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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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HUNTING AND FISHING ECONOMIC SURVEY UNDERWAY

The Nation's first survey to determine the importance of hunting and fishing in our economy was begun last week, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay said today. The survey is being conducted by Crossley S-D Surveys, Inc., under a contract with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

About 15,000 households, some in every State of the Nation, will be visited initially and interviews will be conducted with hunters and fishermen in about 5,000 of these. The survey is designed to show how much time and money was spent on hunting and fishing activities last year.

"The value of this survey is inestimable" Secretary McKay said, "and to judge from the inquiries we had and the interest shown, the public realizes it. Americans have long been aware of the intangible values and the national relaxation afforded by hunting and fishing and will now see the economic side of the picture.

"With our increasing population gradually squeezing hunting and fishing resources and with that same increasing population demanding more fish and more game, America is facing a real challenge. One of the logical steps to meet this challenge is the present survey. Our job will be delineated more clearly by it."

In September of 1954, the Fish and Wildlife Service was requested to make this survey, the request coming from the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, representing the fish and game departments in the 48 States. A contract for the study was signed with the firm of Crossley S-D Surveys, Inc., on June 1, 1955. Several of the States have also contracted with the same firm to conduct similar studies to obtain State answers.

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