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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY REPORT MADE

Nearly half of the \$3,000,000 provided the Fish and Wildlife Service by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act for the year ending June 30, 1955, was used for biological research on fish and fisheries, according to a report issued today by Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis.

A total of \$1,434,000 was expended on these studies. Approximately the same amount—\$1,444,000—was spent for research in the exploration, development and utilization of our fishery resources. About \$92,000 was allotted to general administrative expenses and \$30,000 to construction.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act was passed in 1954, amending existing statutes. It provides funds "to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce by conducting a fishery educational service and fishery technological, biological and related programs—and to develop increased markets for fishery products of domestic origin..."

In carrying out this policy, the Department has let about 60 contracts for research work in every section of the country for over 40 percent of the year's funds. The contractors include 30 universities, colleges, and public institutions, and 13 commercial and independent scientific research organizations. These contracts represent in excess of \$1,250,000.

More than 100 projects, representing a potential expenditure of more than \$10,000,000 have been suggested for study under the Saltonstall-Kennedy funds. An advisory committee named by the Secretary of the Interior advises in preparing rules and regulations and in recommending priority of projects.

The biological studies covered a variety of subjects including:

Salmon and related species, \$216,700 to determine the racial characteristics of salmon, develop methods of counting and to secure escapement data.

Pacific sardine, \$114,500, to determine why the supply of sardine, anchovy and mackerel on the Pacific Coast fluctuates to such a degree.

North Atlantic trawl fishes, \$401,600 to secure biological data on sea scallops, whittings, flounders and ocean perch; to continue operation of the research vessel Albatross III and to study the ocean environment of the offshore banks.

Herring, \$71,900, studies on the biology of herring.

Gulf of Mexico fishes, \$149,300, research on shrimp, sponges and red tide.

High seas research, \$50,000, on stocks of king crab of the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean.

Tuna research in the Pacific, \$216,500.

Commercial shellfishery research, \$145,600 of which \$85,000 was on New England oysters, \$39,000 on Middle Atlantic oysters and \$21,600 on oysters in the Gulf of Mexico. Menhaden research required \$30,000 and \$23,100 went to improve cultural methods for channel catfish.

The report shows that \$1,385,000 has been allocated for most of these studies in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, but in varying amounts. New studies include investigation on Alaska salmon predators and effects of logging for which \$108,300 has been allotted and another allocation of \$32,000 for Atlantic striped bass studies. There will be no expenditure on king crab or sponges from Saltonstall-Kennedy funds in 1956.

A total of \$351,500 was spent on exploratory fishing and gear research. For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, \$299,000 has been allotted for these studies. Maine sardine explorations in the past year cost \$71,000; North Atlantic explorations cost \$163,400. Both of these projects are being continued and about the same amounts have been allocated.

There was \$78,000 spent on construction of a gear research vessel in the past year. Overhauling of the electrical system and the purchase of a radar set for the Oregon in the Gulf explorations was a \$39,000 expense which will not be repeated in fiscal 1956, but \$60,000 has been allocated for South Atlantic shrimp explorations in fiscal 1956 as contrasted with no expenditures for the past year.

Fish technological studies accounted for an expenditure of \$424,000 in the year ending June 30, 1955, and \$464,000 has been allocated for the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1956. The 1955 expenditures include \$139,000 for the development of voluntary fishery products standards; \$40,000 for research on handling, freezing and packaging southern oysters, \$65,000 to develop an index for the nutritive value of fishmeal; \$170,000 to develop new uses for fishoil; and \$10,000 on freezing skipjack tuna at sea. All of the programs have been extended into 1956.

Market development and fishery education spent \$304,300 in fiscal year 1955 and will have \$315,000 in fiscal 1956. The regular education and market development program cost \$167,000. The expanded program cost \$137,300. This included expanded school lunch activities, locker plant studies and special marketing programs.

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