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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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A new system for increased efficiency in the distribution in Wisconsin of fish that are produced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was announced today in a joint statement by the Federal agency and the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

The new plan was worked out at a meeting of members of both departments. It is believed that the new procedure will simplify the work of the state and the federal service and will be of greater general public service.

The new program is outlined as follows:

In the future all federal applications for fish will be sent by the Fish and Wildlife Service directly to the state fisheries area supervisor for approval. The supervisor's action will be based upon information available for various waters of the state. Biological surveys have been conducted on many of the state's waters to determine their suitability for various species of fish as well as their ability to support definite numbers of fish. Another factor that will influence the action of the supervisor is the fact that present hatchery facilities are unable to produce a sufficient number of fish of the various species to adequately stock all bodies of water within the State. Consequently, the two agencies have agreed to a plan whereby a rotation of stocking will be conducted for certain waters in a three year cycle, thus allowing for full adequate stocking every third year. This, it is believed, will effect economy in fish and actually improve the fishing

since the stocking of relatively few fish in large bodies of water is of somewhat questionable value.

Following the action of the area supervisor the applications will be returned directly to the Fish and Wildlife Service at Chicago. All disapproved applications will be supported by a letter from the area supervisor giving reasons why the planting is not justified. This procedure is expected to eliminate delays and expense now experienced.

Elimination of the filing of more than one application for each body of water is contemplated. In the past many applications for fish have been filed by individuals interested in stocking a certain body of water. As a result, the first application received was allotted the proper number of fish for the lake and the remaining applicants were notified of the previous application. Similarly in some instances one person would file many applications covering numerous bodies of waters.

To eliminate this unnecessary filing of duplicate applications fisheries area supervisors will meet with as many groups of individuals as possible to set up a uniform stocking plan for the lakes regularly stocked with fish from federal hatcheries. Individuals will be relieved of the responsibility of filing applications each year except as required under the plan.

Operators of cooperative rearing ponds stocked with fish from federal hatcheries will in the future receive the same services from the state as those cooperative ponds stocked with fish from state hatcheries. Applications will be filed with the state by operators of such ponds and inspections of the ponds will be made by state personnel. Care and distribution of the fish reared will also be under the supervision of the state.

Cooperation between state and federal personnel will be furthered by two annual meetings between the regional superintendent of fish distribution of the

Fish and Wildlife Service and the state fisheries area supervisors. The first of these meetings will be held during the first week in April at which time all trout applications will be reviewed and allotments of trout will be made to the various trout streams. A similar meeting will be held during the last week of July for consideration of applications for black bass.

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