



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### SECOND VESSEL OF PACIFIC OCEANIC FISHERY PROGRAM SAILS

The motor vessel US FWS Hugh M. Smith sailed from Seattle on November 15 for Honolulu where it will undertake fishery research work on the tunas, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior reported today.

The Hugh M. Smith is the second of three fishery research and exploratory fishing vessels to be completed for the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigation. A former Navy vessel of the YP class, the Hugh M. Smith is designed for use as a biological and oceanographical research vessel, and will be used to study the life histories and habits of the various tunas of the central Pacific Ocean.

A study of the inter-relating factors of the tunas' biology will help make it possible to utilize the fishery resources of the central Pacific to a much greater degree. These biological factors are the age, growth, migration, spawning, and distribution of the fish as related to oceanographic conditions. Migrations, spawning and feeding of the tunas are closely related to oceanic conditions, and the study of oceanography will be an important part of the vessel's mission.

The Hugh M. Smith left the Hawaiian Islands on May 9, 1949, to undergo conversion at the Tacoma yards of the Tacoma Boatbuilding Company, Tacoma, Washington. The company was the low bidder for the contract. The work included repairing the hull, altering the quarters, and installing scientific equipment aboard the vessel. The scientific equipment includes laboratory facilities, winches for use in oceanographic studies of plankton and water temperature, tanks for bait-holding experiments, and refrigerated holds. An auxiliary propulsion motor for traveling at the low speeds required for much of the work was also installed.

The first vessel of the fishery program, the US FWS Henry O'Malley, arrived in Honolulu on October 20 from San Diego. It will undertake explorations for tuna. The third vessel, the US FWS John R. Manning, is being constructed as a purse seiner. It will sail sometime early in 1950.

The Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations was authorized by the 80th Congress to conduct fishing explorations and necessary related oceanographical, biological, technological, statistical, and economic studies to insure maximum development and utilization of the high seas fishery resources of the Territories and island possessions of the United States in the tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean and intervening areas.

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