UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★news release

For Release SEPTEMBER 17, 1966

REMARKS BY JOHN S. GOTTSCHALK, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GAME, FISH AND CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 16, 1966

The 1965 National Survey of Fishing and Hunting

Fishermen numbers up -- hunters down!

That, in a nutshell, is what the 1965 National Survey of Fishing and Hunting shows. We expected fishermen to increase because of additional public fishing waters and progress in fishery management. Although the drop in numbers of hunters was a surprise, we should have expected this also. We know that hunting opportunities are being lost through posting of land, loss of areas through development, and the movement of people from rural to urban communities.

This was the third such national survey -- all three being endorsed and requested by the International Association. The published reports, copies of which are available in this hall, contain much information that is vital and useful to you as fish and game administrators as well as to others interested in this Nation's natural resources.

The 1965 Survey is similar but not entirely comparable with those of 1955 and 1960. All of you know that large numbers of Americans fish and hunt, but many do so only incidentally. Others of us are more enthusiastic about our favorite pastimes. The 1965 Survey mainly covers the more enthusiastic sportsmen -- those we call "substantial" participants. These are the people who made three or more trips or spent $5 or more just to fish or to hunt in 1965. Nevertheless, the 1965 survey data cover some persons who, under more critical and less arbitrary standards, would have been classified as incidental participants.

Just as in 1960, two National surveys were conducted in 1965 which have relevance to activities of sport fishermen and hunters: The survey sponsored by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and another by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Both surveys were conducted by the Bureau of the Census each with separate procedures and designed for their special purposes.

Data from the survey for the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which was designed to get the total profile of all outdoor recreational activities, show that about 50 million Americans fished or hunted or did both in 1965. Included among this, are 45 million who fished, over 18 million who hunted, and almost 14 million who did both. Those estimates include everyone: Those who participated only casually as well as those who spent a great deal of their time and money to fish or hunt or do both. The BOR survey was designed to get information on all types of outdoor recreation, including fishing, hunting, other wildlife related activities.

SLIDE 1 - 33 million fishermen and hunters spent $4 billion in 1965

Our survey probed deeply into the detailed activities of the more substantial fisherman and hunter. We found that in 1965 about 33 million persons in these categories fished or hunted, or did both. This 33 million includes over 28 million who fished, almost 14 million who hunted, and over 9 million who did both. All of us would like to provide fish and wildlife in abundance for all of our countrymen to use, and we try to do so. But these resources, like many resources, are limited. One facet of your job and mine is to teach the public how to make the most efficient use of these resources. Our fishing and hunting survey provides some measure of accounting the results of our resource stewardship. For further details than these highlights, you may wish to refer to our published report.

SLIDE 2 - How fishermen and hunters spent their money in 1965

Almost a fourth of the $4 billion, or one billion dollars, was spent for such items as guide fees, bait, and costs of dogs and their care.

The next big expenditure, about 23 percent, went for auxiliary equipment such as tents, boats, and motors, and other gear for outdoor living.

Fishing and hunting equipment accounted for 18 percent.

Transportation expenses, 15 percent.

Food and lodging, 14 percent.

License purchases, almost 4 percent.

And fees for entry to land and water on which to fish and hunt, over 2 percent.

You can bet that the businessmen in the sporting goods industries, retail sport store operators, and other entrepreneurs will note the $1.5 billion spent for bait, guide fees, fishing and hunting equipment, and other odds and ends of outdoor gear. By way of comparison with certain common items of personal consumption expenditure, the $1.5 billion compares with the almost $1.5 billion we paid in 1965 for admissions to the movies and the theater. The total expenditure of over $4 billion for hunting and fishing is more than ten times greater than the $400 million we spent for all spectator sports -- including baseball, football, hockey, horse and dog race tracks, college football, and others.

Let me call your attention especially to "Annual Lease and Daily Privilege Fees." These fees have increased from $3 million in 1955 to $97 million in 1965 -- over 4 million, or 12 percent, of our fellow sportsmen paid these fees in 1965. This could be a significant and fast-developing trend which could change the basic character of fishing and hunting.

SLIDE 3 - Fisherman, age and sex

In 1965 over 28 million of us 12 or older fished. This represents an additional 3 million anglers in this age group, or an increase of 12 percent over 1960. Our total population in the same age group increased only 8 percent during the same 5 years. This means that the number of fishermen still is increasing at a faster rate than the total population.

Another dramatic increase which shows up in the 1965 survey is the number of male fishermen 12 years old or older. They numbered almost 21 million in 1965, or 14 percent more than the 18 million in 1960. All males 12 and above totaled over 67 million in 1965, an increase of less than 8 percent over 1960. The proportion of male fishermen in each age group showed increases except for those in the 18-24 age group.

The number of female fishermen 12 years old and older rose to over 7 million in 1965, or about 6 percent more than the nearly 7 million reported in 1960. The total female population in this age group numbered over 74 million in 1965, an increase of nearly 9 percent over 1960. Thus the number of female fishermen is increasing at a slower rate than the increase in the total female population.

SLIDE 4 - Hunters, age and sex

We are concerned that less than 14 million 12 and older hunted in 1965. This is about 7 percent, or almost a million, less than the 14.6 million reported for 1960. Although not shown here, the decreases occurred as follows: Small game hunters dropped to 10.6 million in 1965,

a loss of about 1½ million in 5 years; and waterfowl hunters dropped to 1.6 million in 1965, a decline of about 300,000 from 1960. We have one bright side here. We are glad to report that the number of big game hunters increased from 6.3 million in 1960 to 6.6 in 1965, a gain of about 300,000.

Male hunters 12 years old or older totaled 12.8 million in 1965, or about 800,000 less than the 13.6 million reported in 1960. Male teenage hunters accounted for a disproportionate share of this decline -- their drop in numbers was 273,000, or about 33 percent of the 800,000. In 1960, males in this age group numbered over 2.4 million, less than 2.2 million in 1965.

Female hunters 12 years old or older numbered 779,000 in 1965, or 246,000 less than the 1,025,000 reported in 1960. Oddly enough, female hunters in the 18-25 age bracket increased by 27,000, or from 205,000 in 1960 to 232,000 in 1965; and the number of 65-year olds and over increased 5,000 -- from 27,000 in 1960 to 32,000 in 1965. Teenagers accounted for a large share of the decline in female hunters.

SLIDE 5 - 523 million recreation days fishing in 1965

Altogether fishermen and hunters spent 709 million days in fishing and hunting in 1965 as compared with 658 million days in 1960, a net increase of 51 million days.

Angling is one of our most popular pastimes, and to the real angler, represents the highest form of recreation. Each recreation day reported represents all or part of one day spent by a man or a woman to fish or to hunt. Americans spent 523 million days fishing in 1965. Compared with 1960, the number of fishing days increased by 57 million days, or 22 percent. Of this 57 million increase, the number of freshwater fishing days rose by 42 million, or 11 percent; and the number of saltwater fishing days rose by 15 million, or 19 percent -- the second highest rate of increase in participation noted in the survey data. The rate of increase in the number of saltwater fishing days was nearly double the rate of increase in freshwater fishing days over the five years 1960-1965.

SLIDE 6 - 186 million recreation days hunting

As you might expect from what has been reported to this point, the number of hunting recreation days fell off -- by 7 million -- from 193 million in 1960 to 186 million in 1965. Yet big game hunting increased from about 39 million days in 1960 to almost 44 million in 1965, or a gain of 5 million days. The decline in small game hunting more than wiped out the big-game hunting increase receding from 138 million days in 1960 to about 128 million days in 1965 -- about 10 million days. Waterfowl hunting declined from over 15 million days in 1960 to about 13 million days, a loss of about 1.6 million days.

As to the causes of the decline in small game hunting we have no hints. But for waterfowling we think we know the causes of decline -- lowered bird populations, restricted opportunities and access, and probably the increasingly vexatious regulations and restrictions which are made necessary by the scarcity factors. As for the gains shown in big game hunting, I believe you State administrators can be proud of the programs which have made this possible.

SLIDE 7 - 23 billion passenger miles to fish in 1965

Fishermen and hunters traveled over 31 billion passenger miles just to fish and hunt in 1965.

Fishermen accounted for about three-fourths of this total, or almost 23 billion passenger miles. Out of the 23 billion, 22 billion were made by automobile, the remainder by some other form of transportation.

SLIDE 8 - 9 billion passenger miles to hunt in 1965

Hunters racked up almost 9 billion passenger miles to hunt, over 8 billion of which were by automobile.

You can see that Detroit, the car dealers, and gasoline stations might well consider fishermen and hunters to be important customers.

SLIDE 9 - Where sport fishermen lived in 1965

Economists and statisticians consider data from Standard Metropolitan Statistical areas to be more meaningful than that from urban areas defined simply within city limits. We are, therefore, presenting the number of sportsmen classified under this system for the first time.

In 1965, the number of sportsmen -- fishermen and hunters -- who lived in these metropolitan areas totaled over 16 million, or almost 18 percent of the 93 million living in those areas.

The number of fishermen living outside these big cities include over 10 million, or almost 25 percent of the 41 million living in non-farm areas, and 1.7 million, or 23 percent of the 7.5 million living on farms. The participation rates are most significant here. Generally, people living outside the cities have more opportunities for fishing than their more "urbanized" fellow citizens. We must remember, however, that some farms are included within the metropolitan areas and that many of us

city-folk are ex-farm boys. In any case, please note that more than half of our country's fishermen live in these big cities. In fact, only about 10 percent live on farms outside of the cities. This fact should generate some thinking about how our management programs are oriented!

SLIDE 10 - Where hunters lived in 1965

Preferences are more distinct where hunting in concerned. Only 6.2 million, or less than 7 percent of the 93 million persons living in metropolitan areas hunted in 1965. Outside the big cities over 6 million, or almost 15 percent of 41 million living in non-farm areas, went hunting; and almost 1.4 million, or 18 percent of 7.5 million living on farms, went hunting. Here, again, our farm clientele only provide 10 percent, a fact which relates to the declining farm population. Our market clearly is in the urban complexes.

SLIDE 11 - Freshwater fishing 1965

Of the 28 million fishermen in 1965, almost 24 million went freshwater fishing and spent over $2 billion for 427 million recreation days. This represents $89 a person and $4.98 a day, which compares with somewhat less than the $95 a person and $5.36 a day in 1960. A large part of the decrease in percapita and daily expenditures is explained by a substantial decline in purchase of boats and boat motors and general purpose equipment. These expenditures declined by almost $300 million, or from $800 million in 1960, to $527 million in 1965.

SLIDE 12 - Saltwater fishing in 1965

In 1965, the number of saltwater fishermen totaled over 8 million, up 2 million from 1960. They spent almost $800 million in 1965, on more than 95 million recreation days of fishing in salt water. The increase in number of saltwater fishermen represents the most dramatic increase in the survey, a 30 percent increase or almost 4 times the 8 percent growth of our population 12 years old or older. Here again is another fact which should generate some thinking about our management programs.

SLIDE 13 - Waterfowl hunting in 1965

In 1965, 1,650,000 waterfowlers spent over $87 million on over 13 million recreation days. Compared to 1960, these figures represent a decrease of 300,000 hunters but a rise in expenditures from $46 to $53 per person and from $5.89 a day to $6.44 per day.

SLIDE 14 - Small game hunting in 1965

Over 10 million hunters spent over $615 million on over 128 million recreation days to hunt small game in 1965. Since 1960, the number of these hunters decreased by almost 2 million; average annual expenditures remained at $58 a hunter; and average daily expenditures dropped from $5.25 a day to $4.79 a day. The reason that average daily expenditures dropped is that almost all items purchased in 1965 were substantially less than those in 1960, especially the high cost items like boats and boat motors which I mentioned before. There was a slight increase in the number of small game hunting days on the average.

SLIDE 15 - Big game hunting in 1965

Although not as spectacular as the increases in fishing, the increase in big game hunting in 1965 was substantial. The number of big game hunters increased to almost 6.6 million in 1965, or about 300,000 over 1960. In 1965, they spent over $400 million on 44 million recreation days. These latter figures represent a rise from $55 to $64 a person annually and from $8.82 to $9.55 a day of hunting.

SLIDE 16 - Fishing licenses in 1965

More than eleven and a half million fishermen were not licensed in 1965. The proportion of unlicensed fishermen was one out of four, or somewhat less than the one in three reported in 1960.

SLIDE 17 - Hunting licenses 1965

The number of unlicensed hunters in 1965 was one in every six. This is somewhat less than 1 for every 5 in 1960.

Now for some new and interesting data, most of which was requested by individual State members or members of the various conservation organizations.

SLIDE 18 - Young sportsmen 9 - 12 years old

Over 3 million youngsters 9, 10, or 11 years old, or almost 30 percent of that age group fished in 1965. Boys -- some 2.2 million of them -- accounted for over two-thirds of this total.

Almost 350,000 youngsters in this 9 - 12 age group went hunting in 1965! While boys were preponderant, we note that 39,000 girls were counted in this group, accounting for almost one percent of that age group -- or about equal to the one percent of all female hunters 12 years old or older.

SLIDE 19 - Fishing on farm and ranch ponds under 10 acres in size in 1965

Over 5 million of the 24 million fresh water fishermen fished on small farm and ranch ponds in 1965. The total number of pond fishermen totaled less than 10 million. Thus more than half of the pond fishing occurs on the small ones. This also appears to be another management item we should think about.

SLIDE 20 - Hunting on public lands

As you can see, over 9 million of the 14 million hunters did not hunt on public land at all in 1965. This confirms that, nationwide, most hunting is on private lands which on an average are about 23 miles from the hunters' homes, to cite another Survey statistic not shown here.

SLIDE 21 - Waterfowl hunting by flyways in 1965

Of the 1,650,000 waterfowl hunters who took to the field in 1965, almost half were accounted for in the Mississippi Flyway, only 14 percent in the Central Flyway -- our least populous area -- and the balance about equally distributed between the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways where our country is more densely populated and industrialized.

SLIDE 22 - Varmint hunters

About a fifth of our small game hunters, over two and one-half million, hunted varmints in 1965. These figures appear to be indicative of the almost nonexistence of restrictions usually associated with this type of hunting.

SLIDE 23 - Out of State fishing and hunting

While almost 7 million fishermen, or about a quarter of all fishermen, reported fishing outside their State of residence; less than 1.3 million, or about 9 percent of all hunters, reported hunting outside their resident State. These figures seem to reflect the deterrent effects of higher non-resident hunting license costs.

SLIDE 24 - Birds and other wildlife related outdoor activities

Over 8 million bird watchers and over 3 million wildlife photographers were estimated for 1965. We had definitional problems here, since nearly everyone looks at birds. We defined bird watching narrowly, restricting it to those who spent a sum of money or did some minimum traveling specifically for the purpose.

* * * * * *

Briefly these are the highlights of the 1965 survey. The complete results are available to you in our report. There are limited unpublished data which can be made available for special purposes -- none, however, which are valid for individual States.

I hope this capsule summary of the 1965 survey has given you some of the dimensions of the demand for our Country's fish and wildlife resources. The implications in hunting data are significant. Our fellow sportsmen will turn out in increasing numbers if game is made available, or accessible, as seems to be the case with big game hunting. This is even more evident in fishing where the supply is much more abundant and can be improved with the development of our water resources. Fortunately, in the latter case, what is good for fish is good for people.

We, in the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, are pleased to have carried out the request of the International. We hope you approve our continuing effort to improve the caliber of these National Surveys.

Thank you.

84812