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Outdoor Life



by Al Bennett

Is cheating a general way of life among a large number of the nation's population, including the so-called sportsmen?

The recent Connecticut computer selection of license applicants for the State's second controlled shotgun deer season would indicate that the answer is "Yes" when it comes to the sportsmen.



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Of the more than 16,000 license applications received, at least 8,000 were duplications.

That means that 8,000 would-be deer hunters thought they could beat the system by submitting two or more applications for a permit.

Detection programs, however, had been devised to eliminate multiple submissions and thus there was no unfair advantage over applicants filing a single form, according to officials.

Some observers look at it differently.

Those found to have filed multiple applications should have been disqualified immediately, they believe.

After the close of the 1975 deer season, a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) suggested to State officials that they adopt a regulation or have a law passed to deal with these cheats.

The suggestion was rejected as not needed.

[illegible] meeting, the Council took up the subject and plans to find out from DEP Commissioner Joseph N. Gill what can be done.

Dr. George L. Gunther, a Republican state senator from Stratford, was another person urging that the DEP do something about the duplications last year.

When learning of the same situation this year, Senator Gunther said: "I thought they were going to do something by regulation in 1975.

"Apparently they haven't so I intend to introduce a bill in the General Assembly making it mandatory that anyone submitting more than one application will be disqualified automatically," he said.

Because of the multiple applications, computer problems and other troubles, the selection of license holders for the muzzle-loader season, opening Nov. 25, and the shotgun season, opening Dec. 8, was not completed until Oct. 5. It originally had been scheduled to be finished Sept. 24.

The successful applicants were to be notified by mail and the deadline for returning the necessary fees was extended to Oct. 20.

The computer selected 3,238 people for shotgun licenses on State-owned land, 1,111 more than the number issued in 1975.

A total of 1,526 muzzleloaders was selected on Oct. 5 but 300 more were to be named after a check on where they desired to hunt.

REPORT: The task of enforcing laws protecting wildlife becomes a bigger undertaking yearly, according to nationwide data submitted at a meeting of the Western Association of State Fish and Game Commissioners.

Reporting on the session, the Wildlife Management Institute says that conservation officers made up more than 30 per cent of the people employed by state fish and wildlife agencies and they accounted for almost 28 per cent of the operating budgets in 1975.

That amounts to more than 6,500 conservation officers and an expenditure of more than $125 million.

At a last check, Connecticut had 35 conservation officers, 11 short of the authorized number.

The number of officers has grown by 634 in the past four years while the budgets have soared by $50 million during that period.

AWARD: The Stanley Works of New Britain, an international tool and hardware manufacturer formerly located in Bridgeport, has been awarded the highest outdoor recreation honor given by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The company received the Outdoor Recreation Achievement Award for donating 160 acres of scenic, environmentally important land to The Nature Conservancy and the State of Connecticut.

The donation involves three separate land parcels along the Housatonic River. Fifteen acres were given to the State to expand the grounds of the Sloane-Stanley Museum in Kent, which has a priceless collection of early American tools and implements. The second parcel, 132 acres known as the St. John Ledges, enlarges The Conservancy's holdings with superb views for hikers crossing the Ledges on the Appalachian Trail. Finally, 23 acres for Kent Falls park is being donated to The Conservancy which will transfer the property to the State.

The Stanley Works also has been credited with a major assist in the construction of a fishway at the Rainbow Dam on the Farmington river.

CHANGE: The International Game Fish association is going metric.

Beginning in 1977, the association will incorporate a dual identification system for world record line class categories which will include both metric and U.S. customary designations.

Despite the problems that apparently will face fishermen and the manufacturers of fishing lines and equipment, the association says the change is necessary.

PCBs: Oct. 31, 1977 has been set by the Monsanto Industrial Chemical company of St. Louis as the target date for terminating its production and distribution of the controversial PCB fluids.

Monsanto is the only domestic manufacturer of PCBs, standing for polychlorinated biphenyl dielectric insulating fluids, a staple, fire-insulating substance used widely in transformers and capacitors.

PCBs have contaminated rivers and fish, including those in Black Rock harbor in Bridgeport, and have caused cancer in animals.

Contamination will continue to be a problem because of the millions of PCBs already in water bodies, earth, air, and in wildlife and human tissue.

It was indicated here five months ago that Monsanto would terminate its production.

Monsanto says it could have halted the output before the target date but that makers of electric transformers and capacitors had said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

In other words, what's another year of contamination?

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WINNERS: Six Connecticut fishermen participated in the recent Northern Bass Anglers finals at the Thousand Islands in Alexandria Bay, N.Y.

Doug Eriques of New Milford took fourth place with 11 bass weighing 23 pounds, one ounce.

Other Nutmeg State contestants were: Pete Mullolls of Danbury, tenth place; Rich Zaleski of Stevenson, 16th; Bill Klimanowski of Thomaston, 41st; Bill Butkus of Waterbury, 48th, and Roland Ledoux of Meriden, 50th.

SEASON: Connecticut's first split archery deer hunting season opens next Saturday and continues through Nov. 26 with one whitetail of either sex as the legal take. The second period runs Dec. 23 through Jan. 8.

ACTION: Connecticut's acquisition of Smith's Point on the Housatonic river in Milford in a land swap is still being pushed.

Latest action was a letter by the Citizens' Advisory Council to the DEP asking why that agency is showing no interest in the proposal.

At the Council's recent session, Fairfield Police Capt. Pat Carroll was reelected chairman and John Hubbard was renamed vice chairman. Pete Robinson of Fairfield was elected secretary.

WHAT'S FISHIN'? Blackfish and small flats were the most prevalent catches in Bridgeport area shore waters last week.

A few school stripers were taken at Smith's Point on the Housatonic river in Stratford and at Fayerweather Island and St. Mary's. Larry Kabat of Bridgeport hooked a 36-pounder on a plug at Bedford's Point, and Bill Carroll of Fairfield benched three schoolies at the same location.

Bill Stiddo, of Fairfield, hooked an 18-pound striper on a bunker at Walker's Point.

Only an occasional snapper blue 10-inches taken at the usual locations, while the big blues have hit—of course—in the Housatonic river, Penfield reef, in Southport harbor, and the mouth of the Saugatuck river. Penfield apparently has been the best spot.

Best blackfishing has taken place at the end of the Housatonic breakwater, the Pleasure beach breakwater and Penfield.

A few porgies also have been taken by bottom fishermen.

Al Kratky and Monsignor George B. Curtiss of Fairfield boated 13 blues, up to 14 pounds, three miles off Southport. Harold Winer, president of Winer Motors, Stratford, made a good catch of blues at Middleground Light.

RECALL: The Winchester Group of the Olin corporation in New Haven has announced that it is recalling one day's production of 22-caliber long rifle ammunition because excessive pressure, in some cartridges make them potentially hazardous to shoot.

The recall is for ammo sold under the brand name Wildcat and identified with code number LFEPY. The number is stamped on the inside tuck flap of each 50-round box and on the upper right corner of the end panel of 5,000-round cases.

Those who purchased such ammo should return it to a dealer for replacement.

LONER: Harvey Gladstein may win the five trophies offered in the fishing contest of the Bridgeport Chapter 10, Connecticut Salt Water Fly Rodders association.

He's the only entrant.

TOURNEY: Thirty mile an hour winds and temperatures in the 40s greeted 60 anglers last Sunday at the 7 a.m. start of the Connecticut BASS Federation's fall team fishing tournament at East Twin lake in Salisbury.

"We had trouble holding even with the anchor out!" said Manchester Basemaster's Ron Pinto who finished out of the money. Others said "you just couldn't feel your lure, the wind was too strong."

The first three teams and individual big fish took home trophies and 85 per cent of the $600.00 gate. Tackle prizes were awarded down to tenth place teams. All profits will be sent to the "Bass Research Foundation," a Starkville, Mississippi-based charity foundation, for the study of the black bass.

During the two-day event, 36 fish weighing 79 pounds, nine ounces were caught. Fifty-four of the fish were released alive.

NOTE: The Connecticut Sportsmen's Alliance has endorsed Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., for reelection.

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