

the undercover man's security and use extreme caution to avoid slips that might divulge the undercover man's identity.

Before the operation is started, the undercover man and the agent who is to receive and store evidence should spend some time together with the Chief of the Operation. During this meeting code names for the undercover man and the receiving agent should be adopted. Telephone code questions and answers should be arranged to assure both parties they are talking to the right party. Pre-arranged meeting places in remote areas should be arranged so the undercover man can deliver evidence for storage to the local agent. If it is impossible to meet at the pre-arranged place, let the undercover man pick the spot as local agents are familiar with their areas. When attempting a meeting, the local agent should use an unmarked car and be sure he is not followed. Should he determine that he is being followed, he should then return to his post and wait for the undercover agent to call and make a new meeting place.

The local agent should find a storage facility for keeping evidence that will be used in court. He will find it necessary to cover his storage by inventing seizures of game. He should pick a storage facility removed from the area that the undercover agent is operating in. All records of evidence should be kept under lock and key and the Chief of the Operation should know where the local agent keeps his records in case they are needed and the local agent is not available. With security and complete records the successful apprehension and the prosecution of selling wild game and fish can be accomplished. Selling is the "Number 1" violation in the public's mind and I have found they appreciate the apprehension of the violators. Some will not look with favor on the method used but will agree that the undercover method is the only way.

## COOPERATION BETWEEN FISHERY BIOLOGISTS AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS\*

BY BILL MATHIS  
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I have been asked to talk on the subject of cooperation between the Biologist and the Wildlife Officer. Much has been said on this subject, a good deal of which has been lip service. Some departmental directives have been issued calling for cooperation between divisions. At the risk of sounding trite, I am going to renew the request for improved relations and communications. We cannot afford to be at odds with each other as concerns our fish and wildlife.

The primary consideration for our work is not recognition for a job well done, but must be the resource itself; in this case fish. All our problems originate here. Every decision, regardless of how pressing, must consider the effect on the fish. If we will but orient ourselves toward the objective of better fishing, we can readily see that this cooperation cannot be taken for granted. We each have a mutual responsibility to the fishing public, and in order to meet this responsibility we must each have the trust and cooperation of the other. For the most part, if we each do our job well, we will have cooperation. I know that when someone enjoys his work and keeps busy at it, he doesn't have time to check and see if everyone else is busy working.

The kind of cooperation we should have is hampered somewhat by having people in each division who are not cognizant of the problems involved in each other's jobs. Some Wildlife Officers, although good enforcement men, simply cannot comprehend and interpret the scientific reports of the Biologist. It then becomes the duty of the Biologist to break his information down into a form useful to the Wildlife Officer.

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Because of the militant nature of law enforcement work, the officers tend to "stick" together and consider all others as outsiders. Some are even belligerent, not because of personalities, but because they are opposed to change. Fishery management, especially in Arkansas, has undergone several drastic changes in recent years. In fact, fishery biology is a young science in Arkansas, the division being only 12 years old. During this time much progress has been made and many previous theories discarded.

Partly because of a breakdown in communications between divisions this progress has in turn been misunderstood, misinterpreted and violently opposed by some Wildlife Officers. Historically, the Enforcement Division has been regarded by the people as the Game and Fish Commission. This attitude is rapidly undergoing change, both in and out of the department. Law enforcement is becoming known as another, but important, tool in game and fish management, as is biology. Fishery biology is gaining in stature as the Biologists keep demonstrating to the public and their co-workers alike that their recommendations are based on facts, not on suppositions, theories, prejudice, or superstition. The burden of proving the above is primarily that of the Biologist, aided by a vigorous information and education division.

The Fishery Division in Arkansas is composed of District Fishery Biologists, placed strategically around so as to be available in all areas. Needless to say, five men scattered over the state of Arkansas are limited in the scope and performance of duties. Due to the large area each man has to cover, he cannot always be immediately available to Wildlife Officers when needed. He should always strive to be available when called upon. However, the Wildlife Officer can, with training, attend to many of these things on the spot. Some of these minor problems concern farm ponds. I have driven 150 miles one way at the request of a Wildlife Officer only to discover that someone had built a new, 1-acre farm pond and wanted fish for it. A fish application blank was all that was needed, and had the Wildlife Officer ascertained this in advance, the Biologist could have settled it with a letter, saving driving expenses and a day's travel. Other things he can do on his own are to check minor fish kills, check on pollution, advise on vegetation control and help on pond management. These can be done while he is on routine patrol, while the Biologist would have to drive to the area, spending at least one day to each problem.

Many problems can be noted by the Wildlife Officer while he is in the field. Many times these problems are not brought to the attention of the Biologist until too much time has elapsed for effective checks to be made.

The successful game agent must be able to contact the public and answer their questions (James).

It is quite natural for non-technical personnel to become impatient over the time often required for research before management recommendations are made (Aldrich). Long-time research projects without progress reports cause disunity within the organization. The experienced Biologist will make all other workers in the department his helpers and keep them informed of his objectives.

A Biologist must develop an appreciation for the non-biological problems faced by the Wildlife Officer, just as the officer must consider biology.

A united effort among all members of the department is absolutely necessary if we are to maintain sound public support.

The result of better cooperation will be the satisfaction of improved hunting and fishing.

The responsibilities of both employees to the license holder includes truthfulness.

#### *Summary and Conclusions*

##### **Responsibility of Biologist:**

1. Keep the Wildlife Officer informed concerning the fisheries activities in his county.
  - a. Make every effort to contact the officer beforehand so he can arrange his affairs accordingly.

- b. Regardless of the activity, invite the Wildlife Officer to go along. This is necessary for good public relations as well as being a source of information for the officer. Remember, the officer will be questioned by the public concerning fisheries activities. It is entirely to his advantage to keep himself informed.
  - c. Get reports in promptly and send copies to the Wildlife Officers involved.
  - d. Volunteer to make talks to civic clubs or sportsman's groups in the officer's county in order to explain the fisheries program.
2. Lend assistance when and where possible in order to help the Wildlife Officer in his relations with his people. Remember, an informed public is a great asset.
  3. A Biologist should do his work with zeal and earnestness, and in a "professional manner" so that all concerned will realize that this is important work.

**Responsibility of Wildlife Officer:**

1. He must not consider the Biologist as his enemy, or his competitor. The Biologist should be accepted as a fellow member of the organization, one who also has a job to do.
2. Whenever possible he should accompany the Biologist on his rounds and become acquainted with the objectives of the Biologist's work.
3. When a particular fisheries recommendation is being planned do not oppose it simply because a few local uninformed friends may raise objections. That may be the convenient thing to do at the time, but it is not in the best interest of the organization. The field of biology has proven itself in conservation work, and opposing biology simply for the sake of opposing it is simply outdated.
4. Connected with the above statement, the Officer should support the Biologist publicly. If disagreements arise which can't be talked out, then the officer should say nothing. This is a courtesy which anyone should afford a fellow employee.
5. Don't call on the Biologist any more than is absolutely necessary. Remember, he too, has definite jobs and responsibilities which must be performed.

*Bibliography*

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**F. B. I. SERVICES AVAILABLE TO GAME AND FISH AGENCIES**

BY ED BROWN  
*F. B. I. Agent*  
 Little Rock, Arkansas

I would like to talk briefly on some of the things we can do maybe to assist game and fish authorities.

First of all, maybe there is very little danger of us depleting the game and fish population—not because maybe we do not want to, but maybe it is because of our inability to do so.

Seriously, there are some functions the F. B. I. can participate with you in at your request. Everything we do is regulated and controlled by Federal Law. Our authority stems from a specific Federal Law.

One of the functions that we could possibly be of assistance to **you**