

GAME AND FISH NEWS

FOR RELEASE December 6, 1962

COMMISSION TO MEET

The State Game Commission will meet on Thursday, December 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the office of the Department of Game and Fish in Santa Fe.

A major item on the agenda is setting of the new fishing regulations. Commission meetings are open to the public.

SEASON DATES

Ducks may be hunted east of the Continental Divide December 6-30. West of the Divide the season is open to December 19. Season on geese is open to January 6 west of the Divide, and to January 13 east of the Divide. Quail season continues to December 16.

Ringtail, mink and marten may be taken until December 31. Season on beaver and muskrat continues through next March.

Deer may be hunted December 8 and 9 in two areas--Luna-Escudilla, and Mule Creek. Special tags are required.

TROUT EGGS ARRIVE

The Game and Fish Department has just received 373,000 rainbow trout eggs from a commercial hatchery in Washington State. This, the second shipment in the current period, will be divided between the Pecos and Seven Springs Hatcheries.

The season's first shipment of brown trout eggs was scheduled for delivery December 3 from Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts. The full order of $1\frac{1}{4}$ million is expected to arrive this month. They will go to all hatcheries of the Department.

TROUT PLANTING

The Department of Game and Fish last week planted 46,289 rainbow trout. They weighed 4,467 pounds and included 21,601 that measured $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

The catchables were released in the middle and lower Rio Grande, lower Jemez River, Pecos River below Alamogordo Dam and at Boiling Springs, Gila River (Virden Box); Riverside, Storrie, Fenton, Bottomless and Swan lakes; Bear Canyon Reservoir; Del Rio Drain; Glenwood Pond.

The Fish and Wildlife Service planted 8,000 seven-inch rainbows in Acomita Reservoir, 7,500 rainbow fingerlings in Nutria Reservoir, and 44,000 fingerling channel catfish in the San Juan River.

HUNTER CASUALTIES UP

Injury and death from gun-caused hunting accidents so far this year have exceeded all of the 1961 casualties known to the Department of Game and Fish.

As of November 30, eight deaths and 38 non-fatal injuries were known to the Department. With another month to go, this year's casualties will no doubt top 50.

In 1961 there were six deaths and 35 non-fatal gun injuries among hunters.

More than half the cases this year are known to have been self-inflicted injuries, including three of the fatalities. Twenty-one of the casualties occurred among rabbit hunters, and this figure too included three of the deaths. Sixteen victims were youngsters under 18 years of age, and this included two of the deaths. Shooters under 18 years numbered an even dozen.

The greatest single cause of accident involved a loaded firearm in a vehicle. There were eight such cases, including two of the deaths.

Director Thompson repeats his plea for gun-safety instruction by sportsmen's organizations. He also points out that the greatest danger is not in big-game hunting. In addition to the 21 rabbit-hunting accidents, there were seven accidents among hunters of other small non-game species. Here were 28 accidents in situations entirely outside the control of the Department of Game and Fish. This is considerably more than half of the total 46 casualties.

Four casualties occurred in the course of upland bird hunting, which, like big-game hunting, does come within the jurisdiction of the Department. Big game, specifically deer, was the species hunted in only 10 cases.