



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

*Office
file 1/21*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS CONSOLIDATES PACIFIC SALMON RESEARCH

The consolidation of three research units now working on Pacific salmon into one new unit, with headquarters in Seattle, Wash., was announced today by Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

"This merger should result in more productive salmon research on the Pacific Coast and Alaska," declared Director Day. "Instead of the work being carried on more or less independently, as formerly, in a unit in California, in one in the State of Washington, and in one in Alaska, all activities will now be tied together in the Pacific Salmon Investigations unit. This setup should be able to provide strong field leadership and a closer relationship with management, particularly in Alaska."

The new unit will be headed by Clinton E. Atkinson who now directs the Service's research program at Beaufort, N. C., on shad and Atlantic salmon. Mr. Atkinson, who graduated from the School of Fisheries of the University of Washington at Seattle in 1936, was employed for 10 years as an investigator with the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission, engaged in research on the Fraser River sockeye salmon. His scientific contributions to the problem of enumerating salmon spawning populations are internationally recognized. Mr. Atkinson will transfer to Seattle early in the spring.

Clifford J. Burner, now chief of the North Pacific Fishery Investigations, will be assistant chief of the new unit. In addition, he will continue to be responsible for the Service's Columbia River fish protection research.

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