



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes announced today that a progressive demobilization of the Office of the Coordinator will begin on September 30, at which time the agency's area offices on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and on the Great Lakes will be discontinued.

The area offices on the Pacific coast are not affected by this initial step toward the demobilization of the agency, Coordinator Ickes said. Production programs affecting the large pilchard fishery of the Pacific coast and the salmon fisheries of Alaska and Puget Sound, as well as a halibut allocation program, continue in effect because of the continuing need for maximum production of canned fish and orderly distribution of the halibut catch. These programs are administered by the San Francisco and Seattle offices of the agency.

Area offices which will close September 30 are located at Cambridge, Mass., New York, N.Y., Beaufort, N.C., Jacksonville, Fla., New Orleans, La., and Ann Arbor, Mich.

These field offices have been engaged chiefly in service activities designed to eliminate war-created bottlenecks hampering the production of seafoods. Services rendered by the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries through its area offices included assistance in securing priorities and in obtaining materials, equipment, and supplies, the interpretation of various Government regulations, and the certification of key men for draft deferment.

Since the War Production Board has revoked most of its regulations affecting the fisheries, and Government agencies are no longer permitted to certify registrants for deferment, these services will no longer be required of field representatives of the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

Secretary Ickes said that the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries will retain a small staff at its Washington headquarters for the purpose of handling special problems which may arise in connection with the reconversion of the fishing industry to a peacetime basis.

Most of the area offices of OCF were staffed with personnel detailed from the Fish and Wildlife Service, a permanent agency of the Interior Department which is concerned with the Nation's fishery resources. These men will now resume their former duties with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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