Hunters’ Tree Stands Recalled by Primal Vantage Due to Fall Hazard

Although deer hunting is now histo-
ry for the 2014-2015 season, any hunters who have purchased the Ameristep Hyde Clif hanger can be a great place for fish to find habitat pro-
tecting them from predators. It did not take long, however, for commercial anglers to recognize how productive they can be to use for fish and they placed their traps all over these reefs.

Trying to remove these traps has been a long and difficult process, stretch-
ing roughly over 10 years. While groups like the NJOA NJ Outdoors Alliance and Jersey Coast Anglers Association have lobbied in Trenton on this issue (myself testifying on behalf of the JCA, at Assem- blyman Nelson Albano’s Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee on March 8, 2012), we have been stymied by commercial interests in trying to remove these traps though the legislative process.

While the NJOA and the JCA were able to persuade a majority of Senators and Assem- blymembers to support the removal of these traps, Assembly Speakers (Roberts and Nelson) would not post the bills in the Assembly for a vote. (If a bill is not posted, it cannot become law.)

We were told by various legislators that in order to have these traps removed we would have to accept some type of compromise solution to this issue, by accepting the two reefs to be accessible to commercial trappers, or otherwise any solution to remove the traps would not be legislatively possible. I have heard many anglers say to me at fishing trade shows “what, these traps are not off the reef already?” To resolve this ongoing issue that has continually resisted resolution, a compromise position has been agreed upon.

The compromise solution was announced at the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council meeting on January 8, 2015. This compromise calls for a portion (16% of Carson and 19% of Sandy Hook) of the reefs to be reserved for commercial trappers and the rest of the areas of the two reefs for recreational anglers. As part of this compromise, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection will build a new reef site for recreational anglers only, to end the two reef areas for hook-and-line and spear fishing (see sidebar).

The issue of removing fixed gear on reefs located in federal waters off the NJ of New Jersey’s coast continues to be pursued by NJMFA and other organizations. DEP Commissioner Martin has stated that the Christie Administration will petition the federal government to remove reefs of this nature from the near future.

Due to Fall Hazard

Primal Vantage has received six reports of the tree stand’s aluminum platform breaking. No injuries have been reported.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled product and con- tact Primal Vantage for a full refund. To do so, contact Primal Vantage toll-free at 866-972-6168 between 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Monday through Friday, or at www.primavalent.com and click on “For Hyde Recall Click Here” on the homepage or go to the Customer Service tab for more information.

Raintbows Ready for Spring

Some 570,000 healthy and robust rainbow trout will be stocked in waters across New Jersey for the spring trout sea- son. As many as 130,000 of these feisty fish will be stocked by the time the season kicks off on April 4.

“In New Jersey, the spring trout sea- son is a tradition shared by generations of anglers who take this opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and some of the finest fishing on the East Coast,” said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin. “The numbers of trout released this spring will rival past produc- tion numbers. Now is a great time to get your fishing license and trout stamp and take part once again in this wonderful trad- ition.”

In the coming months, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be stocking only rainbow trout, a hearty species that is resistant to furunculosis, a disease that impacted brown and brook trout reared at the Division’s Pequest Trout Hatchery in Warren County.

In consultation with other states that have had to deal with similar issues result- ing from this common cold water fish dis- ease, the DFW has taken aggressive steps to eliminate the disease from the hatchery. Raceways used to raise the fish have been fully disinfected and increased measures have been taken to deter birds, which are suspected of having transmitted the dis- ease from the wild to the hatchery. Furunculosis cannot be transmitted to peo- ple.

All designated trout waters will be stocked this spring. Rainbow trout will be the only species raised at the hatchery for between 2014 and 2015. This change in production is that we will be stocking solely rain- bow trout, a much heartier, disease-resist- ant species which has not been exposed to the bacteria that causes furunculosis.”

“I want to thank all anglers who pur- chase fishing licenses and trout stamps,” added Chanda. “By purchasing a license, anglers provide funding for much more than stocking and maintaining fish. These purchases provide funding for criti- cal research and conservation efforts.”

A fishing license and a trout stamp are required to fish for trout for anyone age 16 and older. Children under 16 and New Jersey residents 70 years and older can fish for free.
## Letters to the Editor

may be sent by U.S. Mail (to 28 Hemlock Road, Livingston, NJ 07039), or email (olshapiroinnj@gmail.com). Please include your town of residence, or club or organization affiliation (if any).
AT THE OUTSET:

Try Something New

As we begin to wind down the winter and look towards spring, we are getting good-bye to a number of things besides the snow, ice, shoveling, and the like. We’re also saying good-bye to the outdoors shows season.

As I mentioned in a recent column, I’ve been attending these outdoors shows for some decades now, sometimes by myself, sometimes with a friend or two, sometimes with one or more family members, and I am willing to admit something to you.

I do not attend all of them with near the same frequency as I used to, and there’s a simple reason for that. There’s a lot of similarity in the shows from one year to the next, and although it’s great to indulge my ongoing yen for all (or at least most) things outdoors, and see some familiar faces on a regular basis, the repetitive-ness sometimes seems a bit, well, repetitive.

This year, however, I decided to expand this horizon a bit. The missus and I spent a day in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania at the Great American Outdoor Show. Lured by promises of scope (it’s touted as the “world’s largest indoor gun show”) and I found good seats at the contest’s noon the day we were there, and Debby and I found great seats at the contest’s arena a few minutes before 12.00. We settled in to wait for the competition to begin.

As an aside, though, there was one large disappointment. We specifically planned things so that we could attend the Owl and Turkey Calling competitions. Turkey hunting is near and dear to my heart, plus an old friend of mine has been successful at this competition in past years and I was hoping to see him in action. This competition was scheduled to begin at noon the day we were there, and Debby and I found great seats at the contest’s arena a few minutes before 12.00. We settled in to wait for the competition to begin, with keen anticipation. And we could feel comparable anticipation from most of the spectators that were gathering, as we watched a number of the contestants getting themselves ready.

By 12:15, no activity yet; there was some grumbling going on in the observers’ seats. By 12:25, a significant number of those seats had emptied. And by 12:35, with yet no activity transpiring, our seats had become empty as well. I still don’t know if that competition ever actually proceeded or not.

Well, the one glitch aside, the show was truly memorable, and delivered rather well on (almost) everything it had promised.

We were glad we’d made the effort to attend. It was something new for us, and well worth it. Are there any new bass waters you’ve been meaning to get to, or a new turkey calling technique you’ve been wanting to try? Try something new to enhance your outdoors experience this spring.

Oliver Shapiro, Editor

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PLEASE RE-ELECT NRA BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Bach

Robert Viden

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Oliver,

I am writing to inform you of a program for outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen who enjoy hunting the entire season, who are willing to help address the impact of white tailed deer on our declining forests.

Hunters with no previous hunting violations are encouraged to apply to the Hunterdon Land Trust’s Natural Resource Management Team. The Land Trust, whose mission is to preserve the natural character and natural resources of Hunterdon County, owns preserves that will be available for deer hunting on an annual basis. There will be several additional members for five preserves over 276 (and growing) total acres in Kingwood, Franklin, and Delaware Townships. This program is only recruiting hunters who are willing to hunt antlerless deer on a regular basis in an effort to help rehabilitate our declining forests. In return, HLT provides exclusive hunting at a low hunter density in lands with high deer density. Participants must attend one initial meeting, provide proof of insurance, and report regularly on hunting activities. The 2015-16 membership fee for approved members is $125/person. In addition to the fee, hunters are required to attend two stewardship events on HLT preserves.

For more information, email tom@hunterdonlandtrust.org with “Natural Resource Management Team” as a subject. Please send the following information: Name, email, phone number, NJ Conservation ID number, seasons you participate in (for example: fall bow, muzzleloader, etc.), and number of days hunted last season. I will send some respondents a link with more information including maps of available preserves. Accepted hunters will be assigned a preserve. Please respond by March 29.

Tom Thorsen
Land Steward, Hunterdon Land Trust

See Letters, p. 8

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NEW JERSEY FEDERATED SPORTSMEN NEWS

March 2015

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By Bob Brunisholz

At this year’s annual SHOT (Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade) Show, produced and promoted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and held January 20-23 at the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas, the ever-popular Italian sporting arms company Benelli did something no one anticipated, with its tradition of single-barrel, autoloading lines of sporting arms. It went vertical.

Benelli introduced its first stock barrel, or, for those who are not clay target busters or uplanders, an over-and-under shotgun. But that’s not where the surprises ended.

No O/U on the market today could be called inexpensive or economical. Most range well in excess of $5,000. Benelli’s stock barrel, however, could (at least on a comparative basis) be listed as reasonably inexpensive. (The operative word in the previous sentence is “reasonably.”) Remember, no O/U is inexpensive.

But Benelli wasn’t finished with its surprises, and this surprise was near and dear to my heart. A little notation is needed here to define exactly why this particular feature endeared me to this latest addition in O/U lines.

Many of you already know that the sight of a stock barrel, particularly on long guns, gives me the vapors and makes me break out in hives. I have nothing against the idea of a stock barrel, but love ‘em or hate ‘em, they do serve several purposes, primary of which is maintaining accuracy during all weather conditions, and they are nearly indestructible. That’s just for starters. Ergo, nearly every contemplative entrant into the sporting arms market is equipped with those tough, well-designed, albeit extremely ugly, composite stocks.

None of that has been said about the Benelli. I am all agog at the idea of a stock barrel, and to my eyes, composite stock rates somewhere between repulsive and unsightly, with all the attractive attributes of a three-day-old can of worms left out in the sun. Conversely, well-finished walnut, or, say, birch-eye maple, is – to me at least – a work of art; a thing of nature’s beauty to be admired and valued.

Benelli presents this latest foray into the high-end gun market with a walnut stock. That’s right. Benelli’s stocks are exhibition-grade walnut, but it is still a good, solid, and handsome walnut stock that Benelli rates as AA figure, and God bless their marketing and design personnel, those stocks are checkered Traditionalists like me gotta love ‘em.

At the risk of belaboring my preference for natural wood stocks, allow me to add that two bloggers, while writing about Benelli stocks, said if the gun doesn’t have a composite stock “it’s hard to believe that a manufacturer would use a birch stock.” Another wrote, “When you see an over/under with a walnut stock, you’re not thinking of a ‘modern’ shotgun.” Empty mine.

The composite stock has become such an integral part of contemporary shooting sports that the wood stock is now relegated to the antiquity. Male males! I’ll bet my last box of 20-gauge shotgun loads that “composite” will replace “birch stock,” “Browning,” Kolar, Krieghoff, Guerini and a few other makers. Right now, the overwhelming composite over/unders will be glad to know that their wares are now obsolete because more shooters figure, highly finished wood stocks are far prettier. Nonsense… and ‘nuff said about my feelings.

Additionally, the barrels are manufactured by a system Benelli labels “croo-barrels,” better known to us as cryogenic processing. “Cryo” processing means the barrel is treated with liquid nitrogen, allowing the barrel to cool to nearly 70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Consequently, the barrels do not foul as quickly and are easier to clean.

The barrels are equipped with a weight-reducing carbon fiber rib and join to a high-grade alloy receiver which is a selector switch allowing the shooter to choose with barrel fires first. All barrels accept Benelli’s line of interchangeable choke tubes. The addition of choke tubes to a gun is not a major change, but it is one that not all shooters are happy with. Additionally, the barrels are interchangeable.

Additionally, the 828U buttstock features a patented recoil reduction which Benelli calls its Progressive Comfort System, and the stock is adjustable. There are five drop shims and four cast shims that allow the shooter to adjust his fit in 20 different positions.

Far from your typical box-lock action, the 828U sports an auto Safety, easy-operating lever and steel lock-plate opening system paired with impulse-driven ejectors. And speaking of actions and ejectors, if you have any experience with a new design, you know that one of its bugaboos is fully opening a brand-spanking-new action because the gun has yet to be “broken in,” and is in its future. You have to work at opening it. Failing to open the way you pay the action from cocking and returning the safety mechanism to its safe position.

Not to worry with the 828U. The tension with which the gun breaks is adjustable, thus allowing the shooter to determine how much pressure. Once the tension is set, Benelli says it will not loosen up (break in) over time. If you like your gun to be a bit of a handful, merely set the lever open and let gravity take over from there. With the Benelli, you can get that right from the get-go. Conversely, if you prefer a bit of stiffness but don’t want to wait until the new barreling before your gun is “broken in,” the 828U can be adjusted to that preference also, and according to Benelli, once set, you will like the way it works, you will like it that way, “forever.”

Any product manufacturer, especially firearms, must have enormous faith in its product to include that word.

But now to the meat and potatoes: the action. Framed on an aluminum alloy receiver, the 828U has a steel locking plate that provides a stress-free action rather than the standard heat and forge stresses. The end result is a much smoother bore.

Barrels accept Benelli’s line of barrels,” better known to us as cryogenic processing. “Cryo” processing means the barrel is treated with liquid nitrogen, allowing the barrel to cool to nearly 70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. Consequently, the barrels do not foul as quickly and are easier to clean.

It is a true semi-automatic action: Framed on an aluminum alloy receiver, the 828U has a steel locking plate that provides a stress-free action rather than the standard heat and forge stresses. The end result is a much smoother bore. And what triggers do you think the 828U uses? Frame-mounted, of course.

I would guess, the sporting clay enthusiast) in mind. It is lightweight, tilting the scale at a meaty 6.5 pounds, depending upon barrel and choke as chosen and then combined with a combining a remarkable blend of modermistic style, quality, and technology.

Lastly, no discussion of Benelli’s competition guns generally gravitates towards the O/U, but with rather rare exceptions, working on the inside of an O/U, the Perazzi trap gun comes to mind, with a rel-atively easy-to-go-over trigger. Aside from that exception, most others require a graduate certificate from the Colorado Gunshow School of Trades just to open ‘em up.

The 828U, however, has an easily accessible drop-out trigger assembly and steel, instead of plastic, forked trigger guard. The 828U has a slim, easy-operating opening lever and steel lock-plate opening system paired with impulse-driven ejectors. And speaking of actions and ejectors, if you have any experience with a new design, you know that one of its bugaboos is fully opening a brand- spanking-new action because the gun has yet to be “broken in,” and is in its future. You have to work at opening it. Failing to open the way you pay the action from cocking and returning the safety mechanism to its safe position.

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charges have a huge impact on the sexual-fertility rates of species and other climate factors.

Environmental Factors

Poor Saltwater Recruitment: Environmental Factors

by Tom Fote

Note: this article is reprinted from the Jersey Coast Anglers Association February newsletter.

In the last few issues of the JCAA Newspaper, I have discussed the impact environmental issues have on many species and estuaries. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have developed plans that are designed to rebuild stocks. But the only factors considered in the management are the recre-ational and commercial fisheries.

Here are a few factors that need to be considered in developing these plans. The first is endocrine disruptors. Sewer dis-charges have a huge impact on the sexual and reproductive abilities of many species and estuaries that are the nurseries that many species and estuaries. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have developed plans that are designed to rebuild stocks. But the only factors considered in the management are the recre-ational and commercial fisheries.

Salinity. Salinity is one factor that is hard to remediate. The combination of these two factors has a negative impact on all species that occupy those bodies of water. I remember attending a scientific work- shop on fisheries in 1992. One of the pre-sen tors was Dr. Joe Weiss from Rutgers University. At that time she had just completed her first study that looked at the effect of changes in the level of salinity on mummy chicks or kibills. She found extremal developmental differences between the killies in Newark Bay and the ones in the more pristine water of Little Egg Harbor State Park. Judy’s studies on four other species with the same results. With the exception of bluefish, more of the species studied were species for summer flounder, striped bass and bluefish. These species suffered hand-icaps in their development. The one exception, Judy did not study was the effect of this phenomenon on brown trout.

We know it affected their behavior in nutrition and other areas. We have other studies from Chesapeake Bay, Harriett’s River, and many other bodies of water that show endocrine disruptors are having a negative impact on the sexual development and the ability to reproduce for many species. We look at these studies but they are not con- sidered in developing the management rules. In the last few years we have used the phrase “unaccounted natural mortality.” This was mentioned prominently in the New Bedford Starfish assessment, that the only way ASMCF could deal with the fact that they had put in place all the appropri-ate management measures with the expected growth in the stocks. This problem also became a major issue in lobster recruitment in stocks where there is huge spawning stock biomass. The questions I answer so many times is “are all the dis-ruptors contributed negatively to the data?” Second, “Have the pollutants kept the lobsters from reproducing?” The bottom line is that species that are not reproducing are not required to be considered. This means that the lobsters are not required to be considered because of the high population estimate in the future will, I hope, give me time to squir- rel away three large.

Clubs Wanted!

Is your club holding a special event? Celebrating a landmark anniversary? Let the rest of the Federation know! Send your news to the Editor of this page! (Contact info at end of 2nd Page 2.)

March 2015
Governor’s Surf Tournament Coming This May

Fee 22 years the annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament had been held on the first Sunday in October at Island Beach State Park. However, in 2014 the tournament was moved to the third Sunday in May. In 2015 the tournament will be held on May 17.

A variety of species are eligible for entry in the tournament each year. Overall length determines the winner. All fish must meet minimum length tournament requirements.

The individual who catches the overall, fish wins the “Governor’s Award” (see below). Fishing equipment is awarded to winners who catch the largest fish in each species category. Winners from the early entry drawing and the tournament must be present during the afternoo...
In 2014, CVA introduced Salt Bath Ferritic Nitrocoburation, a high-tech military hardcoat treatment, to its high-end ACCURA line of muzzle-loading rifles. The company has now announced that it will offer these "Nitride" treated barrels in its medium-priced OPTIMA V2 line of muzzleloaders. The new model guns were introduced at the recent 2015 SHOT Show.

CVA claims that the Nitride barrel treatment resulted in significant sales increases of Accura models during 2014, largely because "being able to buy a gun with a barrel that is guaranteed to never suffer rust-caused bore pitting is a pretty big deal." The company feels that bringing the same technology to the OPTIMA V2 line will provide CVA with a significant sales advantage in the middle market over its competitors who are still using painted or baked-on barrel treatments that only protect the outside of a barrel from corrosion. Muzzleloaders, of course, are most susceptible to rust damage on the inside of their barrels, and the Nitride process protects both inside and outside.

Historic Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Found Propped Against a Tree

The story has been around social media for a while, but is still of interest. In November, Great Basin National Park archeologists discovered a 132-year-old Model 1873 Winchester rifle leaning against a tree in the park. It’s said to be the oldest firearm in the park, and there is no way of knowing who it was left by, and, indeed, who left it in that remote area.

The Great Basin National Park cultural resource staff continues researching in old newspapers and family histories, hoping to solve some of the mystery and fill in details about the story of this rifle. While Winchester records provided a date of manufacture, they did not reveal the individual or dealer to whom the rifle was originally sold. Although I am not optimistic they will find the answer, the search itself should prove fascinating.

The park will provide a viewing opportunity before sending the rifle to conservators to stabilize the wood and apply museum conservation techniques. The treatment will keep the gun looking as it was when it was found and prevent further deterioration. When the rifle is returned to the park, it will be displayed as part of Great Basin’s 30th birthday and the National Park Service centennial celebration.

For a photo of the rifle and more details, see: http://imgur.com/NindZu/J8P

New Blazing Star Press a Jersey Story

If you are really into history, as many black powder shooters are, you will want to take a look at New Blazing Star Press’ offerings. Aside from being a fellow New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association board member and a great National Park employee, Jason Wickersty is a very inventive guy who runs this business out of Bayonne, New Jersey. Jason has, over the past few years, developed "The Printer’s Type Case," a two-volume set of over 100 print fonts and borders from the Civil War era. The fonts, Jason notes, "can be yours faster than you can say ‘spherical case shot’ via digital download" at his website, www.newblazingstarpress.com/shop.

Volume 1 contains 60 fonts and borders for $49.95. Volume 2 contains 40 fonts and borders and 13 CDV photo back mark illustrations for $39.95. You can buy both as a combo package for $80.00 and save 10%.

New Blazing Star is more than just fonts, however, and you can also get other neat period products, including custom premade 2.875" x 1.5" brass and zinc stencils with one or two lines of up to 15 characters per line stamped using original letter dies. For a few more bucks they’ll add a ¼" glass cork-top vial of black ink, a 3/8-inch tin, and horsehair bristle style brush, and instruction sheet all in a sky-blue cardboard paper box for $55 (with the extras) dollars. Blazing Star is also offering a limited edition run of U.S. Sanitary Commission stencil plates, copied directly from an original in a private collection.

A recent addition to the Blazing Star line are arsenal label stamps, reproducing the Federal Arsenal stamps for ten-round packages of ammunition adopted in the 1850s. The labels indicate the caliber and type of weapon the cartridges were made for, along with the powder charge, and were used, and the year they were made.

By 1857, the St. Louis Arsenal had received a press and plates to print labels directly onto the wrapping paper, and by the outbreak of the Civil War, the St. Louis, Frankfort, Allegheny, and Kennebec arsenals were printing labels on the ammunition they produced. You can get these reproductions of what they were making at Blazing Star, and also offering a limited edition run of U.S. Sanitary Commission stencil plates, copied directly from an original.”

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HOLIDAY HANGOVER

by Lou Martinez

Normally the term “hangover” denotes a very unpleasant situation in which someone, perhaps you, had a bit too much celebrating, and must pay the proverbial piper the following morning. For the purposes of this article, however, “hangover” is not a bad thing. Let me start at the beginning.

Last season the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife made us aware of a serious situation in which trout, namely brookies and browns, had contracted furunculosis, a disease that causes skin lesions, boils, and death. We went fishing in the same situation near my home, with only two other locations throughout the state. Have fun.

Well, this past holiday season the Division did just that. Prior to Christmas day, I received a voice mail from an old friend.

“Hey Lou, I left ya a holiday gift up at your local pond, we’ve decided to end brown trout stocking for the current time, so we dropped off 75 breeders in the lake.”

But, as Dale Carnegie wrote in his book How to Stop Worrying and Start Living, “If you have a lemon, make a lemonade.”

Although I’m mainly a bass, walleye, muskie type of guy, if you tell me that there are 5-pound trout one mile from my front door you won’t have to prod me twice. I immediately rummaged through my Bass Pro/Cabela’s/Dick’s-stocked tackle box and got myself a couple of 12-foot shock-absorbing, heavy-duty lines, a baitcasting reel of my choice, and a flurry of lures and baits.

Unloading our gear, I asked “Where’s your net?”

“Huh? I figured you’d bring it,” he answered. “I was there when they put them in.”

Rushing out of my house, I forgot my net, but knowing that Gene would have his, I put the pedal down and got there right after him.

Gene Doczy and his Christmas gift Brown trout Lou Martinez photo.

There was a time when we had to dig our own worms and brine our own salmon eggs, but you can now avoid all the preparation if you tackle shop stocks Gulp! baits. I’ve used these in both fresh and saltwater and I have found them just as effective as the real thing. Gulp! makes salmon eggs, nightcrawlers, redworms, curly tails, and more.

Knowing where to fish is more important than the bait you use. Trout face upstream, into the current. Let the current do the work, allowing the worm to bounce along the bottom, fast through riffles and slow through pools. Concentrate on those deep pools because that’s where you will find the bigger trout.

I learned a long time ago that a little flash goes a long way in attracting a sluggish trout. A small spinner (gold or copper), such as a Colorado spinner or a Mepps, Rooster Tail or Panther Martin, hooked through the collar of your worm, will flash in the current. These spinner and worm combinations can be drifted, or cast and retrieved through deep pools, ponds, and lakes.

Gene Doczy out, and we were able to photograph their noses at our lures. Gene was very happy with his “Christmas gift.”

There is a plethora of Raps, rooster tails, and Mepps spinners that will toughen up. Fish salmon eggs just as you do with worms. Cast upstream and allow the eggs to drift naturally along the bottom. At the end of the drift, let the eggs bob suspended in the current for a minute or so before retrieving. Trout will often hit at the tail end of a drift.

If you can get them, small minnows will work extremely well in early spring. Just hook them through the lips and cast them to the streams banks, especially undercut banks. Add a split shot or two to get your minnow to swim deep.

There is no better way to get a catch than to watch large trout, several of them swimming under the thin ice. He hung around, just in case I needed more help.

As this is written (late January), the lake is now totally iced in and those “holiday hangover” browns were there for more piscatorial encounters very soon.

By VIN T. SPARANO

There are really no special tactical secrets for opening day trout. The weather, however, is always a big factor in determining what techniques will get you a limit of trout, as always. If it’s like most early spring weather in New Jersey, the streams will be high, fast, and muddy. You will also likely be elbow to elbow with other anglers.

Go with the basics.

Leave your beautiful collection of flies home, unless it’s a dry spring and streams are low and clear. Under these conditions, you will probably need only two flies, Muddler Minnows and Woolly Buggers. Fish them slow and deep, using the oncoming current to catch whatever is swimming through.

If you find salmon eggs falling off the hook easily, soak them in a brine solution overnight and they will toughen up. Fish salmon eggs the same way as you do with worms.

As this is written (late January), the lake is now totally iced in and those “holiday hangover” browns were there for more piscatorial encounters very soon.

Volunteer NJOA Regional Manager Wanted

NJOA is in need of Northern Regional and Central Regional Managers who have the dedication and skills to represent New Jersey’s premier fishing, hunting, and trapping organization — New Jersey Outdoorsmen Federation. Help lead the effort in your region and advance your skills in fish, hunt, and trap in New Jersey and ensure it remains available to future generations.

Visit our website www.njoutdooralliance.org or call 732-643-9402.
Cold is No Longer an Obstacle to Bass Fishing

by Pete Robbins

The weather at the 2013 Bassmaster Classic in Tuscaloosa was so bad it would have been unfishable for duck hunting. In fact, it was barely suitable for a polar bear. When trucks shooting sand have to show up to de-ice the boat ramp, maybe it’s time to consider a different activity, but 53 competitors soldiered on nevertheless, in pursuit of the $500,000 top prize.

Savvy bass anglers know that winter-time fishing can be exceptional. Of course you have to fish slowly, but once you locate the bass, they’re often ganged up. They’re also frequently at their heaviest. Here in the mid-Atlantic, most years the water stays soft enough to chase fish throughout the winter, but unless you’re comfortable doing so it’s a better idea to stay home with a big cup of hot coffee.

The bass pros (not surprisingly, given the prize money at stake) have pioneered many ways of staying warm and comfortable in these conditions. For generations, the mantra has been “layer up,” but often that leaves anglers looking like the Michelin Man, warm to the core but unable to move. Today, high-tech fabrics and designs allow anglers to be both warm and mobile.

One of the garments leading the way is from a New Jersey company called Stormr. While the company is relatively new, their parent has decades of experience with neoprene, and they’ve leveraged that into ultra-thin outerwear that has the additional benefit of providing flotation and flexibility. Pros including Greg Hackney debuted it at the Tulsa Classic, and now at every cold-weather tournament an increasing number of pros wear it instead of the old bulky snowmobile suits or ski gear. Rather than wearing multiple layers underneath, many had just jeans, long underwear, and a hooded sweatshirt to combat the sub-20-degree temperatures.

The flotation aspect of the Stormr gear is particularly valuable. Anglers who fish alone will either want to wear a PFD or some garment with flotation capabilities. Otherwise, a fall into frigid water with lots of clothing on is almost a certain death sentence. Apparel manufacturers including Mustang and Onyx make flotation coats and suits specifically for anglers.

You’ll want to keep your head warm as you head down the lake, and then when you’re fishing. Some anglers like motorcycle helmets for running, because they seal out the elements. Others claim that they limit peripheral vision and are deadly if you somehow end up in the water. Another option is a windstopper balaclava and a set of ski goggles. For less than 100 bucks, another option is a windstopper balaclava and a set of ski goggles.

With the right attire, a bass angler need not wait for the weather to warm up before pursuing his or her quarry. Garrick Dixon photo, courtesy of Stormr.

Need Extra Papers?
If your club, organization, or county needs extra copies of the Federated News for an upcoming event or display, please contact the Editor of this publication (973-533-1260; olshapioinnj@gmail.com) at LEAST SIX WEEKS IN ADVANCE of the date in question.

Events for March, 2015

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<td>World Fishing &amp; Outdoor Exposition</td>
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<td>IGFA Fresh Water Fishing Seminar 908-208-4523</td>
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<td>RVTSA Meeting fishvta.com</td>
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<td>NFTA Fur Sale Salmon 609-773-0470</td>
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<td>NJ Decoy Collectors Assoc. Show &amp; Sale 609-298-7459</td>
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<td>Saltwater Fishing Expo</td>
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<td>*FCSA Disabled American Veterans <a href="mailto:childrensfund1@gmail.com">childrensfund1@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Saltwater Fishing Expo</td>
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<td>**Atlantic City Federation Youth Sporting Clays Shoot, allfederationsportsman.com</td>
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by David Lorenzini

Father and Son Each Get 8-Pointers

Dear Oliver,

Alex Fox, 15, of Branchburg, a fourth-generation New Jersey deer hunter, bagged his first 8-pointer in the first hour of opening day. His father, Larry Fox sweated it out, but bagged his own 8-pointer in the last hour of the same day.

The two Foxes pose proudly next to their opening day results.

Percy Turnover in April

Dear Oliver,

I wanted to share an upcoming invite with the members of the NJFSN. Landisville Gun Club will hold its Annual Percy Turnover on April 18, 2015. Contestants may fish anywhere in the state, and weigh in no later than 2:00 pm at our Club at 4th and Cape May Ave, Estell Manor, NJ. A barbecue, included in the $30 registration fee, will follow the weigh-in.

If anyone needs additional information, they can contact me at davidcissins@verizon.net or 609-404-0581.

David Lorenzini
Galloway, NJ
The Sporting View

by Marty Boa

These shotgun shells are color coded according to gauge as specified in the original color coding safety system developed by the Federal Premium Cartridge Company. Although the colors cannot be readily discerned in this black and white photo, they are (from left): 12 ga. target load - red, 16 ga. buckshot load- purple, and 20 ga. game load - yellow. Some manufacturers have deviated from the original color designations, especially regarding the use of green, black, and red shells. Marty Boa photo.

Did You Know...?

The Federal Premium ammunition company is responsible for the development of a color-coded system of shotgun shell identification. In an article titled “10 Things You Didn’t Know About Federal Premium” published in a January issue of the online version of the National Rifle Association publication American Hunter – Insider, Shawn Skipper revealed some interesting facts provided by Federal Premium. Chief among them is the infobit that Federal Premium began standardizing the color coding the exterior surfaces of shotgun shells as a safety initiative in 1960.

Over the years, Federal Premium has maintained its historic color code system for the manufacturing of shotshell hulls according to gauge as follows:

- 10 gauge – brown
- 12 gauge – red or black
- 16 gauge – purple
- 20 gauge – yellow (mandatory)
- .410 gauge – red (unusual size and shape to be noted)
- 28 gauge – green

Although an industry standard for many years, some ammo manufacturers have departed from the original concept by producing shells of various gauges in a variety of colors including but not limited to: clear/transparent, clear/fluorescent, red, green, black, lavender, purple, brown, and orange... and as always, yellow for 20 gauge.

Different gauge shells should be stored separately. Having shells in your vest or hunting coat that don’t match your gun could ruin a hunt. The main concern, however, is that chambering and ultimately firing a round that is mismatched to a gun can result in damage to the gun and injury or worse to the shooter.

Safety first – check it out.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife reported recently that the largest number of pheasants in the past 24 years were produced and stocked by the Division in 2014. The number was close to 63,000, including 1,000 bonus birds released for the Youth Pheasant Hunt and nearly 5,600 bonus birds for the final regular season stockings.

All of these pheasants were raised at the Division’s Rockport Pheasant Farm in Warren County. The breakdown is as follows:

- Youth Hunt 2,100
- Regular Season 55,000
- Bonus Birds 5,590
- Total Stocked 62,690

The Division’s pheasant and quail stocking programs received a boost in the form of 52 pheasant and 10 quail transport boxes, courtesy of the Union Sportmen’s Alliance (USA) Work Boots on the Ground program and group of dedicated Union volunteers.

After a successful project in 2013, the USA’s 2nd Annual Tri-State Area Conservation Dinner Committee went for a repeat performance in 2014. Utilizing 2014 dinner funds, $5,100 worth of building supplies were purchased and 52 pheasant and 10 quail transport boxes were constructed, painted, and delivered to the Division. The boxes were put to good use this past season in stocking the above listed unprecedented number of birds released on state Wildlife Management Areas.

Several species of freshwater fish are being used to help control New Jersey’s mosquito population. Gambusia, also known as “mosquito fish,” are part of a comprehensive program being administered by the New Jersey Mosquito Commission to reduce the number of mosquitoes. The fish, along with fathead minnows and sunfish, are known to feed on mosquito larvae before the mosquitoes-to-be develop into the adult stage, during which they can breed, bite, and spread disease.

Gambusia are raised at the Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery (also known as the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery) and supplied to county mosquito commissions for statewide stocking in environmentally appropriate bodies of water. Between 1.5 to 2.5 million fish are produced per year.

An informative video on the topic produced by Andre Malof/The Star Ledger can be viewed on NJ.com at http://tinyurl.com/mz348gf.

The Hackettstown State Fish Hatchery opened in 1912 and was the state’s trout production facility until 1981, at which time the Pequest Trout Hatchery took over coldwater fish production. The Hackettstown hatchery then assumed the primary function of cool- and warmwater fish production. The hatchery currently produces and distributes 15 species of fish based on requests from the Division’s regional fisheries biologists. The Hackettstown hatchery celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2012.

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<td>15* RVTA Meeting fishrva.com</td>
<td>16* RVTA Round Valley Shorline Cleanup fishrva.com</td>
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<td>Novelty Shoot and Chili Cookoff (Apr. 14-15)</td>
<td>Hackleberry TU meeting</td>
<td>Hunter Ed.</td>
<td>Appalachian Traditional Archery at Whittingham WMA</td>
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* Contributions are welcome - make your check out to: Operation Game Thief PO Box 10173 Trenton, NJ 08650-0173

If you have information on a poacher, PLEASE call today - you could be helping to insure a good future for our wildlife.

CALL: 1-855-OGT-TIPS
Calls are toll-free and confidential.

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March 2015
NEW JERSEY FEDERATED SPORTSMEN NEWS
Page 9
Time Marches On, and Waits for No Man

If March was a state it would be on the “fly over” list. Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois come to mind. On the other hand, I bet we get to where we really want to go.

Same goes for March. We want to get to where we are going, and yet somehow, the bad things somehow happen, anyway, happens the 20th of this month.

Daylight Savings Time begins the 8th. Yes, we are all about to get that extra hour of sleep, no matter if you do really think I’d be traveling to be the bowls of Newark in the dark?

March is biding time; the above are mere diversions to end 31 days until this huligan month bites the dust, and hopefully goes out quivering like a lamb.

I remind you, however, the Blizzard of ’88 was in March. (That would be 1888.)

Personally, March has some familial attachment, as my father, son, and grand- daughter were all born during this football-less, lintless zone. They’re ages will be 93, 38, and six respectively.

CO Driscoll concluded a prosecution that began during the pheasant hunting season, where a complaint came in about a trail camera being shot by another hunter on the Black River WMA in Chester Township, Morris County. CO Driscoll, when interviewed, the complainant, who was able to recover a digital camera memory card. The photos clearly showed an individual, dressed in hunting clothes, pointing a rifle at the camera.

The COs continued the investigation throughout the remainder of the pheasant season and they were able to locate a sus- "Possession of a loaded firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building" and "Possession of a loaded firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building" and "Possession of a loaded firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building" and "Possession of a loaded firearm within 450 feet of an occupied building"

March Madness is basketball (proba- bly the dumbest sport ever invented) to me. tournaments are open) or sally forth to the Assunpink Lake Regional WMA.

As a result of the investigation, he was issued five summonses for “possession of regu- lated non-game species without a permit” and seven summonses for “Possession of regulated non-game species without a permit.”

CO Driscoll investigated a case in which there was a report from their Code Enforcement Officer, that the resident possessed an alli- graph of him, but the man would not admit to any wrongdoing. The suspect’s photos clearly showed an individual in the photographs. CO Driscoll, assisted by Lt. Sutton, met with the complainant, who was able to recover a digital camera memory card. The photos clearly showed an individual, dressed in hunting clothes, pointing a rifle at the camera.

The COs continued the investigation throughout the remainder of the pheasant season and they were able to locate a sus- spect who looked very similar to the indi- vidual in the photographs. CO Driscoll interviewed the suspect and took photo- graphs of him, but the man would not admit to anything.

The suspect’s firearm was seized and sent to a ballistics lab for testing along with evidence that it was fired in reference to the incident.

The Central Region Office received information from a Monmouth County Park Ranger that an individual had posted a complaint to the Department’s Facebook page regarding the possibility of someone trying to purchase box turtles for 50 dollars each.

CO Rivello contacted the man by phone, set up a meet and greet with the suspect at a diner’s wall clock… an hour to boarding, and how warm and fuzzy they feel toward the guy at the moment.

NJDFW Law Enforcement Bureau Reports: July 2015

Northern Region Highlights

CO Ocampo assisted the Haledon Borough Police Department, Passaic County, with the service of a search war- rant in their town. Intelligence obtained by the police department led them to believe that an alligator would be present in the residence. An inspection of the residence by American alligator and one box turtle were seized. A resident of the home was issued a summons for “Possession of a potentially dangerous species without a permit” and a summons for “Possession of regulated non-game species without a permit.”

The suspect was issued summonses for “Possession of regulated non-game species without a permit.”

Ltc. LaCroix relayed information that she received from an informant that a resi- dent of Stillwater Township, Sussex County, was in possession of a group of box turtles, which were collected from the wild in New Jersey. CO Ziegler and Lt. Sutton began investigating and discovered that the indi- vidual was also offering snakes for sale on Facebook.

A records check with the Non- game/Exotic Permits Section revealed that he only possessed a “Hobby Permit” which prohibits the sale of the animals possessed under it. An inspection of the individual’s “Hobby Permit” revealed that he was in possession of three eastern milk snakes, one black rat snake, and one wood turtle. The suspect admitted to collecting each of the animals from the wild. As a result of the investigation, he was issued five summonses for “possession of regulated non-game species without a permit” and seven summonses for “Possession of regulated non-game species without a permit.”

Meantime, the clicking of the equi- nox clock means to me that “couch potato” time is over and I’d rather start paying attention to the second hand sweeps like a reaper, grim or not, cutting swaths through our pockets and gift for gift for our hobbies and fishing and avoiding cleaning the gut- ters.

But speaking of time, as it races on, perhaps a New Year’s resolution so long ago, was to show up when the hour demanded in 2015. This is important for sportspersons hunting on a boat, catching a planting of a far-flung angler, or having your buffet table when they bring out the oysters.

I hate to be late? Me too. Movies, con- certs, dinner reservations, parties, or an oil-change appointment – I want to be on time.

Punctuality is akin to personal hygiene – pay attention or just do it.

I believe those who would take a cav- alry attitude toward showing up when expected exhibit a shabby disregard for the rest of us. It rude and displays a haughty hubris, if that’s possible, that in that time is more important than yours.

“‘I’ll be there when I get there, mom,” may be fine down Jamaica way, but most of us shouldn’t be dilly-dallying around on island time, at least north of the Mason- Dixon line.

I don’t know where my “obsession” with being on the dot comes from, but I believe it’s a good practice. If you’re 50 years to boot camp days where the lovely little government resort at Portis Island rang my cell phone alerting me to activities and events taking place at the camp that started at 0430. The

Southern Region Highlights

CO Kille received a complaint in Oldmans Township, Salem County of approximately 30 bus tires dumped on pri- vate property. The owner set up cameras on the property to monitor the incident.

As luck would have it the suspect returned a night later, dumped additional tires, and was caught on camera. Unfortunately, the photo was distorted and a registration was unable to be retrieved. The victim was able to identify the utility truck with the aid of a photo recognition application. It was then discovered that the vehicle was rented from a moving company facility in Berlin Township, Camden County on both nights by the same indi- vidual. A Detective from the NJSUPD investigated the incident.

A Detective from the NJSUPD who assisted the investigating officers, and how warm and fuzzy they feel toward the guy at the moment.

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northwest region enforcement

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Hunter-Friendly Bills Advance in Legislature

Just when you think things are setting down to some semblance of normal, the folks who make up the cabals of the anti-gun lobby and their ilk, Punxsutawney Phil-like, to throw a few shellfish wrinkles into the proverbial gear box. Please remember the Sunday hunting stipulation. The measure does not mandate Sunday hunting at all military bases.

And while addressing Sunday hunting, S-699 would equally allow Sunday hunting statewide on all public and private hunting grounds for properly licensed hunters. The auxiliary sponsor is Joseph Kryillos (R-Dist. 13).

S-573, sponsored by state Sen. Bob Smith (D-Dist. 7) and Sen. Steve Oroho (R-Dist. 24), which would allow Supernumerary Hunter’s license and/or bow and arrow on military installations, but only if the administrators at the facility wish to take advantage of the Sunday hunting stipulation. The measure does not mandate Sunday hunting at all military bases.

One group in particular possessed undisputed abundance in the Cedar Lake North section of the Cedar Lake Wildlife Management Area in Monmouth County, after many complaints from legitimate users.

During the patrol the officers encountered many illegal users on the wildlife management area, who were illegally operating unregistered ATVs on a wildlife management area, and operation of ATV’s over a closed section of the area. The officers observed a group in possession of marijuana less than 50 grams. One group in particular possessed marijuana less than 50 grams in the motor vehicle and all the occupants lied about their identification and addresses. It took the officers an additional several hours to confirm all their identities. Once that was complete, one of the individuals was arrested on an outstanding warrant for crimes in Camden County and transferred to that jurisdiction. The second individual was charged with interference with the duties of a conservation officer, possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of marijuana less than 50 grams.

Marine Region Highlights

On June 20, COs Mosciciatto and Woerner along with Gary Wolf from the FDA, conducted an overnight fish patrol of the Manasquan and Shark Rivers in Monmouth County. While patrolling the shark river, COs noticed a spotlight along the Shark River Hills section of Neptune Twp. The COs were concerned about the area of the light they noticed three separate boats with fisherman aboard who appeared to be gigging fish. The COs along with Gary Wolf inspected the first two boats that arrived to the area of the light on the 20th. The COs noticed four illegal American eels. Each group was given warnings for spearfishing without being visible to the officers.

The COs then went back to waiting for the third boat and eventually noticed a third boat which ended up being about three and a half hours later. At around 0145 hours, the COs approached the vessel to find three large bags of fish. After questioning the owner, he admitted to engaging in night time spearfishing.

One group in possession of marijuana less than 50 grams on board of the vessel revealed the individual would not be a wise choice to discard the bag. The individual weighed his options briefly and decided to throw the bag into the water off the stern of the boat. It then appeared that the individual was attempting to put his trolling motor into use to evade the officers. CO Mosciciatto would have nothing to do with that and quickly grabbed the bow of the boat and put it ashore. CO Woerner secured the three men while CO Mosciciatto waded into waist deep water to retrieve the bag and its contents of fish.

After recovering the bag of fish, the COs also located a bucket on the vessel which contained even more fish. In total the COs located 44 undersized yellowfin tuna, possession of one undersized striped bass, and for spearfishing without being visible to the officers. CO Mosciciatto would have nothing to do with that and quickly grabbed the bow of the boat and put it ashore. CO Woerner secured the three men while CO Mosciciatto waded into waist deep water to retrieve the bag and its contents of fish.

Each individual was issued summons for possession of 29 over limit summer flounder, possession of 42 undersized summer flounder, possession of one undersized striped bass, and for spearfishing without being visible to the officers. CO Mosciciatto would have nothing to do with that and quickly grabbed the bow of the boat and put it ashore. CO Woerner secured the three men while CO Mosciciatto waded into waist deep water to retrieve the bag and its contents of fish.

On July 10, this case was successfully prosecuted with two of the individuals paying penalties of $1,000 each. The third individual who faced additional charges for interference with duties of a conservation officer and wanted waste paid a penalty of $1,500.

Tittel of the Sierra Club is getting his information. All ALEC model policies are on-line and it can be easily verified that ALEC-backed bills, such as “Hunter’s Sunday hunting,” Fuhs told Mauro.

According to Anthony Mauro, Chairman of the New Jersey Sport Fishing Association, one who attended the hearing, the nemesis to the Senate’s hunter-friendly agenda was the ALEC Public Policy Institute was ruled out of order at the committee hearing on the aforementioned bills.

According to Mauro, some New Jersey director of the Sierra Club, tried in vain to mislead the committee members. "Mr. Tittel was ruled out of order (by the committee)..." Mauro said. “However, over the years (ALEC) has provided backing..." he added, “to government agencies such as the FBI, civil rights groups like the Anti-Defamation League and private organizations that have made these claims. Mr. Tittel would be best served by getting his facts straight instead of making the claims if he believes they are untrue.

S-573, as it now stands where it has a standard legislative committee hearing, but in New Jersey it seems nothing is standard nor nor- mally what is usually going to happen. It may be because groups like the Sierra Club and its hordes of new style of “hunter-haters” emerging from the high grass to lend a hand.

Mr. Tittel would be best served by getting his facts straight instead of making the claims if he believes they are untrue. I’d hazard a guess that being ruled out of order is another way of telling some one that their issue is the door bit ‘em in de lorde when leaving.

After conducting some long range surveillance on the Maurice River, CO Hausamann located a large night time striped bass fishing operation placing undersized striped bass in a white bag. As the fishermen were getting ready to leave, CO Hausamann placed his vessel in the wake of the bass they were loading their vessel.

The three fishermen were more than willing to show CO Hausamann their buckets with croakers and perch. When CO Hausamann inquired about the location of the white bag the fishermen became very uncooperative and argumentative with CO Hausamann. During their attempt to deter CO Hausamann from performing their illegal acts the fishermen ran their boat into a large white bag underneath the fisherman’s vehicle. The bag contained 13 undersize striped bass.

All three fishermen were issued summons for undersize striped bass, over the limit striped bass, and interference with the duties of a conservation officer.

CO Nicklow and CO Harp inspected a vessel they observed enter Absecon Inlet with green-stick gear which is utilized to catch Atlantic Highly Magnified Species. The officers located federal violations: two undersize yellowfin tuna, two mahi mahi without possessing a permit, and one undersize striped bass, and wanted to complete a fishing vessel trip report. The violations were turned over to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Law Enforcement for prosecution.
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