

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

For Release July 5, 1977

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PHYSICIAN SENTENCED TO HOLD FREE CLINIC FOR HUNTING VIOLATION

A Louisiana physician who pleaded guilty to possession of 11 freshly killed ducks in closed season was sentenced to open a 2-week clinic free to anyone who needed medical help, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made known today.

On June 7, Dr. Robert Boulet, 43, of Larose, La., pleaded guilty to the charge before U.S. Magistrate Ingard O. Johannesen of New Orleans. Boulet told the judge that he and two companions, one of whom was a member of the Tulane University skeet team, wanted to shoot ducks as practice for an upcoming national meet.

Judge Johannesen said that that was a very poor excuse and that he should ordinarily be sentenced to at least 11 days in jail. However, because the jails were full and there was no place to put Dr. Boulet, the judge accepted the defense attorney's suggestion that Dr. Boulet hold an open clinic. Boulet was sentenced to hold a free clinic for 2 weeks from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and was required to advertise it at least a week in advance in local newspapers and on radio. The clinic was held June 20 to July 2. Dr. Boulet is the only physician in his community.

Michael McCarthy, 24, a college student, was sentenced to work four Saturdays for Goodwill Industries. A third companion was a minor and not charged.

Boulet was apprehended on March 20, 1977, by wildlife agents of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission who turned the case over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents for prosecution in Federal Court. Boulet violated the Migratory Bird Treaty Act under which all waterfowl hunting regulations are issued. The waterfowl season in Louisiana closed January 20.

Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, praised the work of the Louisiana wildlife agents who brought this case to successful prosecution.