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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

BULLETIN DESCRIBES SPORT FISHERY PROJECTS

More than 500 projects designed to help perpetuate sport fishing are now in progress throughout continental and territorial United States, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today. The announcement followed release by the Fish and Wildlife Service of a 133-page bulletin listing the projects and describing the activities involved.

Compiled by the Service's branch of Federal Aid, the bulletin cites projects under way in the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. About one-fourth of them are being supported by Federal funds made available to States and territories under the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, better known as the Dingell-Johnson program. The remaining projects are being financed directly by State fish and game departments, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, State health departments, and a number of colleges and universities. The activities described in the bulletin fall into two main categories: fishery research and fish management.

Research is being conducted to obtain needed information on such matters as fish migration, spawning habits, feeding habits, food supplies, age and growth, survival, polluted waters, habitat requirements, control of excessive weed growths, fishing pressures, angler harvests, effects of siltation, rough fish control measures, effects of power projects on fish populations, and development of improved methods such as the use of electricity in catching fish for study purposes. While most of the research projects deal with fresh water species, studies of marine sport fish are under way in several of the coastal States.

Management projects are concentrating on such activities as weed control, rough fish control, fish cultural operations, habitat improvements, constructing and maintaining public fishing lakes, fertilizing fishing waters, increasing fish food supplies, constructing and maintaining fish ladders and diverting fish into tributary streams to circumvent power projects in rivers, reducing fish losses in irrigation canals, removing log jams and other streamflow obstructions, and improving watersheds to stabilize streamflows.

The bulletin is titled "Survey of Fishery Activities, 1953" and is being distributed to administrators and technicians concerned with the conservation of the Nation's fishery resource. Due to a limited printing, the publication will not be available to the general public but persons interested in studying the contents will find reference copies at Fish and Wildlife Service regional offices in Portland, Oregon; Albuquerque; Minneapolis; Atlanta; Boston; and Juneau, Alaska; or at State fish and game department offices.

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