



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release JANUARY 15, 1951

FWS RELEASES NEW MOVIE ON MENHADEN FISHERY

The colorful story of America's most productive but least known fishery—the menhaden—has been told in a new 20-minute, 16 mm sound and color educational motion picture which is now available for distribution, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The Story of Menhaden has been a cooperative project of the menhaden industry and the Fish and Wildlife Service; the industry financed the film; the Branch of Commercial Fisheries directed its production and will be responsible for the distribution of prints.

Almost every person in the United States is daily indebted to the menhaden fishery for something he eats, wears, or uses, Mr. Day said. However, since the fish has seldom been used extensively as food, it has not become familiar to the public. It is used almost exclusively in the manufacture of meal, oil, and fish solubles. Practically one half of the fish meals and the marine animal oils produced in the United States are derived from the menhaden. It ranks as America's No. 1 fish in volume of production. The total annual United States catch amounts to about one billion pounds.

The processing, utilization, the colorful method of capture, and even the chants sung by the fishermen, are all treated in The Story of Menhaden. Because the general public knows so little about the menhaden, the new film has appeal for all types of audiences and for various age groups, Mr. Day said. It holds special interest for educators, sports fishermen and for farmers and manufacturers who either use or could use menhaden products.

There are many industrial uses of menhaden oil, Mr. Day said. Menhaden meal and fish solubles, the film explains, are fed to hogs and poultry to provide the indispensable animal protein in their diet; the oils are used in preparing fortified vitamin feeding oils for poultry. It is a constituent of many paints, varnishes, insect sprays, printing inks, and soap. The oil is used also as a lubricant of machinery, in aluminum casting, and in leather tanning.

The meal manufactured from menhaden was formerly used only for fertilizer and the oil only for industrial purposes, but research by the industry and the Fish and Wildlife Service resulted in improvement of both products so that they may now be used in animal and poultry feeds.

Prints of The Story of Menhaden are available free of charge, on a loan basis. Requests are also being accepted for television showings. Prints will be placed on deposit in Fish and Wildlife Service film libraries and in sub-distribution centers throughout the United States. Information on this production and the other films in the Commercial Fisheries Series may be obtained by requesting the brochure entitled Fishery Motion Pictures from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

X X X