

organizations when they were considered destructive to fish and wildlife interests. This Association supported practices of other organizations wholeheartedly when they were favorable to fish and wildlife interests. Much good legislation, both on state and national level, is now enacted because of the active support of the states associated in this organization.

This Association maintains standing Technical Committees on Forest Game, Dove, Farm Game, Water Use, Water Pollution, Reservoir Fisheries and appoints other committees as needed. It also works with and supports its allied organizations such as the Southeastern Division of American Fisheries, The S. E. Division of Wildlife Society, Law Enforcement, Etc.

If anyone has any doubts as to the real value of the Association and these annual conferences, they need only to review some of the printed Proceedings to see the valuable papers that are presented in these technical sessions.

The Association's primary purpose is to promote sound management of our resources, and is seeking ways and means of accomplishing this aim. The Association recognizes the great opportunity that exists for the State Conservation Departments to cooperate with the private timber and pulpwood and paper corporations owning vast amounts of lands in management of fish and wildlife on such lands. This, along with the State and National Forest lands, can provide hunting and fishing for large numbers of persons that now have no place to fish or hunt.

Although the accomplishments of this Association in the past have been great, the accomplishments in the future, by the dedicated and enthusiastic personnel associated together in this organization will far exceed any of the attainments of the past.

I may be prejudiced, but I am confident that we have the finest annual regional fish and wildlife conference in the U. S. A. I believe that we have the most active and progressive Association and I am indeed honored to serve as your President for this year.

THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY IN RESIDENT FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT

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The Department of the Navy appreciates the opportunity to discuss with you the development of a fish and game program on lands and in waters under its supervision.

The guide posts established by the basic laws and directives require that we work closely with the established conservation agencies. This is as it should be, since the number one function of the Navy is the defense of our country.

The Department of the Navy is an important occupier of public lands. Some of these lands can contribute substantially to the recreational needs of the American people. Because of an awareness of this, the 85th Congress enacted legislation designed to coordinate fish and wildlife management on military installations with established programs of other agencies who have a primary responsibility for the management of our natural resources. This initial Act, Public Law 337, requires that all hunting, trapping and fishing on military installations shall be in accordance with state laws and regulations. Personnel assigned to any such establishment must also purchase the appropriate license—except under this Act, anyone assigned to a designated base shall be accorded resident privileges after the elapse of thirty days. This provision has raised some questions. Some state laws allow military personnel assigned to an installation to purchase a resident license immediately, while other states require residency from thirty days to one year.

This may appear to be of minor consideration, but I know it has caused concern in some states. If a person is assigned to an installation more or less permanently, he should not be required to wait an excessive length of time before being afforded natural hunting and fishing privileges. Any fish and game administrator wishing to discuss this provision more in detail will be welcome to do so.

A review of the records show dissatisfaction by some state and federal administrators because they were denied free access to military installations. This led to a commonly held belief that some areas were being managed as private hunting and fishing clubs. There may have been some justification for this belief on some installations after the management and use of fish and wildlife resources on military installations was left to the discretion of the local commander. This 1958 statute provides that, under conditions mutually agreed upon, state fish and game officials shall have full access to military facilities to (quote) effect measures for the management, conservation, and harvesting of fish and game resources (unquote). Conservation officials needing access to installations to implement such programs shall, upon coordination with the security and law enforcement officer, be issued an Identification Card and Pass Permit, DD Form 1221, and be granted such access.

Some of you here today did not agree that this 1958 legislation was a cure-all, so, with the cooperation of sportsmen, private conservation organizations and federal agencies, you were successful in your efforts to have the Congress adopt additional legislation in 1960 resulting in the passage of Public Law 87-797.

The purpose of this Act was to promote planning, development, maintenance, conservation and rehabilitation of fish and game on military reservations. In order to attain these objectives, it provides for a cooperative plan mutually agreed upon by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior and the state Fish and Game Department in which such reservation is located.

Included also in this Congressional Act, is a provision that fees may be collected by military installations which must be spent on that particular area for habitat improvement and other developments designed to aid in the production and maintenance of fish and wildlife.

Because of the many years association I have had with you, I am sure some of you will take a dim view of other agencies collecting fees or licenses for the privilege of hunting or fishing for resident fish or wildlife species.

I have referred briefly to the proposed cooperative plan between the affected conservation agencies and the naval installation as provided for in Public Law 797. I want to assure you that these plans must be mutually agreed upon and at that time you will certainly have an opportunity to express your views and assist in a determination if such a procedure is in the best interest of the conservation and perpetuation of our fish and wildlife resources.

You Fish and Game Administrators are fully aware that it takes money to do an adequate job of managing and maintaining wildlife populations. This fact is apparent in some states each time the legislature convenes by the requests for increased license fees.

Unfortunately, the only money available for this purpose on naval installations is supposed to come from fees collected for the privilege of hunting and/or fishing on these lands.

If we are to attempt to preserve, or increase wildlife populations on those Navy lands capable of contributing to the recreational need, it is going to require the expenditure of funds.

Unless fees are collected to be spent on the installation, we have limited alternatives. First, the law requires that anyone hunting or fishing on military reservations shall purchase the appropriate state license. Because of this, it may be to the state's advantage to cooperate with the installation in undertaking programs designed to maintain optimum wildlife populations which will provide additional recreational areas. Even if circumstances require certain restrictions, those allowed on the facility will reduce the pressure on some over-taxed areas, especially in regard to fishing.

Another alternative is to request the cooperation of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act provides in its opening paragraph, that this Bureau shall provide assistance and cooperate

with all federal and state agencies in the perpetuation and management of all fish and wildlife in the national interest.

It is generally recognized that control and management of resident fish and game species is vested in the state Fish and Game Departments. I have yet to meet a state wildlife administrator willing to surrender this prerogative. I am quite certain that the fish and game departments in the states, having naval installations capable of providing hunting and fishing opportunity, will be happy to supply technical advice and help in maintaining balanced fish and game populations. You will be merely continuing to accept your responsibility to provide the optimum amount of hunting and fishing opportunity.

In order to implement and activate these Congressional statutes, two administrative directives have been issued. The first one was issued 16 February 1962 by the Secretary of Defense. This far-reaching document covered, in some detail, a program for the management and harvest of fish and wildlife on all military installations, facilities and bases which contain land and water areas suitable for the conservation and management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources. It charges the Armed Forces with the obligation to restore, improve and preserve the renewable natural resources of the lands and waters they control. It requires military departments to assure that appropriate commanders will seek help and work harmoniously with federal, state and local conservation officials.

Of particular interest to many of you with military installations within your state boundaries, is section IV of the Department of Defense Directive which provides for public access to military lands and waters. Changes in public policy in recent years have been reflected by the demands of an expanding population for increased access and multiple use of public lands. Controlled public access shall be permitted to installations for hunting and fishing purposes when it will not impair the primary military mission. The selection of those granted such privileges shall be made by impartial devices or based on a simple system of first come, first served.

If it is absolutely necessary to deny public access, the reason shall be made public and incorporated within the cooperative agreement between the installation and the conservation organizations involved.

The Secretary of the Navy has centralized the responsibility for the management of natural resources on the five million acres under his control within the Bureau of Yards and Docks. This was a logical move because natural resources management must be made integral with design, construction, maintenance and real property management for which the Bureau of Yards and Docks has the primary Department of the Navy responsibility.

The Natural Resources Management Staff established in BuDocks is very limited; being composed of the Director, L. C. Wright—a forester—a soil conservationist—and a fish and wildlife manager.

It is readily apparent that this limited staff will be unable to carry out the chartered policy to restore, improve and preserve, through wise use management, the natural resources of the Department of the Navy in the best interest of the American people without the technical assistance and advice of the federal and state agencies who have the primary responsibility for the management and conservation of our fish and wildlife resources, and the money and manpower to get the job done.

Although many good programs are already working, we are anxious to conclude cooperative agreements with affected state and federal agencies so we can get sound management programs established on naval installations as soon as possible.

Inventories of available fish and game should be made at an early date. Streams and lakes should be surveyed to determine amount and capacities. A determination should be made as to how much we can contribute to your conservation programs.

We recognize the states' responsibility for the management of resident fish and game populations. We recognize the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife makes the final determination in migratory bird management.

The Department of the Navy wishes to join with you in compliance with the national policy of providing as much recreation as possible, including hunting and fishing, for an ever expanding human population.