effectively in fishery patrol in several districts. The total flying time aggregated 89 hours, during which the planes traveled approximately 10,680 miles.

Sixty-seven cases of violation of Alaska fishery laws and regulations were referred to representatives of the Department of Justice for prosecuting in 1943. In the cases tried, the total fines levied amounted to \$14,405.70, and the return to the Government from sales of confiscated fish was \$11,179.30.

Alaska Fishery and Fur-Seal Industries: 1943, has been issued as Statistical Digest No. 10 of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies may be purchased at 15 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

STOCK FISHING WATERS FOR
CONVALESCENT SERVICEMEN

Because the soothing effects of fishing are contributing to the healing of convalescent soldiers, sailors and marines by relieving nervous tension, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has embarked on a program of supplying game fish to stock waters in areas under the control of the Veterans' Administration and the War and Navy Departments.

During the first 11 months of 1944, a total of 385,820 game fish of nine different varieties were stocked in suitable waters in 20 states located near Veterans' Hospitals and military areas.

Such anglers' favorites as rainbow, brook and Loch Leven trout, largemouth and smallmouth black bass, bluegill sunfish, red-eared sunfish, catfish and crappies were used for stocking purposes. Some of these fish, particularly the trout, were large enough for the convalescent servicemen to take immediately.

The conservation departments of the states in which the hospitals are located are cooperating with the Government agencies in this activity.

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ILLEGAL HUNTING MAKES
DUCKS COST \$17.80 EACH

Hunters who violated the Federal migratory bird regulations during the last fiscal year paid \$62,357 in fines and received jail sentences totaling 462 days, according to a report to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The 60 game management agents of the Fish and Wildlife Service, working singly or with Federal Deputy game wardens and state officers, obtained 1,985 convictions for illegal hunting during the period.

One of the largest fines was paid by an Ohio hunter who killed 28 ducks in one forenoon and received a fine amounting to \$17.80 per duck.

The fine of \$500 was recently assessed against Walter M. Braun, of Toledo, Ohio, by Federal Judge Frank L. Kloeb, of the same city.

According to W. E. Crouch, chief of the Service's Division of game management, the arrest was made by the Game Management Agent Fred E. Brint who watched the shooting through binoculars and counted the ducks as they came tumbling out of the sky.

Children in a nearby orphanage got the confiscated ducks for dinner.

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SERVICE REOPENS MARKET NEWS
OFFICE IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

The Jacksonville, Fla., office of the Market News Service, Division of Commercial Fisheries of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was reopened in January with offices at Room 205, 221 West Adams Street, Jacksonville, Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service announced today.

The Jacksonville Market News Office has been inoperative for nearly a year and a half, having been closed August 31, 1943, because of lack of operating funds. Charles D. Stewart will resume charge of the office.

The office will issue daily bulletins and monthly summaries containing market information of interest to the fishing industry in the southern area and in the northern sections which are important markets for southern seafoods, according to Dr. Gabrielson.

For the present, principal coverage will be given to shrimp, the south's leading fishery product. Bulletins will report production and canning of shrimp on the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts, truck and rail shipments of fish and shrimp out of Florida producing areas, and receipts and prices of southern fish and shellfish in the New York markets. In addition, a weekly summary of cold storage holdings will be issued.

Persons who wish to receive the bulletins of the Jacksonville Market News Office should address their request to that office.

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