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ABSTRACT OF 1950-51 FUR LAWS PUBLISHED

An abstract of laws and regulations pertaining to the trapping or hunting of fur animals in the various states, Alaska, and British North America for the 1950-51 fur season has been published by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

While laws governing the taking of fur animals are not made by the Federal government, the compilation was prepared primarily for the benefit of Federal officials who are charged with enforcing the provisions of the Lacey Act—which regulates interstate transport of animals or birds which were taken contrary to state laws.

Together with information on open seasons, license requirements, and other material pertinent to fur trappers is an editorial comment by Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge of wild fur-animal investigations. In accounting for the present gradual rise of fur prices, Ashbrook writes: "A spurt in consumer demand developed during June, July and August when women realized that the Federal fur tax was not going to be eliminated... They made up their minds not to wait any longer..."

War conditions in the entire world hold potential menace to the American fur industry, Mr. Ashbrook adds. During such periods furs are generally considered non-essential, a luxury that might well be given up by a majority of people in the face of a world emergency. To what extent the international situation will affect the fur industry, the future alone can tell, Mr. Ashbrook concludes.

The abstract, Wildlife Leaflet 326, may be obtained from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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