

Few fishermen catch most fish

Only a few of the fishermen catch most of the fish. That point has been emphasized in fishing surveys conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. What are the rest of the anglers doing wrong? Many times it is the little over-ought that leads to a fisherman's downfall and lets a trophy fish escape the hook. Here are a few ways to lose a fish: — Old line: Neither braided nor monofilament line lasts forever. Long periods of disuse as well as constant action and excessive heat can weaken a line and cause it to break at the wrong time. How often an angler needs to

change his line depends on how much he fishes and the type of water he fishes in. Long hours of fishing in water with a lot of underbrush might call for a line change every few trips. As a general rule, the average freshwater angler should change his line once or twice a year. And at the same time, reels should not be stored where line is exposed to direct sunlight or excessive heat. — Frayed line: Abrasion is probably the single greatest threat to fishing line. The bass angler who constantly fishes the underwater forests of Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn should be particularly alert to line abrasion. A wise fisherman should scan his

line carefully or lightly run it through his fingers to check for rough spots before each fishing trip. Some make it a habit to strip off and discard the first few feet of line before a fishing trip. Check rod guides for rust or rough spots which could damage line.

— Damaged hook: Dull hooks mean lost fish. Either sharpen dull points with a whetstone or replace them.

Some fishermen make the mistake of reusing hooks which have been spread open. Bending the hook back into shape weakens the metal. And, of course, rusty hooks should be replaced.

— Littered boat: A bass guide relates this story: "I had this old 'bucket-mouth' bass wallowing at the side of the boat. I reached for the landing net and it wasn't there it was supposed to be." I turned

around and my client had his feet tangled in it. I lost the fish before I could get the net out.

Things happen fast when a big fish is on the line. To be prepared for such instances, an angler should be certain of three things: (1) he can move around in the boat if need be without stepping in an open tackle box or getting tangled in something, (2) the landing net is within easy reach, and (3) once the fish is aboard there will be a safe place to put it where it won't flop overboard, which has happened more than once.

There are many other ways to lose a fish. Lack of concentration, not playing the fish long enough, poor net handling or lack of confidence can all set fish free.

And, undoubtedly, many more fish-losing techniques have yet to be developed.

Texas dove hunting season was poorest ever recorded

AUSTIN — Results of a statewide postcard survey of Texas mourning dove hunters are completed and figures show some 4.8 million doves were taken in the 1975-76 seasons. Parks and Wildlife Department dove program leader Jim Dunks said the season was a rather poor one, something which should surprise few hunters who remember the scant number of doves available last fall.

"We estimate 203,278 dove hunters spent 916,800 days in the field during mourning dove seasons last year," said Dunks. "Hunter success was the poorest ever recorded since the department started its harvest survey in 1971."

Average daily bag of doves statewide was 5.4 birds, 5.5 by North Zone hunters and 5.2 by

South Zone hunters. Across the state, hunters went dove shooting an average of 4.5 times, a record high even if they had only marginal success.

Dunks said hunters in North, Central and South Texas experienced a decline in success. Hunting success changed little from past years in the Pineywoods, Coastal Prairies and High Plains. Edwards Plateau hunters had slightly better luck, and those in the Trans-Pecos posted a sizeable improvement.

"There was a general pattern of more doves killed farther west in the state," said Dunks. "Average doves bagged per hunt in the Pineywoods was 3.6 compared to 7.5 in the Trans-Pecos."

As is the case in past years, some

75 percent of the doves was taken in the North Zone season.

All-day hunting was permitted in the brief January segment of the South Zone season, but with no detectable change in the harvest.

Dunks speculated that declining harvest of mourning doves probably was due to a broad shift in agricultural practices.

"Farmers and ranchers in the western half of Texas are planting more dry-land grain and seed crops," said Dunks. "This probably accounts for a larger kill in western Texas; however, hunters from major urban areas such as Dallas and Houston are reluctant to travel great distances to hunt doves and the overall harvest declines as a result."

Illegal trotlines problem for game wardens

AUSTIN — "Game wardens have been more than 1,000 miles of illegal trotlines from Central Texas since over a one-month period," says Henry Burkett, director of law enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the crackdown will continue.

The trotline tag requirement was passed to keep one person from tagging a good fishing spot indefinitely, and also as a safety factor to permit the removal of abandoned hooks and lines from the water," said Burkett.

Game wardens are required to destroy illegal, unclaimed fishing gear.

Trotlines not tagged with the owner's name, address and the date the line was set are illegal, and wardens have improperly tagged lines stand a good chance of losing

their line or paying a fine," Burkett said.

According to Burkett, a trotline may be tagged with a metal tag, plastic lettered strips or with the information printed on a plastic bottle. Some people even put their address on a piece of paper in a small medicine bottle tied to the line. All these methods are satisfactory.

Game wardens will pull any untagged lines; those that have been in the water more than 90 days; or one that is illegally constructed, such as having too many hooks, Burkett said.

Since many counties in Central Texas have special trotlines laws, fishermen should refer to their game law digest to find the specific trotline restrictions for the county in which they intend to fish.

NCAA track

Discus — 1. Boys Chambul, Washington, 3:33.34; 2. Ralph Fruguglietti, Southern California, 2:41.11 (61.56); 3. Ken Gardener, Brigham Young, 1:44.10 (59.38); 4. Ben Packett, Missouri, 1:47.7 (59.32); 5. Jim Ward, Westmont, 1:40.7 (58.10); 6. Darrell Ober, Southern California, 1:57.5 (57.14).

800-meter relay — 1. Tennessee (Jon Rott, Rici Gardner, Jerome Morgan, Reggie Jones), 3:01.2; 2. Kansas, 3:09.39; 3. Southern California, 3:05.51; 4. Arizona State, 3:06.62; Auburn, 3:06.6; Texas Christian, 4:01.1.

400 meters — 1. Ken Randle, Southern California, 45.2; 2. Herman Frazier, Arizona State, 45.3; 3. Evis Jennings, Mississippi State, 45.4; 4. Mark Collins, Baylor, 45.8; 5. Mike Saloman, New Mexico, 46.0; 6. Ronald Lam, Tennessee, 46.0.

500 meters — 1. Joshua Kimeto, Washington State, 1:34.78; 2. John Ngono, Washington State, 1:35.60; 3. Samson Amambwa, Washington State, 1:35.66; 4. Jerry Cotton, Arizona, 1:40.22; 5. Steve Valencia, Minnesota, 1:40.23; 6. Randy Wilson, Arkansas, 1:40.16.

1,500-meter relay (Championship, two sectors run, winner determined on time basis): First heat — 1. Arizona State (Clifton Kenzie, Richard Walker, Carl McCullough, Herman Frazier), 3:03.49; 2. Kentucky State, 3:03.50; 3. California, 3:03.92; 4. Weber, 3:05.63; 5. Howard, 3:05.87. Second heat — 1. Tennessee (Michael Barlow, Ron Harris, Lamar Preyor, Jerome Morgan), 3:05.97; 2. Florida, 3:05.23; 3. Southern California, 3:05.62; 4. Kansas, 3:05.85. Final rankings — 1. Arizona State, 2. Kentucky State, 3. California, 4. Tennessee; 5. Florida; Southern California. 1,500 meters — 1. Cannon Coghlan, Villanova, 3:37.01 (Meet record). Old by Dave Wottle, Bowling Green, 3:37.1972; 2. Wilson Waigwa, Texas-El

Paso, 3:37.26; 3. Matthew Centrowitz, Oregon, 3:37.29; 4. Steve Lacy, Wisconsin, 3:38.52; 5. Randal Markey, Oregon, 3:39.98; 6. Rick Musgrave, Colorado, 3:40.66.

3,000-meter steeplechase — 1. James Munyala, Texas-El Paso, 8:24.86 (Meet record). Old 8:38.1 by Doug Brown, Tennessee, 1973; 2. Henry Marsh, Brigham Young, 8:27.88; 3. Ronald Addison, Tennessee, 8:29.47; 4. George Malley, Penn State, 8:30.33; 5. Greg Meyer, Michigan, 8:33.85; 6. Bill Lundberg, Kansas, 8:34.38.

High jump — 1. Dwight Stones, Long Beach State, 7-7 (2.31) (World, American and NCAA meet record). Old world and American 7-6 3/4 (2.30). Stones, Pacific Coast Club, 1973; Old meet record, 7-4 (2.23). Rey Brown, Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, and Tom Woods, Oregon State, both in 1973; 2. Michael Winsor, Central Michigan, 7-5 (2.26); 3. (tie) Nat Page, Missouri, and Greg Joy, Texas-El Paso, both 7-2 1/4 (2.19); 5. Paul Underwood, Arizona State, 7-1 (2.16); 6. Steve Wilson, South Carolina, 7-1 (2.16).

Team totals — 1. Southern California, 64; 2. Texas-El Paso, 44; 3. Tennessee, 40; 4. Washington State, 34; 5. Arizona State, 31; 6. Brigham Young, 30; 7. Washington, 28; 8. Auburn, 22; 9. (tie) Kansas and San Jose State, 20; 11. Long Beach State, 18; 12. (tie) California, Oregon, UCLA, Villanova and Penn State, 16; 17. (tie) Southern Illinois and Arkansas State, 11; 19. (tie) Texas, Middle Tennessee State, Arizona, San Diego State, Bucknell, Florida, 10; 25. Illinois, 9; 26. (tie) Stanford, Austin Peay, Louisiana Tech, Rice, Mississippi St., St. Joseph's Pa., 6; 35. Baylor, 5; 36. (tie) Oregon State, Harvard, Wisconsin, Kent State, Seton Hall, Florida State, 4; 42. Pennsylvania, 3; 43. East Tennessee State, Michigan, New Mexico, Minnesota, 2; 47. (tie) Northeastern, North Carolina State, Nebraska, Texas Christian, Colorado, Boston College, Arkansas and South Carolina, 1.

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