



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW FISHERY RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPLETED IN HONOLULU

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that construction has been completed on a fishery research laboratory in Honolulu, T. H., which will house the shoreside research activities of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This program, authorized by Public Law 329, 80th Congress, calls for "investigation, exploration, and development of the high seas fisheries of the Territories and Island Possessions and intervening areas in the tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean."

The new laboratory is the largest Federal laboratory of its kind outside the continental United States, according to the Secretary. It occupies a site adjacent to the campus of the University of Hawaii. Pending completion of the laboratory building, the scientific and clerical staff of PCFI, with Oscar E. Sette as director, has made use of temporary quarters loaned by the Navy near Pearl Harbor.

To conform with typical Hawaiian architecture, the new building is of hollow concrete block construction, two stories high, and surrounds a court with lanais which face the court. Wings to provide additional space extend outward from either side of the front of the building. Similarly, shorter wings extend from the rear. The floor area, including lanais, approximates 16,000 square feet. The contractor was K. Nagata, of Honolulu. Guy F. Rothwell, of Honolulu, was the architect.

Special scientific apparatus for conducting extensive biological and oceanographic research is now being installed in the laboratory which will be formally dedicated with an "open house" in the fall when it has been fully equipped.

Laboratory research is supplementing or paralleling the exploratory investigations now being conducted at sea by the three vessels of the program. Two of these, the Henry O'Malley and Hugh M. Smith, were converted from Navy YF vessels of the 600 class. They are fitted for live bait fishing, with facilities for deep fishing by flag lines and by trolling gear.

The O'Malley is primarily concerned with experimental fishing for tuna on a commercial scale. The Smith is designed for biological and oceanographic research, and its scientific staff is currently studying the life histories and habits of the various tunas of the central Pacific Ocean. The third vessel, the John B. Manning, is a newly constructed 86-ft. purse seiner with a cruising range of 5,000 miles. She is fitted with a brine refrigeration system to preserve about 30 tons of tuna for subsequent studies on the quality of fish taken from unexploited areas.

The operations of the three ships are concentrated primarily on determining the locations, seasons, and methods of capture of tuna and tuna-like fishes, and related oceanographic and biological research. Through this research and experimentation, Service investigators will develop and coordinate the basic information upon which a productive American fishing industry can be carried on in the Pacific.

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