



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1940.

1940 BASS FISHING SEASON IS ON

Except in two spots--tidewater Maryland and Lake George, N. Y.--the 1940 black bass fishing season is on in both the United States and Canada, the Fish and Wildlife Service today reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. The season starts August 1 in these two waters (and on varying dates in a few other local waters), but for the rest, July 1 rang the bell and the bass is fair prey. And, from reports already received by the Service, the season should be a good one from the angler's viewpoint, for fish are reported as "reasonably plentiful" in most well known bass waters, and these "now in good condition" for successful fishing.

The object, of course, in providing closed seasons on these or any other game fish, is to permit them to spawn undisturbed. About the first day of July has been considered a pretty safe date in most waters to allow fishing which would not interfere with the family affairs of the bass.

The date is apparently popular with many states, for the following open on that date: Connecticut, Idaho, Maryland (above tidewater), Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York (with the exception mentioned, and also on the St. Lawrence river which opened June 15), Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Wyoming. Many other

states open their bass seasons very close to that date: Michigan and Delaware, for example, on June 25; Maine, June 21; Rhode Island and Wisconsin, June 20; and West Virginia, June 29.

Black bass are influenced in their spawning operations by the temperature of the water. In the south, where the water warms earlier and spawning begins at an earlier date, the tendency is to open the fishing seasons earlier: for example, in Texas, May 1; Florida, May 20; and Georgia, June 1. The states of Louisiana, Oklahoma, and South Carolina have no closed season on black bass.

Thus, nearly all waters in North America are now open and calling to the Black Bass angler.

State Fish and Game authorities should be consulted relative to local seasons, and also for daily and size limits and licenses. Many state authorities have been granted power by their legislatures to make changes in their fishing laws by regulation. The Fish and Wildlife Service advises that it will furnish what information it has on the fishing laws and general angling matters, but there may be changes in the laws by regulation which have not been brought to its notice. The State authorities are also in position to furnish information on how and where to fish.

#