

Skill, Brook Trout, Bag Limit All Tied Together In Latest Surveys

By DE VAN L. SHUMWAY

SACRAMENTO (UPI) — An expert of California's Fish and Game Department has brought back to life the old argument about the skilled versus the ordinary angler.

Such an argument many times is used to show that it really does no good for a fish limit to be increased, because only the highly-skilled fisherman catches the limit anyway.

As a result, increasing a fish limit doesn't benefit the ordinary Joe, who just tosses his line in the most likely-looking spot. But it does wonders for the expert.

Robert C. Tharratt of the Inland Fisheries Branch says it this way in a report on the status of the eastern brook trout in California:

"An increased limit would not improve the average angler's chances for success, but it would improve the catch of the skilled angler."

The Fish and Game Commission in February 1959 ordered a study of the eastern brook trout in the state. Commissioners had been asked to consider increasing the trout bag and possession limit to 20 fish including not less than 10 eastern brook trout.

Tharratt, in his report on the study, points out that the eastern brook is well suited for life in California alpine lakes.

"The ability of brook trout to spawn successfully in springs on lake bottoms has resulted in the establishment of self-sustaining

populations in many waters which had not previously supported fisheries," said Tharratt.

He pointed out that the brook trout has been introduced into many lakes and streams from the San Bernardino mountains in Southern California to the Oregon boundary, and is most abundant in the high lakes and mountain meadow streams of the Sierra-Nevada and Klamath mountains.

A staggering number of about one million brook trout fingerlings is stocked by airplane in California wilderness lakes each year.

As a result of the ability of the trout to persist and multiply under "marginal conditions" in the state's mountain lakes, available food has been depleted in some lakes to the point where overpopulation and stunting has occurred in some waters.

What the fish and game commission had in mind in the early part of this year was cutting down the population and thus allowing the fish to grow large.

So scientists of the department went out to collect information and study material already available. This was a difficult task because California has between 3,000 and 5,000 mountain lakes.

They found out that overpopulation of brook trout is limited primarily to F&G regions 1 and 5. The major "problem" areas are the Marble Mountains, which contain 16 lakes, and the Salmon and Scott mountains, which have 11 lakes. There are 15 overpopulated lakes in the Rock Creek Drainage of Region 5.

Said Tharratt: "A statewide regulation permitting a bonus limit of brook trout would affect many more waters with healthy populations than with stunted ones. Brook trout are notoriously easy to catch, compared with rainbow and brown trout."

Tharratt went on to say that in 1958, Colorado had a statewide bonus of 10 brook trout under 10 inches in addition to the regular bag limit of 10 trout.

But the Rocky Mountain state abandoned this regulation in 1959 because some of the good brook trout lakes were harmed by the blanket regulation, according to Tharratt.

"The damage was accomplished even in the face of size limit restrictions, indicating the vulnerability of brook trout populations."

The F&G official said this would

be of great concern in California in view of increased fishing pressure in wilderness areas of the state in recent years.

He estimated that nearly 13,000 persons visited the back-country portion of the popular High Sierra Wilderness Area in 1958.

"Available fish stocks will have to be shared by more people each year," he said. "It is reasonable to assume that if stunted brook

trout populations represent the only available fisheries in a given area, the proposed regulation might help to improve the population structure in such waters.

"However," he added, "a statewide increased limit would add further to the problems present in many areas where fishing pressure is already greater than can be supported by the available fisheries."

Mint Man Spikes Rumor About New Cent's Value

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Saving new pennies because you heard they are going to be recalled by the government? Think you're going to make a lot of money in coins?

You have been misled. When the issue of new U.S. pennies came out in February, a rumor was spread about that the government was going to recall the copper coins because somebody goofed and put a small "o" in "United States of America" on the coin's tail-side.

Actually, mint artist Frank Gasparo of Philadelphia deliberately used the small "o" to break up the uniformity of the lettering.

The Assistant director of the mint, Leland Howard, said rumors start "every time we put out a new coin."

"People look at it closely, find something they never noticed before and hope it'll turn into something rare."

Howard said Gasparo worked for weeks on an eight-inch clay-model of the coin, which, for a change has the Lincoln Memorial etched

on its back instead of just "One Cent."

He said that it was rather illogical that one of the 41 letters, which appear on the penny, would escape Gasparo's notice on a model that large.

An examination of the coin shows that the small "o" is the only letter of the 41 that is not capitalized. This fact makes the little letter more noticeable.

But Howard said, "it's no mistake and we're not going to recall the coin."

The small "o" in the "of" on the new penny doesn't stand alone among the "of's" which appear on U.S. coins. Small "o's" appear on the 1921 "Peace Dollar," the 1916 half-dollar and the current Franklin half-dollar, Howard pointed out.

Cops Scarce, Cars Thick

JAKARTA (UPI) — Take 88,000 motor vehicles, 12,000 motorized bicycles or motorcycles, 20,000 pedicabs, 250,000 bicycles, 3,000,000 pedestrians and two traffic lights and you have quite a traffic jam, Jakarta certainly does.

"Yes," admitted Baron Winoto of the city's police department, "we have some traffic problems."

But the biggest of them all, he explained, is not the number of vehicles or traffic lights. It is the lack of traffic police.

Jakarta has a total of 250 persons in the police department's traffic control section. But, according to Winoto, almost half of them are administrative personnel, leaving only about 130 for traffic duties, many of them part-time.

To make matters worse, the two lights are installed in areas where traffic is lightest. They were put up just before the Bandung Conference in 1955.

At the time, officials had a grand plan for giving the city more than a dozen traffic signals. But the plan ran into hard times and bogged down in the endless bureaucracy of Indonesia.

The idea was to install a string of lights running through one section of Jakarta. In fact, a commitment of \$12,000 had been obtained from the U.S. International Cooperation Administration to cover the cost of the equipment.

But the project floundered as soon as customs officials pointed out to city officials that the lights were luxury items and they would therefore have to pay more than \$30,000 in duty just to import the \$12,000 worth of material.

But even with only about 130 traffic cops, only two traffic lights and no stop signs at all, Jakarta suffered only 131 traffic fatalities in 1958, Winoto said. There were 2,932 reported accidents with 1,578 injuries.

BOXER STAND-IN

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Richard Egan, a fairly rugged acting type, has an even more rugged stand-in—Jimmy Casino, former California state middleweight boxing champ.

Start Early On Languages

CHICAGO (UPI) — Many school officials would like to see earlier foreign language instruction for American youngsters, says the magazine, "Nation's Schools."

Seven of every ten administrators queried advocated teaching a second language on elementary school level, though most felt it should be optional throughout both elementary and secondary schools.

A majority thought the courses should start in the fourth grade, and 98 per cent gave their vote to two to four years of language study in high school.

One official, the magazine said, voted for progress toward a universal language "that will have some benefit worldwide."

"One foreign language is no good," he said, "if when you travel 200 miles, you find yourself in another country."

Preferred languages were Spanish (34 per cent) and French (22 per cent).

New Hormone In Cattle?

ITHACA, N.Y. (UPI) — Two Cornell University scientists have discovered that the "juvenile hormone," a chemical which prevents aging in insects, apparently exists in higher forms of life as well. The hormone allows insects to grow in size without maturing.

Prof. Howard A. Schneiderman and Lawrence I. Gilbert, a graduate student, have obtained a chemical from the cow's adrenal cortex which, when administered to insects, has the same effect. The researchers say this is the first substance ever obtained from a higher animal which does affect insect growth.



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