

# Georgia Outdoors



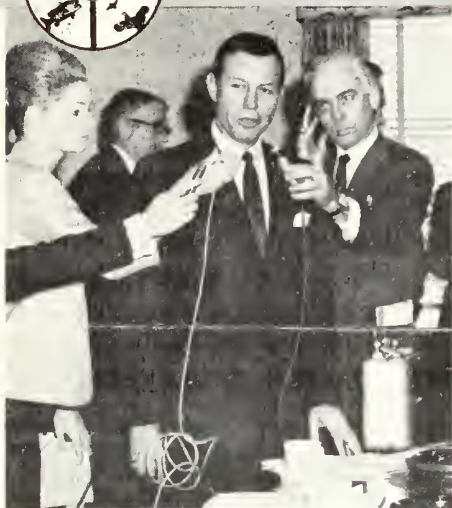
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The Efficiency Commission report on the State Game and Fish Commission was released by Governor Carl Sanders, who described it as "an excellent blueprint for improving the Game and Fish Department."

## G & F Reorganization On Drawing Board

Plans for an extensive reorganization of the State Game and Fish Department to decentralize its administration and promote cooperation between field employees are being prepared by key Department leaders under the supervision of Director Rosser Malone.

### Regions Proposed

The most sweeping change proposed by the plan would do away with the Department's present three main divisions of fisheries, game management, and law enforcement, substituting in their place four geographical regions under the supervision of a region manager in charge of all activities in that region. The proposed regions would include North Georgia, Middle Georgia, South Georgia and Coastal Georgia under separate region headquarters responsible to Atlanta.

Another part of the proposed plan would place a newly-created post of assistant director in charge of all field operations in the four regions with a second assistant director in charge of headquarters administration and planning.

The regional plan is similar to plans recently instituted by the reorganized game and fish departments in Texas and Michigan.

## Governor Sanders Releases Efficiency Commission Report

Governor Carl Sanders has made public the results of a four month study of the State Game and Fish Commission by the Governor's Commission for Efficiency and Improvement in Government.

Running into a whopping 139 printed pages, the detailed report on organization and operational patterns of the conservation agency received the praise of both Sanders and members of the Game and Fish Commission.

"I have read the report," said Sanders, "and I believe that it is an excellent blueprint for improving the Game and Fish Department." Sanders noted that the Game and Fish Commission had already approved the report before its release, and was in the process of reorganizing the Game and Fish Department along guide lines spelled out in the report.

The comprehensive report was prepared by a group of seven nationally-known conservation experts led by Seth Gordon, former head of both the Pennsylvania and California game and fish departments.

### Tourist, Industry Attraction

Calling for an accelerated wildlife conservation effort in Georgia, the report predicted that a more effective Game and Fish Department would help Georgia attract more industry and tourists, as well as provide more enjoyable hunting, fishing, and boating recreational opportunities for Georgians.

Along with the provisions for a reorganization of the department, the efficiency study recommended that Georgia's hunting and fishing license fees be increased to a level more in line with other States to adequately finance the kind of wildlife agency Georgia will need in future years.

### Public Hunting and Fishing

The report recommended that the added funds be used to purchase or lease and operate new public hunting and fishing areas in all parts of Georgia, especially in regions where hunting and fishing opportunities are not readily available to the general public, either because of private ownership or poor access.

Other recommendations include putting department employee salaries on a level with other states, extensive training programs for present and future employees, and creation of a more liberal promotion stepladder to help keep good employees.



## Langford Elected Commission Chairman

Attorney Beverly Langford of Calhoun (left) accepts the gavel of office after being unanimously elected to succeed Charles Davidson of Lithonia (right) as chairman of the State Game and Fish Commission for the next year. Commissioner Harley Langdale of Valdosta (middle) was elected honorary chairman. Commissioner James Darby of Vidalia was elected vice-chairman, and Commissioner Bill Camp of Newnan was re-elected secretary.





Fisheries Division Chief Howard Zeller examines one of the 850 adult sauger caught by Commission biologists in Tennessee for stocking in Lake Worth and Clark Hill.



More than 400 scrappy white bass have been stocked in Lake Jackson. This is twice as many brood fish used to stock Lake Lanier in 1957, resulting in fabulous catches by fishermen on its spring spawning run.



Walleye eggs flown from New York were hatched at the Commission's Lake Burton Hatchery in a special combination of constantly running water and 45 degree temperatures.

## Walleye, White Bass, Sauger Stocked In Georgia Reservoirs

The State Game and Fish Commission's efforts to provide better fishing for Georgia's more than 200,000 reservoir fishermen have swung into high gear this spring with the resumption of the Commission's program of introducing new game fish into the State's large man-made lakes.

The main-spring of the Department's stocking program is the walleye, a popular cold-water, northern game fish that has already proved successful in lakes Blue Ridge and Hartwell after stocking several years ago by Department biologists.

In an effort to introduce the prized game fish in other cold, deep water North and Central Georgia impoundments, the Department has hatched out more than ten million walleye fry from eggs flown to Georgia from New York.

After hatching at the Commission's Lake Burton Hatchery near Clarkesville, some six million walleye fry were stocked immediately in lakes Nottely, Burton, Seed, and Sinclair. Approximately four million fry have been stocked in Commission hatchery ponds for rearing to fingerling size of from one to three inches in an effort to insure better survival of the walleye after stocking. Most of these fingerlings will be stocked in Lake Lanier.

In addition to providing additional sport fishing, walleye are expected to help lower overpopulations of yellow perch in many Georgia reservoirs. These pesky bait stealers live in waters identical to the walleye's habitat, making him a more effective carnivore on perch than the common bass and crappie. When full grown, walleye resemble yellow perch in appearance, but are readily identified by a mouth of needle-like teeth.

### White Bass For Jackson

Department biologists have renewed their previous attempts to successfully stock the popular white bass in Lake

Jackson in conjunction with threadfin shad, a forage fish for bass and crappie.

Using 400 adult white bass captured in lakes Lanier and Sinclair, Department biologists hope the finy-fighters will reproduce in a number of years and give Jackson fishermen some of the same excitement caused by white bass spawning runs on lakes Allatoona, Clark Hill, Lanier and Sinclair.

The threadfin shad stocking is designed to provide a more stable and usable food supply for the stunted overpopulation of crappie in Jackson, in addition to helping restore its declining bass fishing. A similar white bass-threadfin shad stocking program on nearby Lake Sinclair has resulted in crappie fishing on Sinclair increasing over the past four years more than four times in both size and number.

### Sauger for Lake Worth, Clark Hill

In a third introduction program, Game and Fish Department biologists are seeking to establish a popular Tennessee game fish similar in appearance to the walleye in Lake Worth and Clark Hill.

Using gill nets, Commission technicians caught more than 850 adult sauger in the Tennessee River below Pickwick Dam near Savannah, Tennessee.

After transportation across Georgia in special stocking trucks, the sauger were released in the Flint River above Lake Worth and in the Savannah River above Clark Hill.

If the sauger spawn successfully, Georgia anglers should start seeing the new species on their hooks in the next three to four years.



After hatching two weeks later, six million of the minute walleye fry were stocked in 4 Georgia lakes. Another four million fry were stocked in hatchery ponds, and will be raised to fingerling size for greater survival.



Results of successful walleye stocking by the Commission in Lake Hartwell and Blue Ridge are demonstrated by this string of one to three pound walleye caught in the headwaters of Hartwell below Yonah Dam in the Tugaloo River by proud Marc and Bruce Hastings of Clayton.



# Sportsmen's Clubs Get Full Backing

The State Game and Fish Commission has thrown its full support behind Georgia's sportsmen's clubs.

Praising the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation and the Izaak Walton League for their support of Commission programs and for their local contributions to conservation education and game law enforcement, Commission members have pledged the complete cooperation and assistance of Department employees in efforts to organize new sportsmen's clubs, especially in counties that do not presently have a club.

Commission Director Rosser Malone has announced that he is encouraging Department personnel, especially biologists, to take every opportunity to work with existing local clubs on programs and projects. At the same time, he urged all existing clubs to affiliate with the State Federation as soon as possible.

## "Splendid Cooperation"

Commenting on efforts of the State Federation to organize new clubs, Federation president Tommie Holliman of Thomaston said, "We are receiving splendid cooperation from the Game and Fish Commission in this effort."

"A great measure of our growing success in organizing Federation affiliate clubs is due to the cooperation of the county agents in every district in Georgia," Holliman said.

## Organizing A Club

Any sportsman or group of sportsmen interested in forming a Federation affiliate club is urged to get in contact with their county agent or Federation Secretary Tillman Wilbanks, Route 4, Canton, Ga. Persons interested in forming a chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, especially in metropolitan areas, are urged to contact Greater Atlanta Chapter President Bucky Smith, 2161 Monroe Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Ga.

Literature on how to go about forming a sportsman's club is available from the Commission free of charge.

# Magazine Cut From Budget

"Georgia Game and Fish," the semi-annual magazine of the State Game and Fish Commission since 1950, has not been printed during the current budget period, due to an economy cut in the Department's budget request for fiscal 1963-64.

In its place, the Commission's Public Information Division for the time being will continue mailing copies of "Georgia Outdoors" free of charge to the more than 20,000 sportsmen on the "Game and Fish" mailing list. The four page newsletter is issued periodically as money and other duties of information personnel allow.

Sportsmen who desire to receive "Georgia Outdoors" may do so by sending their name and address to the Commission in Atlanta.



Biologist Herb Wyatt of Tifton uses an egg sampling net on the Flint River to check fish reproduction in the popular South Georgia stream. Similar observations have been made on other Coastal Plains rivers.

# South Georgia Rivers Studied

A gradual drop-off during the past four or five years in previously superb sport fishing has created a real threat and cause for alarm among South Georgia veteran anglers who have always taken pride in the productive fishing waters of the Satilla, Ogeechee, Canoochee, Ohoopsee, Altamaha, Suwanee, Apalachee, Little River, Ochlockonee, Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers.

According to a team of State Game and Fish Commission fishery biologists who are conducting sample population studies on the affected rivers, no single cause for the fishing decline has been pinpointed. Judging from studies already completed, the drop-off is tentatively attributed to a combination of factors, including the presence of a bacterial disease common among fish, seasonal fluctuation of water levels, increased populations of rough fish, and unusual weather conditions. Biologists also acknowledge that fish populations are cyclic, with years of good and bad fishing.

## Corrective Plans Made

Commission biologists have incorporated several preventive measures into a broad-range program designed to restore normal fishing productivity and safeguard against a similar recurrence. A voluntary postcard creel census, trial and error stocking of bluegill and the anticipated propagation of redbreast, as well as the proposed construction of dams and weirs to serve as year-round water level stabilizers are included in the overall future program. Such control measures are still in the planning stage but will be implemented by the Commission as soon as necessary funds are made available.

# Night Fishing Best For Crappie

During the coming hot summer months of June, July and August, the persistent reservoir fisherman would do well to change his fishing habits for crappie and start fishing at night.

Based on creel census information gathered by Game and Fish Commission biologists, crappie fishing during these months at night with a lantern produces more fish per hour of fishing on lakes Allatoona, Clark Hill, Lanier, and Sinclair than any other time of year. Minnows are the best bait.

While June is an excellent bass fishing month in most good North and Central Georgia lakes, July and August are the slow months. Even then Lake Seminole in Southwest Georgia is the favorite bass lake.

## Exciting New Lake

Not to be overlooked is Georgia's newest major impoundment, Fort Gaines, backed up by the Walter George Dam on the Chattahoochee below Columbus. This new lake has excited fishermen with tremendous numbers of catchable bream and bass all this year — and looks like a good bet for a future "little Lake Seminole."

Some of the most productive trout water in North Georgia this summer for the beginner will be in the Tallulah River near Clayton, and on Rock Creek in the Blue Ridge Management Area north of Dahlonega.

On the Georgia coast, tarpon fishing for the rugged saltwater angler will hit its peak in late June and July in the Altamaha River Sound near Darien.



# Sanders Buys New License

Governor Carl Sanders (right) has joined more than 800,000 Georgians this spring buying their new State hunting and fishing licenses. Making the purchase from Rosser Malone, Director of the State Game and Fish Commission, Sanders described his \$3.25 combination hunting and fishing license as "the finest bargain that any citizen of our State can acquire from a State government today." Sanders also bought a \$1.25 fishing license for Mrs. Betty Sanders. Both of the two licenses bore the serial number "1." The 1963-64 licenses expired on March 31, 1964.



# Training School Completed On Water Safety, Boating

200 employees of the State Game and Fish Commission know their A-B-C's of water safety after 5 days of intensive training this spring at the Department's special boating safety training school at Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

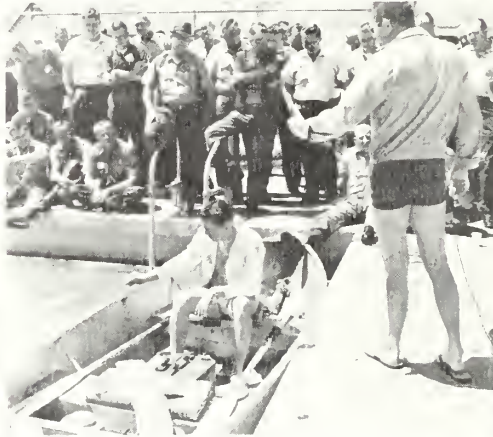
The Georgia men were instructed by members of a U. S. Coast Guard boarding team from Miami in the fundamentals of courteous boating inspections, along with detailed instructions in what is and isn't safe on a boat. In addition, American Red Cross instructors of the Georgia State Patrol drilled the rangers, biologists, and hatchery superintendents alike in first aid.

Other courses crammed into a tight schedule included practical information on fish pond and farm game management, along with reviews of Department policies and procedures in everything from deer management to public information.

Among groups represented on the school program were the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a number of biologists of the Game and Fish Department itself.



Coast Guard Boarding Officer Tom Williams instructs Commission rangers on proper boarding procedures, demonstrated on Rock Eagle Lake by a Coast Guard small boat team.



Items of safety equipment which should be carried on a small outboard boat on Georgia waters are shown Commission employees by Carl Bishop of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and Jim Watson of the American Red Cross.



Commission personnel studied methods of managing farm game, instructed by the assistant chief of the Game Management Division, Frank Parrish. Other classes included farm ponds, deer management, and conservation education.



Lt. B. P. McKinnon of the Georgia State Patrol's Dublin Post shows Ranger Buster Smith the correct way to give Ranger J. W. Bentley artificial respiration with the back pressure-arm lift method.

## State Game & Fish Commission

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# Efficiency Report Released