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The McDuffie chain of 16 lakes feature easy access by automobile from surrounding city areas.



Middle Georgia fisheries supervisor Phil Pierce says young McDuffie bass are in good condition.



Bluegill bream in the well-fertilized lakes are well over the average size for new ponds now and are getting fatter.

First "Drive-In" Public Fishing Area To Be Dedicated In McDuffie County

The opening of what has been described as Georgia's first "drive-in" fishing area has been scheduled for July 24th by the State Game and Fish Commission.

The public fishing area, located 25 miles from Augusta in McDuffie County, is the first of what the Commission hopes will eventually be a State-wide chain of public fishing lakes surrounding Georgia's growing metropoli-

tan areas.

The new area will be dedicated by Governor Carl Sanders, who allocated \$110,000 from State surplus funds in 1963 to purchase the former private fish hatchery.

The informal "drive-in" description of the new fishing area refers to its easy accessibility by automobile. The area is designed for family fishing, with roads to the water's edge, cleared

banks, and stump free ponds.

Believed to be the finest series of pond fishing lakes open to the public in Georgia, the McDuffie County Area contains 16 ponds ranging in size from two to 30 acres which were stocked during 1963 and 1964 with bass, bluegill, shellcracker, and channel catfish. Bluegill in the area are larger than the average for new ponds at McDuffie. Bass up to one pound in size are present, and channel catfish weighing from one to eight pounds have been stocked.

In order to prevent over fishing of the lakes, fishermen will be required to throw back unharmed all bass under 10 inches in length. A creel limit of five bass, five catfish, and 20 bream per fisherman per day has also been placed on the fishing lakes.

A one dollar a day admission price will be charged fishermen 12 years of age or older to help bear some of the area's operating expenses.

Fishermen will be allowed to use their own boats on the area lakes, but only with electric motors. Swimming will not be allowed in the lakes, but fishermen may camp near the fishing area if they desire. Fishing hours will be from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Developments completed on the area since its purchase by the Game and Fish Commission include clearing and burning of the grounds around the ponds, installation of picnic tables and comfort stations, and construction and maintenance of roads, parking areas, and boat launching ramps.

Commission Announces New Boating Safety Regulations

The State Game and Fish Commission calls the attention of boatowners to two new boating safety regulations which will be in effect on the water this summer.

The new regulations require a rear view mirror or an observer in all ski boats, and outlaw riding on the bow of a high-powered boat which is not equipped with a safety rail.

The new skiing regulation was adopted by the Commission as a result of several accidents last summer in which skiers who had fallen off the ski rope without the knowledge of the boat driver were struck by another boat. Ski boats which are not equipped with a rear view mirror now must have a second person in the ski boat in addition to the driver who can observe the skier at all times.

The ban on bow riding on boats with more than 10 horsepower motors which are not equipped with safety rails is

designed to prevent a hazardous condition caused by children or other persons being slung off the bow. This frequently happens when a boat comes to a sudden stop, strikes the wake of another boat or a sudden wave, or hits some hidden underwater object. Studies by marine safety engineers have shown that almost any object or body thrown off the bow of a running motorboat is drawn into the propeller of the motor, in addition to being struck by the hull of the boat. This normally results in injury or death for a person, who also might drown.

The new regulations now in effect will be enforced by wildlife rangers along with other boating laws, the

(Continued on Page 2)



The walleye fry used for stocking were reared at the Summerville Fish Hatchery.



The fry are released into the river from plastic containers.

Commission Stocks Walleye At Site of New Carters Dam

The State Game and Fish Commission has announced that a program to establish walleye fishing is now underway on the Coosawattee river in Gilmer county at the site of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Carters Dam.

Howard Zeller, assistant Director of the Commission, says that the 400 feet high dam, to be completed in two years, will be the tallest in the state and the second tallest in the Southeast. "In anticipation of the completion of the dam," Zeller adds, "the Game and Fish Commission has stocked 2,000,000 walleye fry in the river in an effort to establish a good population by that time." According to Zeller the depth of the water in the lake caused by the large dam will be highly suitable for walleye to survive. He further states that a 3000 acre lake will be created by the Corps of Engineers when the dam is finished. By that time Zeller feels that spawning-sized walleye will be established in the river, making new fingerling stocking unnecessary.

The Commission's stocking of walleye in the river was preceded by continuous studies by biologists to establish the possibility for this species in the future. These studies began at the first news of the construction of the new dam.

Further plans by the Corps of Engineers include the construction of a

smaller dam several miles below Carters Dam to regulate the flow of water in the river below. Zeller adds that additional studies will be conducted on the river as to future stocking, and also to determine whether or not trout could be stocked in the river below the dam in the future.

Walleye Stocked in Other Rivers

In addition to the 2,000,000 walleye stocked in the Coosawattee river, 1,000,000 have been added to the Chatahoochee river and another 1,000,000 to the Chestatee, both above Lake Lanier. The Etowah river above Lake Allatoona also received 1,000,000 walleye fry.

The Commission adds that an additional number of walleye are being reared at State fish hatcheries to be used later as fingerlings and stocked on the Coosawattee this fall.

Leave Fawns Alone Commission Urges

Georgia is now at the height of the "fawning season" when the young deer are the most vulnerable to dangers of nature, according to the Game and Fish Department.

The two most common dangers a young deer faces are dogs . . . and children. The fawn can run, but is weak and uncertain of his legs. As a result, it is easily caught and killed by dogs or caught and penned by children, according to Hubert Handy, Coordinator of Game Management for the Department.

Owners should not allow their dogs to wander in areas where there may be fawns, and parents should not allow their children to break the law by keeping young deer as pets.

It is illegal to keep a young deer in captivity without a permit. The present policy of the Department is to issue permits only to zoos and parks, according to Handy.

Handy says that if a doe is killed and there is a fawn surviving, it should be reported immediately to the local wildlife ranger or to the Game and Fish Department in Atlanta.



Young deer are more vulnerable to danger this time of year.

Wildlife Rangers Complete Hunter Safety Training

Efforts to save hunters' lives this fall in Georgia are in full swing, according to the State Game and Fish Commission.

A selected group of wildlife rangers have just completed training in hunter safety instruction, aimed at cutting down the number of hunting fatalities next fall below last year's total of 14 deaths from hunting accidents.

Approximately 25 wildlife rangers took the instruction in safe gun handling from the National Rifle Association in a training program held at Fort Valley at the request of the Game and Fish Commission.

Along with methods of instructing hunter safety, the training course in-

cluded fundamentals of guns and ammunition, safe gun handling, courtesy, and sportsmanship.

Rangers who took the NRA course will be available to instruct it to sportsmen's clubs and other civic organizations who are interested in training their members as youth hunter safety instructors. Rangers will also give safety training directly to youth or adult groups, but their primary attention will be on training instructors so that as many students as possible may be reached.

Groups interested in the program should contact their wildlife ranger, nearest district or regional office, or the Atlanta office of the Game and Fish Commission at the State Capitol.

Boating Regulations (continued) . . .

most important of which requires each boat owner to equip his craft with at least one Coast Guard approved life preserver for each person in his boat.

A free copy of the boating laws and regulations, including the two new requirements, is available from the State Capitol office of the Game and Fish Commission on request.

Boating Fatalities

So far this year, there have been 15 fatalities and more than \$6,000 in property damage on Georgia lakes because of boating accidents, according to Game and Fish Commission records. More than 40 persons in all have lost their lives so far this year in water accidents of all kinds, including swimming, wading, fishing, etc.

750,000 Fingerling Catfish Predicted For State Hatchery

A million channel catfish eggs have hatched in the Cordele Fish Hatchery; this fall, 750,000 young catfish will be available for Georgia farm pond owners, according to the Game and Fish Department.

Late spring is the once-a-year time for channel catfish to spawn and activity at the Cordele Fish Hatchery has reached its peak, according to hatchery superintendent Larry Wilson. In order to produce the greatest number of young catfish, special hatching methods must be used.

Wilson says that approximately 1600 adult channel catfish are kept year around at the hatchery for brood stock. During the spawning season, these fish are paired by placing a female and a slightly larger male in a spawning pen. This pen is equipped with a submerged 10 gallon milk can which the male cleans and prepares as a nest. Then the female is herded into the can where she lays eggs at the rate of about 2,000 eggs per pound of her bodyweight, and the male fertilizes them. The female then is chased away from the nest, the male remaining behind to guard and fan the eggs.

Although the eggs could be left here to hatch, Wilson says results are much better if at this stage they are removed and placed in a wire basket in a special hatching trough. Here fresh water flows over the eggs for five to seven days until they hatch. The one-quarter inch fry then swim out of the basket and are placed in a feeding trough where, after they have dissolved the food supply in their yolk sac, they will be fed a special diet for about a week.

Transferred to Holding Ponds

The next step, according to Wilson,

is to transfer the fish to one of the hatchery's 50 holding ponds at the rate of about 100,000 per acre. Here they will be fed for the next three months, or until they are about three inches in length. The catfish then will be distributed to pond owners who have applied to the Game and Fish Department for fingerlings.

By the end of the spawning season, Wilson reported that he had hatched more than one million eggs and he estimates that 750,000 fingerlings should be available for stocking this Fall. Production this year will be substantially increased over the 300,000 fingerlings stocked last fall.

New Policy

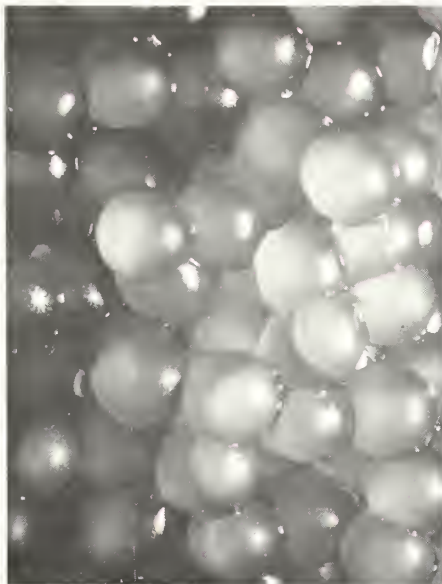
According to Howard Zeller, Assistant Director of the Game and Fish Department, a new policy for channel catfish stocking will be in effect this year. He says that experimentation has shown that the young fish are readily eaten by larger fish such as bass; in some cases not more than one out of 1,000 survive when stocked in ponds which have established fish populations. Therefore the Commission plans to distribute catfish only for stocking in newly constructed ponds or ponds renovated for restocking this year at the rate of 100 catfish per acre. Channel catfish will be issued in the fall from all state hatcheries at the same time that bream are distributed.



Larry Wilson, Superintendent of the Cordele Fish Hatchery, pairs channel catfish by placing a male with a female in a small breeding pen.



Paddles instead of fins fan hatching eggs.



Not golf balls but channel catfish eggs. Each egg is about the size of a matchstem.



7-day old 1/4 inch fry are ready to be transferred to hatchery holding pond.

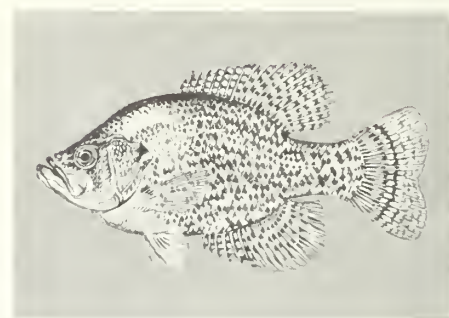


Hatchery assistant Vester Cox throws feed into holding pond where freshly hatched catfish are fed a special diet for 3 months until ready for stocking.

Fish Population Studies Completed; Results Reported

Wildlife In Georgia

(FOURTH IN A SERIES)



BLACK CRAPPIE

The counting is over and the final figures are in. The Game and Fish Commission has completed its annual spring fish population studies on five major lakes.

According to Leon Kirkland, Coordinator of Fish Management for the Commission, the results are as follows:

Lake Allatoona

Commission biologists found that the 1964 white bass spawning season was more productive than any year thus far. This indicates that next year should be the best year yet for that species in the Etowah River area with the following year yielding nice stringers in the lake itself.

Checking other species in the lake, the Commission found that the spotted bass population looked impressive and should be in good shape by next spring. The largemouth bass were found to be equal in number to previous years. The report on flathead catfish indicates that there is an increase in that species.

Lake Blackshear

Results from the study conducted on the lake indicate that bass have gotten off to a good spawn this year, and that bass from previous year's spawns are also doing well. Bream seem to be not quite as large as previous years, although a large number of edible size fish are still present. Rough fish like carp, suckers, and gizzard shad seem to be holding steady.

Lake Jackson

Reports from the Lake Jackson study showed that the threadfin shad, introduced into the lake one year ago to

improve largemouth bass and crappie fishing, have reproduced and are definitely established in the lake. Biologists report that because of the shad establishment, the crappie population has increased and that in three to four years Lake Jackson should be the number one fishing spot in the state for that species.

Commission biologists also found that the 1964 bass spawning season was mostly unproductive due to the constant fluctuation of the water level in the lake.

Lake Lanier

According to the data obtained on Lake Lanier, the 1964 largemouth bass survival was excellent. Biologists attribute this successful survival to the tremendous shad spawn last year after the bass spawning season. This information indicates that future bass fishing prospects on Lanier are extremely bright.

Biologists found that the white bass population has also expanded considerably in the lake. The crappie population was found to be smaller in number but considerably larger in size. The rough fish population in the lake was checked and results showed a decrease in the total number.

Lake Seminole

Biologists who led the survey on Lake Seminole discovered that there is a sizeable increase in the number of bream in comparison with the number found in past years. According to their reports this year's harvest of that species was the highest yet.

The bass spawning season was also unusually productive indicating an adequate population in the lake.

Two types of crappie are found in Georgia, the most common being the black crappie (*Promoxis nigromaculatus*). Black Crappie range from Southern Canada to the Gulf Coast, west as far as Texas and east to Georgia and North Carolina.

The black and white crappie are often confused, since the color pattern of both is quite variable. One sure way to tell which is which, however, is to count the number of spines in the dorsal fin. White crappie have only six or less spines while black crappie have seven or more.

Crappie are found in almost every lake in Georgia.

Life Cycle

Crappie, both black and white, spawn in the spring in water three to eight feet deep. Male fish guard the eggs and, after they hatch, protect the young. Eggs hatch in seven to 15 days, depending upon the temperature of the water.

Food

Young crappie, both black and white, depend on insects for food while adults may eat insects and small forage fish, even their own young.

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