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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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F.W.S. FOREIGN ACTIVITIES CHIEF TO ATTEND  
FISHERY CONFERENCES, STUDY ASIAN FISHERIES

American participation in international efforts to increase the world's food supply was demonstrated today when Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced the departure of Dr. Hilary J. Deason, chief of the Service's Office of Foreign Activities, on a globe-circling trip that will take him to two international fishery conferences and to inspections of three Asian fishing industries.

Dr. Deason, who left Washington, D. C. on February 22, will arrive in Manila on March 1 for a three-week stay in the Philippines. He will inspect the progress of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Philippine Fishery Program, and will meet with officials of the Philippine Government to discuss future program activities.

Established in January 1947 by the 79th Congress' Philippine Rehabilitation Act, the Service's fishery program has increased food production in the Philippine Islands by restoring and enlarging the war-torn fishing industry of the new island republic.

Under the program, Fish and Wildlife Service personnel act as technical advisers to the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries. They have helped discover new fishing grounds, introduce new methods of fishing, and expand the Philippine pond-fish industry.

Dr. Deason will attend the inaugural meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council in Singapore March 24 - April 1 as an adviser to the U. S. delegate. The council was formed in February 1948 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to help overcome the shortage of animal protein in the diets of Indo-Pacific peoples by developing fisheries in the eastern Indian and southwestern Pacific Oceans.

The council consists of countries having "mutual interest in the development and proper utilization of the living aquatic resources of the Indo-Pacific areas." These include Burma, France, India, Netherlands, the Philippine Republic, and the United States.

Oscar E. Sette, head of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, is the U. S. delegate to the March conference. William E. S. Flory, Department of State wildlife and fishery specialist, is the alternate

delegate. Assisting Dr. Deason on the advisory staff are Charles Butler, technologist-in-charge of the Pacific Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, and Dr. H. E. Werfel, in charge of the Philippine Fishery Program's biological and oceanographic investigations. Dr. Deason will stop in Siam, India, and Pakistan, while en route to London, to obtain information and discuss with local officials the fisheries of those countries.

Dr. Deason will arrive in London in the middle of April as one of the U. S. representatives on the International Whaling Commission. Established in December 1946, when 21 nations signed the International Whaling Agreement, the Commission plans to coordinate research on whales and regulate whaling activities throughout the world.

A native of Utah, Dr. Deason has been in the Fish and Wildlife Service (and the former Bureau of Fisheries) since 1928. He holds B.A., M.A., M.S. (zoology), and Ph.D. (zoology) degrees from the University of Michigan.

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