

The No Fee Fish and Game Stamps of California

by David R. Torre, ARA

Introduction

An overprint on a stamp frequently stimulates special interest on the part of collectors. The overprint, be it rubber-stamped or printed, is an additional element to be appreciated and studied. Typesetting varieties may be discovered and in examples derived from a rubber stamp in particular, different colors of ink may have been used. More intriguing is the idea that an overprint often implies a usage that is out of the ordinary as compared to that for which regular stamps were issued. An above average rarity factor may be inferred from an overprinted stamp, if it is assumed that the usage was so limited as to preclude a separate stamp from being printed for it.

Prior to fish and game stamps being issued in the 1930s, California issued paper hunting and fishing licenses with beautiful designs in multicolor chromolithography. The pictorial licenses were printed starting in 1909 and ended in 1926. During this time, California made use of overprints to designate licenses for specific classifications of hunters and fishermen, aside from residents that had not lost their license (see Figure 1).



FIGURE 1. CALIFORNIA MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF OVERPRINTS ON PICTORIAL LICENSES ISSUED FROM 1909 THROUGH 1926.

In the field of fish and game stamps, the use of over prints is relatively unusual. Small quantities of stamps are routinely printed to serve limited usages without resorting to overprints. The earliest recorded use of an overprint was by Marion County, Kansas, in 1942 (See Figure 2). Reminders of county waterfowl stamps from the previous year were rubber-stamped with the 1942 year date and then put back into service (Torre, 1993).

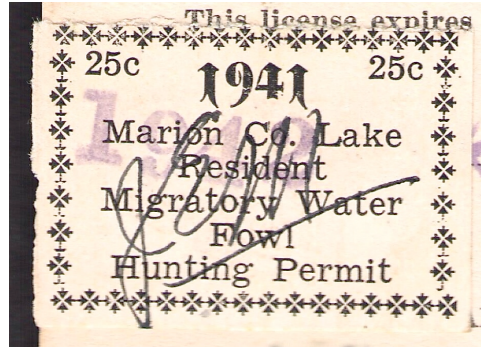


FIGURE 2. THE EARLIEST RECORDED USE OF AN OVERPRINT WAS BY MARION COUNTY IN 1942.

Virginia was the first state government to utilize overprints starting in 1944 with their bear- deer damage stamps. The stamps were required to be purchased by sportsmen intending to hunt bear or deer within certain counties in the state. Funds collected from used to reimburse farmers for damage done to their crops by these animals (Vanderford, 1973). Generic stamps depicting a walking bear were overprinted to specify the county in which the stamps were valid (see Figure 3).



FIGURE 3. STARTING IN 1944, VIRGINIA OVERPRINTED GENERIC BEAR-DEER DAMAGE STAMPS TO SPECIFY WHAT COUNTY THEY WERE VALID IN.

The next state or local government to overprint a fish or game stamp was Indiana in 1957. In the middle of the fishing season the fee charged for trout stamps was increased from one to two dollars. At that time, all 1957 stamps on hand were rubber-stamped with a large “\$2.00” to indicate the new fee (see Figure 4). Since the overprint changed the face value of the stamp exclusively, it is correctly classified as a surcharge (Williams, 1990).



FIGURE 4. IN 1957 INDIANA APPLIED AN OVERPRINT TO TROUT STAMPS IN ORDER TO INDICATE A MID-SEASON FEE INCREASE.

Starting in 1958, California began requiring the purchase of inland fishing stamps. A small portion of those issued the first two years may be found with overprints. The overprints were used to differentiate various classifications of resident sportsmen that were issued licenses and stamps free of charge. Many of the overprints also contain the phrase “NO FEE.” Since this effectively alters the face value of the stamps, they may be said to bear both an overprint and a surcharge.

No Fee sport fishing licenses and overprinted stamps were issued to the aged, disabled veterans, Indians and blind persons. Those overprinted “INDIAN” are believed to be the first fish and game stamps issued specifically for use by Native Americans in the United States. Inland fishing stamps are also known to have been overprinted “VETERANS WIFE.” Originally thought to be No Fee stamps, research for this article suggests that they may be more accurately classified as “Reduced Fee” stamps. California continued to use No Fee overprints on other types of fish and game stamps through 1980-81.

Very little information has previously been published about these stamps. E. L. Vanderford briefly described most of the No Fee stamps that had been issued up until that time in his *Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps*, published in 1973. The purpose of this article will be to cover the stamps in detail. All of the stamps that have been recorded will be listed and described. They will be examined in chronological order, as determined by the year of issue of the first stamp in each series. An emphasis will be placed on the legislation, regulations, news releases, etc. which authorized the stamps and explained these extraordinary usages.

The author would like to note at the outset that it is primarily due to the efforts of Bill Oliver, longtime chairman of WESTPEX and a true philatelist, that most existing examples of California’s early overprinted stamps have been preserved. It is to Bill that this article is dedicated.

Post-War California

California's population grew at a tremendous rate during the decade following WWII (see Figure 5). The 44th Biennial Report, issued by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for the years 1954-56, referred to the growth rate as "explosive." According to the report, on July 1, 1946, the population was 9,559,000 and within ten years it had grown by another 4,000,000—an increase of 42 percent!

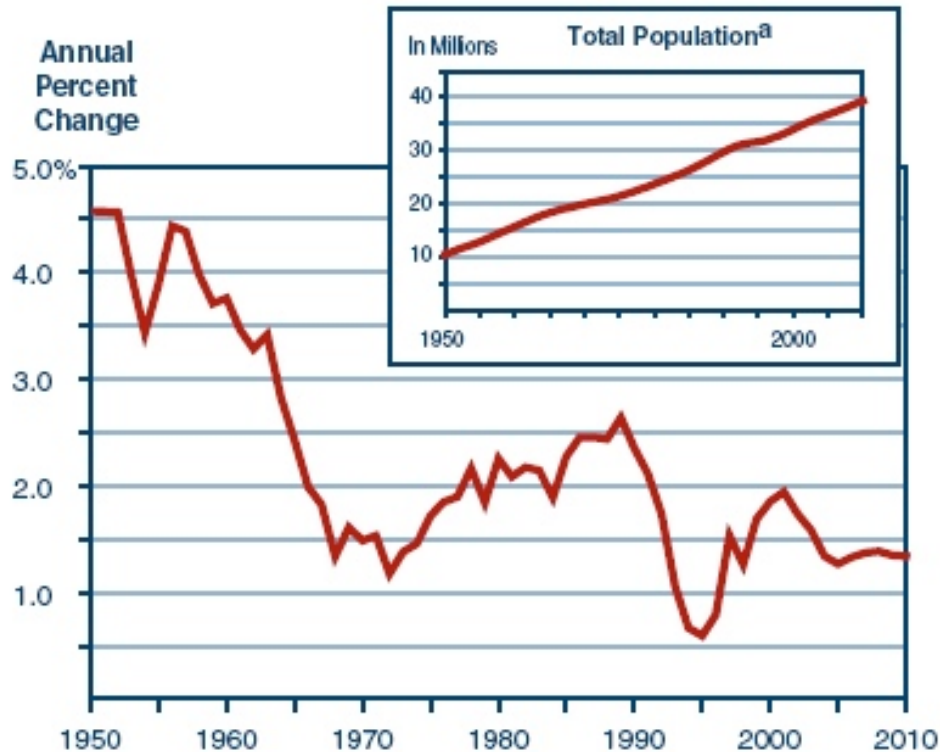


FIGURE 5. CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION GREW RAPIDLY IN THE POST WWII ERA, AVERAGING OVER 3.5% ANNUALLY THROUGH THE 1960S.

The rapid growth provided a complex problem for the DFG, whose responsibility it was to protect fish and game needs. The number of sportsmen was increasing proportionately to the population and this was putting unprecedented stress on the state's fish and wildlife resources, especially trout. According to an excerpt from a speech by DFG spokesperson Seth Gordon in 1956, "[There are now] 600,000 trout fishermen [that] comprise almost half the 1,300,000 people who buy licenses to fish in this state. In addition to this number are additional thousands of youngsters under sixteen years of age who fish without licenses."

Complicating the situation was the fact that there was only so much fresh water in the state, and water that was developed for consumptive purposes took away from fish and wildlife habitat. Gordon continued, "Unfortunately, acts of man are rapidly decreasing the efficiency of streams as trout producers as well as actually drying up others." Much of the postwar population growth occurred in southern California, which was short on water to begin with. It seemed clear to the public in the South that the solution was to import water from the North, which they saw as having a relative abundance. Not so obvious was the effect that such action would have on fish and wildlife.

For decades, conservations and sportsman in northern California had banded together to prevent fish habitat such as the Klamath River from being altered or diverted (see Figure 6). Now, tremendous pressure was put on the DFG to develop a water plan which would provide for southern California's growing population, and at the same time minimize damage to the state's fish life.



FIGURE 6. CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION LEAGUE PLEA, CIRCA 1920.

The new California Water Plan that emerged in 1956 promised to greatly compromise the state fish habitat, especially that for trout. According to an excerpt from the 44th Biennial Report, "The state stands to lose a substantial segment of its migratory fish life when the plan is carried to its ultimate development."

Faced with this prospect, the DFG resolved to increase efforts to protect natural reproduction by improving habitat and further decided that "artificial trout propagation will be used where necessary." Many new projects including hatcheries, ladders, diversion screens and warm water lakes were planned. However, with expenditures having exceeded revenues for five straight years, the DFG was short of working capital (Program Review and Analysis of the Department of Fish and Game, July 27, 1956).

Faced with yet another estimated budget deficit for 1957-58, the California Fish and Game Commission was forced to adopt a series of recommendations calling for increased license fees and began to look at cutting back many newly developed programs. The Commissioner stated that "In order to manage and propagate wildlife resources under present conditions, it has become obvious that additional revenues must be made available to the department for that purpose." Among the possibilities considered for increasing department income in 1958, was a trout stamp (DFG News Release, January 11, 1957).

Fishing Stamps Issued

The California State legislature passed an act to amend the Fish and Game Code, as proposed by Assembly Bill 616, during the spring of 1957. It was approved by the governor on June 10 and put into effect on September 11 of the same year. By this act section 428 of the code was amended to require most anglers to purchase fishing license stamps (Statutes of California, 1957 Regular Session). On December 27, 1957, the DFG issued the following press release: "Fishing licenses for 1958, and the new license stamps, are now on sale throughout the state at all license dealers.... All sports fishermen will require a basic sport fishing license, which will cost them \$3.00 apiece [for residents], same as last year.

The basic license is good for fishing in ocean waters only. In addition, they will require one or two license stamps affixed to this basic license if they are fishing in inland waters. A license stamp will cost \$1.00 and may be purchased at any time. California fishermen will need only one stamp on their basic license if they want to fish for steelhead and warm water species in inland waters (except for trout or frogs). They will need two of these \$1.00 stamps if they want to fish for trout or take frogs. Each stamp must be permanently affixed in the space provided on the basic license and each stamp must be signed in ink by the license owner."

The 1958 inland fishing stamp was designed by Paul B. Johnson. After attending the San Francisco School of Fine Arts on a scholarship, Johnson moved to Sacramento to work for the California Department of Public Works (DPW) in their Division of Architecture. Johnson, an avid sportsman, while working for DPW also served as a wildlife artist for the DFG. Johnson was commissioned to illustrate various DFG publications starting in 1953 (Outdoor California, 1971). Over the years he designed all of California's pictorial fishing stamps, the state's pheasant stamps and the first seven state duck stamps. I was fortunate to acquire Johnson's original pencil drawing for the first fishing license stamp from Tom Richardson, a fish and game collector and dealer, in the year 2000 (see Figure 7).

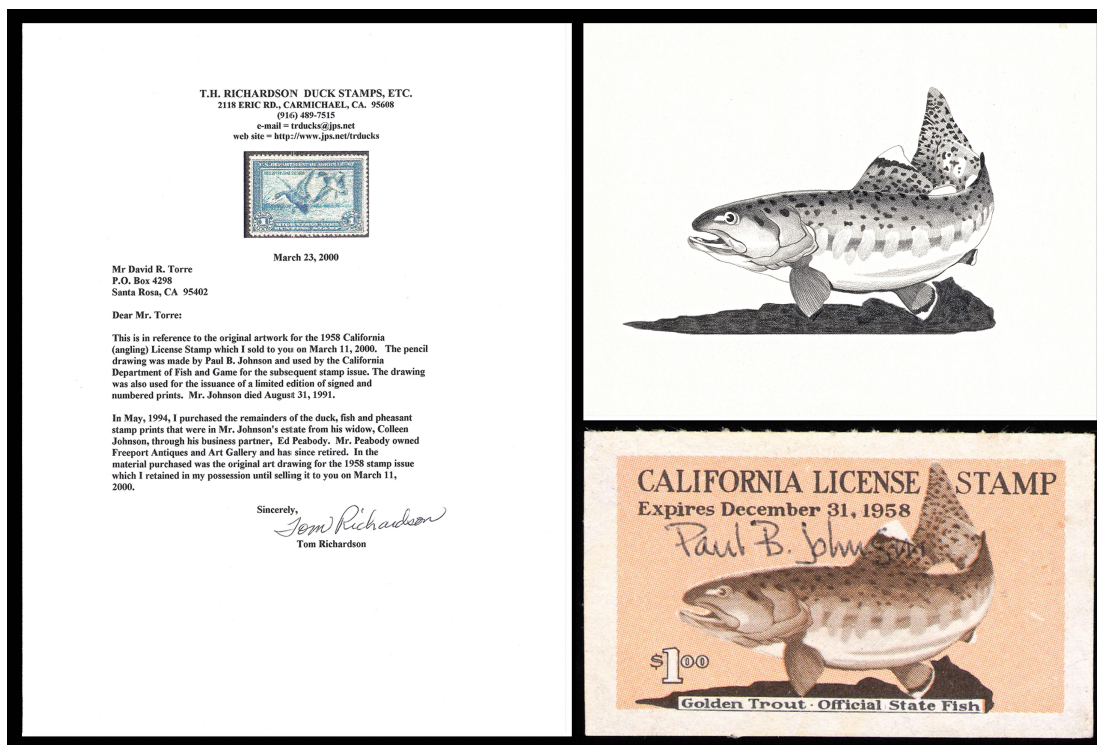


FIGURE 7. LETTER FROM TOM RICHARDSON (LEFT), THE ORIGINAL PENCIL DRAWING MADE BY PAUL JOHNSON FOR CALIFORNIA'S FIRST FISHING LICENSE STAMP IN 1958 (UPPER RIGHT) AND A STAMP SIGNED BY JOHNSON (LOWER RIGHT). NOTE THAT THESE IMAGES ARE NOT TO SCALE.

The 1958 stamp featured a California Golden Trout, the official state fish, and was printed in shades of black, brown and salmon colored inks on white paper by the California State Printing Office (Vanderford, 1973). The stamps were issued in booklet panes of five (1 x 5) with a tab at the top and stapled five panes to a book (see Figure 8). They are rouletted 9 1/2 between stamps. Serial numbers were applied to the reverse of each stamp in black ink.



FIGURE 8. BOOKLET COVER AND PANE OF CALIFORNIA'S FIRST INLAND FISHING STAMP, ISSUED IN 1958.

Imperforate stamps exist that are lacking a serial number. These stamps originated from a large uncut sheet that once hung in the DFG Headquarters in Sacramento. The sheet was obtained by E. L. Vanderford, cut down into blocks and pairs and traded amongst collectors. Vanderford recalls that the sheet consisted of about 200 stamps and that a large portion was heavily creased (see Figure 9).



FIGURE 9. THIS BLOCK OF SIX IS BELIEVED TO BE THE LARGEST REMAINING MULTIPLE FROM THE ORIGINAL UNCUT SHEET THAT ONCE HUNG IN DFG HEADQUARTERS IN SACRAMENTO.

California's 1958 inland fishing stamp is noteworthy in that it is the earliest state or local fish and game stamp to have a print made for it. Johnson had an edition of 85 signed and numbered prints published of the golden trout image (see Figure 10). In 1971 Johnson was also commissioned to produce the state's first duck stamp and subsequently became the first artist to have a state duck stamp print published. Two editions totaling 650 prints were produced of his design featuring a pair of pintails.



FIGURE 10. CALIFORNIA'S 1958 INLAND FISHING STAMP WAS THE EARLIEST STATE OR LOCAL FISH OR GAME STAMP TO HAVE A PRINT MADE FOR IT.

The fishing stamps were sold at DFG offices throughout the state. Stamps were also distributed to private businesses, such as sporting goods dealers, who served as bonded license agents. For the convenience of sports men who lived along the Nevada and Oregon borders, several out of state businesses served as agents.

The agents were allowed to retain fifteen cents per sport fishing license sold but received no compensation for selling the stamps. The balance of all license and stamp sales was to be remitted to the Fish and Game Commission “within ten days following the last day of each calendar month” (Statutes of California, 1957 Regular Session).

The total number of regular inland fishing stamps sold in 1958 was 1,882,631 (DFG Monthly Progress Report for March of 1959). For a breakdown of stamp sales by county, see Table I. The DFG received their operating money from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund and all monies received from license and stamp sales went into this fund (Oliver, 1990).

Table I							
Sales of 1958 inland fishing stamps by county							
County	Total	County	Total	County	Total	County	Total
Alameda	92,209	Kings	6,500	Placer	16,965	Sierra	3,029
Alpine	1,631	Lake	15,025	Plumas	15,007	Siskiyou	17,075
Amador	6,789	Lassen	6,984	Riverside	32,636	Solano	26,798
Butte	26,517	Los Angeles	352,809	Sacramento	89,271	Sonoma	23,727
Calaveras	4,896	Madera	8,818	San Benito	1,668	Stanislaus	28,833
Colusa	6,000	Marin	16,905	San Bernardino	110,176	Sutter	6,969
Contra Costa	67,797	Mariposa	8,265	San Diego	60,230	Tehama	10,024
Del Norte	7,759	Mendocino	14,500	San Francisco	56,597	Trinity	5,386
El Dorado	13,968	Merced	16,692	San Joaquin	54,619	Tulare	31,246
Fresno	66,619	Modoc	4,925	San Louis Obispo	23,730	Tuolumee	13,090
Glenn	2,432	Mono	25,337	San Mateo	32,300	Ventura	23,986
Humboldt	19,351	Monterey	17,830	Santa Barbara	20,458	Yolo	13,655
Imperial	10,972	Napa	13,745	Santa Clara	57,104	Yuba	9,627
Inyo	42,972	Nevada	12,293	Santa Cruz	14,069	State of Nevada	5,282
Kern	77,949	Orange	42,050	Shasta	36,728	State of Oregon	1,523

No Fee Licenses and Stamps

The intent of Assembly Bill 616 was to raise additional revenues to help fund the DFG in its efforts to preserve the state’s wildlife resources. A stamp requirement probably seemed a fair way to spread the cost among those who stood to benefit the most — the state’s sportsmen. At the same time, lawmakers realized there were financially disadvantaged segments of the sporting population that would be hard pressed to support such a program. Therefore, **Assembly Bill 616 also provided that both a license and a pair of stamps were to be issued free of charge to four classifications of California residents.**

Separate stamps were not printed for these special usages, instead a pair of regular 1958 inland fishing stamps was affixed to a No Fee license and overprinted with a rubber stamp to specify the appropriate classification.

Section 428 of the Fish and Game Code was amended to read “Any person receiving aid to the aged under the provisions of the Old Age Security Law, on application to the department shall be issued a sport fishing license with two license stamps affixed thereto, free of charge.” Initially there was some confusion on the part of the public as to eligibility, so on January 17, 1958, the DFG issued a press release to help clarify the amendment (see Figure 11).

PRESS RELEASE

ONLY CERTAIN PENSIONERS
ELIGIBLE FOR LICENSES

Recipients of Federal Social Security or other pensions are not eligible for free fishing licenses unless they also receive the official state old age pension, the Department of Fish and Game reminded California state pension recipients today.

The department has had to turn down many requests from pensioners who are not eligible.

Among California pensioners, only those receiving aid to the aged under the State of California Old Age Security Law are eligible for free sport fishing licenses and stamps under a new law passed by the 1957 Legislature.

Totally disabled war veterans, upon the presentation of proof of an honorable discharge from service and proof of service-connected total disability (100 percent) in the form of a certification from the Veterans Administration, are also entitled to the free licenses.

Blind persons are also eligible for free licenses under certain limitations.

Application forms for the free licenses may be obtained at Department of Fish and Game regional offices in Redding, Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno, and Los Angeles, and from the department's headquarters office at 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento.

Completed forms with certifications must be sent to the Sacramento headquarters office, 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento. The free licenses are issued only by the Department's headquarters office. Applications for disabled veterans are also available through county veterans service officers.

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FIGURE 11. ON JANUARY 17, 1958, THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE TO HELP CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY FOR THE NO FEE LICENSES AND STAMPS.

One type of old age overprint has been recorded: "OLD AGE NO FEE" is in one line of capital letters measuring 3 mm in height. The length of the overprint is 31 mm and as a general rule it was applied along the right side of the stamps. Old age overprints have been recorded in four colors of ink: purple, black, blue and red (see Figures 12a and b).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 16858 NF

Name ELIZABETH GREENE Age 66
 Address 1621 LINDEN ST. Height 5-4
 City OAKLAND, CALIF. Eyes BRN
 Hair GRAY
 Date Issued 11-4-58 Weight 160
 Sex FEMALE

SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE
Elizabeth Greene
 Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 13255 NF

Name VINA NATION Age 66
 Address PO Box 603 Height 5-7
 City GREENFIELD CALIF Eyes BR
 Hair GR
 Date Issued 5-9-58 Weight 140
 Sex F

SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE
Vina Nation
 Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

FIGURE 12A. PAIRS OF REGULAR INLAND FISHING STAMPS WERE AFFIXED TO NO FEE LICENSES AND OVERPRINTED FOR ISSUE TO THE AGED, FREE OF CHARGE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 06558 NF

Name WILLIAM O'BRIEN Age 69
 Address 11 NORTH CALIFORNIA Height 5-7
 City STOCKTON Eyes Blue
 Hair Light
 Date Issued 1-21-58 Weight 173
 Sex M

SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE
William O'Brien
 Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 05301 NF

Name CONRAD GACK Age 69
 Address 4240 Northgate Blvd Height 5-6
 City No. SACRAMENTO Eyes gray
 Hair gray
 Date Issued 1-2-58 Weight 140
 Sex M

SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE
Conrad Gack
 Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
OLD AGE NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

FIGURE 12B. OLD AGE NO FEE OVERPRINTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN FOUR DIFFERENT COLORS.

Section 429 of the Code Previously stated that totally disabled veterans were entitled to receive hunting and sport fishing license free of charge (DFG Fish and Game Code for the Years 1955-57). This section was amended to read "Every veteran, having 70 percent or greater disability, of any war in which the United States has been, or may be engaged, upon the presentation of proof of an honorable discharge from service, and proof of service-connected 70 percent or greater disability certification from the Veterans Administration, shall be entitled to the license [and stamps] provided for in this article upon application to the Department of Fish and Game, Headquarters Office, Sacramento, free of charge...."

Two types of disabled veterans overprints have been recorded: Type I has "DISABLED VETERAN / NO FEE" on two lines, while Type II has "DISABLED VETERAN" on one line only, omitting the "NO FEE" phrase. Both types are all in capital letters measuring 3 mm in height. The length of the first line is 33 mm, while the length of the second line in Type I stamps is 13 mm. All recorded examples have the overprint applied along the right side of the stamps in black or blue colored ink (see Figure 13a and b).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 0972 NF

Name ARCELLES AUSTIN Age 34
 Address 9888 SEELMD DR Height 5-9 1/2
OAKLAND, CALIF. Eyes BRN
 City OAKLAND, CALIF. Hair BLK
 Date Issued 9-12-58 Weight 137
 Sex MALE
 Signature: Archieles Austin
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Issued By INYO-MONO TROUT
 POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
DISABLED VETERAN / NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.
 FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
DISABLED VETERAN

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 0354 NF

Name Ernest L. Rowland Age 37
 Address 5311 No. Lomb Ave. Height 5-10
Temple City Eyes GREY
 City Temple City Hair BLK
 Date Issued 4-3-58 Weight 150
 Sex M.
 Signature: Ernest L. Rowland
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
 Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS
 POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
DISABLED VETERAN / NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.
 FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
DISABLED VETERAN

FIGURE 13A. STAMPS WERE OVERPRINTED FOR ISSUE TO DISABLED VETERANS.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below
 to fish elsewhere.

No Fee

NO. **0522** NF

Name Edward Savary Age 62
 Address 4015 CORTA Rd Height 5'10"
 City SANTA BARBARA Eyes Brown
 Date Issued 5-13-58 Hair Grey
 Weight 150
 Sex M

x Edward Savary
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

INYO-MONO TROUT
 POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

DISABLED VETERAN

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

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TO FISH FROM OR ON A
 BOAT OR OTHER FLOAT-
 ING DEVICE ON THE
 WATERS OF THE COLO-
 RADO RIVER AND ON
 ADJACENT WATER
 WHERE SAID RIVER
 FORMS A MUTUAL
 BOUNDARY BETWEEN
 THE STATES OF ARIZONA
 AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A
 1958 ARIZONA COLO-
 RADO RIVER SPECIAL
 USE PERMIT.

PERMIT MUST BE
 SIGNED IN INK ACROSS
 THE FACE.

FIGURE 13B. A VARIETY OF THE DISABLED VETERAN OVERPRINT HAS BEEN RECORDED IN WHICH THE "NO FEE" PHRASE HAS BEEN LEFT OFF.

Section 429 was additionally amended to read "The [California Fish and Game] commission and any employee of the department directed by the commission, may issue to any Indian residing in this state an order authorizing any person who may legally distribute sporting fishing licenses to give to such Indian a sport fishing license [and stamps], free of charge.

The orders may be distributed only to such resident Indians as are, in the discretion of the person authorized to issue said orders, financially unable to pay the fees required for said licenses, and only to such resident Indians as have not been convicted of the violation of any law of this state relating to the protection of fish and game."

One type of Indian overprint has been recorded: "INDIAN" is in one line of capital letters measuring 2.5 mm in height. The length of the overprint is 12 mm. A total of 15 licenses, each bearing one or two stamps, were issued to Indians in 1958. Each of the six recorded pairs bears two strikes of the overprint in an opposing diagonal arrangement (see Figure 14).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 10884 NF

Name Irene H. Roe Age 66
 Address P.O. Box 285 Height 5-2
 City Calimesa Eyes Grey
 Hair Grey
 Date Issued 4/3/58 Weight 110
 Sex F

☒ Irene H. Roe
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 10885 NF

Name Arthur G. Roe Age 73
 Address P.O. Box 285 Height 5-9
 City Calimesa Eyes Blue
 Hair Grey
 Date Issued 4/3/58 Weight 135
 Sex M

☒ Arthur G. Roe
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.

PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

FIGURE 14. OF THE SIX RECORDED PAIRS OF STAMPS WHICH WERE OVERPRINTED AND ISSUED TO INDIANS IN 1958, TWO WERE CONSECUTIVELY ISSUED TO A HUSBAND AND WIFE.

A single from the bottom of the five-stamp pane, also bearing two strikes of the overprint, is known affixed to the lower half of a sport fishing license. Presumably, the person issued this license did not intend to fish for trout or take frogs and was content with one stamp. This is the only recorded example of a single No Fee inland fishing stamp usage (see Figure 115).

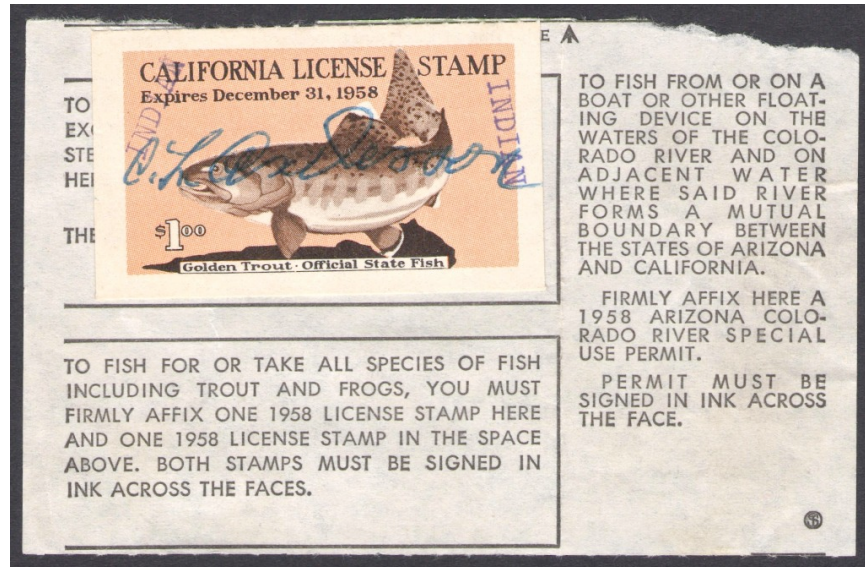


FIGURE 15. ONE OF THE NO FEE LICENSES ISSUED TO INDIANS IN 1958 HAD A SINGLE OVERPRINTED STAMP AFFIXED.

Section 429.1 was added to the code by Assembly Bill 616, and reads:

"A sport fishing license [and stamps] shall be issued, free of charge, to every blind person who makes application, together with an affidavit attesting to his blindness, to the Department of Fish and Game, Headquarters Office, Sacramento." 'Blind person' for purposes of this section means any person with central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with the aid of the best possible correcting glasses, or central visual acuity better than 20/200 if the widest diameter of the remaining visual field is no greater than 20 degrees."

One type of blind overprint has been recorded: "BLIND NO FEE" is in one line of capital letters measuring 3 mm in height. The length of the overprint is 29 mm and generally one strike was applied along the right side of the stamps. Blind overprints have been recorded in black, blue and red colored inks (see figure 16a and b.) .

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 1110 NF

Name Grover M. Clinton Age 50
 Address 540 - 28 St Height 6-1
 City Oakland Eyes Blue
 Hair Blonde Weight 175
 Date Issued 1-9-58 Sex M
 Signature Grover M. Clinton
 Issued By **F & G HEADQUARTERS** INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
BLIND NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere. **No Fee**
NO. 1214 NF

Name CHARLES HORNE Age 43
 Address 7386 FULTON ST. Height 5-10
 City SAN DIEGO CALIF. Eyes BR.
 Hair BRK. Weight 225
 Date Issued 3-27-58 Sex M
 Signature Charles Horne
 Issued By **F & G HEADQUARTERS** INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958
 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish
BLIND NO FEE

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATER WHERE SAID RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1958 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
 PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

FIGURE 16A. STAMPS WERE OVERPRINTED FOR ISSUE TO THE BLIND IN THREE DIFFERENT COLORS OF INK.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1958
VALID ONLY IN OCEAN WATERS
 See license stamp requirements below to fish elsewhere.

No Fee


NO. **1143** NF

Name Dorothy Ray Age 37
 Address 1821-E. 22nd St. Height 5-1/2"
 City Merced Eyes Blue
 Date Issued 2-18-58 Hair Blond
 Weight 110
 Sex F


X _____
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

Issued By **F & G HEADQUARTERS** INYO-MONO TROUT
 POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958


 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1958


 \$1.00
 Golden Trout - Official State Fish

TO FISH FROM OR ON A
 BOAT OR OTHER FLOAT-
 ING DEVICE ON THE
 WATERS OF THE COLO-
 RADO RIVER AND ON
 ADJACENT WATER
 WHERE SAID RIVER
 FORMS A MUTUAL
 BOUNDARY BETWEEN
 THE STATES OF ARIZONA
 AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A
 1958 ARIZONA COLO-
 RADO RIVER SPECIAL
 USE PERMIT.

PERMIT MUST BE
 SIGNED IN INK ACROSS
 THE FACE.

FIGURE 16B. OCCASIONALLY TWO STRIKES OF THE BLIND NO FEE OVERPRINT WERE APPLIED, ONE ALONG EACH SIDE OF THE STAMPS.

“VETERANS WIFE”

A fifth overprint is known to have been applied to the 1958 stamps: “VETERANS WIFE” is in one line of capital letters measuring 3 mm in height. The length of the overprint is 29 mm and the type style used is identical to the disabled veteran No Fee overprints (see Figure 17).



FIGURE 17. AT LEAST ONE PANE OF 1958 STAMPS WAS OVERPRINTED FOR ISSUE TO VETERAN'S WIVES.

No mention of the veteran's wife overprint is made in the Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps. Previous to researching this article the author had assumed it to be a No Fee overprint. However, Assembly Bill 616 did not provide for sport fishing licenses and stamps to be issued to veteran's wives free of charge.

Although not mentioned in any section of the code pertaining to sport fishing licenses, veteran's wives were included in a section pertaining to hunting licenses. Section 427, subsection (e), read: "A hunting license, granting the privilege to take game birds and mammals, shall be issued to the wife of any veteran, as defined in sections 800 or 980 of the Military and Veterans Code, upon payment of the same fee as provided by subsection (a), even though she be an alien."

Sections 800 and 980 of the Military and Veterans Code simply define a "veteran" and make no mention of veteran's wives. Subsection (a) refers to resident citizens over 16 years of age and specifies that they pay a \$3 fee for a hunting license. Section 427 was amended by Assembly Bill 616, entitling the wife of any veteran to a hunting license upon payment of the newly increased resident fee of \$4. This still represented a substantial savings over either the non-resident fee of \$25 or the alien fee of \$50.

The DFG Progress Report for February of 1959 states that three hunting licenses were issued to veteran's wives for the 1958-59 season, down from eight for 1956-57 and five for 1957-58. there is no record of sport fishing licenses being issued to veteran's wives for any year. One pair of overprinted 1958 inland fishing stamps is known affixed to the lower half of a sport fishing license and is signed "Alis Means" (Bill Oliver Collection). By holding the license to a strong light, it can be clearly seen from the serial numbers that the pair of stamps are those missing from the top of the partial booklet pane shown in Figure 17.

It is, therefore, assumed that Alis Means, a non-resident or alien, successfully persuaded the DFG to issue her a sport fish license at the resident fee based on the precedent set by section 427, subsection (e) of the code. This would have resulted in a savings to her of seven dollars, as non-residents or aliens were normally charged charged a \$10 fee.

The Veteran's wife overprint would then be correctly classified as a "Reduced Fee" stamp. It is likely that only the one sport fishing license and pair of overprinted stamps was issued to a veteran's wife during the same period of time based on the fact that the balance of the pane went unused and was saved for Bill Oliver by a friendly license clerk (Oliver, 1990).

Expired Licenses Saved

Despite the ambiguous wording in the amendment to section 429, in reference to Indians, it is believed that all of the 1958 overprints were applied at the DFG headquarters in Sacramento (Oliver, 1993 and Vanderford, 1993). The press release reproduced in Figure 11 states: "The free licenses are issued only by the department's headquarters office." Of the total number of sport fishing licenses issued in 1958, just under one percent (13,296) were No Fee licenses, each with one or two overprinted stamps affixed (DFG Monthly Progress Report for January of 1959). The old age classification accounted for 89% of the No Fee total (see Table II).

Table II

Quantities of sport fishing licenses issued for the years 1958-61

Classification	1958	1959	1960	1961¹
All	1,390,901	1,470,761	1,397,245	1,412,037
Total No Fee	13,296	16,248	21,605	24,852
Old Age (OAS)	11,842	14,266	14,277	14,719
Old Age (Inc.)	0	434	5,731	8,255
Disabled Veteran	1,006	1,081	1,032	1,133
Blind	433	459	557	720
Indian	15	8	8	11
Institutions	0	0	0	14

¹Totals as of December 4, 1961

In lieu of having to prove their qualifications year after year, the DFG provided an option to No Fee license recipients whereby they could “quick qualify” by mailing in their recently expired license (Oliver, 1990). After issuing a new license the clerks discarded the old one, usually piling them in a box near their desk. At this time Bill Oliver was working for the State Water Resources Agency in the same building as the DFG headquarters.

Oliver was an active member of the Sacramento Stamp Club. Every year the club sponsors a stamp show to benefit the Easter Seals Society. Club members gather stamps throughout the year to sell at the show, with the proceeds going to the charity. Since the DFG received a great deal of mail, Oliver would often walk up on his lunch breaks to clip stamps off the discarded envelopes. One day the expired fishing licenses started showing up in the boxes and Oliver began to save them also.

Although not initially interested in fish and game stamps, Oliver became fascinated with the various overprints and soon was collecting them in earnest. Upon learning of the small number of No Fee licenses and stamps that had been issued to Indians, Oliver became worried that an example might not be mailed in.

A sympathetic license clerk provided him with the names and addresses of the Indian recipients and Oliver wrote to them offering a few dollars each for their obsolete licenses. In this way Oliver was able to obtain six pairs and a single of the 1958 Indian overprints and three pairs from 1959 (see Figure 18). Remarkably, Alis Means mailed in her expired license each year and Oliver saved them from the discarded mail (Oliver, 1990 and 1993).

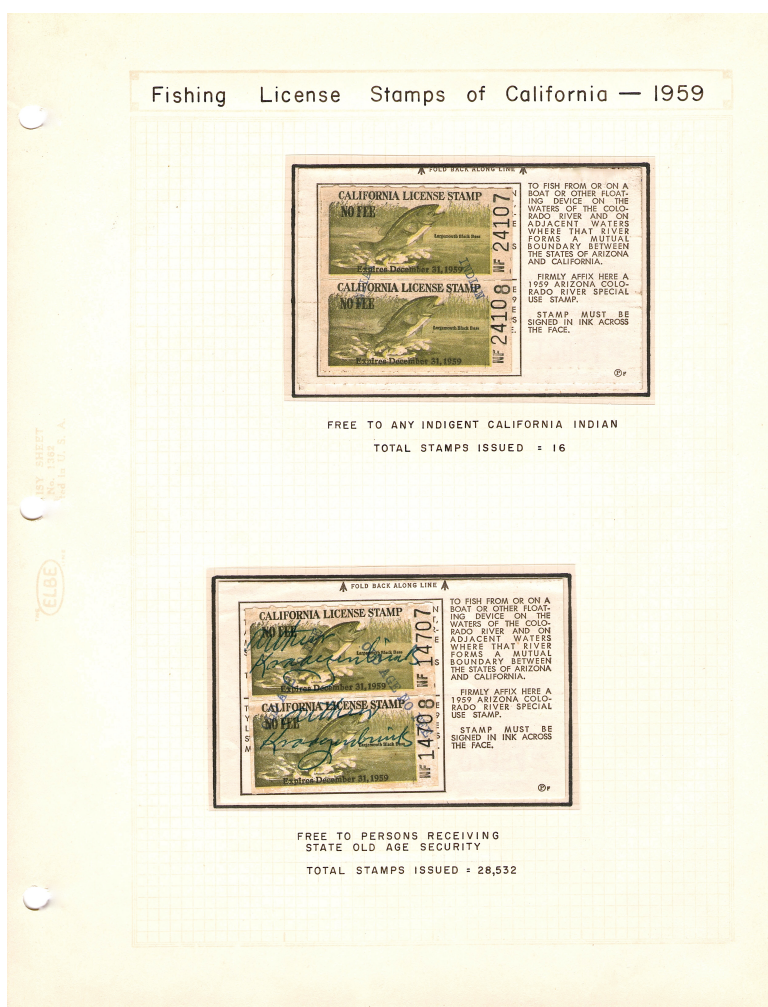


FIGURE 18. AN ALBUM PAGE FROM THE BILL OLIVER COLLECTION SHOWING ONE OF THE INDIAN OVERPRINTS FROM 1959

1959 Inland Fishing Stamps

Towards the end of the 1950s, California's population continued its rapid growth. In response, the trout limit was lowered in 1959. According to an excerpt from the 46th Biennial Report, issued for the years 1958-60, "Spurred by the desire to spread available trout among California's ever growing army of anglers, the Fish and Game Commission in 1959 cut the statewide trout limit to ten, reducing it from fifteen."

A new inland fishing stamp was designed for 1959 by Paul Johnson. Featuring a large-mouth bass, the stamps were printed in black and shades of green colored inks on white paper by the Eastman Tag and Label Company of Oakland, California (Vanderford, 1973). The stamps were issued with a special adhesive which required a protective backing similar to wax paper.

They were issued in booklet panes of five (1 x 5) with a tab at the top. Peelable tabs were also located to the right of each stamp to aid in removal from the backing paper. Ten panes were stapled together to form a book. Both the stamps and the backing paper are rouletted 4 between stamps and the the tab. The stamps measure approximately 57 x 26 mm when on the backing paper (with side tabs) and 51 x 26 mm when removed.

Three types of 1959 inland fishing stamps were printed: Type I has a large serial number measuring 4.5 mm in height printed along the right side. Type II resulted from a second printing in which smaller serial numbers, measuring 3 mm, were used. Type III stamps are similar to Type 1 with the exception that the "\$1.00" fee printed in the upper left corner of the stamp has been replaced with "NO FEE" and the initials "NF" preceded the serial number (see Figures 19a and b).



FIGURE 19A. NEW STAMPS WERE DESIGNED FOR 1959 BY PAUL JOHNSON. SMALLER SERIAL NUMBERS WERE APPLIED TO STAMPS FROM A SECOND PRINTING (RIGHT).



FIGURE 19B. SPECIFIC STAMPS WERE PRINTED FOR ISSUE TO THE NO FEE CLASSIFICATIONS.

No Fee licenses and stamps were issued to the same classifications of people as in 1958. A small portion of the No Fee stamps was overprinted as in 1958, using the same rubber stamps (Vanderford, 1973 and Oliver, 1990). With the exception of one example, all overprinted No Fee stamps from 1959 bear two strikes, one along each side of the stamp in purple or blue ink.

At least one example for each of these four classifications has been recorded (see Figures 20, 21 and 21a), with the total number of 1959 **No Fee overprints recorded being less than ten**. The author has recorded many times the number of unoverprinted pairs of 1959 No Fee stamps.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1959
 VALID IN OCEAN WATERS AND FOR TAKING FROGS
 No Fee
 See license stamp requirements below. NO. **0098** NF

Name JACK TREECE Age 42
 Address Box 76 Height 5-8
 City HAMILTON City, Calif. Eyes GRAY
 Date Issued 12-30-58 Hair Brown
 Weight 190
 Sex M

X Jack Treece
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 NO FEE
 Expires December 31, 1959
 NF 0195

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1959 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP.

STAMP MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1959
 VALID IN OCEAN WATERS AND FOR TAKING FROGS
 No Fee
 See license stamp requirements below. NO. **0737** NF

Name ALFRED FOWLER JR. Age 40
 Address Box 373 Height 5-3
 City FAIRFAX Eyes BL
 Date Issued 4-24-59 Hair BR
 Weight 130
 Sex M

X Alfred Fowler Jr.
 SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE

Issued By F & G HEADQUARTERS INYO-MONO TROUT POSSESSION TAG NO.

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 NO FEE
 Expires December 31, 1959
 NF 1473

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA.

FIRMLY AFFIX HERE A 1959 ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP.

STAMP MUST BE SIGNED IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

FIGURE 20. A SMALL PORTION OF THE 1959 NO FEE INLAND FISHING STAMPS WERE OVERPRINTED AS IN 1958. ONLY TWO COLORS OF INK HAVE BEEN RECORDED, PURPLE AND BLUE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1959		CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE EXPIRES DEC. 31, 1959	
VALID IN OCEAN WATERS AND FOR TAKING FROGS		VALID IN OCEAN WATERS AND FOR TAKING FROGS	
No Fee		No Fee	
See license stamp requirements below. NO.	0160 NF	See license stamp requirements below. NO.	14201 NF
Name <u>CHARLES SINGER</u>	Age <u>61</u>	Name <u>CORA HUNTER</u>	Age <u>78</u>
Address <u>488 W. 24th St</u>	Height <u>5-6</u>	Address <u>Box 511</u>	Height <u>5-5</u>
City <u>SAN BERNARDINO</u>	Eyes <u>GRY</u>	City <u>Willits CAL.</u>	Eyes <u>gray</u>
Date Issued <u>1-8-59</u>	Hair <u>BRN</u>	Date Issued <u>7-2-59</u>	Hair <u>gray</u>
	Weight <u>160</u>		Weight <u>130</u>
	Sex <u>M</u>		Sex <u>F</u>
X <u>Charles Singer</u> SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE F&G HEADQUARTERS		X <u>F&G HEADQUARTERS</u> SIGNATURE AT TIME OF PURCHASE	
Issued By		Issued By	
FOLD BACK ALONG LINE		FOLD BACK ALONG LINE	

FIGURE 21A. 1959 BLIND AND INDIAN OVERPRINTS.



FIGURE 21B. ONLY TWO PAIRS OF 1959 STAMPS WITH INDIAN OVERPRINTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED. THIS ONE IS OFF LICENSE.

It is not known why the overprints were so seldom applied. It has been suggested in the Handbook of Fish and Game Stamps that the overprinted stamps were issued early in the year. However, the "INDIAN" example shown in Figure 21 was issued on July 2. Only the Type I disabled veteran overprint has been recorded for 1959.

As in 1958, the DFG overprinted one pane of stamps “VETERANS WIFE” and issued a pair to Alis Means. The remaining unused strip of three was once again obtained by Bill Oliver (see Figure 22). For comparison, two hunting licenses were issued to veteran’s wives during the 1959-60 season (DFG Intraoffice Correspondence, Monthly Report for February of 1960 – License Revenue).



FIGURE 22. THE RECONSTRUCTED PANE OF 1959 INLAND FISHING STAMPS OVERPRINTED “VETERANS WIFE.”

The 1959 stamps with the veteran’s wife overprint reinforce the belief that these should not be classified with the No Fee stamps. The overprints were applied to a pane of Type II inland fishing stamps, rather than the Type III stamps which had been specifically printed for No Fee usages. They can best be defined as a reduced fee stamp.

The two partial panes of 1958 and 1959 stamps overprinted “VETERANS WIFE” are the only unused examples of overprinted inland fishing stamps on record. The DFG would not sell the NO FEE stamps to collectors (Vanderford, 1973).

A total of 16,248 No Fee licenses, each with one or two No Fee stamps affixed, were issued in 1959 (DFG Interoffice Correspondence, Monthly Report for February of 1960 – License Revenue). Of this total, 90% were issued to the aged (see Table II). It is not known what percentage of the No Fee stamps were overprinted, but it evidently was small.

For example, out of the 11,842 licenses that were issued to the old age classification in 1958, sixty-plus examples bearing the “OLD AGE NO FEE” overprint have been recorded. Although the number of license issued to the old age classification increased to 14,266 in 1959, only one example bearing the overprint has been recorded (see figures 18 and 23).



FIGURE 23. THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF THE OLD AGE OVERPRINT
RECORDED ON THE 1959 ISSUE. FORMERLY IN THE BILL OLIVER COLLECTION.

The total number of regular inland fishing stamps (Types I and II) sold in 1959 was 1,848,698 (DFG Monthly Progress Report for January of 1960). The success of the stamps program enabled the Fish and Game Commission to establish a new trout policy in 1960 (46th Biennial Report for the years 1958-60). this policy directly tied trout production to stamp revenue as follows:

“1. Trout production (excluding fingerlings) will be geared to stamp revenue from trout anglers for the previous calendar year. The number of trout fishermen will be estimated at one-half of all angling licenses. (This is an approximation which has help for the last twenty years).”

“2. Any increase in production of catchable sized trout, made possible from [an] increase in revenue from trout stamps, shall go to the most suitable waters where the need is greatest.”

“3. If cutbacks become necessary because of declining [stamp] revenue, they shall be made in the least suitable waters under the lightest fishing pressure.”

California continued its inland fishing stamp program through 1983, after which time the stamps were discontinued. Starting in 1984 the inland fishing fee was no longer optional. It was included in the cost of sport fishing license stamps and required of all fishermen

Validating Stamps Issued

No Fee inland fishing stamps were discontinued after 1959. A new system for issuing No Fee licenses was developed and first used for a new classification of recipients starting in the fall of 1959. Effective September 18, additional old age residents were entitled to receive free sport fishing licenses.

According to the 1959 fish and Game Code: "Any woman over 62 years of age and any man over 65 years of age who has been a resident of this state for the five years immediately proceeding and whose total monthly income from all source, including an old age assistance payments, does not exceed one hundred forty dollars (\$140) on application to the department shall be issued a sport fishing license which may be renewable, authorizing the licensee to take fish from ocean waters of this state and amphibia anywhere in this state for purposes other than profit, free of charge."

It is important to note that if the old age recipients in this new classification intended to fish for warm water fish and trout, they were required to purchase two inland fishing stamps and affix them to the front of their No Fee license (see Figure 26). Once again there was some confusion on the part of the public and a news release was issued to help clarify the matter (see Figure 24).

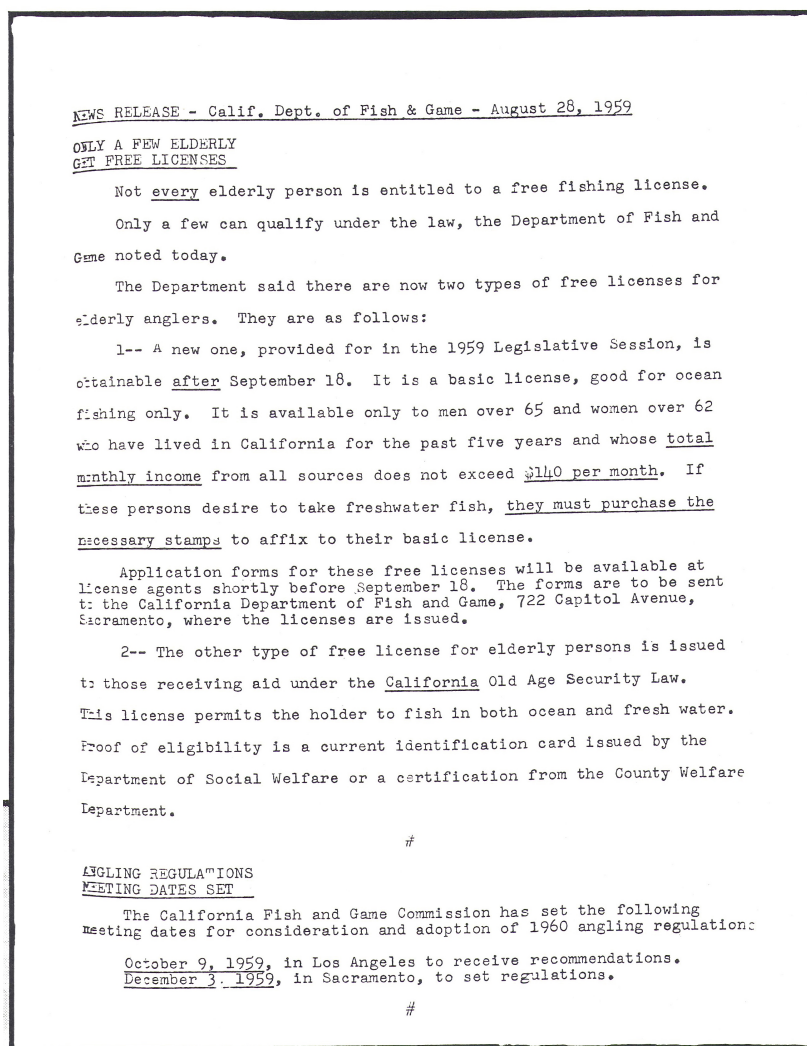


FIGURE 24. ONCE AGAIN, A NEWS RELEASE WAS NECESSARY TO CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEW CLASSIFICATION OF AGED ENTITLED TO NO FEE LICENSES.

The No Fee fishing licenses used with the new system did not have an expiration date printed on them. The licensee could renew the license by mailing it, along with a new application, to the DFG headquarters after December 15 each year. A clerk at the DFG would then affix a current "validating stamp" to the license which specified that the license was valid through December 31 of the following year (see Figures 25).

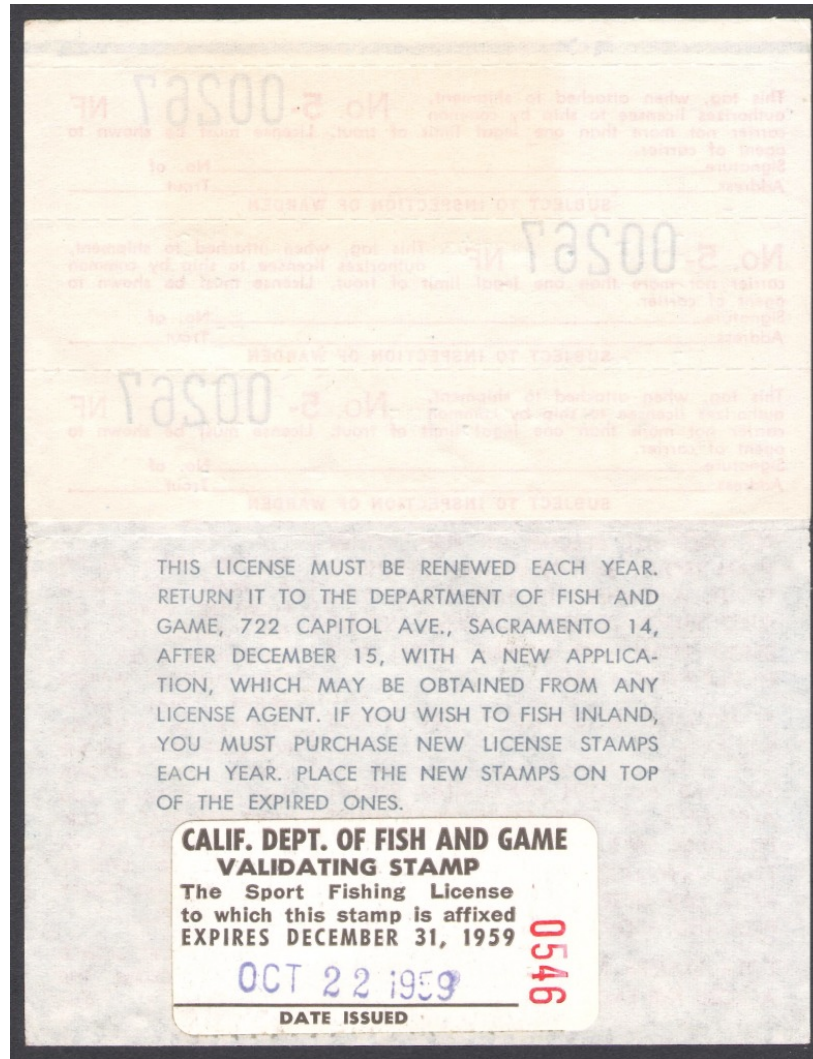


FIGURE 25. VALIDATING STAMPS WERE AFFIXED TO THE REVERSE OF LICENSES ISSUED TO THE NEW OLD AGE CLASSIFICATION STARTING IN THE FALL OF 1959.

If a license had been previously renewed, the current validating stamp was placed over the top of the expired one. I have examined many No Fee licenses with a half-dozen or more stamps affixed.

All validating stamps were non-pictorial, serial numbered, and included a space for the clerk to write in or rubber-stamp the issue date. The stamps were die cut and featured pressure sensitive gum. All were placed on a backing material and issued in booklet panes of five (1×5) with a tab at the top. For descriptive information on validating stamps for specific years, see Table III.

Table III

Description of sport fishing license validating stamps

Year	Colors	Color of Serial No.	Approximate Overall Dimensions
1959	black on white	red	51 x 26 mm
1960	red on white	black	51 x 26 mm
1961	green on white	red	51 x 25 mm
1962	black on white	red	51 x 25 mm
1963	red on white	black	51 x 25 mm
1964	red on white	black	51 x 25 mm
1965	red on white	black	51 x 25 mm
1966	red on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1967	red on light green	black	46 x 26 mm
1968	black on white	red	46 x 26 mm
1969	green on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1970	blue on orange	blue	46 x 26 mm
1971	black on white	red	46 x 26 mm
1972	red on white	black	45 x 25 mm
1973	dark blue on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1974	pink on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1975	green on white	black	44 x 25 mm
1976	red on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1977	light blue on white	black	44 x 25 mm
1978	brown on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1979	green on white	black	46 x 26 mm
1980	black on white	black ¹	44 x 25 mm

¹Stamps have been recorded with the serial number rubber-stamped in black ink, rather than printed.

Starting in 1960, the system of No Fee licenses and validating stamps was expanded to include all five classifications of no Fee license recipients (Vanderford, 1973). One type of stamp was used to validate all five classifications of licenses. Preceding the serial number on each No Fee license was a code used to differentiate the various classifications (see Figure 26 and Table IV).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE
VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING
 WHEN VALIDATING STAMP IS AFFIXED BELOW

No Fee No. 1- 12250 NF

Name Millie Wheeler 1888
 Date of Birth 5/31

Address 327 E. Locadia Height
apt 9 BRN

City Stockton Eyes
4cy

Date Issued MAY 18 1960 Hair
1/4

X Millie Wheeler Weight
114

Must be signed before fishing. Sex
F

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1960
Millie Wheeler

 \$100
 King Salmon

CALIFORNIA LICENSE STAMP
 Expires December 31, 1960
Millie Wheeler

 \$100
 King Salmon

CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
VALIDATING STAMP
 The Sport Fishing License
 to which this stamp is affixed
EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1960
MAY 18 1960
DATE ISSUED

CH OF E., 5, BY NT. 3M
403300
11700

IN INK ACROSS THE FACE.

FIGURE 26. IN 1960 THE VALIDATION STAMP SYSTEM WAS EXPANDED TO COVER ALL FIVE NO FEE CLASSIFICATIONS. THE RED PREFIX "NO. 1" BEFORE THE LICENSE NUMBER DESIGNATED THE RECIPIENT AS OLD AGE.

Table IV

Guide to No Fee sport fishing license codes

Code	Classification
No. 1	Old Age—Receiving State Old Age Security (OAS)
No. 2	Disabled Veterans
No. 3	Blind
No. 4	Indian
No. 5	Old Age—Limited Income (Inc.)

Effective September 15, 1961, persons who were wards of the state residing in state institutions were entitled to receive a free fishing permit" (see Figure 27).

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Fish and Game

Leave Blank

No.
Date

APPLICATION FOR FREE FISHING PERMIT

Effective September 15, 1961 any person who is a ward of the State and who is a patient in, and resides in, a state institution shall be issued a fishing permit, on application therefor, by the Department, in lieu of a fishing license and appropriate stamps authorizing the taking of any fish and amphibia anywhere in this State for purposes other than profit, free of charge.

Such permits shall be valid only during the time such person is a ward of the State and residing in the state institution. Certification by the person in charge of the state institution shall be sufficient proof of the person's status as a ward and the period of residency in the institution.

Licenses may be obtained only at the License Section, Department of Fish and Game, 722 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento 14, California.

PRINT:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

Date of Birth	Height	Eyes	Hair	Weight	Sex
---------------	--------	------	------	--------	-----

I hereby certify that, according to our records, the above named person is a patient in, and resides in, a state institution; to the best of my knowledge he will reside in the institution until _____.

 NAME OF STATE INSTITUTION

 Signature of Official in Charge Date

FIGURE 27. APPLICATION FOR FREE FISHING PERMIT ISSUED TO WARDS OF THE STATE
RESIDING IN STATE INSTITUTIONS.

In 1963 the code was amended to include persons who resided in private family care (FC) homes. Section 7162 of the 1963 code reads:

“Any person who is a ward of the state and who is a patient in, and resides in, a state institution or a private home certificated under Section 6726.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be issued a fishing permit, on application therefore, by the department, in lieu of a fishing license and appropriate stamps, authorizing the taking of any fish and amphibia anywhere in this state for purposes other than profit, free of charge.”

“Such permit shall be valid only during the period of time such person is a ward of the state and residing in the state institution or licensed family care home. Certification by the person in charge of the state institution shall be sufficient proof of the person’s status as a ward and the period of time of residency in the institution or licensed family care home.”

“All persons while using such a permit shall be accompanied by an adult person except where a representative of the Department of Mental Hygiene certifies this requirement is unnecessary in a particular case.”

The No Fee permits closely resembled No Fee sport fishing licenses. They contained a box for validating stamps and could be renewed in the same manner as the licenses by “the person in charge of the state institution” (see Figure 28).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING PERMIT VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING While a Patient Residing in a Family Care Home NO FEE—F.C.	
Name <u>James Avila</u>	Date of Birth <u>3-20-42</u>
Address <u>1001 Parnell Ave</u>	Height <u>5-10</u>
City <u>Turlock, Calif</u>	Eyes <u>Brown</u>
	Hair <u>Black</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>James Avila</u>	Weight <u>180</u>
Must be signed before fishing.	Sex <u>Male</u>
See Certification Reverse Side THIS PERMIT EXPIRES ON DEC. 31st, AND MUST BE RETURNED FOR RENEWAL AFTER DEC. 15th BY THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE STATE INSTITUTION	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME VALIDATING STAMP The Sport Fishing License to which this stamp is affixed EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1973 <u>4-6-73</u> DATE ISSUED </div> <div style="float: right; text-align: right;"> 4687 </div>	
I certify that it is not necessary for the person issued this permit to be accompanied by an adult person. <u>Nathaniel J. Gilliam</u> <u>4-6-73</u> Social Worker Date	
I certify that it is necessary for the person issued this permit to be accompanied by an adult person. _____ Social Worker Date	

FIGURE 28. THE NO FEE PERMITS CLOSELY RESEMBLED NO FEE SPORT FISHING LICENSES (LEFT). THE REVERSE CONTAINED SPECIAL CERTIFICATION LINES (RIGHT).

In 1965 the supply of validating stamps was exhausted late in the year (Vanderford, 1973). Current sport fishing license stamps were rubber-stamped "NO FEE" and used to validate No Fee licenses and permits for the remainder of the season. The overprint is on one line measuring 3 mm in height and 14 mm in length. All recorded examples of the 1965 provisional overprint are in black ink (see Figure 29).



FIGURE 29. 1965 SPORT FISHING LICENSE STAMPS WERE OVERPRINTED "NO FEE" AND SUBSTITUTED WHEN THE SUPPLY OF VALIDATING STAMPS WAS EXHAUSTED TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR.

1967 was the last year old age applicants received a validation stamp on their license (see Figure 30). Starting in 1968 the system was modified. No Fee licenses issued to the two classifications of old age recipients were no longer renewable. The license expired at the end of the year and the DFG replaced it with a new one upon receipt of a new application. Validating stamps were no longer affixed to the new No Fee licenses coded number 1 or number 5. Instead a rubber stamp was used to indicate the expiration date (see Figure 31).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE	
VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING	
WHEN VALIDATING STAMP IS AFFIXED BELOW	
No Fee	No. 1-OAS-NF
Name <u>Ruby Massey</u>	<u>1891</u>
Address <u>24930 East Second</u>	Date of Birth <u>5'3"</u>
City <u>San Bernardino, Cal. 92408</u>	Height <u>Bl. GR.</u>
Date Issued <u>Feb. 6, 1967</u>	Eyes <u>Brown</u>
X	Hair <u>138</u>
	Weight <u>F</u>
Must be signed before fishing	Sex
<p>THIS LICENSE MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR. RETURN IT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, 1416 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO 95814, AFTER DECEMBER 15, WITH A NEW APPLICATION SIGNED BY YOUR COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT. APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM YOUR WELFARE DEPARTMENT.</p>	
<p>CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME VALIDATING STAMP The Sport Fishing License to which this stamp is affixed EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1967 <u>2-6-67</u> DATE ISSUED</p>	
<p>TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST PURCHASE A CURRENT ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP AND FIRMLY AFFIX IT HERE.</p>	

FIGURE 30. ONE OF THE LAST VALIDATING STAMPS ISSUED TO THE TWO OLD AGE CLASSIFICATIONS. NOTE THE "WELFARE" STAMP ACROSS THE UPPER PORTION OF THE LICENSE.

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE	
VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING	
WHEN VALIDATION IS PRINTED ON REVERSE SIDE	
No Fee	No. 1-OAS-NF
Name <u>Estel E. Dollarhide</u>	<u>7-7-1900</u>
Address <u>Route 2, Box 27</u>	Date of Birth <u>5'3 1/2 "</u>
City <u>Mt. Hebron, Calif.</u>	Height <u>Blue</u>
	Eyes <u>Grey</u>
	Hair <u>165 lbs.</u>
	Weight <u>Female</u>
	Sex
<p>x <i>Estel E. Dollarhide</i></p> <p>Must be signed before fishing</p>	
<p>THIS LICENSE EXPIRES AT THE END OF THE YEAR. TO OBTAIN A NEW ONE, SUBMIT A NEW APPLICATION, SIGNED BY YOUR COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, AFTER DECEMBER 15. SEND YOUR APPLICATION TO DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME, 1416 NINTH ST., SACTO. 95814. APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR WELFARE DEPARTMENT.</p>	
<p>TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST PURCHASE A CURRENT ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP AND FIRMLY AFFIX IT HERE.</p>	
<p>15333-800 11-67 200M ① Δ OSP</p>	
<p>State of California Department of Fish and Game This license valid for sport fishing as indicated through DEC 31-69</p>	

FIGURE 31. STARTING IN 1968 A RUBBER-STAMP (BELOW) WAS USED TO VALIDATE THE NO FEE LICENSES ISSUED TO BOTH OLD AGE CLASSIFICATIONS. THE RUBBER STAMP WAS APPLIED TO THE REVERSE OF THE LICENSE.

Validating stamps continued to be used to renew the remaining No Fee licenses. Separate coded licenses were issued to the blind, disabled veterans and Indians through the beginning of 1980 (see Figure 32).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE
VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING
 WHEN VALIDATING STAMP IS AFFIXED BELOW

No Fee No. 4-IND-NF

Name Georgia E. Pieper Date of Birth 11-2-14

Address 708 Bradam Blvd W. Height 5'

City Oroville, Ca 95465 Eyes Bru

Date Issued 3-29-77 Hair 136

X Georgia E. Pieper Weight F

Must be signed before fishing.

THIS LICENSE MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR. RETURN IT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, 1416 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO 95814, AFTER DECEMBER 15, WITH A NEW APPLICATION SIGNED BY YOUR LOCAL GAME WARDEN, INDIAN AGENT, OR SOCIAL WORKER.

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST PURCHASE A CURRENT ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP AND FIRMLY AFFIX IT HERE.

CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
VALIDATING STAMP
 The Sport Fishing License
 to which this stamp is affixed
 EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1977
3-29-77
 DATE ISSUED

0004280

34892-800 7-75 5M © OSP

FIGURE 32. NO FEE LICENSE ISSUED IN 1977 TO AN INDIAN RECIPIENT.
 NOTE THE LICENSE HAS BEEN CHECKED AND PUNCHED BY A GAME WARDEN IN THE UPPER RIGHT SECTION.

Early in 1980 a single multipurpose license was substituted which contained three boxes for the clerk to mark the appropriate classification (see Figure 33).

CALIFORNIA SPORT FISHING LICENSE
VALID FOR ALL SPORT FISHING
 WHEN VALIDATED BELOW

No Fee

☒ IMP. Vis.
☐ IND.
☐ D.A.V.

Name Carletta Harris Date of Birth 3-18-40
 Address 1220 S. Jackson Height 5'
 City Red Bluff, CA 96080 Eyes Brn
 Date Issued 3-27-80 Hair Brn
 X Carletta Harris Weight 148
 Must be signed before fishing. Sex F

THIS LICENSE MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR. RETURN IT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, 1416 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO 95814, AFTER DECEMBER 15. INDIANS MUST SUBMIT A NEW APPLICATION ANNUALLY.

VETERANS UNDER 55 YEARS OF AGE MUST SUBMIT A NEW APPLICATION

CALIF. DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME
VALIDATING STAMP
 The Sport Fishing License to which this stamp is affixed
 EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1980
3-27-80
 DATE ISSUED

TO FISH FROM OR ON A BOAT OR OTHER FLOATING DEVICE ON THE WATERS OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ON ADJACENT WATERS WHERE THAT RIVER FORMS A MUTUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE STATES OF ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA, YOU MUST PURCHASE A CURRENT ARIZONA COLORADO RIVER SPECIAL USE STAMP AND FIRMLY AFFIX IT HERE.

10559-800 12-79 10M ① OSP

FIGURE 33. A SINGLE MULTIPURPOSE LICENSE WAS USED FOR THE BLIND, INDIAN AND DISABLED VETERAN CLASSIFICATIONS DURING MOST OF 1980.

The use of validating stamps was discontinued after 1980 (Vanderford, 1985). Unused copies of validating stamps are known to exist from several years. Although the DFG would not sell the stamps to collectors (Vanderford, 1973), both Oliver and Vanderford were given examples by their contacts in the Department (Oliver, 1990 and Vanderford, 1993).

Hunting License Validating Stamps

Continuing efforts to increase efficiency and cut costs, in 1960 the DFG explored ways to improve upon their system for issuing hunting and regular sport fishing licenses. The current system required sportsmen to fill out an application each year. A license agent would then copy the applicant's information onto the actual license before it was issued.

Separate licenses were printed for residents, resident juniors and non-residents. An expiration date and the appropriate fee was printed on each license. Often there was a need for the agent to mail the license to the applicant, especially during busy times of the year.

In the spring of 1960 the DFG commissioned the independent firm of Booze, Allen and Hamilton to conduct an operations analysis. In their report, the firm recommended that the Department adopt a "self-issuing license application" (DFG Intraoffice Correspondence dated July 11, 1960).

They proposed that sportsmen be required to complete an application form which would also serve as a valid license after a license agent affixed a "numbered license stamp to it." The advantages of the new system were outlined by Harry Anderson, Deputy DFG Director, in a Department letter reproduced in Figure 34.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: March 17, 1960

TO: Branch Chiefs LaMarr, Fraser, Calhoun, Croker, Glading
License Officer, Accounting Officer
Regional Managers Stokes, Montgomery, Jones, Cloyd, Janssen, Roedel

FROM: Harry Anderson, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Self-Issuing License Form

The attached is a revised proposal for a "self-issued" license application form with a stamp to replace the present hunting and sport fishing license. Trout and other stamps would also be attached. You will note this proposal provides for all stamps except the Colorado River stamp to be on the face of the license. This should materially assist in checking licenses.

Advantages for this type of license issuance are:

1. Amount of clerical work required of agents would be reduced by an estimated 50%.
2. Savings in printing costs up to \$10,000 per year.
3. Reduction in mailing costs of Department and License agents.
4. Faster service to license buyers.
5. Savings in auditing time by Department.
6. Savings in storage space.

While the suggestion seems to be a radical departure from the present method of issuing licenses, an examination of the self-issuing application will show that the change is not too great. The proposed application has the same information on it as the present license.

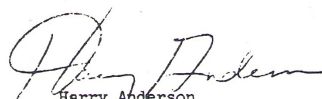
The applications would be printed in booklet form to prevent individual stubs from being lost.

The stamps would also be printed in booklets, similar to the present type of license stamps.

The mechanics of the "self-issued" license application form are that the person purchasing a license would fill out a stub with his name, address, and residence; and the application consisting of his name, address, and description. This application would then be handed to the license agent who would check it and then affix a license stamp on it. Application then becomes a valid hunting or fishing license. Agent would also check on a stub, the type of stamp issued; write its number and date issued.

The application stubs would be retained by the license agent until the end of the license year to enable checking by wardens. At the end of the year, all stubs would be returned to the Department for use in the postcard surveys conducted by Game Management Branch and Inland Fisheries Branch.

Your review and appraisal in order that we may discuss the proposal at the March 24, 1960 Regional Managers-Headquarters Staff Meeting is requested.


Harry Anderson
Deputy Director

HA:ba
Enc.
cc - Director
Mr. Wm. Harp

FIGURE 34. ADVANTAGES OF THE SELF-ISSUING LICENSE SYSTEM WERE OUTLINED BY DEPUTY DFG DIRECTOR HARRY ANDERSON.

After much deliberation, the Fish and Game Commission decided to try the new system during the 1962-63 season. According to a letter sent from Director W. T. Shannon to Jamie H. Smith (President of the Commission) on November 13, 1961: "...We desire to make this change on the hunting license first and if successful, extend it to fishing licenses also. Since there are less hunting licenses sold than fishing licenses, and trout stamps are not involved, it will be easier to make the change on the hunting licenses." News of the self-issuing licenses was published in the March 1962 issue of Outdoor California (see Figure 35).

"Self-Issuing" Hunting Licenses to Be Used This Year

California's 1962 hunting licenses will be different from those of past years. The state Fish and Game Commission has approved a "self issuing" license form which isn't quite that—but does relieve the issuing agent of the task of writing out the license.

The new form will also save the Department of Fish and Game, who proposed it, some \$2,500 a year in printing and postage costs. And if it works as well as expected a similar form will also be used for fishing licenses with a total savings of about \$10,000.

The new hunting licenses will be in the hands of all license agents prior to July 1, when the 1962 hunting license year begins.

To purchase a 1962 license each hunter will fill out and sign an application form, entering the required information. The completed application becomes a valid license when the license agent attaches a numbered license stamp similar to the present sport fishing license stamps. On this stamp the license agent will enter the date of issue and the serial numbers of the hunter's deer, bear and pheasant tags.

FIGURE 35. NEWS OF THE SELF-ISSUING LICENSES WAS CARRIED IN THE MARCH 1962 ISSUE OF OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA.

Only one type of generic hunting license was printed. The licenses were differentiated by separate hunting license validating stamps for residents, resident juniors and non-residents. All the stamps were non-pictorial with the exception of 1970-71.

These stamps were the first required statewide to hunt waterfowl (along with other game birds and mammals) in California. When pictorial duck stamps were issued starting in 1971, both state stamps were required in addition to a federal waterfowl stamp.

The 1962-63 stamps were printed in black and red inks on white, yellow and green paper for the resident, resident junior and non resident classifications respectively. All featured red serial numbers and a line for the license agent to fill in the date of issue. Additional lines were provided for deer, bear and pheasant tag numbers. These four lines previously were printed on the hunting license.

The stamps were self-adhesive which required a protective backing and were issued in booklet panes of five (5 x 1) with a tab at the left. Five panes were stapled together to form a book. The stamps were issued with a rouletted tab at the top but were otherwise imperforate. They measure 26 x 57 mm with the tab attached and 26 x 44 mm without (see Figure 36).

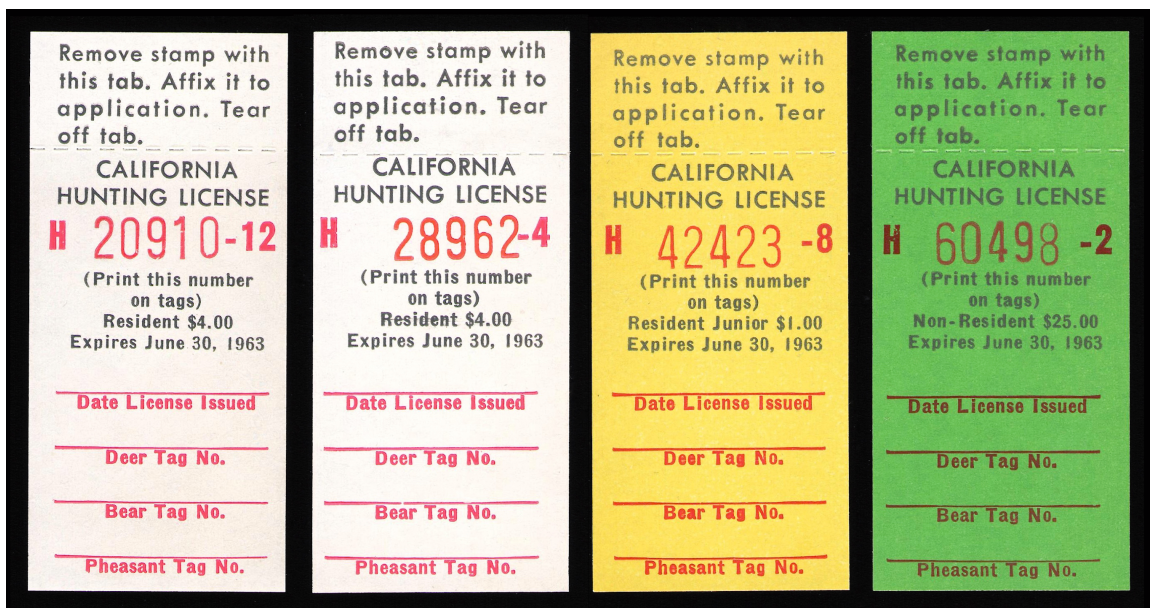


FIGURE 36. SEPARATE HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATION STAMPS WERE PRINTED FOR RESIDENT, RESIDENT JUNIORS AND NON-RESIDENTS. LATER PRINTINGS OF THE RESIDENT STAMP FEATURE A NOTICEABLY DIFFERENT ORANGE-RED SERIAL NUMBER.

Most of the unused stamps that exist today have had their protective backing paper removed by E.L. Vanderford or one of his contemporaries. Their reason for doing so was that the backing paper was denser than the paper the stamps were printed on. Therefore, when the stamps were exposed to some combination of heat, humidity or pressure, the gum liquified and migrated upward through the stamp paper. This resulted in a stamp with varying degrees of blotchy gum staining on the surface (see Figures 37 and x).

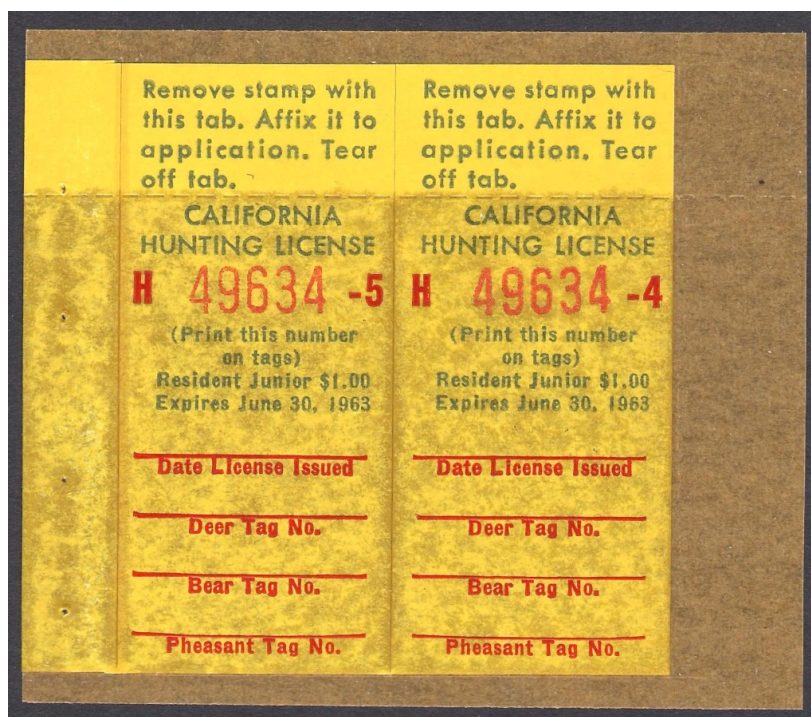


FIGURE 37. PAIR OF 1962-63 HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATING STAMPS FOR JUNIORS. THE DENSE BACKING PAPER HAS RESULTED IN THE GUM BLEEDING UPWARD THROUGH THE FACE OF THE STAMPS.

The pioneer collectors felt strongly enough about this to use naphtha to dissolve the gum. The solvent, considered risky at the time, is now a known carcinogen. Few 1962-63 stamps exist today with their companion backing paper loose and fewer yet with original gum, still affixed to the backing paper.

Starting with the 1963-64 issues the stamps were die cut, mounted on a protective backing and issued in fold-out booklets containing 25, ten and five stamps for the three classifications respectively (see Figure 38). Once again, we find many unused stamps which have been removed from their backing. Time has proven that not all backing paper was created equal. The paper used for many of the years did not result in gum migration. However, the pioneer collectors did not know that then.



FIGURE 38. THE UNUSED RESIDENT STAMP HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE BACKING PAPER (LEFT). HOWEVER, THE JUNIOR STAMP WHICH IS STILL AFFIXED TO THE BACKING PAPER WITH ORIGINAL GUM HAS NOT BLED THROUGH. NO UNUSED EXAMPLES OF THE NON-RESIDENT STAMP HAVE BEEN RECORDED.

The 1970-71 resident stamps were semi-pictorial, featuring the California Golden Bear in the background. The stamps were issued to commemorate the centennial of the DFG, which traces its origins to the creation of the State Board of Fish Commissioners in 1870. All die cut stamps issued through 1980-81 measure approximately 25 x 44 mm (see Figure 27).



FIGURE 39. THE 1970-71 RESIDENT STAMP FEATURED THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEAR IN THE BACKGROUND.

For descriptive information on resident hunting license validating stamps from specific years, see Table V.

Table V

Description of resident hunting license validating stamps

Year	Face Value	Colors	Color of Serial No.	No Fee Overprint ¹	Color of Overprint
1962-63	\$4.00	black and red on white	red ²	Type I	black
1963-64	\$4.00	black and red on green	red	Type I	black
1964-65	\$4.00	black and red on pink	red	Type I	black
1965-66	\$4.00	black and red on gray	red	Type I	black
1966-67	\$4.00	black and red on salmon	red	Type II	black
1967-68	\$4.00	black and red on yellow	red	Type II	black
1968-69	\$4.00	black on pink	red	Type II	black
1969-70	\$4.00	black on white	black	Type II	black
1970-71	\$4.00	blue on manilla ³	blue	Type II	red
1971-72	\$4.00	black on green	black	Type II or III	red
1972-73	\$6.00	black on pink	black	Type III	black or red
1973-74	\$6.00	black on blue	black	Type III	red
1974-75	\$6.00	black on green	black	Type III	red
1975-76	\$10.00	red-brown on brown	red-brown	Type III	red
1976-77	\$10.00	black on blue	black	Type III	black
1977-78	\$10.00	black on red-orange	black	Type III	black
1978-79	\$10.00	black on yellow	black	Type III or IV	black
1979-80	\$10.00	black on red	black	Type III or IV	black
1980-81	\$10.25	black on blue	black	Type III	black

¹See text, page 258.

²Stamps have been recorded with the serial number in orange colored ink.

³Stamps are semi-pictorial, with California Golden Bear in background.

Disabled Veterans Overprints

Veterans having a 70% or greater service-connected disability were entitled to hunting licenses free of charge. Previous to the new system, regular resident licenses were overprinted "DISABLED VETERAN / NO FEE" and issued to veterans (see Figure 40).

The figure displays three California Hunting Licenses issued to disabled veterans. Each license is overprinted with "DISABLED VETERAN" and "NO FEE".

License 1 (Top): CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE, EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1959, \$4.00 RESIDENT CITIZEN. Licensee: DEWEY DARLING, AGE 60, ADDRESS: 9 ROQUE MORAES, CITY: MILL VALLEY, CALIF. DATE ISSUED: 9-23-58. Signature: Dewey Darling. Issued by: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.

License 2 (Middle): CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE, EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1961, \$4.00 RESIDENT. Licensee: JAMES R. GUERRETTA, AGE 71, ADDRESS: BOX 106, CITY: ATASCADERO, DATE ISSUED: 8-8-60. Signature: James R. Guerretta. Issued by: F & G HEADQUARTERS.

License 3 (Bottom): CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE, EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1962, \$4.00 RESIDENT. Licensee: ROBERT G. PATTON, AGE 71-8-1892, ADDRESS: 1174 N. WESTMORELAND AVE, CITY: LOS ANGELES 29, CALIF. DATE ISSUED: 3-6-62. Signature: Robert G. Patton. Issued by: DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.

FIGURE 40. PREVIOUS TO THE SELF-ISSUING LICENSE SYSTEM, RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES WERE OVERPRINTED FOR ISSUE TO DISABLED VETERANS, FREE OF CHARGE.

With the switch to self issuing licenses, resident stamps were overprinted for disabled veterans (Vanderford, 1973). Once again, the 1962-63 stamps were prone to gum migration and many of the recorded examples have been washed in naphtha. The paper the stamps were printed on must have been very porous, as even used examples on license show some migration (see figures 41a and b).

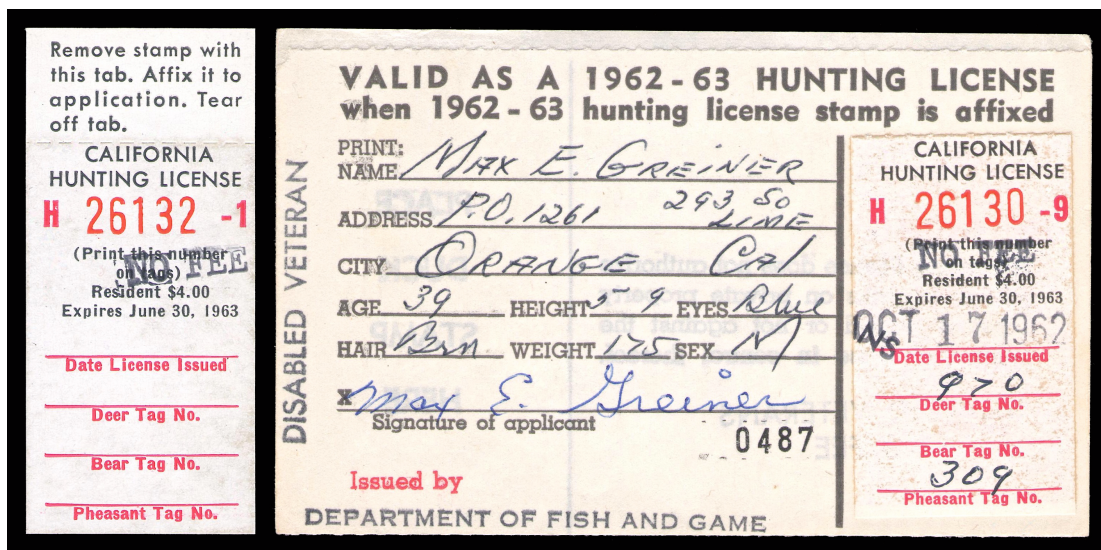


FIGURE 41A. CLEAN UNUSED WASHED EXAMPLE (LEFT)
AND USED EXAMPLE ON LICENSE SHOWING MINIMAL GUM MIGRATION.

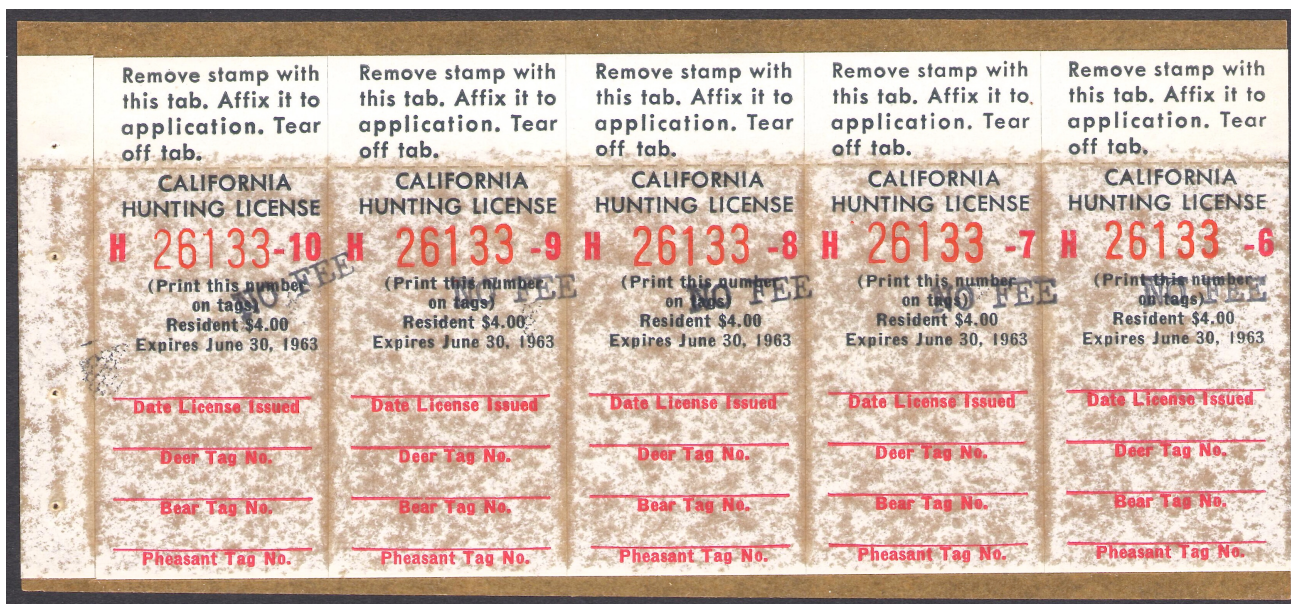


FIGURE 41B. UNUSED PANE OF FIVE WITH ON ORIGINAL BACKING. ALL EXAMPLES OF THE 1962-63 NO FEE STAMP ON ORIGINAL BACKING HAVE SERIOUS GUM MIGRATION TO THE FACE.

The No FEE stamps from 1964-65 have fared somewhat better over time. While migration can still be found on many stamps, there are examples both on and off license that are relatively clean (see Figures 42a and b).

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000874
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

VALID AS A CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE
 when current hunting license stamp is affixed
 PRINT: Wilbur H. Pheoley
 NAME: P.O. 307
 ADDRESS: Love Pine CA
 CITY: 1896 BIRTH: 6 HEIGHT: 5 EYES: Bru
 YEAR OF: Guy WEIGHT: 191 SEX: M
 HAIR: Wilbur H. Pheoley
 Signature of applicant
 Issued by
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000579
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

FIGURE 42A. WHILE GUM MIGRATION CAN STILL BE FOUND ON MANY 1964-65 STAMPS, SOME UNWASHED EXAMPLES ARE RELATIVELY CLEAN.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 000851
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Name
 Address
 City
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 000852
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000853
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000854
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000855
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 000856
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H000857
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1965
NO FEE
 Date License Issued
 Deer Tag No.
 Bear Tag No.
 Pheasant Tag No.
 Shipping Tag No.

FIGURE 42B. THIS BLOCK OF SEVEN IS THE LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE FOR ANY CALIFORNIA NO FEE ISSUE. GUM MIGRATION IS MINIMAL.

Four types of NO FEE overprints have been recorded on the hunting license validating stamps: Type I has "NO FEE" in one line of fancy capital letters measuring 3 mm in height. The length of the overprint is 14 mm. Type II has "NO FEE" in one line of plain capital letters and is identical to the overprint used to create the provisional No Fee sport Fishing license validating stamps in 1965. Type III has "DISABLED VETERANS / NO FEE" in two lines and is similar to the overprint used on the 1958 and 1959 No Fee inland fishing stamps. The only difference is that the earlier version is singular (see Figures 43 a and b).

VALID AS A CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE
when current hunting license stamp is affixed

PRINT: NAME EUGENE W. GRAHAM

ADDRESS 3571 LA HABRA WAY

CITY SACRAMENTO CALIF.

YEAR OF BIRTH 1901 HEIGHT 5'8 1/2" EYES BR

HAIR BR WEIGHT 140 SEX M

X [Signature]
Signature of applicant

ISSUED BY **F & G HEADQUARTERS**

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 0015-12
(Print this number on tags)
RESIDENT \$4.00
Expires June 30, 1964
11-29-63
Date License Issued
Deer Tag No.
Bear Tag No.
00783
Pheasant Tag No.

VALID AS A CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE
when current hunting license stamp is affixed

PRINT: NAME Eugene W. Graham

ADDRESS 3571 La Habra Way

CITY SACRAMENTO

YEAR OF BIRTH 1901 HEIGHT 5'8 1/2" EYES BW

HAIR Red WEIGHT 145 SEX M

X [Signature]
Signature of applicant

ISSUED BY


CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 25261-12
(Print this number on tags)
RESIDENT \$4.00
Expires June 30, 1966
1-15-66
Date License Issued
Deer Tag No.
Bear Tag No.
Pheasant Tag No.
Shipping Tag No.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

FIGURE 43A. TYPE I (TOP) AND TYPE II (BOTTOM) NO FEE OVERPRINTS USED ON HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATING STAMPS ISSUED TO DISABLED VETERANS.

VALID AS A CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE WHEN CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE STAMP IS AFFIXED. **Must be in licensee's immediate possession when hunting. Present to any Fish and Game License Agent for renewal.**

PRINT: <u>Ernest L. Rowland</u> NAME <u>Ernest L. Rowland</u> ADDRESS <u>6232 Rinalda Avenue</u> CITY <u>Temple City</u> YEAR OF BIRTH <u>1920</u> HEIGHT <u>5-9</u> EYES <u>Gray</u> HAIR <u>Blk</u> WEIGHT <u>160</u> SEX <u>male</u>		CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE H00030-17 (Print this number on tags) RESIDENT \$6.00 Expires June 30, 1973 <u>9/27/72</u> Date License Issued <u>55-7953</u> Deer Tag No. Bear Tag No. Shipping Tag No.
Have you resided in California continuously for the past six months? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Are you either on active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces, or a Job Corps enrollee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No X <u>Ernest L. Rowland</u> Signature of applicant		



CALIFORNIA PHEASANT LICENSE STAMP
1972-73
\$2.00

USE THIS
SPACE
FOR YOUR
CALIFORNIA
DUCK STAMP

FIGURE 43B. TYPE III NO FEE OVERPRINT USED ON HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATING STAMPS ISSUED TO DISABLED VETERANS.

Type I overprints were used from 1962-63 through 1966-67, Type II from 1965-66 through 1971-72 and Type III from 1971-72 through 1980-81 (see Figure 44 and Table V). Following the 1980-81 season the No Fee overprints were discontinued (Vanderford, 1985).



FIGURE 44. IN 1971-72, BOTH TYPE II (LEFT) AND III (RIGHT) OVERPRINTS WERE USED. AN EXAMPLE HAS BEEN RECORDED WITH TWO STRIKES OF TYPE II (MIDDLE).

It is believed that the hunting license validating stamps were overprinted and issued to disabled veterans only at the DFG headquarters in Sacramento (Vanderford, 1993). The author has made every effort to obtain the quantities issued for these stamps with only minor success. Records pertaining to license revenue from the 1960s and 1970s were not saved. A single DFG memorandum was located at the state Archives which provides the number of hunting licenses to disabled veterans in 1968-69 and 1969-70. The numbers were 468 and 411, respectively. Each license would have had an overprinted resident stamp affixed to it.

Unused copies of hunting license validating stamps overprinted "No Fee" are known to exist for the years 1962-63, 1964-65, 1970-71, 1974-75 and 1975-76 (see Figures 45). E. L. Vanderford was given examples of the stamps by the license supervisor at the DFG headquarters, Lawrence O'Leary, with whom he had developed a friendship over many years (Vanderford, 1993).



FIGURE 45. LARGEST RECORDED MULTIPLE OF THE 1970-71 NO FEE STAMPS. FORMALLY IN THE VANDERFORD COLLECTION.

After this article was originally published, the same overprint used on the 1958 and 1959 fishing stamps was discovered on stamps from 1978-79 and 1979-80. Perhaps someone was cleaning out a drawer at DFG headquarters and discovered the old rubber stamp, which they then decided to use. For hunting license validating stamps, I have designated this overprint Type IV (see Figure 46).



FIGURE 46. THE SAME OVERPRINT USED ON THE 1958 AND 1959 FISHING STAMPS HAS BEEN RECORDED ON 1978-79 AND 1979-80 HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATING STAMPS.

Pheasant Stamps

The final series of stamps to be overprinted "No Fee" was required for pheasant hunting starting with the 1970-71 season. In 1957 the DFG began to sell pheasant tags to raise additional revenue. There was a line printed on the hunting license validating stamps for the pheasant tag number to be written in (see Figures 47a and b).

VALID AS A CURRENT HUNTING LICENSE
when current hunting license stamp is affixed

PRINT: NAME E. L. VANDERFORD

ADDRESS 532 SAN MIGUEL WAY

CITY SACRAMENTO

YEAR OF BIRTH 1913 HEIGHT 6'1" EYES GREY

HAIR BLACK WEIGHT 187 SEX MALE

X E. L. Vanderford
Signature of applicant

Issued by
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 00301
(Print this number on tags)
RESIDENT \$4.00
Expires June 30, 1965
SEP 16 1964
Date License Issued

Deer Tag No.
Bear Tag No. 168
Pheasant Tag No.
Shipping Tag No.

FIGURE 47A. CALIFORNIA GENERIC HUNTING LICENSE WITH RESIDENT VALIDATING STAMP AFFIXED. PHEASANT TAG NUMBER 168 HAS BEEN FILLED IN ON THE STAMP.

1964 CALIFORNIA PHEASANT LICENSE TAG

VALID WITH 1964 - 65 HUNTING LICENSE NO. 301

DATE TAG ISSUED NOV 18 1964 1964

X E. L. Vanderford
MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE HUNTING

FEE \$2.00

INSTRUCTIONS
DO NOT DETACH INDIVIDUAL TAGS UNTIL READY FOR USE. USE TAGS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. IMMEDIATELY AFTER TAKING A BIRD, DETACH TAG AND PUNCH OUT DATE CLEARLY. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ALSO APPLY TO DATES FOR EASTERN RIVERSIDE AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES.

ATTACH TAG TO BIRD'S LEG WITH STRING, WIRE, ETC.

CALIFORNIA PHEASANT TAG 1964
00168
J

DEC. 30 27 25 26
NOV. 28 29
1 2 3
4 5 6

FIGURE 47B. 1964 CALIFORNIA PHEASANT TAG HOLDER (TOP) AND TAG NUMBER 168 (BOTTOM). THE VALIDATING STAMP NUMBER (301) HAS BEEN FILLED IN ON THE FIRST LINE OF THE HOLDER. NOTE THE LICENSE AND TAGS WERE ISSUED TO E. L. VANDERFORD.

Section 1201.3 of the code was amended by Assembly Bill 616 to read: "Any person who possesses a valid hunting license may, upon payment of two dollars (\$2), procure the number of pheasant tags corresponding to the number of pheasants that may be legally taken by one person during the then current license year" (Statutes of California, 1957 Regular Session).

Starting with the 1970-71 pheasant season, the sets of tags were replaced by stamps. Each stamp conveyed the right to shoot ten pheasants (Vanderford, 1973 and 1993). Hunters intending to shoot pheasants were required to purchase both a hunting license validating stamp and a pheasant stamp (see Figure 48).

The 1970-71 pheasant stamp was designed by Paul Johnson and featured a pheasant in flight. The stamps were printed in blue ink on yellow paper. They were die cut, mounted on a protective backing and issued in fold-out booklets containing ten stamps (see Figure 48).

1870 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME 1970
A Century of Preserving Wildlife and Providing Recreation

PRINT:
 NAME E. L. VANDERFORD
 ADDRESS 532 SAN MIGUEL WAY
 CITY SACRAMENTO
 YEAR OF BIRTH 1913 HEIGHT 6'-2" EYES GRAY
 HAIR DARK WEIGHT 195 SEX M

Have you resided in California continuously for the past six months? ☒ Yes ☐ No
 Are you either on active military duty with the U.S. Armed Forces or a Job Corps enrollee? ☐ Yes ☒ No

X E. L. Vanderford
 Signature of applicant

CALIFORNIA HUNTING LICENSE
H 3834-01
 (Print this number on tags)
 RESIDENT \$4.00
 Expires June 30, 1971
10-30
 Date License Issued

Deer Tag No. _____
 Bear Tag No. _____
 Lion Tag No. _____
 Shipping Tag No. _____

CALIFORNIA PHEASANT LICENSE STAMP
 \$2.00
 1970-71
 P 24957-04

MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP
 \$3
 VOID AFTER JUNE 30, 1971
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 ROSS' GEESE

FIGURE 48. CENTENNIAL LICENSE ISSUED TO E.L. VANDERFORD WITH 1970-71 VALIDATING A AND PHEASANT STAMPS AFFIXED.

The 1970-71 pheasant stamp was designed by Paul Johnson and featured a pheasant in flight. The stamps were printed in blue ink on yellow paper. They were die cut, mounted on a protective backing and issued in fold-out booklets containing ten stamps (see Figure 49).



FIGURE 48. 1970-71 UNEXPLODED BOOKLET (LEFT) AND PAGE OF TEN STAMPS FROM INSIDE A SEPARATE BOOKLET (RIGHT). NOTE MODERATE GUM MIGRATION ON STAMPS WITH ORIGINAL PAPER BACKING.

The same design was used through 1974-75, when pheasant stamps were discontinued. 1971-72 through 1974-75 stamps were die cut and issued in booklet panes of five (1 x 5) with a tab at the top (see Figure 50). Two panes were stapled to a book. All pheasant stamps measure approximately 45 X 25 mm. For descriptive information on pheasant stamps from specific years, see Table VI.

Table VI

Description of pheasant stamps

Year	Face Value	Colors	Color of Serial No.	No Fee Overprint ¹	Color of Overprint
1970-71	\$2.00	blue on manilla	blue	Type II	red
1971-72	\$2.00	black on blue	black	Type II	red
1972-73	\$2.00	black on pink	black	Type III	red
1973-74	\$2.00	black on yellow-orange	black	Type II or III	red
1974-75	\$2.00	black on lavender	black	Type III	red

¹See text, page 260.

For each year of issue, pheasant stamps were overprinted for disabled veterans. Section 3036 of the 1971-72 code read: "A veteran, having 70 percent or greater service-connected disability...is entitled to receive, free of charge...a pheasant stamp.... Proof of such disability shall be required and shall be by certification from the Veterans Administration or, if the veteran is over 55 years of age, by proof that he was issued a license under this section in the previous year.

E. L. Vanderford recalls that once every season DFG personnel would take disabled veterans on pheasant hunts near Fairfield, California. The veterans would be driven through fields in jeeps and were allowed to shoot pheasants from the vehicles. Normally shooting from vehicles was illegal.

According to Vanderford, pheasant hunting steadily declined in the 1970s. This was due in large part to farming practices which had a destructive effect on the pheasant habitat and ultimately led to the stamps being discontinued.

No Fee overprint Types II and III which were used on the hunting license validating stamps, were also used on the pheasant stamps (see Figure 49). All overprints that have been recorded on the pheasant stamps are in red ink (see Table VI).



FIGURE 49. NO FEE OVERPRINT TYPES II AND III THAT WERE USED ON THE HUNTING LICENSE VALIDATING STAMPS, WERE ALSO APPLIED TO THE PHEASANT STAMPS.

It was not possible to obtain the numbers issued for No Fee pheasant stamps, However, the DFG memo previously cited for the No Fee hunting license validating stamps provides a point of reference. It indicates that 121 sets of pheasant tags were issued to disabled veterans in 1969, down one from 122 in 1968. Since stamps replaced the tags the following year, the number of overprinted stamps issued to disabled veterans may have been approximately 100-150 per year.

Unused copies of No Fee pheasant stamps from 1971-72 and 1974-75 are known to exist. As with the No Fee hunting license validating stamps, they were given to Vanderford by Lawrence O'Leary (see Figure 32)



FIGURE 50. PANE OF 1974-75 PHEASANT STAMPS WITH TYPE III OVERPRINT.

Summary

Following WWII, California experienced tremendous population growth, increasing 42% during one ten-year period alone. The proportionate increase in sportsmen put unprecedented stress on the state's fish and wildlife resources.

In addition, much of the state's freshwater was to be developed in order to meet the needs of the growing population. It was imperative that the Department of Fish and Game take a more active role in preserving the state's fish and wildlife resources, especially trout. Unfortunately, the Department was short on working capital.

It was decided that the state's sportsmen should share in the expense to fund the DFG's efforts. In 1957, Assembly Bill 616 amended the fish and Game Code to require the purchase of inland fishing stamps, raise hunting license fees and require the purchase of pheasant tags.

In order to spare disadvantaged segments of the sporting population from an added financial burden, Assembly Bill 616 also provided that aged, blind, disabled veterans and Indians who met certain qualifications were entitled to a sport fishing license and pair of inland fishing stamps free of charge.

Veterans with a 70% or greater service-connected disability were also entitled to a hunting license and a set of pheasant tags (later a stamp) free of charge. Veteran's wives who were non-residents or aliens were entitled to purchase a hunting license at the resident fee. At least one veteran's wife, Alis Means, was also allowed to purchase a sport fishing license at the reduced fee in 1958 and 1959.

Since the number of No Fee and Reduced Fee licenses and stamps issued in any one year was relatively small, separate stamps were not printed. Regular resident stamps were overprinted for these special usages. A total of 27 different stamps issued through 1980-81 have been recorded with No Fee and Reduced Fee overprints. Eight different overprints, excluding typeface varieties, are known to have been applied to the stamps (see Table VII).

It is hoped that this article has shed some light on this interesting segment of fish and game philately. Collectors are encouraged to check their stamps for overprints, as it is likely that additional typesetting and color varieties remain to be discovered. The author would enjoy hearing from anyone with information to share on this subject.

Acknowledgements

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