



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release PM's THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1948.

FISHERY EXPERT ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug announced today that the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Atomic Energy Commission have entered into an agreement for collaboration in planning work programs involving fish and wildlife studies of interest to the Commission.

Secretary Krug stated that Elmer Higgins, chief of the Service's Branch of Fishery Biology, is being transferred to a new position in which he will devote full time to work involving the relationship of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service. In this position Mr. Higgins will serve as a special assistant to Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Higgins will serve as liaison officer between the two agencies.

As an example of a joint problem that has already confronted the two agencies, Mr. Day cited the studies made in conjunction with the Bikini bomb tests to ascertain the effects of atomic explosions on the fishes--particularly the tunas--and other marine life in that area. Mr. Higgins served as liaison officer for the Service with the Joint Army-Navy group and assisted in planning and directing the necessary scientific studies.

Mr. Higgins, who was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1892, has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since 1925. He received his A.B. and M.A. degrees from the University of Southern California. In 1924 he was a graduate student in ichthyology at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif.

From 1925 to 1926 he served as director of the U. S. Biological Station at Key West, Fla., and was in charge of the Bureau's south Atlantic and Gulf Coast fishery investigations. On July 1, 1926, he was promoted to the position of chief of the Division of Scientific Inquiry, which later became the Branch of Fishery Biology. In this position Mr. Higgins has organized and directed the Federal Government's program of fishery research in Atlantic, Pacific, and inland waters.

He represented the United States Government as a member of the North American Council on Fishery Investigations from 1923, serving as an official delegate at various conferences of the Council. Since 1938 he has been secretary of this organization and is the author of numerous articles in scientific journals and trade papers.

X X X