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The 20th Biennial Report was published as an appendix to the 21st Biennial Report. Here, I have removed the 21st report and only included the appendix that contains the (very short) 20th Biennial Report.

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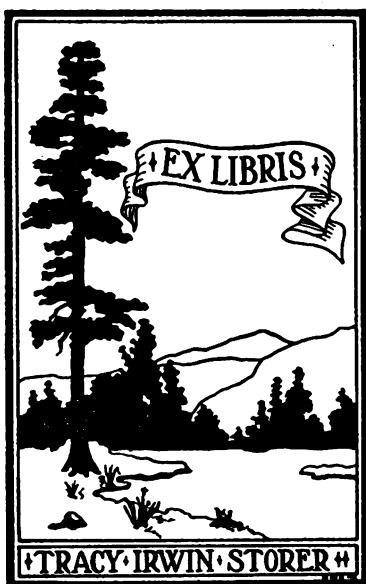


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BOARD OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

FOR THE YEARS 1909-1910

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APPENDIX.

TWENTY-FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSION.

TWENTIETH BIENNIAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF FISH COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE YEARS 1907-1908.

To the Hon. JAMES N. GILLET, Governor State of California.

SIR: We have the honor to submit for your consideration, the following preliminary report as a brief record of the work and expenditures of this Commission covering the biennial period of the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth fiscal years. Also the recommendations with respect to the changes in the fish and game laws of this State based upon our experience and close study of these important subjects, which we deem advisable.

For the purpose of comparison, we are submitting the financial statement for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh fiscal years to show the increase, both in resources and expenditures, also the decided increase in the number of arrests and total amount paid in fines over any other biennial period in the history of this Commission. This is due to the splendid results that have followed the establishment of a hunting license law, which in our opinion is the most popular law ever placed on our statute books. The returns on hunting licenses exceeded about four times the estimated number of the most sanguine.

Our full biennial report, which is now under compilation, will show more in detail the record of work performed at our different hatchery stations and other general work of the Commission.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The resources and expenditures of this Commission have been as follows for the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh fiscal years, ending June 30, 1906:

FIFTY-SIXTH FISCAL YEAR.

	Resources.	Disbursements.
Appropriation for support and maintenance of State hatcheries.....	\$12,500 00	\$12,500 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of fish.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of game.....	7,500 00	7,500 00
<i>Steelhead Propagation Fund—</i>		
Balance on hand July 1, 1904.....	625 33	
Drawn from fund during year.....		489 62
Balance on hand June 30, 1905.....		135 71
<i>Game Preservation Fund—</i>		
Balance on hand July 1, 1904.....	1,916 86	
Receipts from fines during the year.....	4,019 15	
Amounts drawn during year.....		4,620 55
Balance on hand July 30, 1905.....		1,315 46
<i>Fish Commission Fund—</i>		
Balance on hand July 1, 1904.....	7,325 52	
Receipts from licenses and fines.....	10,026 35	
Amount drawn from fund during year.....		12,377 57
Balance on hand June 30, 1905.....		4,974 30
Totals	\$53,913 21	\$53,913 21

	Resources.	Disbursements.
Appropriation for support and maintenance of State hatcheries.....	\$12,500 00	\$12,500 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of game.....	12,500 00	12,500 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of fish.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
<i>Steelhead Propagation Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1905.....	135 71	
Drawn from fund during year.....		135 71
<i>Game Preservation Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1905.....	1,315 46	
Receipts from fines during the year.....	5,295 89	
Amount drawn during year.....		4,888 80
Balance on hand June 30, 1906.....		1,722 55
<i>Fish Commission Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1905.....	4,974 30	
Receipts from licenses and fines.....	10,340 35	
Amount drawn from fund during year.....		10,255 54
Balance on hand June 30, 1906.....		5,059 11
Totals	\$57,061 71	\$57,061 71

Resources and expenditures of this Commission for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth fiscal years, ending June 30, 1908, were as follows:

FIFTY-EIGHTH FISCAL YEAR.

	Resources.	Disbursements.
Appropriation for support and maintenance of State hatcheries.....	\$20,000 00	\$20,000 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of game.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of fish.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
<i>Game Preservation Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1906.....	1,722 55	
Receipts during the year from fines.....	3,506 93	
Amount drawn during the year.....		3,532 31
Balance on hand June 30, 1907.....		1,697 17
<i>Fish Commission Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1906.....	5,059 11	
Receipts from fisherman's licenses.....	5,930 00	
Receipts from fines.....	4,039 23	
Amount drawn during the year.....		10,040 45
Balance on hand June 30, 1907.....		4,987 89
Totals	\$60,257 82	\$60,257 82

FIFTY-NINTH FISCAL YEAR.

Appropriation for support and maintenance of State hatcheries.....	\$20,000 00	\$20,000 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of game.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
Appropriation for restoration and preservation of fish.....	10,000 00	10,000 00
<i>Game Preservation Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1907.....	1,697 17	
Receipts during the year—		
From fines.....	87,425 93	
From hunting licenses.....	116,579 11	
From sale of deer hides.....	39 15	
Amount drawn during year.....		46,641 70
Bounty on 257 California lions, October 15, 1907, to June 30, 1908.....		5,740 00
Balance on hand June 30, 1908.....		73,359 66
<i>Fish Commission Fund</i> —		
Balance on hand July 1, 1907.....	4,987 89	
Receipts from fisherman's licenses.....	3,784 10	
Receipts from fines.....	8,683 69	
Amount drawn during year.....		11,064 64
Balance on hand June 30, 1908.....		6,391 04
<i>Fund for Fish Distribution Car</i> —		
Appropriation.....	7,500 00	
Amount drawn during year.....		5,458 76
Balance on hand June 30, 1908.....		2,041 24
<i>Fund for Fish Repository in Tuolumne County</i> —		
Appropriation.....	500 00	
Amount drawn during year.....		299 95
Balance on hand June 30, 1908.....		200 05
Totals	\$191,197 04	\$191,197 04

The following comparative table is interesting, showing the increase in the number of arrests from year to year and the amount of fines imposed during each two years for the past twelve years:

Biennial period.	Violation of deer law.		Violation of quail law.		Violation of duck law.		Violation of salmon law.		Violation of striped bass law.		Illegally used nets seized and confiscated.	Total fines from all sources.
	No. of arrests.	Fines.	No. of arrests.	Fines.	No. of arrests.	Fines.	No. of arrests.	Fines.	No. of arrests.	Fines.		
1897-1898...	11	\$100	7	\$40	14	\$220	19	\$200	8	\$100	30	\$3,125 00
1899-1900...	37	735	3	350	6	220	18	900	47	805	23	5,779 00
1901-1902...	75	1,600	97	1,775	30	545	23	2,400	26	185	28	9,497 00
1903-1904...	135	2,035	109	2,344	30	375	15	1,040	69	1,340	47	11,738 00
1905-1906...	172	4,355	106	2,270	75	1,530	39	3,350	103	4,120	59	23,154 90
1907-1908...	196	5,230	102	2,337	63	1,124	27	2,900	153	5,401	85	30,122 25

We respectfully recommend the following amendments to the game laws:

Amend section 626 by making the open season for valley quail, rail, snipe, curlew, ibis, plover, or other shore birds to commence with the duck law on October 1st instead of October 15th, and close the season for ducks and these other birds on February 1st instead of February 15th, except the Wilson snipe.

We also recommend that a close season of two years be established on mountain quail and grouse or sage hen.

Amend section 626c by adding to the list of game birds protected at all times, the wild turkey, which is now being imported into this State.

Amend section 626d by reducing the bag limit on ducks from thirty-five to twenty-five, also to include black sea brant and to reduce the bag limit of quail, doves, snipe, curlew, ibis, plover, rail, or other shore birds from twenty-five to twenty.

We would also recommend that a law be enacted to prohibit the use of any trained animals or live blind to use as a means of approach for the purpose of killing any wild ducks or other waterfowl.

We also recommend the present hunting license be amended to include fishing or angling, the amount to remain the same, and to be used for both, or either, hunting or fishing, and the money derived from such hunting license sales be paid into one fund to be known as the fish and game preservation fund, into which fund the unexpended balances remaining in the fish commission fund and game preservation fund, respectively, shall be merged.

We recommend the following amendments to the fish laws:

Amend section 628, relating to crabs, by raising the present close season September and October, and establishing in lieu thereof a close season of four months beginning November 1st and ending February 28th. And to establish a close season for at least two years on lobster or crawfish.

Amend section 628a, relating to striped bass, by establishing a close season of six weeks from the 1st day of May to the 15th day of June, during which time (the principal spawning season of these fish) their capture by nets and seines shall be prohibited.

Amend section 632½, referring to steelhead trout, by removing the close season that existed during the months of September and October, and to open the season for the capture of steelhead trout in all waters of the State April 1st, and to extend to February 1st the following year.

Amend section 634 by reducing the mesh of net at which salmon can be taken from 7½ to 6½ inches, and reduce the mesh of net by which striped bass and shad can be taken to 5½ inches.

Amend section 636 by striking out the word "set" and substituting the word "use."

Amend the act of 1887, March 21st, referring to the vocation of fishing by reducing the amount of license fee to a citizen of the United States from \$5.00 to \$2.50 and raising the fee to any person not a citizen of the United States to \$10.

We append herewith an additional statement of the condition of the game preservation fund, showing the amount remaining in this fund on February 1, 1909, from the sale of hunting licenses and fines collected, together with our estimate of expenses for game preservation to the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1909.

Amount in license fund February 1, 1909.....	\$106,276 00
Amount received for fines since July 1, 1908.....	4,161 00
	\$110,437 00
Estimate of expenses of the Commission for game preservation for the next five months:	
Salary and expenses of 62 deputies and assistants, \$7,560 per month	\$37,800 00
For rewards in conviction cases paid outside deputies, monthly average \$450	2,250 00
Expenses of Game Farm, monthly average \$300.....	1,500 00
Incidentals, including office rent, expressage, license tags, telephone, and telegraph, fuel for launches, cost of prosecutions in justice and superior courts, postage, stationery, etc., monthly average \$660.....	3,300 00
Repair and maintenance of car.....	500 00
Bounty on lions per month, \$600.....	3,000 00
Hungarian partridges and pheasants (contracted for).....	3,000 00
Trapping and distributing quail and procuring and importing wild turkeys.....	4,000 00
Proposed expenditures for Hungarian partridges.....	5,000 00
	60,350 00
Balance	
	\$50,087 00

N. B.—It should be borne in mind that it will be four months after the end of the present fiscal year, during which time no license money will be available and the average monthly expense of about \$12,000—or,

say, \$48,000—must be provided for from our surplus. Also payment for cottage at Game Farm, amounting to \$1,750, now being built under contract.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE STONE,
F. W. VAN SICKLEN,
M. J. CONNELL,
Board of Fish Commissioners.

