

A large number of anglers visited the district and there was again a marked increase in the number of licences issued as compared with the previous season.

Numbers of excellent-conditioned fish were taken, their average weights being higher than for last season, as will be evident from the following records of fish from the Rotorua area:—

Weight. lb.			Numbers of Fish recorded.	Weight lb.			Numbers of Fish recorded.
10	..	..	.. 19	15	..	..	.. 6
11	..	..	.. 23	17½	..	..	.. 5
12	..	..	.. 9	19½	..	..	.. 1
13	..	..	.. 5				

(2) Fisheries Conservation

(a) *Hatchery Operations.*—Ova were recovered and laid down in the two hatcheries for “eyeing” or complete incubation as follows:—

No. 1 (Ngongotaha) Hatchery (Rotorua area) ..	..	4,269,500
No. 2 (Tongariro) Hatchery (Taupo area) ..	..	6,587,000

Of the above ova, 4,440,000 were sold to acclimatization societies and 2,865,000 were despatched to the Department’s Southern Lakes District.

(b) *Restocking of Waters.*—Fry were liberated in the district as under:—

Waters.				Hatchery.	Rainbow.	Brown.	Totals.
Rotorua area	..	..	..	No. 1	1,925,000	325,000	2,250,000
Taupo area	..	..	..	No. 2	1,805,000	40,000	1,845,000
Totals	..	..	..	..	3,730,000	365,000	4,095,000

(c) *Trout-fishing.*—There was a marked increase of smelt (*Retropina lacustris*) in most of the lakes throughout the district, and particularly in the Western Bay region of Lake Taupo.

(d) *Anti-poaching Measures.*—It was realized that out-of-season taking of spawning fish in the district had assumed such proportions as to prove a very serious threat to the successful operation of the fisheries in the district owing to loss to anglers of many hundreds of mature fish. In a determined attempt to stamp out these illegalities a vigorous campaign was carried out, the ranging staff being considerably augmented during the winter. As a result of these steps, large numbers of persons committing breaches of the Fishing Regulations were prosecuted, and 39 fines, amounting to a total of £237 10s., were imposed in addition to Court costs. The large number of successful prosecutions and the penalties inflicted should have a markedly deterrent effect on these illegal practices.

(e) *Black Shag Control.*—The following black shags were destroyed:—

(i) Under bounty paid by Department ..	..	426
(ii) Destroyed by departmental officers ..	..	129

(3) The Shooting Season

The sum of £1,878 was received from the issue of 1,257 game-shooting licences.