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NEW TUNA COMMISSION APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

The appointment of Milner B. Schaefer as Director of Investigations for the newly formed Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was announced in Washington, D. C., today by Milton C. James, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service who is secretary of the Commission.

Mr. Schaefer, a fishery research biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, is resigning from Federal service to assume his new duties with the Commission on January 1, 1951, in San Diego, California. He will come from Honolulu, Hawaii, where he has served since August 1948 as Chief of the Section of Research and Development in the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations for the development of the tuna fisheries of the Central Pacific Ocean.

The convention between the United States and Costa Rica for the establishment of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission was signed at Washington, D. C., on May 21, 1949, and entered into force on March 3, 1950. President Truman appointed three United States Members: Milton C. James, Assistant Director, Fish and Wildlife Service; Lee F. Payne, member of the California Fish and Game Commission; and Eugene D. Bennett, an attorney of San Francisco. Chairman of the Commission is Jose Luis Cardona-Cooper, chief of the Costa Rican Department of Fisheries.

Mr. James stated that the Commission has been established to make a joint study of certain tuna fisheries, namely yellowfin and skipjack, and related coastal bait fisheries, in the tropical waters of the eastern Pacific Ocean, "with a view to maintaining the populations of these fishes at a level which will permit utilization year after year without depletion." Up to this time, according to the Service official, no large scale tuna or tuna bait investigations have been conducted off the coasts of Central and South America. Because the fisheries included in the convention present problems to other countries besides the United States and Costa Rica, provision has been made for other interested countries to become participants.

Mr. Schaefer's excellent training and experience in fishery research, with particular emphasis on tuna, led to his selection for the new post with the Commission, declared Mr. James. Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on December 14, 1912, Mr. Schaefer received his degree of B. Sci. in June 1935, magna cum laude, from the University of Washington with a major in fisheries. After graduation he joined the Washington State Fisheries Department as a biologist. From 1939 to 1942 he served as a scientist with the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. For nearly four years, during World War II, he was a line officer with the United States Navy. Following his discharge in February 1946, he joined the staff of the School of Fisheries of the University of Washington as an instructor, leaving that position in June 1946 to become a fishery research biologist on sardine and Pacific Tuna studies for the Fish and Wildlife Service at its Stanford University, California, laboratory.

Mr. Schaefer is the author of numerous scientific publications on fisheries and recently completed the thesis for his Ph. D. degree, based on research conducted between 1939 and 1942 for the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission.