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1-27-46**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****INFORMATION SERVICE****FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

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**REHABILITATION OF PHILIPPINE FISHERIES**

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today that the Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Philippine Government, is undertaking a program of rehabilitation and development of the fisheries of the Philippine Islands.

The fishery program was one of several Philippine rehabilitation programs authorized by the Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946 passed by the 79th Congress and approved on April 30, 1946. These programs are coordinated by the Department of State and are being carried out in the Philippines under the general supervision of the American Ambassador.

Dr. H. J. Deason, Chief of the Office of Foreign Activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service, will have general direction of the fishery rehabilitation work. Hugh W. Terhune has been appointed Field Administrator of the program with headquarters in Manila.

The fishing industry of the Philippines, normally one of the chief sources of protein foods in the Islands, was largely destroyed by combat action and through confiscation by the Japanese occupation troops, and practically no vessels, fishing gear, or shore facilities remained at the end of the war, Secretary Krug said.

The new program will seek to aid in the early restoration and development of fisheries. Oceanographic and biological studies and experimental fishing operations will be conducted at sea to provide basic information on the fishery resources of

the Islands and also to test new and improved methods of fishing which might be adopted by the Philippine fishing industry.

In addition to assisting the development of the marine fisheries, the program also will be concerned with improving the methods of the salt-water pondfish industry, which provides a substantial part of the fresh fish supply for the Philippine Islands. Research will also be conducted on the processing of fishery products and in market development and distribution.

The marine research and exploratory fishing will be conducted by two vessels which the Fish and Wildlife Service has recently acquired by charter from the United States Maritime Commission and which are now being converted and outfitted in shipyards in the San Francisco area. One vessel, the former LT-581, which has been named the SPENCER F. BAIRD in honor of the first United States Commissioner of Fisheries, is being converted into a combination oceanographic vessel and tuna clipper. The second vessel, the former AMC-90, which has been named the THEODORE N. GILL in honor of a famous American ichthyologist, is being converted into a combination fishing vessel which will be equipped to operate purse seines and various types of trawls. These vessels will be ready to sail for the Philippines about the middle of March.

The Field Administrator, Mr. Terhune, and his assistant Herbert E. Warfel, who will be in charge of the biological and oceanographic programs, will leave for Manila by air during the week of January 27 to assist the American Embassy in concluding final arrangements for the program.

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