



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SUOMELA PROMOTED TO NEW FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE POST

Under Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis announced today the promotion of Arnie J. Suomela, of Portland, Oreg., from Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in charge of fisheries, to a recently created post of Associate Director.

In his new capacity as Associate Director, Mr. Suomela will serve as general deputy to Director John L. Farley in directing the over-all activities of the Service including fisheries. The promotion became effective on May 15.

Mr. Suomela was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the Service in November 1953 by former Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay. He entered on duty in the Washington office of the Service on January 11, 1954.

Born in Ilwaco, Washington, on July 27, 1902, Mr. Suomela was graduated from the University of Washington with a B.S. in fishery biology in 1924 and received his master's degree in 1931. From 1924 to 1928, he served during the summer months as a warden in the Alaska fisheries service of the former United States Bureau of Fisheries. In 1931 he was appointed as a junior aquatic biologist with the Federal fisheries bureau. He rose through the ranks to the position of associate biologist which he held when he left Federal service in 1943 to become managing biologist of the Washington State Department of Fisheries. In 1945 he transferred to Oregon to take the post of State Director of Fisheries and remained in that position until he returned to Federal service in 1954.

Mr. Suomela is considered one of the Nation's authorities on the salmon fisheries and has done extensive research on salmon in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. During the construction of the Grand Coulee Dam he was in charge of field work in the Columbia River, particularly the "salmon salvage program" which resulted in successfully transplanting salmon that had formerly migrated above the dam.

Mr. Suomela is one of the United States Commissioners on both the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. He is a member of the American Fisheries Society and the Pacific Fisheries Biologists.

Married in 1936, Mr. Suomela and his wife live at 3622 Greenway Place, Alexandria, Va.