

Georgia Outdoors



Published by the GEORGIA GAME & FISH COMMISSION

February-March, 1964

Game, Fish Bill Dies In General Assembly

A revenue measure designed to raise badly needed funds for the State Game and Fish Commission has died in committee without a vote in this year's session of the Georgia General Assembly.

The proposed bill would have increased the price of Georgia's State hunting and fishing licenses by one dollar each, with provisions for an additional three dollar stamp for deer hunting and a two dollar stamp for mountain trout fishing.

Signed by 25 members of the House, the bill had the support of all eleven members of the Game and Fish Commission, the Georgia Sportsmen's Federation, the Izaak Walton League, the Governor's Efficiency Commission, and many sportsmen's clubs and interested organizations.

Money from the increase bill was to have been spent on an accelerated program of acquiring land by lease or purchase for public hunting and fishing, to hire additional rangers, replace worn out vehicles, and to provide an overdue pay raise for Commission employees, who are among the lowest paid conservation workers in the Nation.

County License

Persons who hunt or fish in their home county with a pole and natural bait would not have been effected by the increase under a proposal for new county hunting and fishing licenses at the present fees of \$2.25 and \$1.25, respectively.

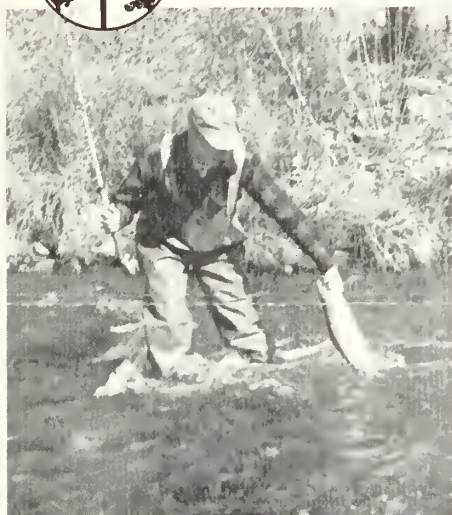
Although a preliminary report of the Governor's Efficiency Commission recommended that salt water fishermen be required to purchase the regular State fishing license, this provision was not included in the bill.

In a compromise effort, supporters of the bill failed to get its major provisions out of committee by moving to amend sections of the bill recommended by the Efficiency Commission. The recommendations would have called for one dollar hunting and fishing licenses for teenagers between the ages of 12 and 16, and would have brought to an end the future issuing of free honorary hunting and fishing licenses to persons over the age of 65.

Tourist Rates

The bill also proposed increases in the non-resident hunting and fishing fees, including substitution of a 10-day tourist fishing license at \$2.25 in place of the present 3-day fishing license at \$1.25. A new 10-day small game hunting license for non-residents was also included to encourage tourism at half the proposed yearly rate of \$25.25.

A companion measure passed by the Senate which died in a House committee would have given landowners partial protection from liability for accidents to sportsmen on lands leased to the Commission for public hunting and fishing.



Georgia mountain trout fishermen who landed an average of four trout on every fishing trip last season can expect the same results in 1964 on the state management areas.

1964 Trout Fishing Schedule Set, New "Fish For Fun" Stream Opens

Georgia's mountain trout fishermen can expect the same fishing success they enjoyed last year under the new schedule for management area trout streams adopted this year by the State Game and Fish Commission.

A "fish for fun" stream, four streams set aside for artificial lure fishing only, and removal of the ban on night trout stream fishing outside the management areas mark the most extensive changes in trout regulations from previous years.

Fishing on the 21 North Georgia management area streams will be from May 2nd through Labor Day, Sept. 7th, with a fee of one dollar per day. The 138 stocked open trout streams, including the Chattahoochee River below Buford Dam, will be open for fishing on April 1st until Sept. 15th, with the new bonus of night trout fishing to help anglers fish for "cannibal" brown trout, which can be caught easiest at night. Two streams on management areas, Spoilcane Creek on the Chattahoochee area, and the Chestatee River on the Chestatee area, will be opened on the schedule for "outside" streams, April 1st to Sept. 15th.

Mountain trout fishermen can count on bringing home at least one fish this year if they have anything like the success of approximately 30,000 Georgia Izaak Waltons who last year took home an average

of four fish per trip on the management area streams. Records of creel checkers show that many anglers caught their limit of eight trout in a few hours.

"Artificial" Streams

The four streams set aside for artificial lures only include Noontootley and Jones Creek on the Blue Ridge area, Waters Creek on the Chestatee area, and the Coleman River in the Coleman River area, which will be opened to fishing for the first time this year.

In addition, Noontootley has been designated a "fish for fun" or "catch and release" stream where anglers must release unharmed any trout caught under 16 inches in length.

Several other states experimenting with this type of "fun fishing" have found it extremely popular, since the purist is not under pressure to take his limit of fish. Because some fish will be caught over and over again, a good population of wily, stream-conditioned trout will be built up over a period of time

(Continued, Page 2)

BOATS—KEEP OUT!

Diamond with Cross

**CONTROLLED
AREA**

**5
MPH**

Explanation is within circle

**ANCHORING-
MOORING
AREA**

**KEEP
CLEAR
25
YARDS**

Blue Banded White Buoy

Skin Diver

DANGER!

ROCK

Diamond—wording within—rock, snag, cable, etc.

BALD RIDGE CREEK

BROWN'S BRIDGE

**DIRECTIONS
NAMES, ETC.**

Square or Rectangle gives information

PASS BETWEEN THESE

Opposite All-Black and All-Red Buoys mark channel

**PASS TO
SOUTH or WEST**

Red-Topped White Buoy

**DO NOT PASS BETWEEN BUOY
AND CLOSEST VISIBLE SHORE**

Red Striped White Buoy

**PASS TO
NORTH or EAST**

Black Topped White Buoy

New Water Marking System Adopted for State Boaters

Boat operators on Georgia's lakes will be seeing a set of new waterway markers this summer under a regulation just adopted by the State Game and Fish Commission.

The new regulation sets up a uniform system of "signs" on the water, similar in function to common road signs. The markers are designed to prevent accidents on the water and to help boaters find their way.

Under an agreement with the State Game and Fish Commission, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin installing and maintaining the new markers on the 6 Corps lakes in Georgia, including Allatoona, Clark Hill, Fort Gaines, Hartwell, Lanier, and Seminole.

Most of the markers will serve as directional or navigational aids to boaters, indicating shallow water, underwater obstructions, directions to landmarks, etc.

Restricted Areas

Some of the markers will bear regulatory information. For example, a diamond with a cross inside will indicate areas where boats are not allowed to operate, especially in swimming areas. A round circle with a number inside may order boats to reduce their speed, especially in a congested area where boats

are anchored. The provisions of the regulatory markers will be enforced by State wildlife rangers, who have also been instructed to make misdemeanor cases against vandals who attempt to destroy or remove the markers.

Uniform Markers

Only markers which follow the pattern of the uniform waterway markers adopted by the Council on State Governments will be accepted as approved markers. However, official markers may only be placed in locations approved by the district ranger chief of the Game and Fish Commission.

Adoption of the new marker system at the request of the Georgia Water Safety Congress makes Georgia the 27th State to ratify the inland navigational aid system.

Trout Schedule

(Continued from Page 1)

from larger stocked trout and native stream fish.

Survival Rate

The use of artificial lures only on Noontootley will ensure the least injury to the released trout, since survival studies show that 90 per cent of the fish caught on an artificial lure will survive if they are returned to the stream. Only approximately 50 per cent will survive when caught on live or natural baits, which tend to be swallowed by the hungry trout, while most artificial lures hook the fish's mouth. The presence or absence of a barb on the end of the hook seems to make little difference on the survival rate of fish caught with artificial lures.

Both Noontootley and Rock Creek, the most popular management area stream, will be opened on both Wednesdays and Thursdays as well as Fridays and Saturdays every week this season, rather than the usual rotating monthly schedule.

"Native" Streams

The normal practice of stocking every management stream with catchable-sized trout once for each two day period of fishing will be continued this year on all but two management area streams. Moccasin Creek will not be stocked, since it already has a good population of native stream fish, and the large number of anglers attracted to it in the past has created a threat to the water supply of the downstream Lake Burton Hatchery. Fishery biologists also hope to eliminate a frustrating strain of virus in the

hatchery fish that seems to be perpetuated by stocking infected fish from the hatchery into Moccasin Creek above the hatchery water intake.

Stocked fish will not be put into the new Coleman River area in an effort to preserve the stream's semi-wilderness flavor.

Other Changes

Other changes in the schedule include opening Dicks Creek on Lake Burton for the entire season, and opening Dicks Creek on the Chestatee area on the same day as Waters Creek.

For the first time this year, rainbow and brown trout will be stocked along with brook trout in Rock Creek Lake and on the Chestatee Area in Dockery Lake, which will again be reserved for youngsters under 16 years of age. In addition, camping will be allowed on all the trout stream management areas.

The exact dates of the management stream schedule may be obtained by writing the Commission's office in the State Capitol. Mimeographed schedules will be available until completion of the printed schedule, expected by April 1st.

Good Hunting

During the 1963-64 hunting season Georgia Sportsmen bagged a total of 4,058,000 quail.

During Georgia's 1963 spring turkey season, 8,100 hunters killed a total of 2,640 turkeys. During the fall turkey season, 11,900 nimrods bagged 4,140 big birds.



Longer seasons and higher bag limits are concrete evidence of Georgia's expanding deer herd.



Spring gobbler hunts open the hunting season this year in 30 Georgia counties and 6 management areas.

1964 Licenses

March 31st marks the close of another year of hunting and fishing for some 800,000 Georgia sportsmen around the State. All licenses issued to hunters and fishermen during the official 1963-64 season expire on that date.

The new 1964 licenses will be in the hands of dealers and available for purchase by April 1st. During the month of March, the State Game and Fish Commission's License Division will be busy having '64 licenses printed and distributed among some 1,800 license dealers throughout the State.

According to Robert Busby, Chief of the License Division, the Commission is preparing 1,107,000 hunting and fishing licenses for distribution and sale within the State.

This year's resident license fees will remain at \$1.25 for fishing, \$2.25 for hunting, and \$3.25 for a combination license.

Deer Limit, Longer Seasons Mark Regulation Changes

For the first time, Georgia hunters will be able to bag two bucks next fall in all 74 counties of the State open for deer hunting.

Under the new hunting regulations for 1964-65 adopted by the State Game and Fish Commission, hunters in Northeast and Middle Georgia will have an extra deer and an extra weekend of deer hunting, with the season opening Oct. 31st and closing on Nov. 16th in 29 counties.

Nimrods in Northwest Georgia will get an extension of five more days of hunting in five counties between Oct. 31st and Nov. 7th. The first gun hunting for deer in the State will begin October 15th in the 8 deer counties of the Eighth Congressional District, closing January 5th, 1965. 23 other counties in Southeast-central and Southwest-central Georgia will open on Nov. 2nd, closing Jan. 5th, 1965.

The most liberal bag limit of all will apply to five deer-rich counties in extreme Southwest Georgia, with a bag limit of one buck and one doe or two bucks. At present, doe hunting in the rest of the State is limited to the bow and arrow season and to the managed hunts, along with Fort Stewart, which will be open from Nov. 2nd until Jan. 5th, or until 2,000 deer are taken.

13,000 Deer Bagged

Figures compiled by Commission research specialists indicate that more than 13,000 deer were killed in Georgia last year by approximately 86,000 hunters. If each lucky hunter had killed only one deer, then 15 out of every 100 deer hunters would have taken home some venison during the 1963-64 season!

While the deer population in most areas of Georgia is expanding, investigations by wildlife biologists and requests from sportsmen in local areas have brought the total number of counties open to deer hunting this year down from last year's total of 80 counties by six counties, with one new county added to this year's full schedule.

Georgia's rapidly-increasing bow and arrow hunters will again have an advance crack at deer in all Georgia counties having a gun season, with the exception of the 8th Congressional District. The archery season for deer of both sex runs through the entire month of October. Archers may hunt during the regular gun season, but must follow the gun bag limits.

Dog Hunting Ban

In a move to end illegal deer hunting with dogs under false pretenses, the Commission has declared a closed season on hunting for any species with dogs in North and Middle Georgia during the Northern section's deer season, Oct. 31st to Nov. 16th. The action was taken with the support of legitimate fox hunters who normally hunt during the entire year with dogs, but who seldom enter the woods during the deer season.

In other changes from last year, the squirrel season has been extended in North Georgia by 24 days, opening Oct. 15th and closing Jan. 30th. In South

Georgia, squirrel hunters will get 52 extra days of hunting beginning Nov. 2nd until Feb. 27th, 1965.

Quail and rabbit seasons will follow the pattern of past years this season, opening on the traditional Nov. 20th date and ending Feb. 27th, 1965. The quail possession limit has been increased from 30 to 36 birds, with the daily bag limit remaining at 12. The bag limit on rabbits remains at 5 in North Georgia and 10 in South Georgia.

Spring Gobbler Hunts

30 out of 31 Georgia counties open last year for turkeys will again have a fall season, while 33 out of 40 counties will have a spring gobbler hunt. Hunters may take one gobbler in the lower southeastern and northeast Georgia counties from March 26th-April 11th, with the season in Northwest Georgia also opening March 26th, but ending April 1st, 1964.

Spring gobbler hunts will be held this year on the Blue Ridge management area, April 6-11, along with the Chestatee, Chattahoochee, Johns Mountain, and Clark Hill areas. A special two dollar permit per day is required on the management area gobbler hunts in addition to a current State hunting license for adults.

Hunting Hours

Hunting hours for non-migratory game have been changed from between sunrise and sunset to 30 minutes before local sunrise and 30 minutes after local sunset. In addition, hunters will be required to report their deer and turkey kills to the Commission within 5 days after the close of the respective seasons, rather than immediately after the animals are bagged.

Specific information and dates on the new hunting regulations are available on the bulletin board of each county courthouse, on the back of the new combination and regular hunting licenses for 1964-65, and by writing the Game and Fish Commission's Public Information Division, 401 State Capitol, Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

Mimeographed copies of the regulations will be available until the regulations are printed. Deer hunts on management areas are ordinarily adopted by the Commission in July, while migratory bird seasons, including doves and ducks, are usually set early in the fall, after which they will also be available from the Commission on request.

Out of all animals hunted in Georgia, quail are the most popular, followed by squirrel, rabbit, dove, and deer.

Stronger Pollution Law Passed By Georgia General Assembly

The 1964 Georgia General Assembly has passed into law a bill to create a stronger water pollution board in the State. The new board will replace the Water Quality Council set up in 1957.

The new State Water Pollution Board will be composed of one member from each of the following categories: State Department of Public Health; soil conservation; municipal government; commerce; agriculture; industry; recreation — fish and wildlife; county government; and the public at large. Appointed by the Governor, the nine members will serve four year terms. The Health Department is the only State agency which specifically must be represented on the board.

Cities Cited

At the last meeting of the Water Quality Council, recommendations were made that cases of raw municipal sewage and industrial pollution in Cartersville, Lakeland, Ellijay, Canton, and Cedartown be turned over to the Attorney General's office for legal action.

In spite of the existing Water Quality Council's threatened legal action, many of the hard-core pollution areas have not replied to correspondence from the Director of the State Health Department. The complaints have been on the agenda of the Water Quality Council for several years and have been thoroughly investigated by the Health Department's Water Quality Division.

Direct Authority

Supporters of the new law hope that more rapid compliance with the anti-pollution directives of the new board will be obtained by giving it direct administrative authority in the framework

of the State Health Department. The present Water Quality Council serves in an advisory and appeal capacity to the Health Department.

Other pollution complaints currently on the agenda of the present Water Quality Council which will probably be turned over to the new Board include the following cases:

Sweinsboro — mineral spirits and starch wastes from a textile dyeing plant discharged in the Canoochee River, causing a fish kill on June 18, 1963.

Dublin — waste material from a woolen mill discharged in the Oconee River.

Cave Spring — raw sewage from the city and a school flowing into Big Cedar Creek.

Summerville — city sewage in the Chattooga River.

Trion — city sewage and textile waste in the Chattooga River.

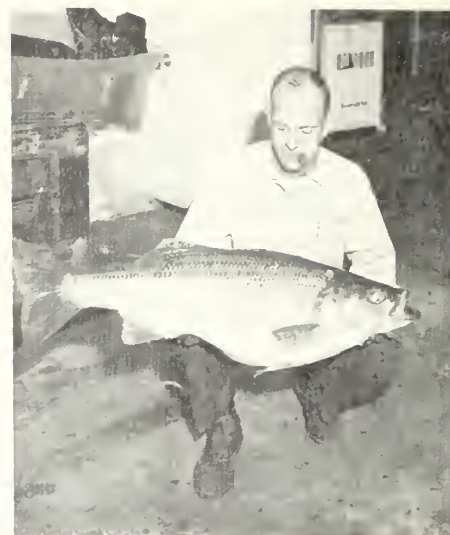
LaFayette — city sewage, discharges from a rug plant, and waste water from a laundry dumped in the Chattooga.

Rome — city sewage in the Etowah River.

Atlanta — inadequate treatment of sewage going into the Chattahoochee River.

Acworth — city sewage, waste from a textile plant.

Lake Seminole — complaints from fishermen of odor from pulp mill flowing into lake from the Chattahoochee River.



Lucky Catch!

Atlanta angler Ted Hall with a 33½ pound striped bass he caught in the Altamaha River near Darien. Ted caught the whopper on a ten-pound test line with an artificial lure.

Popular Fish

Based on figures from the State Game and Fish Commission, Georgians spent more time fishing for bream than any other species of fish, followed by bass, catfish, crappie, and white bass in respective order.

When asked what they preferred to fish for, most Georgians indicated a preference for bass fishing, followed by catfish, bream, crappie, white bass, and mountain trout.

Most Georgia fishermen fish in ponds, followed by streams and creeks, large reservoirs, natural lakes, and trout streams.

State Game & Fish Commission

PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION
401 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Georgia Outdoors

Jim Morrison, Editor
John Paulk, Printer

SEC. 34.66, P. L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATLANTA, GA.
PERMIT NO. 155



New 1964 Regulations

Acquisitions Division
The University Libraries
The University of Georgia
Athens, Ga.
2 Copies