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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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**FWS REPORTS TAGGED TUNA RECAPTURED AFTER 2,370 MILE MIGRATION**

Some Pacific tuna really like to range the far horizons. Here's the proof: A 40 pound albacore tuna tagged 1,300 miles north of Hawaii, October 5, 1954, by the Fish and Wildlife Service was recaptured near Japan, 2,370 miles away, 471 days later. It weighed 15 pounds when tagged.

The incident may be of extreme importance to the tuna fishing industry, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis pointed out today. It is another evidence, he explained, that the albacore tuna of the North Pacific may belong to a single population which migrates between America and Japan. It is not conclusive, however, because this is only the second instance in which an American tagged albacore has been taken in Japanese waters. The first such instance was about three years ago when an albacore tagged off the California coast was taken near Tokyo.

The Acting Secretary also reported another recent recapture of a tagged tuna. This one, a seven pound skipjack, tagged close to the Hawaiian shore was taken 252 days later only 30 miles away. It had doubled in weight in the interim.

The tuna migration study is one of many being conducted by the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations unit of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Its purpose is to find out as much as possible about the life history of the fish so as to be able to predict abundance, probable best fishing seasons and locations and to get other information which will aid the industry to develop new high seas fisheries.

Fishing for the albacore, which has the whitest meat of all tunas, is a valuable segment of the tuna industry. However, its variations in time and place of appearance along the North American coast presents commercial albacore fishermen with more than the usual number of problems. There are several thousand tagged albacore in the Pacific Ocean now and Fish and Wildlife Service scientists hope that tuna migrations will be clearly defined in the future.

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