

The Rogue River Fisheries

Interest in Warm-Water Fishing Increasing

Shortage of Fish, Fishing At Times Noted in Valley

(Editor's note: This is the sixth in a series of articles on the Rogue river fishery and its management. Today's article on warm-water game fish explains the need for these fish, general locations that are available, and their important place in a good management program.)

by COLE M. RIVERS Fisheries Agent State Game Commission

Warm-water fish, or spiny-rays, is a term used to describe the group of pan and pond fish made up of bass, crappie (pronounced crop-ee), bluegill, pumpkinseed, sunfish, perch, and catfish. Interest in and use of these fish by sport fishermen and pond owners are increasing.

With the present-day problem of finishing enough fishing in proper places, spiny-rays are valuable. These fish can serve more anglers and produce more fish per unit of water than trout. Where trout and salmon must have cold waters, so must the spiny-rays have warm and quiet waters. Neither group can thrive abundantly in the other's habitat.

Large increases in the number of fishermen in the valley during the past decade have created a shortage of fish and fishing water at certain times of the year. The trout lakes are producing maximum quantities of fish, but they cannot supply all the demand for fishing. One of the solutions to proper distribution of anglers and to fulfill individual preferences is to develop more spiny-ray waters in the basin.

Old Expression An old expression frequently used by fishery workers is that a warm-water fishery cannot be overfished. Generally, this is true because heavy fishing pressure results in a rapid turn-over of the fish population. The more fish removed, the more productive the remaining fish become.

A general danger exists with anglers not being able to harvest sufficient numbers each year to prevent these fish crowding themselves out of house and home. Stunting is common and then few fish over 3 or 4 inches in length can be found.

Largemouth bass, bluegills, and catfish have been established in the ponds on the Camp White management area, and good fishing has become available there. The backwater slough areas above Gold Ray dam are popular haunts for hundreds of anglers each year. Many anglers enjoyed Emigrant reservoir for warm-water fishing, and they will do so again upon completion of the Talent project.

Most Important Water Hyatt reservoir is the most important body of water for warm-water fishing in the Rogue area. It was drawn down this fall to install the screen in the outlet under the provisions of the Talent project. Because of a heavy population of small crappies and sunfish, the game commission was going to treat the reservoir at the low water stage so that a balanced population of bluegills, largemouth bass, and catfish could be established.

Breakup Dated "The new technique also dates the more recent breakup into meteorites of some of the once massive bodies of the solar system and provides clues to the life histories of these fragments. One of the gas 'clocks' that ran down and stopped at the very dawn of time has made it possible to reach into the twilight of cosmology and measure the full age of the solar system.

Relatively Stabilized Some people believe that fishing will never be good again at Hyatt reservoir without crappies. Others believe bluegills to be far superior to crappies in their ability to provide recreation for anglers of all age groups. The fact remains that crappies in Hyatt with its relatively stabilized surface levels will overpopulate the lake, become stunted, and furnish lit-



TAKING IT EASY-A family group "takes it easy" on the banks of Hyatt reservoir while fishing for warm-water game fish. Hyatt lake is considered one of the most desirable locations in Jackson county for warm-water game fish.

le fishing for anyone. There is a much better chance for a good fishery with the black bass-bluegill-catfish combination. Because several years will be required for new stocks of bluegills and bass to become established, trout will be planted to furnish some angling through this waiting period. The spiny-rays will eventually crowd them out, and a productive and enjoyable warm-water fishery will be available once more. Many private landowners use their irrigation reservoirs or pump suns for spiny-rays. Some of these impoundments become very productive fish ponds when stocked with proper numbers of the right kinds of fish. Usually, these ponds are overstocked to begin with, or they are not fished heavily enough to keep the population from getting out of control.

From Commercial Ponds In Oregon, the game commission does not supply fish for private ponds. Stocks must be obtained from commercial ponds or from some other pond owner. A transportation permit is required to move fish from one body of water to another, and it may be obtained from the commission. It is important to the pond owner to keep his fish from escaping and even more im-

Estimated Age of Earth Figured at 4.6 Billion Years

New York—(Scientific American Feature)—Recent improvements in the technique of dating ancient materials by their radioactivity have confirmed earlier estimates that the earth is about 4.6 billion years old, according to John H. Reynolds, assistant professor of physics at the University of California. "Recent counts of the few atoms of noble gases—helium, argon, neon, krypton and xenon—that are trapped in the crystal lattices of meteoritic stone and iron," says Dr. Reynolds, "have supported the results of previous methods used for measuring the interval that separates the present from the epoch when minerals of the earth's crust were formed. The evidence suggests that the cold planetary bodies of the solar system all crystallized at about the same time; some 4.5 or 4.6 billion years ago.

Reaches Into Time "The iodine-xenon clock is specially interesting because it reaches back into the time when the elements themselves were formed. This 'clock' is not yet fully calibrated. Past experience with other important radioactive clocks has shown that they become more reliable as experimental techniques improve. The iodine-xenon clock should ultimately provide a reliable time-scale for events which took place at about the time the solar system was formed. It is clear, however, that the time interval between element formation and the formation of the minerals in meteorites is relatively short. Otherwise the iodine clock would have completely run down before the minerals were formed. (No xenon would now be found in meteorites.) This completely rules out the possibility that billions of years intervened between the formation of the elements of the solar system and the time its planetary bodies were formed."

portant to the state's management of the total game fish resource that his fish not be promiscuously broadcast to waters in which they might be undesirable. Fishery agents check the security of ponds for their ability to hold warm-water fish before transportation permits are issued. Advice on pond construction and management is available from the commission at any time. The game commission is devoting more attention to warm-water fishery developments in the Rogue valley. This program offers an opportunity to supplement the trout, salmon, and steelhead fisheries which already receive heavy fishing pressures. Expanded facilities could supply fishing for a greater number of people over a larger part of the year.

Lake Development Most of the trout and spiny-ray lakes in the Rogue basin are located in Jackson county. Because of the need to reduce the angling pressure on downstream migrant steelhead in the middle section of the Rogue, much interest has been directed to the development of reservoirs in Josephine county. The Josephine county court, through its park board, is building a 157-surface-acre reservoir on McMullen creek, tributary to Deer creek, near

Salem. This reservoir will serve multi-purpose recreation with fishing receiving highest priority. Spiny-rays will be stocked by the commission to produce an estimated minimum of 5,500 angler days of warm-water fishing per year.

Depending upon the public's acceptance and use of the project, that figure could be increased to 10,000 angler days per year. This project is an excellent example of progressive and cooperative development to meet the needs for more fishing facilities. More of these projects will be needed in the future.

Chicago—The average boss in Chicago vacations pretty high on the hog. A survey by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry says 50 per cent of the executives spend \$500 to \$1,500 and the rest blow as much as \$5,000 for their good times.

While population is expected to increase 15 per cent by 1970, the total number of available jobs and workers is forecast to increase 20 per cent. The number of women workers should increase at nearly twice the rate for men. By 1970, two out of every five women between teen-age years and 65 are likely to be in the labor force. It is also anticipated that three million new young workers will enter the labor force each year by the late 1960s, compared to about two million a year now. With output of goods and services outstripping population growth, the study predicts that the level of living will improve by about one-fourth by 1970. The review of manpower potential and output is based on three major assumptions: that the level of economic activity of the past 15 years continues, absence of war or other events that would substantially change economic growth, and continuation of the same rate of technological and scientific advances.

Redwood City, Calif.—San Mateo County Deputy Dan Coslett was puzzled at the way traffic seemed to be moving faster than it should. He stopped three obvious speeders, but in each case the driver vehemently denied exceeding the limit. Coslett decided to check his speedometer with that of a Highway Patrol car. Sure enough, when the patrol car was going 65 miles an hour, Coslett's car registered 80.

Production Boost Seen During Next 10 Years in U.S.

Corvallis—A 50 per cent boost in production of goods and services in the United States during the next 10 years appears probable in light of labor man power trends, reports an Oregon State college economist.

More women and young workers entering the labor force in the 1960's will play a major part in swelling the manpower potential, according to Mrs. Elvera Horrell, OSC extension agricultural economist.

The report is based on a recent manpower review by the U. S. Department of labor.

The study showed that employment in service industries will grow faster than in industries producing goods. Above-average employment growth was predicted for construction, finance, insurance, real estate, trade, and other services.

Manufacturing jobs are expected to hold their present employment ratio while transportation, public utilities, and mining are likely to lag behind average employment growth. Farm jobs will continue to decline.

Job Increase While population is expected to increase 15 per cent by 1970, the total number of



UNDER CONSTRUCTION—McMullen creek reservoir near Selma is being built by the Josephine county court in cooperation with its parks department. The 156-acre lake will be used for warm water fishing and many other recreational activities.

Advertisement for Eastside Super Market featuring various food items and prices. Items include Bacon (55c/lb), Ham (57c/lb), Cauliflower (19c each), Artichokes (3 for 39c), Celery (10c/pound), Carrots (3 pound bags 29c), Apples/Oranges (49c), Groceries (489c), Karo (39c), Cottage Cheese (2.49), Friskies (63c), Peanut Butter (39c), Delrich Margarine (5.89), B&M Baked Beans (3.89), and Berry Jam (89c). The ad also mentions 100 Silver Dollar Stamps and a Christmas ham or turkey offer.