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## EDITORIALS AND NOTES

### SPECIAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE 1942 DEER SEASON

The hunting of deer in California in 1942 has been subjected to various special regulations, all related to the war. Their history is set forth below.

On June 1st, 1942, Regional Office No. 5 of the U. S. Forest Service closed the Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino and Cleveland National forests against trespassing because of intensification of the fire hazard due to lack of fire-suppression personnel and equipment. This effectually closed these areas to deer hunters.

The Monterey Cattlemen's Association took the view that their private range lands, to which the hunters were likely to turn, were highly inflammable, and difficult to police because of labor shortage. They therefore asked Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, Commanding Officer, Western Defense Command, that steps be taken to have these lands closed also. General DeWitt, basing his request on "military necessity," applied to Governor Olson to have deer hunting prohibited wherever fire hazards were found to exist.

This matter was referred to the Division of Fish and Game, and on July 27th its representatives met with the Committee on Forest Fire Prevention of the California Office of Civilian Defense. At this meeting a resolution was passed recommending the immediate closure to deer hunting of all open areas from the northern boundary of Monterey County south to the Mexican border. On July 29th the Fish and Game Commission took cognizance of the fact that a request from a commanding officer in time of war is tantamount to an order, and in view of the military necessity recommended to the Director of Natural Resources that all of San Benito and Monterey counties, and those portions of Merced, Fresno and Kings counties in District 3 be closed to deer hunting; also Fish and Game Districts 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 4, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ , including the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial. The approval of the Governor was given and the order was signed July 31st, but due to legal publication requirements did not become effective until August 11th.

The areas so closed failed to include all the territory envisaged, and a second request was made by the military authorities. The Fish and Game Commission thereupon held an open meeting in San Francisco on August 7th, at which legislators, representatives of State and Federal agencies, sportsmen, and other interested persons were heard. Over 35 expressed opinions, the most frequent complaint being that closure of the deer season discriminated against the hunter, while other recreationists constituting equal or greater fire hazards were unchecked. However, in view of the predominating importance of war requirements over all other considerations, the Commission recommended the closure

to deer hunting of all of Districts 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and that portion of 3 not included in the previous order. The counties affected were Marin, Napa, Solano, Yolo, Colusa, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, Glenn and a small portion of Humboldt; also Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and other parts of counties in District 3 not included in the earlier closing order.

These two closures prohibited deer hunting which normally would have been open August 1st to September 15th in Fish and Game Districts 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  and 3; from August 10 to September 9 in Districts 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and from September 16th to October 15th in Districts 4 and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

A third request from General DeWitt caused the Commission on August 26th to recommend closure of those portions of Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties lying below what is commonly known as the "ponderosa pine belt." This order was signed on August 31st and took effect September 16th, to close for the season an area which would otherwise have been open to hunting from September 16th to October 15th, inclusive.

To summarize: Four special regulations affected the 1942 deer season, none of which originated with the Division of Fish and Game. The first was an order of the U. S. Forest Service closing certain National Forests to all trespassers. The other three were recommendations of the Fish and Game Commission made in compliance with requests of the Commanding Officer of the Western Defense Command, which requests in turn were based on the existence of fire hazards as determined by the Committee on Forest Fire Prevention of the California Office of Civilian Defense.—George P. Miller, Executive Officer.

### TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO IN "CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME"

Leading articles in this magazine 25 years ago included an account of the skates and rays of California by Professor Starks of Stanford University, observations on bighorn sheep within 30 miles of Los Angeles by Harold Gardner, and a paper by Harold C. Bryant on the Trinity Game Refuge, the first of the large State game refuges.

But the most interesting feature of the January, 1918, number from the point of view of present-day readers is an editorial entitled "Fish and Game Endangered." This has to do with World War I, and the attempts made at that time to bring about relaxation of conservation measures on the score of emergency food needs. Such needs do exist in war time, but those who wish to supply them through abnormal capture of fish or game are not infrequently motivated by the desire for personal gain. In many cases, the added increment to the food supply is too small to be significant, while the extraordinary inroads upon the natural resources may endanger the future stock. The possible extinction of a natural resource which would otherwise be self-perpetuating should not be countenanced unless no alternative route to victory exists.

What has been the impact of the present world crisis upon California fish and game? A commercial fishing season for mullet has been

opened in the Salton Sea for the first time in over 10 years in order to increase our fresh fish supplies. In the marine commercial fisheries the catch has dropped at least 50 per cent because of wartime restrictions, withdrawal of boats from the fishing fleets, and loss of fishermen. In the sport fishery, some inland waters have been completely closed, and others closed in part, for military reasons.

Migratory birds will benefit from restrictions on the carrying of fire-arms in certain parts of the State. Dove shooting has been prohibited over large areas formerly open. Outstanding in public interest has been the complete closure of the deer season in one large section of the State, and its limitation in another, at the request of the military authorities. In some regions, deer threaten to become a serious menace to crops.

Add to the foregoing the reduction in the amount of sport fishing and hunting that will inevitably be brought about by gasoline rationing and rubber shortages, and it becomes evident that World War II, up to the present, at least, is not having a detrimental effect on California fish and game. If anything, it is tending to increase their numbers, and may build up a reserve stock which it will be the privilege of all of us—sportsmen, commercial fishermen, and conservation workers—to protect and maintain when peace returns.—*Brian Curtis, Editor, California Fish and Game.*

#### RETIREMENT OF J. C. LEWIS

Mr. J. C. Lewis, assistant supervisor of fish hatcheries, retired from the Division of Fish and Game on September 30, 1942, after 22 years of service. For a number of years Mr. and Mrs. Lewis made their home at Fort Seward where Mr. Lewis was in charge of the hatchery as superintendent. In January, 1934, Mr. Lewis was transferred to the Tahoe area to take charge of the two hatcheries in that important recreational portion of California. At Tahoe Mr. Lewis made an enviable record in his development of the cooperative planting program carried on jointly by the Mt. Ralston Fish Planting Club and the Division of Fish and Game.

Fortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis plan to make their future home in Santa Cruz County and will thus be able to continue their close association with many friends within the Division. Their interests in the Division will also remain active because their son R. C. Lewis is foreman at the Hot Creek Hatchery, and his brother, E. S. Lewis, is an employee at the Mt. Shasta Hatchery.—*A. C. Taft, Chief, Bureau of Fish Conservation, California Division of Fish and Game.*

#### RETIREMENT OF HENRY LENCIONI

On September 30, 1942, Henry Lencioni, captain of patrol, completed 35 years service with the California State Division of Fish and Game.

Mr. Lencioni was appointed as a deputy in Sonoma County August 25, 1907. At that time the patrol force consisted of not over 40 deputies. In 1926 he was promoted to a captain, and served in that position until

the time of his retirement. He has witnessed many changes in the Division, from the horse and buggy days of 1907 to the present.

It is the wish of the Division that Captain Lencioni enjoy to the fullest his well earned retirement.—*L. F. Chappell, Chief of Patrol, California Division of Fish and Game.*

#### RETIREMENT OF J. D. DONDERO

Mr. J. D. Dondero, captain of patrol, retired from the California State Division of Fish and Game, October 30, 1942, having completed 25 years of service.

Appointed a deputy in 1917, Dondero served in that capacity until 1927 when he was advanced to a captain. He has always been headquartered in Lake and Humboldt counties, and because of his ability to make keen observations, Mr. Dondero is considered one of the best informed men on fish and game matters in that area.

It is the sincere wish of the entire Division that Captain Dondero will enjoy his well earned leave from public life.—*L. F. Chappell, Chief of Patrol, California Division of Fish and Game.*