

The Rogue River Fisheries

Trash Fish Present Problem in Some Areas

Nations Sticking To Ban Against Shooting Seals

By GEORGE WEEKS
United Press International
Washington—(UPI)—Nations unable to guarantee they won't shoot at each other are sticking to a ban against shooting seals at sea.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Office of the State Department says Russia is "playing fair and square" in honoring a North Pacific seal harvest treaty with the United States, Japan and Great Britain.

Furthermore, a spokesman said, Russia and the United States have successfully completed an exchange of scientific observers who inspected each other's seal herds.

Fisheries and wildlife officials in the state department aren't so bold as to suggest that they are setting an example for their diplomatic colleagues concerned with nuclear inspection and some of the more serious aspects of East-West relations.

"I'm afraid the issues involved here are of somewhat different character," said Stuart Blow, State Department fisheries expert.

Except for a brief lapse on the part of Japan during the 1940's, none of the nations

has violated the four-power agreement, first made in 1911.

The second North Pacific treaty was signed Feb. 9, 1957. It is scheduled to expire in 1963, but by that time results of research programs are expected to provide the basis of terms for a new pact.

The National Geographic society said the seal population of the Pribilof Islands and Alaska was 4 million when the areas were purchased from Russia in 1867.

About 124,000 were left by 1911.

"Hunting at sea was overwhelmingly responsible for the decline," the society said.

Hauling Grounds
Today, about 90,000 northern fur seals can be safely taken each year from the islands. Hunters may invade only the "hauling grounds" which are apart from the breeding grounds.

Although it was thought at one time that only young, unattached male seals should be taken, some experts now advocate taking of females as a control measure in areas where food is limited and a herd would face starvation losses anyway.

Reservoirs, Ponds Cleaned for More Desirable Fish

(Editor's note: This is the seventh in a series of articles on the Rogue river fishery and its management. Today's article discusses management problems that are created for desirable game fish by illegal introductions, exotics and trash fish.)

By COLE M. RIVERS
Fisheries Agent
State Game Commission

Trash fish is a term used to describe fish of no value to man in a particular locality.

A fish that is enjoyed by some people in one part of the country may be considered a trash fish in another place.

The story of roach in lakes has been told many times. These fish multiply rapidly. They are so efficient in their competition for available food that trout

cease to grow. When a sport fishery is thus reduced, complete removal of all fish is necessary before the lake or stream is restocked.

In the Rogue drainage, Fish Lake has been treated for roach twice, once in 1951 and again in 1958. Bolan Lake (in southern Josephine county) was treated to rid the waters of catfish. Other ponds and reservoirs have been cleaned out to re-establish a balanced population of warm-water fish.

Less Desirable

Bass, crappie (pronounced crop-ee), catfish and bluegill are highly preferred in one body of water, but when they are introduced into a lake that benefits more people when managed for trout, they become less desirable.

Some individuals who have enjoyed good fishing for warm-water fish at Hyatt and Emigrant reservoirs, at the Camp White ponds and in the Gold Ray forebay, but who are not familiar with the basic requirements of warm-water fish, have attempted to sneak spiny-rays into good trout lakes.

This is not only a violation of the law but a selfish slap at the majority of fishermen. Spiny-rays rarely provide good fishing in a cold water habitat and worse yet their presence deprives the lake of

good trout fishing as well.

Squaw Lake is a good example where bluegills and crappies have been introduced illegally. The bluegills and crappie will never provide good angling because these waters are not warm-water fishery habitat.

Productive Waters

Now, attempts are being made by other people to introduce these warm-water fish into Howard Prairie reservoir, the body of water that should develop into one of the most productive trout fishing lakes in the state.

Some waters in the Rogue basin have been going

through physical and chemical changes which are caused by settlement and related land uses. Pollution, waste irrigation water, warm temperatures and low summer flows are, for example, making some of the stream sections a better place for suckers and carp to live.

In the middle of the summer, a person can drift in a boat down the Rogue over any of the riffles below Grants Pass and observe the riffle changing color. This is caused by thousands of suckers scooting out and around the boat.

Biologists are striving to

learn what damage these populations of suckers might do to salmon and steelhead. Suckers have been accused of digging eggs out of the gravel, but this is not true. With their sucker-type mouths, they suck up moss, algae and the aquatic insects that this material contains. Studies will be made to determine if this feeding activity is in competition with young trout, salmon and steelhead.

Vegetarians

Carp are largely vegetarians which seek their food in sections of the river that contain aquatic plants and weeds. Because these weed beds are

usually located in stagnant areas of the river and not in riffles that are important to members of the trout and salmon family, little harm is recognized. However, in lakes and reservoirs these fish become a real problem.

Another trash fish introduced to the Rogue system is the red-sided shiner. They are little fish, four to six inches in length at maturity. They are voracious feeders and are able to dart around as fast as trout. Some person brought these fish in from elsewhere illegally, probably to stock a private pond. They were first found in

Jumpoff Joe creek in 1957 and have multiplied a thousandfold in three years. They can now be found abundantly down the Rogue to Marial, up to Savage Rapids dam and all through the lower Applegate. What damage they might do is not yet known.

Research is under way to develop a series of selective chemicals that will kill one species of fish but not injure more desirable kinds in the same water. Some progress is being made, but nothing has been found yet that will separate the kill among suckers, carp, shiners, warm-water fish, trout and salmon.



ROACH KILLED — This shows a wind-row of roach at Fish Lake resulting from chemical treatment of the lake in 1951 to remove unwanted fish. The lake was treated again in 1958 for roach.

Even Christmas Can't Unite Divided Berlin This Year

By JOSEPH FLEMING
United Press International
Berlin — (UPI) — Even Christmas won't unite divided Berlin.

The city has two Santa Claus along with two police departments, two fire departments, two telephone systems and two of everything else.

In fact, every year when Christmas rolls around the split of the city becomes even deeper, for the Communists tighten their border controls.

In a sense, the Communists are trying to keep the western Santa Claus out.

Eastern police controls along the 28-mile border between East and West Berlin are hard enough for Berliners to stomach at any time in the year.

Additional Police

But additional squads are sent to the border before Christmas to keep eastern residents from taking back home presents and Christmas foods they bought in the western sectors with precious West marks they saved up.

The Communists ban their people from buying in the West, and over Christmas the ban is enforced more severely than ever.

For East Berliners that means a rather bare holiday celebration, at least compared to the West.

In West Berlin everything is for sale you can get in New York, London, Paris or Chattanooga. East Berliners cross the border just to stare at the shop windows.

East Germany has beaten the food shortage that plagued it last summer, but there still is no surplus. And consumer goods still are scarce and shoddy.

For all that, Christmas is celebrated with joy and vigor,

in the East as well as the West.

Germans think they invented Christmas and they always express surprise when told it is a world-wide holiday.

Empty Stockings
Outside of a bare holiday feast and an empty stocking, the East marks the holiday the same as in the West.

The Communists do their best to indoctrinate people against religion, but they have had little success and churches are jammed.

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Salmon Are Found In Scotland Area

London (Science Service) — Pacific salmon transplanted by Russians to the Barents sea have now been found as far south as Scotland.

These fish, which were unknown in the waters off the coast of Europe as recently as five years ago, are now being netted in many places along the coast of northern Europe. Several thousand Pacific salmon have already been caught on the Norwegian coast.

These salmon probably came originally from the cold rivers that empty into the Barents sea in northern Russia, near the Finland border. Since 1956, Russian scientists have been transplanting large numbers of Pacific salmon eggs to their northern waters just above the Arctic Circle to see if the salmon could survive.

As many as 75,000 salmon have returned to these same rivers to spawn, Dr. W. M. Shearer of Freshwater Fisheries laboratory in Perthshire and Dr. E. Trewavas of the British Museum (Natural History), London, reported.

Forms for making the reports will be available during January to aliens at all post-offices in Oregon and the office of the immigration and naturalization service at Portland.

Turner indicated that aliens desiring information concerning naturalization or similar matters should obtain the forms at an office of the immigration and naturalization service where personnel trained in these fields will be available to answer inquiries.

The United States is the world's second largest importer of agricultural commodities, running slightly behind the United Kingdom. U.S. imports account for about one-sixth of the world total.

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Our Apologies...

We are indeed sorry we ran out of "Picnics" last week and many of you didn't receive one—WE APOLOGIZE

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