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INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

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LAYTHE ANNOUNCES PERSONNEL CHANGES IN REGIONAL OFFICE

Several personnel changes in the Regional Office organization of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in Portland, Oreg., of importance to conservation groups and the commercial fishery interests were made public today by Leo L. Laythe, Regional Director, upon his return from Washington, D. C., where he attended the Service's winter conference for regional directors called by Director Albert M. Day.

Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada, Idaho, and Montana comprise the Service's Region 1, headquartered in the Weatherly Building in Portland.

Alphonse Kemmerich, who has been assistant regional director since January 8, 1945, has been selected to take charge of the River Basin Studies program in Region 1 which is the largest and most important region of the Service with respect to river basin work. This position has been vacant since the death of Fred J. Foster last November. "With his background of experience in Federal fisheries work on the Pacific coast, which dates from 1919 when he joined the former Bureau of Fisheries, Mr. Kemmerich is exceptionally well qualified to head this long-range river development program which is so vital to both the local and national economy of the fishery resources because of the annual cash value of the take from the Columbia River and the Central Valley of California," Mr. Laythe declared.

Mr. Kemmerich is a native of Washington and received his education in Oregon schools at Mt. Angel and St. Paul. He is 44, married, has two children, and lives at Clackamas.

Responsibilities of the Regional Office in connection with the Central Valley, Lower Columbia River, and Grand Coulee projects have increased the workload of the Region to such an extent that an additional position of assistant regional director has been established, Mr. Laythe announced. Although his two new aids will have dual authority as far as the work of the region as a whole is concerned, one will be responsible primarily for wildlife activities and the other will specialize in fishery problems.

Paul T. Quick, now regional supervisor of Predator and Rodent Control activities in Region 1, will assume his new duties as assistant director on February 1 and will devote the major portion of his time to wildlife affairs. Fred F. Johnson, now assistant chief of the Division of Commercial Fisheries in Washington, D. C., will arrive in Portland in April to aid Mr. Laythe in the fisheries work.

Both men are veterans with the Service in their fields. Mr. Quick has been actively engaged in the predator and rodent control field work of the Service since April 1923. In 1924 he was placed in charge of the bait-mixing station at Pocatello, Idaho, and under his supervision the plant grew from a small county affair to a nationwide distribution organization for rodent control material. In June 1939 he was promoted to District Agent in Colorado and conducted control operations in that area so successfully that he was brought into the Regional Office in Portland in 1941 to become regional supervisor of Predator and Rodent Control. In this position Mr. Quick rapidly earned for himself the reputation of being a good executive and public relations man. For the present, according to Mr. Laythe, he will continue to supervise predator and rodent control work within the region in connection with his new duties. Mr. Quick is 47 and a native of Utah. He is married, has one child, and lives at 6026 N. E. 28th Avenue, Portland.

Fred Johnson was first employed by the former Bureau of Fisheries as a statistical agent in 1920. In 1923 he resigned to enter the employ of the Standard Oil Company of California at San Francisco. In 1927 he returned to the Bureau of Fisheries and in 1929 assumed charge of the Bureau's statistical work. In 1934 he was appointed as chief of a section devoted to the economics of the fisheries, and in 1941 he became assistant chief of the Division of Commercial Fisheries. In April 1942 Mr. Johnson was called to active service in the U.S. Navy, with the rank of lieutenant. When he was released from active duty in September 1945 he held the rank of commander. Mr. Johnson returned to his former position with the Service on December 14, 1945. He is 50 and married.

"With the rapid growth of the river basin work in Region 1 we have felt the need for a man with Mr. Johnson's experience in the statistical and economics field of the commercial fisheries to pass on projects in the planning and construction stages which require detailed monetary evaluations of the fishery resources involved," said Mr. Laythe.

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