



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Pictures are Available on Request.

Come school days now, it would seem proper to have oysters follow little Mary.

For--

With the advent of September, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, some 60,000 workers in the fishing hamlets from Cape Cod to Texas and along the coasts on the Pacific states will be tonging and dredging oysters from their ocean beds, shucking, packing, and making them ready for shipment by boat, express, freight, truck, and by plane, too, to lovers of this seafood throughout the nation. August days have been busy for the oystermen in cleaning and painting the packing houses, overhauling their boats, arranging for the making of new oyster dredges, tongs, and rakes, and a multitude of other tasks preparatory to opening the season.

Reports received by the Service from The Oyster Institute of North America and various production centers indicate that there will be a normal supply of oysters of excellent quality for so early in the season.

In the north, relatively smaller stocks of large oysters and increased costs of production presage higher prices on these grades than a year ago. In the Chesapeake, conditions appear favorable for a normal crop of standards of better

than average size. It is still too early, however, to evaluate the possible damages to the oyster industry of the Carolinas by the hurricane of August 11, this year, according to the Service.

The season will be opened by ceremonials in various places and at different dates. On September 3, Howard W. Beach, President of the Oyster Growers & Dealers Association, is expected to bring by plane from New York to Washington, D. C., oysters for presentation at the White House and to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, whose Department includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, a consolidation of the former conservation bureaus--Biological Survey and Fisheries. Later in the month the Long Island Oyster Growers will hold their annual inspection of the oyster grounds.

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