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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS REPORTS PROGRESS MADE WITH SALTONSTALL-KENNEDY ACT FUNDS

Progress which the Fish and Wildlife Service has made with Saltonstall-Kennedy Act funds in the fields of research, exploration, technology, marketing and education on behalf of the fishing industry and the consumer is detailed in a report to Congress just released by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton. The report describes the accomplishments in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956, and outlines the projects which are being undertaken during the current fiscal year.

The additional funds made available as the result of the amendment to the Saltonstall-Kennedy law by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 will be allocated in the near future in light of the advice of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee which met in Chicago on October 11 and 12.

The report divides the Saltonstall-Kennedy work into two categories--Fishery Biological Research for which \$1,385,000 was allocated for fiscal year 1956 and \$1,376,500 for fiscal year 1957, and Commercial Fishery Studies, with \$1,426,000 allocated in fiscal year 1956 and \$1,418,500 available for fiscal 1957. The balances were absorbed by administrative expenses.

Research on Alaska salmon, the Pacific sardine, the North Atlantic trawl fishes, herring, Gulf of Mexico fishes, striped bass, menhaden and a phase of the ocean research program took \$1,041,000 in the past fiscal year; \$1,063,700 is allocated to the same group of projects for the current year. The money for oyster research in the Gulf, mid-Atlantic and New England areas is the same for each year, \$75,000, with each fishery getting \$25,000. The big Pacific Oceanic studies which are based at Hawaii and which are to define the location of albacore tuna stocks in the waters north of Hawaii had \$234,000 in 1956 and will have \$227,000 in 1957.

The Commercial Fishery Studies include exploratory fishing and gear research, fishery technological studies, commercial fishery statistics, commercial fishery economic studies and fishery education and market development.

The exploratory fishing and gear research work includes a Maine sardine program coordinated with the biological work on the sardine and North Atlantic explorations for new fishing grounds and South Atlantic explorations primarily for valuable offshore shrimp which are being located in commercial quantities. The total money allocated is \$299,000 for fiscal 1956 and \$304,000 for fiscal 1957.

The fishery technological studies include research on the handling of the southern oyster, development of voluntary standards for fishery products, development of a chemical index for the nutritive value of fish meal, creating of new uses for fish oil, improvement in the quality of skipjack tuna and a Great Lakes survey. All of these programs will be carried on through fiscal 1957 except the Lakes (\$15,000) survey which was completed in 1956. The amount allocated was \$464,000 in 1956 and will be \$5,000 less in 1957.

The commercial fishery statistical program has been allocated \$200,000 for each year. The economic studies which dealt primarily with fish consumption and with economic survey of certain segments of the fishing industry used \$148,000 in 1956 and has \$138,000 for 1957.

Fishery education and market development includes such projects as creating new markets for under-utilized fish, test kitchen activities to develop recipes for cooking fish, increasing the sale of fish to frozen food lockers, exhibits at national conventions, promotion of the use of fish in school lunch programs, production and distribution of motion pictures relating to the fishing industry, special market studies, preparation of market aids and the issuance of numerous publications. For this work \$315,000 was spent in 1956 and \$317,500 is allocated for the current fiscal year.

The Alaska salmon research is concentrated on problems for which answers are needed urgently in the management of the fisheries. The studies are being made in Bristol Bay, considered the most critical management area in the Alaska fishery. Methods of counting downstream migration to be used for the prediction of the runs, methods of counting adult escapement and general problems concerning the migration routes are among the items being studied.

The Kvichak River system, the largest red salmon stream in Alaska, is the scene of a project which includes a survey of the spawning grounds, a determination of the age and size of the fish commercially taken, the age and size of those which escape, and counts of salmon heading for the sea for their long tenure in the open waters.

There are two predator studies being made--one relating to the extent of predation on salmon runs by fish, bird or mammal predators and another study to determine whether or not the sea lions and hair seals of western Alaska prey upon salmon. There are studies on counting salmon in small streams, counting salmon by the use of towers which give the observer a place of vantage, and another study on counting the fingerling red salmon in Bristol Bay. Still another project deals with the effect of logging upon salmon streams.

In the Gulf of Mexico much of the work has been done on shrimp and on red tide investigations, but menhaden and sponges have also come in for research and study.

One important goal in the ocean research is to "reach a scientifically sound understanding of what the weather does to change conditions in the sea and what these changes in the sea will do to the numbers, distribution and fishery yield of the ocean fish populations." Fish and wildlife biologists believe that when this understanding is reached with sufficient correctness to assure predictions, a new door will be opened to more efficient fishing and to make the various fisheries safe from over-exploitation.

In the area of exploratory fishing and gear research, extensive information has been obtained on bottom trawling; offshore stocks of shellfish and pelagic fish were explored; the possibility of a shrimp industry off Nova Scotia was studied; midwater and otter trawls and lampara seines were tested; the possibilities of a new red shrimp industry in the South Atlantic brought some optimistic results; and considerable laboratory work on gear development was accomplished.

One of the fields of technological research concerned the discovery of new uses for fish oils. One result of this work is the "breaking down" of certain chemical components of fish oil. This could open the way to the creation of many new products, just as did somewhat similar work on coal. Other technological projects included freezing studies, storage, new uses for fish meal and scales.

The market and economic studies were designed primarily to learn where the fish distribution and utilization pattern was weak and to find out why. Among the projects were many consumer surveys which develop information to help the fish producer better meet the needs and desires of the customer.

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