

IDAHO WILDLIFE REVIEW
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 BY
**THE IDAHO STATE FISH AND
 GAME COMMISSION**
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(Ross Hall photo)

Two youthful whitefish fishermen, John and Pat Cochran display a nice catch of Lake Pend d'Oreille whitefish and perch. Their "doghouse" is parked on the ice near Sandpoint.

Commission Election Defeated by Senate

A bill that would have replaced the present appointive five-man fish and game commission with an elected board of seven members was defeated in the Idaho senate February 2 by a vote of 17 to 26. The measure had been introduced in the senate at the insistence of Senator Harry Nock of Valley County. It provided for two more fish and game districts and biennial election of the commissioners.

The legislation was opposed by the Idaho Wildlife Federation.

The federation also expressed opposition to a bill providing for senate confirmation of all members of the commission every two years and giving the senate power to remove a commissioner. This bill has passed the senate.

Fish hauling equipment will be increased by the purchase of eight 200-gallon fish tanks, two 400-gallon fish tanks and a ton and one-half truck to haul tanks. The commission authorized purchase of the transportation equipment at its January meeting.

A length limit was set on sturgeon this year. Minimum length is 30 inches.

Frostbite Brigade Invades Whitefishing Waters

Plenty of Idaho men will be in the doghouse this winter. But it won't be the well-known domestic variety. They will be fishing for whitefish. The "doghouse" is a familiar sight on some of Idaho's larger lakes when winter ices them tight.

Many of the quaint doghouses are mounted on runners and towed to a likely fishing spot. Most are small, accommodating one to three persons. A piano box, or other large container is preferred. Heat to ward off the chill winds is afforded by a serviceable, although generally smoky, stove.

The fisherman chops his way through from one to three feet of ice, parks the doghouse over the spot, and begins angling. Commercial fishermen and amateur anglers alike find the doghouse a comfortable and practical way to enjoy winter fishing.

Whitefish generally travel in schools, and frequently a good fishing ground will be covered with a village of the tiny houses. When fishing tapers off, the entire village moves to another locality. Often a sudden spring thaw will make the ice unsafe, and many dog houses will be lost as they float away down stream.

Whitefish fishermen along rivers are not as fortunate, and must content themselves with the sparse heat of an

open bonfire. Grubs and maggots are used as bait by both lake and river fishermen.

Idaho's commercial whitefish industry contributes a portion of the whitefish served in coastal and mid-western restaurants.

Smoked whitefish are a delicacy. They require hours of careful smoking and constant watching, hence bring a fancy price. Apple, cherry, birch and other slow-burning woods are used. The fish are hung on racks, and steeped in smoky heat for eight to ten hours.

Whitefish are native to waters in nearly every section of the state. Best fishing is in the winter months. Two similar species are commonly caught in Idaho, the Rocky Mountain whitefish and the Oregon whitefish.

Sportsmen in the Twin Falls area "dusted" birds with wheat and other feed. Wind-packed snow and heavy concentrations of pheasants made the operation feasible. Crop dusting planes were used, and the feed was dumped over clusters of birds from tree-top elevation.

A flock of 5000 geese is wintering on Deer Flat refuge in Canyon County.