

# Trout Season Opens Saturday In WNC

Weather permitting, Western North Carolina's legion of trout anglers will head for the streams next Saturday to celebrate opening day of the 1971 mountain trout season.

And with more than 2,000 miles of trout water available, fishermen can be most selective in their choice of whitewater.

The outlook looks good. State wildlife workers have been laboring diligently stocking streams during March in preparation for the April 3rd opener. According to several wildlife officials, it should be an above-average year.

Streams will again be classified into three categories: general, native and trophy. Each classification has its own set of rules, and anglers should brief themselves by reading the

## Attention Fishermen

The 1971 trout fishing season will open Saturday, April 3, on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in the Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina. Efforts are being made to make this the best fishing season yet.

The 30 miles of stream and ponds are being stocked with 13,000 trout before opening day; a goodly number of trout in the 15 to 20 inch range are also being stocked. In addition to the stocked fish, surveys made last fall show a substantial increase in the native trout population.

Creel limit is 10 fish per day, children under 12 years fish for free with a creel limit of 5 fish.

Cherokee Fish & Game Management will again operate the Picnic Area in Cherokee (Oconaluftee River) and the Tribal owned Mingo Falls Campground which has been doubled in size this year.



regulations in order to stay within the law. Many will find the regulations complicated, even though efforts have been made to make them simple. Get help if you need it, but be sure you know the rules.

According to game officials, a record number of trout will have been stocked in streams in the "general" category. These streams received the largest turnout last year. Next

in popularity were native waters, while trophy waters attracted the least number of anglers. It is estimated more than 650,000 trout will be stocked prior to and during the fishing season by state and federal hatcheries.

Trophy Trout regulations: Creel limit - 4 trout; Size limit - brook trout 12", rainbow trout 16 inches, brown trout 16 inches. Lures - artificial flies.

Native Trout Regulations: Creel limit - 4 trout; Size limit - brook trout 6", rainbow trout 10", brown trout 10". Lures, artificial lures.

General Trout Regulations: Creel limit - 7 trout; Size limit - none; Lures - bait or artificial lures.

Fishing hours are one-half

hour before sunrise on April 3, to one-half hour after sunset through Sept. 6. Also, there will be an extended season - from Labor Day through Oct. 31, on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday on all Game Lands. During this extended period, trophy trout regulations will be in effect and only single hook artificial lures are permitted, and on trophy trout streams only artificial flies are permitted.

On Research Streams, anglers fishing these, in addition to all other license requirements, must obtain a free one-day special use

permit at the Fox Camp Check Station prior to fishing, and must submit his creel for inspection at the check station immediately following conclusion of his fishing.

Also opening April 3rd are the Cherokee Tribal Streams. This past week information regarding these waters were released by Manager David Swayney, Biologist Gerald Burton, Secretary Madgeline Saunooke and others connected with the program. The efficient secretary, Mrs. Saunooke, noted both past and future activities covering the enterprise. "This is our 8th year of operation and for the 1971 season, stocking will con-

sist of 220,000 rainbow, brook and brown trout. 13,000 of these will be stocked before opening day, 2,700 brood trout are being held now at our holding pond to be stocked out throughout the season, with more to come from National Fish Hatcheries during the season."

Suppliers of trout are the Federal Hatcheries at Pisgah Forest, N. C.; Whytheville,

Va.; Walhalla, S. C.

The program has a new biologist, Gerald L. Burton replacing Ronald D. Jones who is now with the National Park Service in Tennessee.

The program will have three new wardens this year, Raymond Lambert, Adam Thompson and Carroll Parker.

More emphasis is being placed on violators according to Swayney. Arrangements have been made with the U. S. Magistrate in Bryson City for trying violators, both on reservation and Park Waters. New fines for violation of regulations will be going in effect such as \$25 for initial violation, \$10 for each trout exceeding creel limit. On Indian Waters the limit remains at 10 trout a day. Prices for Tribal permits are the same as last year: Season \$35, 5-day \$6, Daily \$1.50.

The program is managed entirely on the income through the sale of the Tribal permits. Proceeds stay within the Tribe and are being used for recreational facilities for the Cherokee Youth.

According to Swayney, a review of the data collected over the past seven years by stream surveys and creel census indicates that the trout stocking program is protecting and enhancing the natural trout population by decreasing the fishing pressure on them and providing a larger spawning population.

The natural population has been increasing each year in most of the streams and apparently has not yet reached its peak.

Opening weekend in 1970 accounted for 3,200 trips. Total trips in 1970 were 54,786, an increase of 14.7 per cent from 1969. Ten per cent of the creeled trout were stream reared. Average creel was 4.1 trout.

An economic survey indicated that visiting fishermen spent more than \$460,000 in the Cherokee business community. The Tribe derived about \$63,500 from the sale of fishing permits and as mentioned above, was spent on Cherokee youth programs.

## Waste

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which provide a breeding place for rats, mosquitoes, and flies, air pollution from burning of waste, and water seepage and run-off which contributes to water pollution.

"For sparsely populated counties, the regional approach with several counties banding together to create a landfill would be the most economical approach," he said. "An adequate solid waste disposal program will not be cheap, but city and municipal cooperation would make for a more economical operation."

"Some financial help is available from the federal government in the form of grants and loans to rural counties from the Farmer's Home Administration. The counties realize they have a problem with solid waste disposal and they are looking for a solution. Already 75 to 80 counties have requested assistance and information. They are cooperating wonderfully," Usry said.



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