

ROD & GUN

By GENE WIKE
(N. C. Division of Game and Inland Fisheries)

BIGGER GAME OR BETTER FISH—

The "toughie" to answer in most of the states is whether there is more game than fish—which is the most plentiful. On the river banks, by the stoves, and in the field the argument is pursued, but the debating participants always wind up with indefinite conclusions.

Bert Brother, Georgia sportsman, says "tone thing about game you can see it, but it is difficult to peer beneath the surface of the waters and survey the fish situation. When dogs are working well and hunting is good, game appears plentiful. So do the fish when they're biting, but what about the poor hunting and fishing days, declares Brother.

When there are no birds in the sky or field, discontented nimrods quickly declare no game. Quite differently, the fisherman retraces his steps to his favorite fishing spot time and again on the assumption that they aren't biting. It's really a deatable question, this subject of game and fish.

But in North Carolina sportsmen are prone to favor the fish while in reality many biologists believe that the supply in many states is far behind the game. Pollution, drainage, erosion and the like have more serious inroads on the finny game, but the development of farm fish ponds, the restocking of streams, and the cultivation of bass and bream in the various impoundments of the state point with favor to the angler's sport. But any way you look at it there is a whale of a job to be done in both game and fish restoration.

FISH CAUTION AND CARE

Speaking of restoration, returning the fish you do not care to keep to the water unhurt is a mighty fine practice, according to J. W. Gwathmey, Richmond Rod and Gun artist.

In future weeks many bream will be caught off their spawning beds. If these are carried around in the live box any length of time and then liberated, it is a question whether they'll ever find their way back to their mates. The thing to do is liberate your fish where you catch him, Gwathmey declares.

COARSE FISHING CONTINUES.

While sport fishing for warm water species is confined to year-round impoundments of inland waters, many anglers have turned

to streams open to coarse fishing. You can fish anytime in designated areas for catfish, carp, red-horse, sucker and non-game fishes, conditioned by the regulation that you must return all game fish to the water, you can't take them by any other method except rod and reel, hook and line and fishing license regulations apply.

Tributaries to the following streams are not open to coarse fishing during closed season, but to put it specifically the following have been declared open waters: The Cape Fear River from its origin at the junction of Deep and Haw Rivers in Chatham County to King's Bluff Locks; the Dan River in Stokes, Rockingham and Caswell counties; the Deep River in Randolph, Moore, Chatham and Lee counties; the Haw River in Alamance and Chatham counties; the Neuse River from the junction of the Eno and Flat Rivers in Durham county to U. S. Highway No. 117 Bridge in Wayne county; the Eno River in Orange and Durham counties; the Tar River below its origin in Granville county.

In the western counties: The French Broad River, Swannanoa River from mouth up to 100 yards below dam at Recreation Park, and Cane Creek below U. S. Highway No. 74, Bridge in Buncombe county; the John's River below mouth of Wilson Creek, Catawba River from State Highway No. 18 Bridge up to within 100 yards of Lake James Dam, Upper Creek below the mouth of Steeles Creek, Silver Creek and Muddy Creek in Burke County; Lower Creek, King's Creek and Zacks Creek in Caldwell county; Hiwassee River below old Power Dam in Clay county; Hiwassee River above bridge at U. S. Highway No. 64 in Cherokee county; First Broad River, Second Broad River and Broad River in Cleveland county; Cheoah River below the Santeetlah Cooperative Wildlife Management Area line in Graham county; Pigeon River from Waterville Dam to Forks of River at Woodrow in Haywood county; French Broad River and Cane Creek in Henderson county; Tuckasegee River below the dam at Dillsboro in Jackson county; Little Tennessee River below U. S. Highway No. 23 near Franklin in Macon county; French Broad River in Madison county; Nolichucky, Toe and North Toe Rivers in Mitchell county; Catawba River from

Yancey Bridge at head of Lake James to mouth of Crooked Creek in McDowell county; Green River below State Highway No. 9 Bridge near Lake Adger and Pacolet River below Lynn in Polk county; Broad River below U. S. Highway No. 74 Bridge in Rutherford county; French Broad River below the mouth of East Fork one mile below Rosman in Transylvania county; Yadkin River below Ferguson in Wilkes county; Yadkin River above U. S. Highway No. 421 in Yadkin county; Nolichucky, Toe and North Toe Rivers in Yancey county.

TROUT STOCKING —

The opening of the trout season April 15 found all types of fishermen flanking the streams stocked since March 1 with one-third million trout, 30,000 of which were legal length. Stocking on many of the larger and more frequently fished waters will continue during the onslaught of anglers.

In Wilkes county alone, Game and Fish Protector R. S. Johnson reports a release of over 2000 legal length trout in fourteen streams designated for trout fishing, most of which have been released recently. Taken from the Marion and Roaring Gap hatcheries, rainbow and brook trout planted should offer some good size fish for the fly rod fishermen, says Johnson. For further information write him at P. O. Box 27 or phone No. 441-J. He strives to please.

BRINGING YEAR-ROUND FISH-UP TO DATE —

The North Carolina Division of Game and Inland Fisheries has declared additional lakes open to year-round angling, namely: Mills Fond, Panther Branch Lake, Lake Myra, Perry's Lake, Lake Wendell and Robertson's Pond in Wake

county; Asheboro City Lake in Randolph; Lake Lee in Union; Lake Latham in Alamance; Silver Lake in Wilson and Nobles Mill-pond in Nash county.

Folks from Durham can do a little fishing anytime in Flat River Lake, often called Lake Michie. The fishing commissoiner, through authorization from the Department of Conservation and Development, voted year round fishing, according to Leon Powell, who said that the lake would benefit from having some of the big ones caught.

THE SPORTING FLEET —

Morehead City — The Careret Sports-Fishing Fleet, comprising more than fifty boats with experienced guides is groomed for action, according to Alex Davis, fish and game protector.

Claiming Morehead City undisputedly the most popular salt water fishing port in the state, he points to smaller fleets anchored at Beaufort, Marshallburg, Davis and Atlantic standing by the boost the total when the season gets going full blast.

CAROLINIANS CAUGHT 'EM—

Meanwhile from Miami comes news of tarheel anglers who slipped out of the confines of the Carolinas to try their hand at a little sport fishing in the Florida waters. Two Greensboro anglers won

three famed citations in the 11th annual \$10,000 Metropolitan Miami fishing tournament with recent catches.

The two, Theodore Samet was double winner and John K. Voehringer. A third Greensboro entrant, Mrs. Theodore Samet failed to qualify. Competing with 270,000 participants, Samet scored his doubleheader citation with a 58 pound tarpon and a twenty-three and three-quarters pound jack, both taken on a 9-thread line. Voehringer's five pound trout brought him a citation. Neither was a leader in its class but both won citations as outstanding catches.

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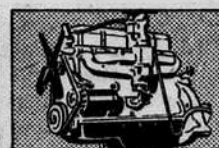


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