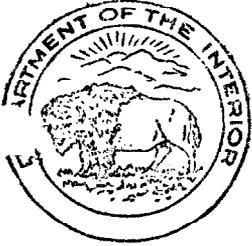


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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## BOLSTERS PHILIPPINE FISHING INDUSTRY

The Philippine fishing industry almost totally destroyed by the war is being speeded toward recovery by the Fish and Wildlife Service's fishery rehabilitation and development program for that country.

Hugh W. Terhune, Service administrator of the Philippine Fishery Program, reported today in Washington that new fishing grounds have been located in the islands, and that new methods of fishing have been introduced to increase production. He also said that the pond fish industry can now be greatly expanded to increase the country's food supply.

This work has been accomplished since January 1947, when the Fish and Wildlife Service Philippine Fishery Program began. The program is one of several rehabilitation plans for the new island republic, established by the 79th Congress' Philippine Rehabilitation Act of 1946. It is the only one concerned with the production of food.

Normally a chief source of food in the islands, the Philippine fishing industry was seriously damaged during the war. Combat destruction and Japanese confiscations were so heavy that practically no vessels, fishing gear or shore facilities remained when the war ended.

To aid the Philippine Government in restoring and enlarging its fishing industry, Mr. Terhune established a biological and oceanographic laboratory in Manila. An improvised experimental cannery and a maintenance shop complete the shore facilities.

Two research and experimental fishing vessels, the Spencer F. Baird and the Theodore N. Gill, are exploring new fishing grounds and testing new fishing techniques. Mr. Terhune said that otter trawls have been introduced to replace the popularly-used beam trawls in Philippine fishing.

The former has a net that is spread apart by two boards. They flare out under pressure of the water, permitting a larger catch of fish than can be gotten with beam trawls.

A third research and experimental fishing vessel will soon be added to the "fleet." It will be used to explore inshore fisheries.

Mr. Terhune, who was appointed honorary adviser on Fisheries to the Philippine Government by President Quirino last month, heads a staff of 120, 51 of whom are Americans. American personnel is being replaced by Philippine technicians, he said, and a competent, well-trained local organization will take over the fishery program when the Fish and Wildlife Service leaves in June 1950. The provisions of the Rehabilitation Act end on that date.

As an example of the type of aid his group is giving the Philippine Government, Mr. Terhune referred to the situation in Manila Bay. Heavy over-fishing in the Bay threatened to deplete the stock of fish. Upon the recommendation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, it is hoped that the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries will prohibit commercial fishing in that area. It is then expected that fishing operations can be safely resumed in a few years.

To alleviate the serious food shortage in the Islands, Mr. Terhune said that one of the Service's chief activities has been the development of salt-water fishponds. He estimated that there are close to one million acres of land for potential pond fisheries. To encourage the expansion of the industry, the Philippine Congress has passed a law permitting government-owned marsh lands to be sold outright, rather than leased, for the construction of fish ponds.

This action, Mr. Terhune said, supported by the propagation work of his group, will do much to increase the food supply in the Philippines.

Mr. Terhune is now in Washington to discuss his future plans for the Program with Service officials. He will return to Manila in a few days.

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