



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release April 15, 1982

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NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Steel Shot Changes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing changes in the zones where non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl hunting in the States of Maine, Massachusetts, Indiana, and Nebraska.

The proposal, based on requests from the wildlife conservation agencies of each of the four States, would remove the non-toxic shot restriction entirely from Maine and limit it to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge and Plum Island areas of Massachusetts. Additional non-toxic shot zones are being proposed for Nebraska and minor modifications are requested for existing zones in Indiana.

Spent lead pellets, when ingested by migratory waterfowl, can have a toxic effect. Steel shot does not have this effect and is the only type of non-toxic shot currently available. With the approval of individual State conservation departments, the Fish and Wildlife Service annually enforces the use of non-toxic shot in specified zones as part of the annual Federal waterfowl hunting regulations. Last year's steel shot regulations were established as basic rules that remain in effect from year to year, subject to change as needed.

The proposed changes to the existing non-toxic shot restrictions were published in the April 12, 1982, Federal Register. Comments on the proposal will be accepted until May 17, 1982, and should be sent to the Director (MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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Waterbird Symposium. Waterfowl biologists and experts on other species of waterbirds will meet for a two-day symposium on "Research on Breeding Waterfowl" as part of the International Waterfowl Research Bureau's first conference to be held in the Western Hemisphere.

The symposium, part of a longer annual meeting scheduled for May 23-29 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is designed to bring together some of the world's leading experts on waterfowl research and conservation. The bureau is an organization founded in 1954 to stimulate international cooperation on research involving ducks and geese and other bird species that migrate between different countries. Its membership is made up of government natural resource agencies throughout the world. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service are jointly sponsoring the upcoming symposium.

Additional information is available from Dr. John P. Rogers, chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Migratory Bird Management at (202) 254-3207. Those people interested in attending should call for information as soon as possible.

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Urban Fishing. With the general rebound in the quality of the Nation's waterways in the past decade, fish are once again appearing naturally or are being stocked in lakes and streams from Seattle to St. Pete. Amateur angling is once again a part of the urban scene.

Planning for Urban Fishing and Waterfront Recreation takes a look at how fish are faring in the Big City and provides a coast-to-coast glimpse at the local success stories that State and Federal fishery agencies, cities, private industry, and volunteer groups have achieved in restoring fish to the Nation's depleted urban waters. This recent Interior Department publication also offers tips to landowners and developers who recognize the economic value of healthy, sustainable fisheries. It is designed as a companion volume to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's earlier guide, Planning for Wildlife in Cities and Suburbs.

The 108-page Planning for Urban Fishing and Waterfront Recreation is available for \$5.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (specify stock # 024-010-00600-5).

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