

and fish for the sportsmen of our State. Our Conservation Commission, in devoting its attention to matters affecting the commercial fisheries, has already demonstrated its ability to improve conditions, and is launched on a program guaranteeing further improvements in its all-important sphere. Through a cooperative agreement with the State Forestry Department, the Game and Fish Commission has been able to establish, on State-owned forest property, nine wild life inviolate sanctuaries, or game refuges, each of which will be properly enclosed, and posted thoroughly against trespassing and hunting. Thus the wild-life in these refuges will have an opportunity to propagate, free of molestation, without interfering with any hunting privileges on surrounding lands. As a matter of fact, the overflow from the refuges will serve to supply additional game for the surrounding neighborhood.

Of the nine wild-life refuges, four are in Worcester County, covering a total of 1,400 acres, while five are in Garrett County with approximately the same acreage.

In Washington County, the Commission, through the cooperation of the United States Biological Survey, has purchased a 1,200 acre tract of land, to be known as "Indian Spring Wild-Life Restoration Project." Under the Federal Statute, the National Government pays 75% of the costs and improvements, and the Commission, the other 25%.

Through the cooperation of Dr. Thomas B. Symons, Director of the Extension Service at the University of Maryland, advisory councils are being formed in every County to work with the State Game and Inland Fish Commission. These Councils will be composed of leading citizens representing the Farm Bureau and State Grange, sportsmen and other interested groups. This is a definite advance because it will bring about cooperation from the farmers, whose cooperation is definitely needed in developing our State wild-life restoration projects.

During 1939, the State Game Commission has distributed 25,000 pieces of game in the covers of Maryland for propagation purposes, the great majority of which were raised in State-owned propagation plants.

I enumerate these completed projects and plans to indicate that Maryland has taken notice of the limitless possibilities inherent in our natural resources. Believing that a statement of facts will afford an understanding of the scope of the State's undertakings, as well as of the proposals for further extensions, I invite attention to additional well-considered plans.

The Fish and Game Division has in process or is planning, extensive improvements to our fish hatcheries and nurseries, whereby we can raise more fish at these stations. Also, through the cooperation of the National Youth Administration, the Division has a project underway in Washington County on the old C&O canal, where the removal of brush and debris from the waters will afford an excellent rearing area for game fish, especially black bass and crappie.

With regard to wild fowl, you all know as well as I, that Maryland, due to the great Chesapeake Bay country, is one of the great gathering places for wild fowl in these United States. There are more wild geese and wild ducks concentrated on the Chesapeake Bay and tributary waters than on any other one area on the east coast. By Chapter 723, Act of 1939, Maryland joined hands with the Federal Government in a wild water-fowl restoration program by designating an area on the Susquehanna Flats, in the head of the Chesapeake Bay, as a wild water-fowl sanctuary. The President of the United States has