



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DR. JOHN L. KASK APPOINTED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FWS

The appointment of Dr. John L. Kask as assistant director in the Fish and Wildlife Service to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Milton C. James was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. The appointment is to become effective April 1.

Dr. Kask is a veteran of 25 years of activity in the field of fishery management and research and has had a breadth of successful experience equalled by very few in the entire fishery field. Born in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada on March 21, 1906, he graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1928 and received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Washington School of Fisheries in Seattle in 1936. He served on the scientific staff of the International Halibut Commission from 1929 to 1937 as research scientist and assistant director of the International Sockeye Salmon Commission from 1938 to 1943. From there he moved to California and served as curator of aquatic biology at the California Academy of Sciences until 1948 when he was selected for the post of Chief Biologist of the Fisheries Division of the FAO of the United Nations. In his post he travelled to nearly every important fishing country in the world studying fisheries.

Dr. Kask's first post with the Fish and Wildlife Service was as assistant director of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations with headquarters in Honolulu. Recently he was transferred to Washington as Chief of the Office of Foreign Activities.

His interest in commercial fisheries began in the early 1920's, when he served as a fisherman on a purse seine boat working waters around the Queen Charlotte Islands off the coast of British Columbia. He gained added experience, and helped pay his way through college, by working in fish canneries during summer vacations.

Dr. Kask has also had lifelong interest in both fish culture and sports fishing. He has studied the highly developed Asiatic food-fish culture which predates by centuries this country's fish-pond program; and as an avid angler he has fished from America's arctic streams to New Zealand's rivers and lakes, where imported rainbow trout reach record-breaking size.

During World War II Dr. Kask served as Captain and Major in the Army of the United States, and was associated for almost two years with the Natural Resources Section of SCAP during the early days of the Japanese occupation.

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