

A research project on the ruffed grouse is being conducted. Emphasis is on habitat evaluation and populations as they relate to habitat.

Habitat improvement is of prime importance for all forms of wildlife. Fishery management consists largely of the building of fish ladders to facilitate fish passage and other stream improvement measures such as stream bed stabilization. Siltng has long been a problem in some Island streams. A pilot project to monitor silt, and to identify and correct its source is being carried out on the Dunk River, one of the largest systems on the Island.

Plans for a joint federal-provincial Atlantic salmon program for the Morell River have been finalized. The four-year development program commenced in the spring of 1975 with an objective of reviewing the Atlantic salmon run and, in turn, the Atlantic salmon sport fishery.

**Nova Scotia.** The Wildlife Division, Department of Lands and Forests, is primarily concerned with restoring and maintaining a stable and healthy environment to ensure optimum production of wildlife. Land-use planning continues to be an integral component of the program especially as it relates to the management of forest lands. Integrated resource management related to forestry, wildlife and other recreational interests reached varying stages of completion for several extensive areas of Crown land in the province in 1974.

Aside from a number of annual programs conducted to monitor the status of important wildlife species in the province, some specific studies either initiated or completed in 1974 include: development of an aerial census technique for moose; studies of the distribution of the central nervous system parasite in moose and deer; assessment of black bear depredation; determination of reproductive rates of moose and deer; evaluation of an experimental "buck law" in western Nova Scotia; economic evaluation of consumptive and non-consumptive uses of the wildlife resource; effects of certain forest cutting practices on deer and moose; hunter landowner relations; productivity of salt marshes; otter reproduction and population structure; evaluation of the effect of trapping on reproduction and age structure of beaver; and an assessment of wild rice production on dykeland soils.

Acquisition of marshlands and unique coastal areas continued to represent an important phase of the waterfowl management program. A high priority was placed on information and education, enforcement and non-game species management. The Wildlife Division employs a staff of 11 biologists and co-operates with Acadia and Dalhousie universities in a number of research programs.

**New Brunswick.** The wildlife resources in New Brunswick are the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources. Orders in Council issued under the New Brunswick Game Act provide a means of controlling bag limits and hunting pressure in the utilization of population surpluses for all native wildlife species.

Biological surveys of the more important game animals are carried out throughout the year to determine the current status and condition of population. At the present time principal areas of concern are the management of the following animals and their habitat: moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, beaver, muskrat and woodcock. Some of the most important factors limiting the numbers of big-game animals in New Brunswick are the condition and extent of the winter habitat. A study area consisting of 1 million acres of Crown land has been established in the Bathurst area to evaluate the "multiple-use" concept. Game, fish, recreation and forest management will be integrated to optimize exploitation of all renewable resources in the area.

A New Brunswick Trappers Association endorsed by the Fish and Wildlife Branch has recently been established in an attempt to improve the quality of raw furs. The primary objectives of the Association include the personal involvement of the resident trappers in the wise use and management of the fur resource in the province. The current demand for long-haired furs such as bobcat, fox and fisher has diverted trapping pressure from beaver, otter, mink and muskrat.

Sport fishing contributes substantially to the economy of the province. Atlantic salmon anglers fished an average of 82,358 days to catch an average of 33,303 salmon and grilse each year during the four years 1969 through 1972. The Miramichi River system accounted for 82% (27,509) of the average salmon and grilse angler catch during this period. However, more angler-days are spent and fish caught in NB by anglers fishing for brook trout. In 1970, 1,017,000 angler-days were spent participating in the inland sport fishery including trout and Atlantic salmon angling. Atlantic salmon angling comprised only 8.5% of this total.