

will protect the black bass during the spawning season, and, it is to be hoped, will increase the supply.

PURSE NETS

While purse and buck nets were not entirely eliminated in our Bay waters, there were changes made in the present law that will go far toward curtailing the operation of these nets. The recodification of the fish laws provided that the season on purse and buck net fishing begins July 15th instead of June 15th and it also prohibits the use of any such nets in any of the tributaries of the Bay.

FISH HATCHERY WORK

The Department, with the funds acquired from the Anglers' License Law, has been enabled to increase its hatchery facilities for fresh water game fish. This law requiring all anglers, whether residents or non-residents, to have a license to fish, has brought in considerable revenue. The Lewistown Hatchery has been enlarged to take care of a million trout a year. The purchase of Fairlee Mill Pond in Kent County, where a dam has been erected by the Department and a large lake for the propagation of large mouth bass thereby created, together with the further development of the trout station at Bear Creek in Garrett County, will assure an ample supply of game fish for stocking the fresh water streams of the State. The Department also rents Cushwa Springs in Washington County, where brook and brown trout are transferred from the Lewistown hatchery and are reared to legal size before liberating. The Department, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania, is stocking Conowingo Pool. Twenty-eight million yellow perch fry were placed there this spring by the Department, as well as a number of bass. This work is paid for by the Susquehanna Power Company to each State in lieu of useless fish ways which were not practicable for lifting fish 100 feet from the Susquehanna to the pool.

The Department endeavors each spring to increase the output of its commercial hatcheries. The season of 1930 was not, however, so successful as the preceding year, although a very good showing was made. More yellow perch eggs were taken at the Severn River than ever before, but owing to a period of exceedingly warm weather which occurred in February, the eggs were improperly fertilized and a great loss resulted. The yellow perch hatch for the State, however, totalled 661,440,000 fry which were distributed widely in the rivers and creeks. There was a considerable increase in the white perch output this season, but nearly a 50% decrease in shad. This was attributed to the very light run of shad in Maryland waters during the spring of 1930; advance reports from the Government's station located on Potomac River indicating a similar decrease.

With the regulation of the net system in Maryland, the Department feels that the migratory fish will be on the increase.

OYSTERS

Very little oyster legislation was passed at the General Assembly of 1929. The principal measure was Joint Resolution No. 12, providing for the Governor to commission the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland to meet with the representatives of Virginia for the purpose of resurveying oyster bars of the Potomac River and recommend to the Legislature of each State such measures as said representatives may deem advisable for the restoration of the oyster bars.

GAME

The State Game Division enforces all game and fresh water fish laws and its receipts through the sale of hunting licenses are credited to the