



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### UNITED STATES TO HOST WORLD CONFERENCE ON FISHERY PRODUCTS NUTRITION

The United States Government will serve as host to a world conference on the nutritional value of fishery products, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The conference will be sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Approximately 400 authorities on nutrition, representing some 80 nations, are expected to attend the conference to be held in Washington, D. C., during the last two weeks in September of 1961.

In announcing the conference, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Ieffler said: "The world's fisheries represent one of the few natural sources of nutritionally valuable animal protein. They constitute a rich reservoir of food for the underdeveloped and overpopulated countries of the world. This conference, the results of which may well justify the first organized steps toward systematized farming of the seas, is part of the program of our Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization to 'Free the World from Hunger'."

The conference will deal with the unique nutritional benefits of fishery products, both for human food and for animal feeding. Recent nutritional research findings by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries have shown the importance of fishery products to the public health. The unsaturated fats in fish have been demonstrated to be most effective in reducing the elevated blood cholesterol levels commonly associated with heart diseases. Fish are the only source of animal protein food in which this type of fat is found in abundance.

Fishery products have also proved to be very useful in specialized low sodium, low fat, low carbohydrate diets which are necessary for the treatment of certain disease conditions. Many findings by animal nutritionists have pointed out the value of industrial fishery products in increasing growth rates and feed efficiency in poultry.

The conference on nutritive value of fishery products will be concerned with a field of work in which the United States is conducting substantial research and in which sufficient progress has been made so that delegates from other countries will be able to profit from the results.

A great deal of work has also been done in other countries, and one of the most important tasks of the conference will be to assemble this wealth of widely dispersed research information. So far, very little compilation of the world's research on nutritional values in fish and shellfish has been undertaken by investigators.

It is expected that several authoritative reference texts on the nutritional value of industrial and edible fishery products will be published as a result of the conference. The proceedings of the conference will also be of value to government and industry research people in planning the future direction that nutritional research on fishery products should take.

The conference will be of considerable value to underdeveloped countries, because protein malnutrition is the most serious dietary disease in the world today, affecting nearly two-thirds of the world's population. It will also provide nutritional researchers with the opportunity to attract world-wide attention to recent remarkable findings in fishery products.

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