



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1949

PLANT KILLERS MAKE CONSERVATION TOOLS

The possible use of herbicides -- such as 2-4-D and TCA -- as an economical method of creating favorable "living quarters" for fish and wildlife, was reported today by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Experiments in the use of the plant killers are being made at the Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland.

While the FWS has been concerned with the hazards of widespread plant control -- which frequently destroys wildlife habitat or kills fish as a result of plant decomposition in the water -- these herbicides are being recognized, also, as useful tools of game and fish management.

Studies indicate that herbicides can be used for the suppression and control of some types of marsh vegetation. Some of the rushes, marsh mallow, and other undesirable forms have been effectively controlled. The frequent desirability of controlling cat tails, and the high costs of accomplishing this by mowing, has suggested the possibility of using chemical poisons for the purpose.

x x x