



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

412.84

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to FI's, SEPTEMBER 12, 1950

SINGLE FEDERAL AID BRANCH TO HANDLE BOTH
FISHERY AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that the administration of the Dingell-Johnson program, which provides Federal aid for State sport fisheries beginning July 1, 1951, will be handled by the Branch of Federal Aid of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The new work will be merged with the administrative activities now performed by the Service under the Pittman-Robertson Federal aid to wildlife program which has been in operation since 1938. The Federal Aid Branch is headed by Robert M. Rutherford.

"By placing the responsibility of handling both these cooperative programs in a single Federal Aid organization, augmented by fishery specialists qualified to appraise the various projects submitted by the States, we believe that the two lines of endeavor can be administered with the greatest economy and efficiency," Albert M. Day, Service director, said.

Mr. Day also said that plans are being worked out for a series of meetings between Service officials and groups of officials responsible for fishery work in the States for the purpose of discussing the new law and the types of activities which will be approvable under the language of the law. This same procedure was followed prior to inauguration of work under the Pittman-Robertson Act.

"Growing out of these discussions, rules and regulations required by the law for adoption by the Secretary of the Interior will be drafted and a fishery policy manual prepared for issuance to the cooperating States. We expect to have all of this accomplished by early next spring."

The Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid to Fisheries Act (Public Law 681, 81st Congress) was approved by the President on August 9, 1950. Funds to carry out the purposes of the act, however, will not be available until an appropriation is made by the Congress for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1951.

x x x