Duck, Goose and Brant Season Closes Up State To-morrow; Pickerel Fishing Begins in New Jersey on January 1

FLORIDA ATTRACTS SURF FISHERMEN

Channel Bass Lure Anglers for the Winter Season.

BIG SHARKS HOOKED

By FREDERICK A. BISHOP.

NEW SMYRNA, Fla., Dec. 29.—Plug casting for channel bass is an art. Some of the artists are arriving in Florida now for the winter of 1918.

Edward A. Tipton, president of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeding Association, belongs to the class that has fished for all kinds of fish in Florida waters. He used to troll and still fish, but now the only plug that he will use must float close enough to the surface so he can see the fish strike.

Mr. Tipton landed a 22 pound channel bass on the same kind of a light rig last spring.

I am certain you would agree with me that some pluggers are true sportsmen if you had heard him say:

"Bishop, I have been coming to Florida for seventeen years and it has been my ambition to land a fish of 20 pounds or more on a light rod like this, and I don't care whether I catch another this season."

Woman Fine Caster.

Mrs. Tipton is also a fine caster and makes many trips on the river with her husband.

Col. Daniel A. Keys of the Union League Club of Philadelphia is another true sportsman who has been going to Florida for years. His outfit contains about everything needed for any kind of fishing, from the light fly rod to the tarpon rig, and the Colonel does all kinds of fishing from casting the dry fly for the trout in the brooks and streams of Pennsylvania and other parts of the country to catching the silver king in Florida waters. He is also a member of the pluggers class who does not still fish any more and caught several 10 to 15 pounders on floating plugs last season, yet he is past three score and ten.

My experience with plugs and pluggers has been in Florida waters only, therefore I am not in a position to state what they are elsewhere.

Aside from plug casting and trying to catch a tarpon the only other kind of fishing I do nowadays is surf fishing.

It was in the ocean at Melbourne Beach in the winter of 1912-13 that I first experienced the joys of surf fishing and made my first cast with a multiplying reel. It is needless to tell you that about half of my time was spent in picking out backlashes and it was some days before I was able to get the bait more than 40 or 50 feet from shore. Yet I kept at it and one afternoon hooked into something big and the same old thing happened. Tried to stop it too quick; broke reel and the fish got away with two or three hundred feet of line.

Surf Fishing Uncertain.

Like some other beginners that I have met I got a larger reel and heavier line, but the fish that came ashore were few and far between, as they would usually get off the hook or take it with them.

While surf fishing is probably the most uncertain of all fishing because wind, tide, conditions of surf, &c., have to be considered, it is to my mind the greatest sport of all.

When you make a cast in the surf you have no idea whether something six inches or six feet is going to hook on. If there is such a thing as any fisherman being a "nut," surely he will be found in this class, because you have to fish longer with less results and must indeed be a full fledged crank to keep at it.

However, the game is worth the candle, as the thrill of playing a good sized fish in the surf, and the uncertainty of landing it after you hook it, is a sport for the gods, especially when it is a channel bass 25 to 50 pounds or a shark six feet or over.

My experiences the first season caused me to look into surf fishing on my return to New York, and I made a trip to Corson's Inlet, N. J., where at Gus Whitecamp's you will find more real surf fishermen than any place I know of. Some of them have to trouble casting a four ounce sinker 350 feet.

When I arrived at Melbourne Beach the next winter I had a regular surf fishing outfit, consisting of a six foot bamboo tip about thirteen ounces, thirty inch butt, fee spool reel and a twenty-one special line in place of the twenty-seven regular used the previous winter.

The results were good and my associates presented me with a gold mounted briar wood pipe and said many nice things about me because I beached the record channel bass caught there, 41 pounds, and this was on Friday, February 13, and three days later a shark 8 feet 1½ inches long.

350 Pound Shark Caught.

Each winter since I have put in from four to eight weeks on this beach and have caught many channel bass and some sharks, the largest of the latter 7 feet 10 inches long, 46 inch girth and estimated to weigh from 350 to 500 pounds, was beached on January 7, 1915, on a 24 thread line and 9-0 O'Shaughnessy hook, yet on the next cast I caught a 7 inch whiting on the same rig.

Fishing was poor in Florida waters last winter, but I felt well paid for going there, as I beached from the surf, without assistance or use of a gaff on a 21 thread line and 8-0 O'Shaughnessy hook, one shark 6 feet 5 inches long, weighing about 150 pounds, and another 4 feet 9 inches long.

The latter was the leaping kind, which jumps out of the water after it is hooked, somewhat like the tarpon. They are swift swimmers and from the time they strike until they are high and dry on the beach there is not a dull instant.

While fishing in the surf at Melbourne Beach I lost many large fish because of line parting by rubbing against their sides or getting over fin or tail. To overcome this I used a 5 foot piano wire leader and a wire snelled hook, in place of a gut snelled one, but found it awkward to cast so long a lash with the five or six ounce sinker so far from the bait, until it occurred to me to thread the leader through one of the eyes of a swivel and attach the sinker to the other eye, or make a trolley of the sinker along the leader, as it were.

This permitted sinker to be about eight inches from bait and made casting comparatively easy. In order to keep the hook on the piano wire, the same as it is when gut snelled, I pass one end of the wire through the eye of the hook, make two wraps around the shank and then pass the end back through the eye and twist both ends together.

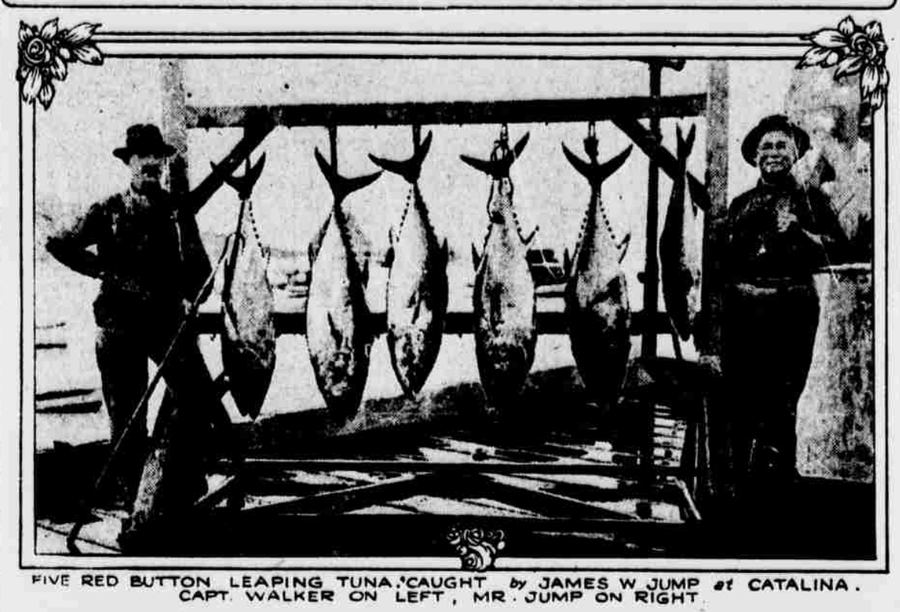
50-50 to Enforce Laws.

A new law of Oklahoma authorizes sheriffs, constables, marshals and policemen to enforce the game and fish laws and to receive 50 per cent. of the fines in addition to their usual fees.

State Gives Rights to Nation.

Tennessee has conceded to the Federal Government the right to conserve game and fish on land acquired by it for the protection of watersheds.

Record Day's Catch of Leaping Tuna Taken on Light Tackle



FIVE RED BUTTON LEAPING TUNA CAUGHT by JAMES W JUMP at CATALINA. CAPT. WALKER ON LEFT, MR. JUMP ON RIGHT

CHINOOK SALMON IN JERSEY LAKES

Pacific Fish Introduced in Neighboring State Streams: Ready for Capture April 1.

HACKETTSTOWN, N. J., Dec. 29.—New Jersey's trout and salmon season, opening on April 1, will bring promise of the best sport the present generation of anglers ever has enjoyed in this State.

There'll be no restricting of the sport to the mountain streams, which are the natural habitat of the brook trout, but the opening of the 1918 season will mean as much to the central and southern parts of the State as it does to the northern tier of counties, thanks to the State's work in planting rainbow and brown trout in these warmer waters where the brook trout does not thrive.

The rainbow and brown trout are certain to figure prominently in the future of angling in New Jersey. While the brook trout will continue to hold its popularity unmolested in the cold water streams, these newer trout now flourish in a larger percentage of the streams and ponds in other parts of the State.

Both the rainbow and brown trout make rapid and large growth in Jersey waters. Rainbows distributed in public waters three years ago are likely to be taken in 1918 weighing five to six pounds each. When a Jersey angler with light tackle hooks into one of these big fellows he will get a thrilling introduction to trout fishing such as only some of the Northwestern States have heretofore enjoyed.

It is expected that salmon fishing will become in some of the northern New Jersey counties a real rival to trout fishing. Thousands of the Chinook or Pacific salmon have been planted in landlocked lakes of the State during the last two years.

Salmon of this species were put in New England lakes a few years ago and anglers in season are now catching specimens weighing from twelve to fifteen pounds. These lake salmon, as is the case with lake trout, are usually caught by trolling.

With the increase in stocking streams with fish, there has been a corresponding increase of public interest in angling.

No citizen need travel far from his home town to find good trout fishing. Even in the suburbs of some of the largest cities in the State the brooks are well stocked with fish. In practically every county of New Jersey there are streams or lakes containing trout, which the knowing angler can discover.

The trout and salmon season will extend from April 1 to July 15. It is illegal to keep trout or salmon under six inches in length and twenty-five trout is the limit allowed to any one angler in one day's fishing, while ten is the day's bag limit for landlocked salmon.

DUCKING UP STATE ENDS TO-MORROW

Long Island Season Prolonged Until Middle of January.

Under the Federal regulations the season for waterfowl (which includes ducks, geese and brant), coot, gallinule and Wilson snipe closes to-morrow in New York (Long Island not included), Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and eastern Washington and Oregon.

The season lasts until January 15 on Long Island and in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Utah and western Oregon and Washington.

In the rest of the States January 31 is the closing date.

In those States where the State laws close the season earlier the Federal closing date does not apply, according to a ruling from the Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture.

POLLOCK DUE.

Big Schools Expected Next Month, Says Capt. J. Martin.

"Look out for pollock at any time now," remarked Capt. Jake Martin of the fishing steamship Evelyn of Sheepshead Bay yesterday. "Although we took a pollock of twenty pounds on Thanksgiving Day, it really is not until January when the big schools of fish come in.

"Fish for pollock as you do for cod, using shimmers for bait, but do not fish on the bottom. Send the sinker down to the bottom, then haul up within twenty-five or thirty feet of the bottom. Pollock swim near the surface; in fact, I have seen pollock so close to the surface that you could watch them seize the bait."

Arizona Reduces Bag Limits.

Under the initiative petition adopted at the general election Arizona has reduced bag limits as follows: Deer from two to one, turkeys from three to two a season; quail, waterfowl and larger shore birds from twenty-five to twenty, and doves and whitewings from thirty-five to twenty-five a day.

California Elk Law Strengthened.

California has strengthened the elk law by making possession of elk meat prima facie evidence of violations of the act.

Enactment of Law for Bait and Fly Angler Asked

By VIRGINIUS.

Mr. Farley's article published in Rod and Gun on December 5 is worthy of consideration (more than can be said for most articles on bait fishing).

I have no desire to mix in the battle between Mr. Farley and "Whirling Blue Dun"—the latter is decidedly capable of taking care of himself and his end of the argument—but I would like to say a few words about a few of Mr. Farley's remarks.

He says: "If you were up in the North Woods on a few days' vacation when the streams were high and rolly, all the feed the fish needed was washed to them, flies did not interest them, you and your friends wanted something to eat with the bacon—would you object if your friends took a chance with bait?"

Now, if this is offered as an argument for bait fishing it doesn't amount to much. When we speak of fly fishing or bait fishing it is understood that we are speaking of sport only and not "meat in the pot."

Although I have never caught a trout on anything but a fly I would certainly use bait if it meant going without food, because when fishing becomes a question of food it is no longer a question of sport.

This does not mean that I don't believe in eating the trout I catch for sport; it means that when one is depending on trout for subsistence and has to catch trout or go hungry the situation is very different from when one goes forth in a holiday spirit to enjoy some "trout fishing." Am I not right, Mr. Farley?

I think that perhaps the above in connection with this remark of Mr. Farley's may show us something interesting: "I do claim," says he, "that many bait fishermen are interested in the preservation of trout as well as fly fishermen, although there are more destructionists in the bait class."

Bait vs. Fly Fishing.

Why are there more destructionists in the bait class? Because the bait fishermen are prone to be fish hogs? Or because the bait fishermen as a rule are fishing for food? I think that bait fishermen as a rule fish more for food than they do for sport; I say this because it is founded on actual and intelligent observation; I am not merely making it up.

Now if this is so, and I am convinced that it is, how can fly fishing and bait fishing for trout be compared to each other as a "sport"? Certainly no one will claim that the majority of fly fishermen fish for food; also neither I nor any one else will claim that there are no exceptions to general statements such as I have made above.

But as a general proposition the bait fisherman represents a class of men who go fishing because they want to supplement the family diet with trout, while the fly fisherman represents a class to whom "sport" is the first consideration; to them if "sport" results in food so much the better.

Now I do not look on a bait fisherman as a criminal, but I certainly do not consider him in the light of a sportsman. I say this in no nasty way nor with any desire to hurt any one's feelings. If you will stop a while and seriously think this thing over with an open mind (as I have) you will probably agree with me.

Let us suppose that you find there is considerable truth in what I say, then we will go on to consider "trout laws." Mr. Farley's suggested laws contain some good ideas and some bad ones. No. 1, for instance: "The trout season should open on May 1 and close August 15."

This law should be made to fit counties rather than States. If not counties at least sections of States. Suppose we change this to read: "The open season on trout shall be three and a half months. These months to be the most desirable for the different sections of the State."

Thus the Adirondacks would have a later season than Long Island. Space and knowledge do not permit my suggesting this law in details. Nos. 2 and 3 in Mr. Farley's list of laws conflict in a way. I certainly agree with him that "a badge of authority should be given to every fisherman who has proved his worth to act as a warden without pay." Now if this were done why raise the tax on fishing licenses to pay more regular wardens?

Mr. Farley's fourth law: "There should be (if necessary) a closed season on certain streams and when these are opened close others." That certainly is splendid and a real step toward intelligent conservation.

Bait Trout Not to Be Returned.

When we come to the consideration of the fifth law suggested by Mr. Farley we must go back to the beginning of this article and fix in our minds the difference between bait and fly fishermen. I should suggest the following in place of Mr. Farley's: "It shall be unlawful for any one to take more than twenty trout in one day. No trout which has been caught on a baited hook shall be returned to the water, no matter how small it is.

"No trout under seven inches which has been caught on an artificial fly shall be taken; all trout under seven inches in length shall be carefully removed from the hook dressed as an artificial fly and returned to the water."

Perhaps my phrasing is not entirely judicial but the idea is plain, I hope. My reasons for this suggested law are that nine out of every ten trout which are caught on bait, and which, owing to the fact that they are under size, are returned to the water die. Any one who doubts this should have walked along the Black River, near Chester, N. J., last spring and viewed the hundreds of small trout lying dead on the bottom of the stream. The majority of men who fished this stream were bait fishermen.

During the last two seasons I have caught 102 trout on flies, and have seen as many again caught by friends on flies. Not a single one was seriously injured by being caught on a fly, as the hook always was through the trout's lip. I should say that during this time I have seen 100 trout caught on baited hooks, and a very generous estimate of the number of fish that were uninjured when removed from the hook would be twenty. I doubt if there were more than half this number, but I will make it a generous estimate.

If each official who issued fishing licenses were provided with a card on which simple instructions for removing a fly from a trout's mouth and returning the trout properly to the water were printed he could quickly ascertain whether the applicant knew how this should be done; if the latter did not know, he could be told.

Piscatorial Persiflage in Rhyme

Days When the Fish Won't Bite.

There's days when the fish won't bite;
It's either too calm or else too rough;
It's either too warm or it's not warm enough;
It's either too cloudy or the sun's too bright;
The wind's the wrong way or the moon's not right;
It's either too wet or else it's too dry;
Or for some other reason, you can't tell why.
But there's days when the fish won't bite.

There's days when the fish won't bite;
You may try every lure, you may try every bait,
You may do what you will, and wait and wait
From morning till noon and from noon till night,
But you won't get a nibble tho' you try all your might.
You may grapple or swear,
But the fish don't care,
For there's days when the fish won't bite.

But there's days when the fish will bite;
When it ain't too calm and it ain't too rough;
When it ain't too warm, but just warm enough;
And the big old fellows, O Joy, how they fight;
Your rod's bent double as you keep your line tight,
How they leap; how they run;
Gee whiz! but it's fun
On the days when the fish do bite.

JOSEPH THURMAN.

Isaak Walton's Soliloquy.

By the stream where bend the rushes,
Where the shallows scold and sob,
There it is man's true ambitions
Wildly through his bosom throb.
There it is the fierce sensation,
Half suspense, yet all delight,
Strikes him as he hoarsely whispers,
I believe I've got a bite.

Tell me not of tottering glories,
Of republics tempest swept;
Tell me not of heroes vanquished
Or of promises unkept.
Tales of sacrifice are heard
Later on may seem bright,
But at present—you'll excuse me—
I believe I've got a bite.

ANONYMOUS.

The Field That Silas Ploughed.

This is the field that Silas ploughed.
This is the corn that grew in the field that Silas ploughed.
This is the bug, prolific and smug, that destroyed the corn that grew in the field that Silas ploughed.
This is the bird of joyful song that ate the bug, prolific and smug, that destroyed the corn that grew in the field that Silas ploughed.
This is the cat, stray and forlorn, that killed the bird of joyful song, that ate the bug, prolific and smug, that destroyed the corn that grew in the field that Silas ploughed.
This is the field that Silas ploughed—deserted by birds of joyful song, swarming with bugs, prolific and smug, yielding but half a crop of corn, roamed by the cat, stray and forlorn.

WARWICK STEVENS CARPENTER.

Boathouse Tragedy.

Some one has said "Earth hath no grief
That heaven cannot heal";
But how about the sorrows these selfsame heavens deal
To poor defenceless mortals whose chance is just as swell
To fight against fate's mandates as a bullet shirt fight well.
Take this case for example: Have you ever had a try
At burning paint from some darn boat beneath a cloudless sky,
While asinine and gibbering friends stood round with sage advice
And a flaming torch instilled a wish whose heartfelt cry was "Jee"?
Have you burned and scraped and sweated like a slave till you could faint
And only known grief's respite when you started in to paint
The charred old hull a dazzling white that turned it to a dream
When you crowned the job with combing board of vivid laurel green;
And in that hour of triumph has your joy been turned to pain
You scurried to the boathouse through an avalanche of rain,
Where you wept and watched and waited as you saw the colors run
While dazzling white and vivid green were mingled into one?
It may be true for earthly woes a heavenly solace lies,
But what on earth can compensate such misery from the skies?

SKIP.

BLACK BASS OPEN TIME TOO EARLY

State Food Culturist Says Fish Are Not Through Spawning Before July 1.

LATER SEASON ASKED

By JOHN W. TITCOMB.

Nearly all species of fishes distributed by the Conservation Commission are susceptible of propagation by artificial methods and can be produced in numbers limited only by the funds available for fish culture operations.

The eggs of both the large mouthed and small mouthed black basses and allied species cannot be artificially manipulated, and for his supplies of such fishes the commission must depend upon the natural reproduction of brood fish held in ponds prepared for the purpose.

The cultivation of these fishes, therefore, consists in providing ponds which shall give to the maximum number of breeding fish and their young all the essential conditions of a natural environment while at the same time protecting them (so far as possible) from their enemies.

Enemies of the Basses.

During the early stages of their existence young bass in breeding ponds are exposed to dangers of many kinds, just as they are in the larger waters of their natural habitat.

Snakes, frogs, turtles, various water insects, fish eating birds and mammals, all are destructive to the fry, while the young of the same school prey upon the weaker ones.

The natural spawning period extends over six or eight weeks, and the earlier broods of fry prey upon their younger brethren.

The losses from cannibalism among the little basses are undoubtedly greater in the confines of artificial breeding ponds than among the little basses hatched in larger waters.

The degree of success attained in such work is also governed largely by the state of the weather and other natural conditions beyond the control of the commission.

Located, as they are, along the shoal margins of the ponds the nests receive the full effect of atmospheric changes. A sudden fall in temperature will often cause the parent fish to desert their nests, and as the eggs and fry are extremely sensitive they are frequently killed or their development injuriously retarded by the cold.

Another unfavorable feature resulting from the location of the nests in shallow water, is that it subjects them to the full force of surface drainage and washings, following heavy rains.

Rolly water is extremely injurious to the ova and young of the black bass, and as heavy rains and sudden temperature changes are conditions which must be expected during the the season of the year when these fishes spawn, the results of the commission's pond cultural operations are hazardous and uncertain in the extreme.

One year a station may have a good output, and the next year, under apparently similar conditions, very few young fish are produced.

Father Bass Protects Children.

Under most favorable seasonal conditions the commission undertakes to supply to applicants only sufficient young bass for a brood stock, and, in a bad season like the one just past, it is impossible to supply even a brood stock to many applicants.

A brood stock means from one to three cans of little bass from three-quarters to two inches in length, the number to a can varying from 250 to 1,000, it being impossible to carry more than one-fourth, and many of the three-quarter inch bass as of the two inch fingerlings.

The applicant who has been accustomed to receive black perch or yellow perch in million lots or some species of trout in lots of several thousands is naturally disappointed.

The only proper and economic solution of this situation is to afford the basses proper protection while they are nesting.

It is well known to anglers that the male bass, both large mouth and small mouth, protects the nest while the eggs are incubating and for a short period after the fry have hatched, after which time the young scatter to forage for themselves.

While protecting its nest, the bass resents any intrusion, and will seize almost anything dropped on to the nest. He will take even an unbaited hook being dragged over it.

The capture of these guardians of the eggs and very young fry is easy and requires no skill, but it is a conservative statement to say that for every adult bass removed from the nest there is a corresponding destruction of at least 500 eggs or fry—an amount equal to the average number of little bass supplied by the commission on each application for stocking purposes.

Spawning Season Ends in July.

In normal seasons the basses have finished spawning in most New York waters on or about July 1. The last season was so late that the spawning season extended well past the middle of July.

If the nesting bass are protected until July 1 it is believed that, in suitable waters for them, they will be able to maintain themselves by natural reproduction to the limit of the natural food supply.

It must be borne in mind that the basses are naturally warm water fishes—the large mouthed especially so—but that they have been introduced into many cold waters better suited to some species of trout.

In these colder waters the basses cannot be made to yield so large a crop as in the warmer waters. One of several reasons for this is the fact that the colder water produces less food required by this species.

It might be mentioned in passing comment on the article by the State Fish Culturist that the black bass season at present throughout the State is from June 16 to November 30, with the exception of Lake George, where the open season is from August 1 to December 15.

The minimum length is 10 inches, and the day limit 15 to one person, but where two or more anglers are fishing from the same boat 25 black bass are permitted to be taken.

Members of the New York State Fish, Game and Forest League, in convention assembled, on December 6 agreed to recommend to the Legislature to have the general black bass open season begin on July 1 and close on December 31. Also to make 12 inches the minimum length and the catch limit decreased to 8 for an angler and when two or more are fishing from the same boat 15 fish a day.—[Ed.

HEALTH REGAINED THROUGH ANGLING

Efficiency Derived From the Appealing Sport of Hook and Line.

STATE AIDS STREAMS

ALBANY, Dec. 29.—First aid to streams might be the brief title of a pamphlet just issued by the Conservation Commission, which seeks to increase fish production in the streams of Oneida county.

Anglers who have read the pamphlet hope that the idea of the Conservation Commission will be carried into other counties. The pamphlet is written by Prof. Wilbert A. Clemens, carrying out an idea of George D. Pratt of stopping wastage and bringing streams up to their highest efficiency.

The pamphlet deals in detail with proper stocking, propagation, pollution, posting and discussing prevailing conditions over its entire length.

The bulletin abounds with references to streams that are posted, and gives on practically every page of the detailed stream discussion many streams whose productive capacity is wasted because of this practice.

"The streams should be fished," it says. "People should derive pleasure and recreation and regain health and efficiency from this appealing sport. The purely economic side should not be overlooked, either, for the amount of fish consumed replaces an equal amount of other kinds of meat.

Fish Passes at Dams Needed.

"It is to be hoped that when the working plans herein outlined are put into operation and it becomes better understood that fish production in public waters is a cooperative enterprise, much if not all of the posting will be removed. It prevents, or tends to discourage stocking and stream improvement, and makes impossible full utilization of the water course.

"Trout seek the cool, shallow headwaters and small spring tributaries in which to spawn. Dams interfere more or less with the natural productiveness of a trout stream, and the number of dams is ever increasing with the industrial expansion of the country and the development of water systems for towns and cities. To preserve and increase the natural productiveness of the trout streams provision will have to be made for fish passes at many dams.

"Next to pollution, the bulletin says, the clearing of the land along the water courses is probably the most serious menace to fish production, especially to trout production. The removal of the vegetation, particularly at the headwaters, results in reduced stream flow and even in complete cessation in many cases.

Clearing Land a Menace.

"The severity of freshets is greatly increased, resulting in a shifting of the creek bed materials, scouring of the bottom and banks and sweeping out of much of the plant and animal life of the stream, and altogether upsetting the normal conditions. Immense quantities of sediment are swept down from the watersheds, smothering the aquatic vegetation, which is the basic food supply of life in the water as terrestrial vegetation is on land.

"Small animal life, which is very important as food for the fish, is eliminated and the eggs and young fish are destroyed. High summer temperatures result. Natural spawning beds disappear. Conditions in short very soon become intolerable for trout. In every district in Oneida county there are streams which ten to twenty years ago were teeming with trout, but which now are unproductive. At the same time there are streams in which conditions are improving, because trees and shrubs have been allowed to grow up again."

Among other practical details the commission advocates the building of stream pools on small feeder streams, as breeding places for small fish, and the operation of nurseries, under the supervision of the commission, for the growing of State fry to fingerling size before planting. Several of these nurseries are already in successful operation in Oneida county and other parts of the State.

Anglers' Clubs to Cooperate.

The working plans divide the county into five districts, each to be under the supervision of fish and game associations in the districts. "In order to carry out the plans," says the bulletin, "it is necessary that the people of the county cooperate with the Conservation Commission, and this cooperation can be fully effective only through organized effort and not by the work of isolated and scattered individuals."

The Camden district, comprising the towns of Florence, Camden and Vienna, is to be cared for under the supervision of an association with headquarters in Camden.

The Rome district, under the supervision of the Rome Fish and Game Protective Association, includes the towns of Annsville, Ave, Lee, Rome, Verona and the northern portion of Westmoreland.

Under the supervision of the Boonville Fish and Game Protective Association, working in cooperation with residents of Forestport, White Lake and Otter Lake, are to be the towns of Boonville and Forestport.

The Utica district, which is the largest in area, comprises the towns of Remsen, Steuben, Floyd, Trenton, Deerfield, Marcy, New Hartford, Whitestown, Vernon, Kirkland, Paris, Bridgewater and the southern portion of Westmoreland. It is to be under the charge of the Utica Fish and Game Protective Association, working in cooperation with associations in Whitesboro, Clinton and Clayville.

The Sangerfield district, comprising the towns of Augusta, Marshall and Sangerfield, is to be under the supervision of an association to be formed by the cooperative efforts of the citizens of Oriskany Falls and Waterville.

U. S. Gets Park Rights.

Montana has ceded jurisdiction to the United States over that part of Yellowstone National Park in Montana.

Nebraska Aids Upland Birds.

Nebraska shortened the prairie chicken, sage hen and grouse season.

Nevada Protects Big Game.

Sheep, goats, elk and antelope have been protected by Nevada until 1930.

License Receipts for Park.

Missouri is diverting 5 per cent. of license receipts for the purchase of a park.

Season and Limits Reduced.

Minnesota has shortened the open season on game birds and reduced bag limits.

HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM DECEMBER 30 TO JANUARY 6.

Date.	Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe) A.M.	Sandy Hook (The Horseshoe) P.M.	Princess Bay A.M.	Princess Bay P.M.	Jamaica Bay (Canarsie) A.M.	Jamaica Bay (Canarsie) P.M.	Governors Island A.M.	Governors Island P.M.	Willets Point A.M.	Willets Point P.M.	New London A.M.	New London P.M.
December 30	8:46	9:17	8:51	9:23	9:31	10:02	9:15	9:48	12:28	12:21	10:24	11:01
December 31	9:23	9:58	9:28	10:03	10:09	10:44	9:52	10:30	1:01	1:01	11:07	11:46
January 1	10:07	10:41	10:12	10:46	10:52	11:26	10:34	11:15	1:36	1:39	11:48	——
January 2	10:46	11:22	10:51	11:27	11:31	12:07	11:11	11:57	2:10	2:18	12:28	12:11
January 3	11:26	——	11:31	——	12:11	——	11:47	——	2:46	2:57	1:14	1:18
January 4	12:06	12:10	12:11	12:15	12:51	12:55	12:43	12:31	3:25	3:43	2:02	2:11
January 5	12:53	12:50	12:58	1:04	1:38	1:44	1:31	1:21	4:11	4:35	2:53	3:04
January 6	1:44	1:54	1:49	1:59	2:29	2:39	2:23	2:24	5:02	5:30	3:46	4:00

ENROLLED AS MEMBERS.

Many Anglers Enter Rough Togs Fishing Club.

The following gentlemen have been enrolled as prospective members in the Gentlemen in Rough Togs Fishing Club:

Charles F. Strassle, Morris Hosch, Herman A. Blohm, Alfred F. O'Connor, Edwin O. Tarbohm, Dr. Robert J. Anderson, Dr. E. M. Berry, George W. Douglass, Samuel Herz, Manuel Bretnan, Arnold Szel, George Du Brul, W. J. Deuchfield, Charles A. Seidler, Otto Alpers, W. H. Teale, D. Seinan, Frank H. Platt, Frederick Artley, A. Schroeder, L. Fox, Ernest A. Richmond, Charles Fisher, Gust Lundgren, H. S. Reed, Frederick R. Birnn, Ralph E. Bullard, Ernest Gomory, John A. Krisch, F. Hinchcliff, Edward Coors, Edward A. Lang, L. Fox, William O. Stewart, H. H. Liggett, F. E. Wright.

Physicians, merchants, artists, expert mechanics, dealers and many worthy men have responded. I ask you all to watch THE SUN Rod and Gun column men have responded.

WINTER FISHING BEGINS TUESDAY

Opening Day for Pickerel in New Jersey; Season On in Nearby States.

The angler's favorite winter sport, pickerel fishing through the ice, begins in New Jersey on New Year's day and lasts until January 20. Only ten lines may be used and the limit for a line and pickerel is ten fish.

In New Yor and most of the New England States there is no break in the pickerel season, as in New Jersey, the open season beginning with the spring of one year and continuing almost to the next.

In New York the ice fishing season closes on February 28 and the daily limit is twelve fish. The New York limit on tipups is fifteen to each person, and all tipups must be marked with the name and address of the operator thereof. There is no close season on icefish or smelt, the only restriction being that they must be six inches in length.

In Maine it is lawful to fish through the ice for pickerel at any time and for protected game fish during the months of February and March, except in certain specified lakes. In these streams landlocked salmon, trout, togue, white perch and black bass may be taken with not more than five set lines to each family, when fishing through the ice in the daytime under the immediate personal supervision of the person fishing, who may convey them to their own homes for consumption, but not otherwise.

New Hampshire permits the taking of lake trout, pike-perch, perch, shad, whitefish, pickerel and cusk through the ice with hook and line, tipups or bobs, but no person may have more than ten tended lines in use or under control, except that cusk lines may be unattended.

In Vermont fishing for catfish, hornpout or bullheads is permitted at all times, pike-perch fishing through the ice continuing until February 28 and pickerel until May 1.

Ice fishing is permitted in Massachusetts for white perch, pickerel, black bass and smelt.

In Rhode Island the pickerel fishing through the ice lasts until February 28, and unprotected fish may be taken also.

Connecticut places a limit of thirty fish a day taken through the ice by means of bobs, tipups or other device, and no person may use more than ten fishing contrivances. A time limit between 5 A. M. and 8 P. M. is set also. The pickerel or walleyed pike season lasts until February 28.

In Pennsylvania fishing is permitted for rockfish or striped bass, sunfish and river chubs or fallfish.

SALMON CATCH NETS $300,000.

15 Jap Fishermen Realize Fortune in Three Weeks.

SEATTLE, Dec. 29.—How a party of fifteen humble Japanese fishermen amassed a wealth of $300,000 by three weeks work in the North is the story brought down from the Queen Charlotte Islands by William Harris, a mining man of Vancouver, B. C., who is visiting here. Mr. Harris is interested in a group of copper mines in the islands.

"Last year we had an unusual run of the lowly dog salmon late in the fall. In three weeks time a party of fifteen Japanese fishermen caught 600,000 fish, dry salted them and piled them up like cordwood. Before they had time to look around for a buyer a representative of the Russian Government appeared on the scene and offered them 50 cents a fish, f. o. b. Queen Charlotte Islands. They accepted the offer and thus in one month's work they became independently rich. That beats the mining game."

LONG ISLAND UPLAND GAME.

Season Closes To-morrow for Rabbits and Quail.

To-morrow is the closing day for upland game on Long Island, which includes the varying hare, rabbit, squirrel, quail, pheasants (male only) and grouse.

One more day is permitted for hunting rabbits on Staten Island and also for varying hares and rabbits in Rockland county.

In other counties the hare and rabbit season closes on January 31.

The hare and rabbit season closes in nearby States as follows: Rhode Island, December 31; Maine, March 31; New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts, February 28, and Connecticut, January 31.

Hunting Made Easier.

Oklahoma, under a new statute, furnishes assistant wardens with resident hunting licenses in books of twenty-five each.

Colorado Deer Hunting in 1918.

Colorado will open the deer season next fall, allowing four days for hunting.

Michigan for Sportsmanship.

Michigan has reenacted the provision relative to illegal methods of hunting deer.

Wisconsin Deer Time Shortened.

Wisconsin has shortened the open time for deer.

Brant and Geese Limit.

Michigan has put a limit of six a day and twenty-five a season on geese and brant.

Danger.

Call the beach guards to the front!
Bring the children in!
Put the danger signals up!
Stop the noise and din!
Heads under!
Father's going to cast.

—From the Ballads of the Ocean City Fishing Club.

PRESENT DAY IDEAS OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Tendency Toward Trout's Aid; Observations of Major Part of Half Century.

GAME AN AID TO NATION

By TAMARACK.

"Extra Tip," toting a brief for Brother Farley, lines up alongside the defendant, and qualifying as a "true disciple of Izaak Walton (a bait and fly fisherman)" pays his respects to "Whirling Blue Dun," "Brook Finder" and myself, joint conspirators. An able fisherman according to his light "Extra Tip" undoubtedly is, but a fly angler—never!

Says "Extra Tip:" "My contention is that they (that's us) have no more right to take trout their way than I have to take them my way—both ways being legal."

And he pleads: "Why would you deprive the poor devil who hasn't the time to learn your fancy trout fly game or the money to buy fly rods, flies, &c., of his share of the trout bought with his taxes?"

Then, true to the cause which he champions, "Extra Tip" proceeds to condemn the growing tendency, boosted a mite by the objects of his displeasure, toward effacement of the alleged vested rights of the bait fisherman and voices his resentment at present day conceptions of sportsmanship. How like an echo from the past his plaint rings! Let's hark back a bit and note what history and analogy impart from "Extra Tip's" aspect.

Loftier Ideals Saves Ducks.

In the days when the passenger pigeons darkened the sides my youthful ears drank in a similar expression of contempt aimed by a pigeon netter at a wing shooting relative in whose activities I was wont to serve as a retriever.

The user of the swivel gun admittedly had a citizen's claim on the duck ratts, but the birth of loftier ideals forced him to reduce his bore and to hoist his fowling piece to the shoulder without the aid of mechanical artifice.

When Atlantic salmon were successfully propagated in the Hudson the net fishermen claimed the fish as their own, for the netter, too, had a part in the payment of the taxes which rendered the stocking of the river possible.

In time awakened consciousness proposed that jack hunting and the hounding of deer should cease. In the Adirondacks the woodsmen vowed that such interference with cherished tradition should never come to pass, and in the fastnesses of Maine, Jock Darling proclaimed himself superior to the mandates of sportsmanship and law.

Game National Resource.

Yet for many years the counterpart of the worm fisherman has squatted on a log in the clearing with his high sporting boots reposing in a rut and his ear alert to catch the lost of fishhorn or the tinkle of cowbell, while the still hunter, fashioned on the dimensions of the fly angler, penetrates the forests and on wooded ridge and mountain top seeks with moccasined feet and familiar rifle his quarry along sportsmanlike highways. Nor does the knocker pause to say him nay.

Again, not so long since, when spring shooting was first abolished, my old Great South Bay guide complained bitterly that he had been deprived of the perquisites of a taxpayer.

The changed conditions with respect to the ideas of game ownership mentioned above are but a few of many which the observations of the major part of a half century have brought to my knowledge. The creed of the market hunter, of the hide hunter was that the game of the country was an individual resource, not a national resource, and this being the case game might be sought as the individual saw fit to seek it.

Enlightened restriction of the sale of game animals and game birds and in certain instances of fishes, has fortunately, even if somewhat late, eliminated the gunning butcher and the pernicious outcome of his calling.

Maine and Worm Fishermen.

And the conservation of the salmonidæ by means of restricted bait fishing is surely under way. Already in Maine, where the worm fisherman, locally branded "plugger," is not considered as adding grace to the community, there are many sections in which fishing otherwise than with the artificial fly is prohibited.

Likewise in New Jersey, whose views from the standpoint of conservation appear to be a little more independent than those of our own State, a start toward this end has been launched during the present year.

No ill will in all this, "Extra Tip"—it is just the customary Rod and Gun comeback. Aside from your worm frailty you're too good a sort to be straying outside the fold—better come in while the coming is good. Well gather your chief, Peter Farley, in next if we have to go after him and snake him onward with those Hun implements of ears, the dry flies.

WANT TO SAVE QUAIL?

Biological Survey Tells Practical Way to Do It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—If any sportsman wants to save quail in winter here is a practical way to do it, according to the Biological Survey:

Build low hutches with roofs that will keep out snow or make wigwam-like stacks of grain sheaves with openings below. Keep the entrances free from snow and scatter within cracked corn or small grains or seeds.

Putting out food on a bare spot on ground is an easier method, but not so useful.

BIG TARPON WINS OFFICE.

St. Petersburg Club Has Unique Way of Honoring Prize Winners.