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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISHING INDUSTRY WORK RULES AIRED AT INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Working conditions in the world's fishing industries are being discussed by a special technical committee of the International Labor Organization at a 10-day meeting at Geneva, Switzerland, the Department of the Interior reports. The sessions end December 19.

Thomas Rice, assistant to the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, and Charles Jackson, former general manager of the National Fisheries Institute, are participating as members of the committee. Both are from Washington, D. C.

Mr. Rice is a Government member of the committee and Mr. Jackson is an employer representative. There are 18 members of this special committee, six each from labor, management, and government, selected from various member nations of ILO.

The objective of the meeting is to lay the groundwork for possible international conventions covering crew accommodations and safety, accident insurance, and vocational training and certificates of competency. If the committee presents draft conventions to the ILO, they will later be considered by the International Labor Conference, which is the periodic meeting of delegates from 104 nations, including the United States, to discuss world labor problems.

Before assuming his present position, Mr. Rice served for 15 years as labor relations representative of the Federated Fishing Vessels of New England and New York, Inc., and of the Massachusetts Fisheries Association, Inc., directing all negotiations between these organizations and the Atlantic Fishermen's Union and the Seafood Workers Union (AFL-CIO). Among the many activities handled by Mr. Rice were those concerning annual contract negotiations establishing working hours, wage rates, working conditions, safety rules, and trip settlements, and resolving general labor-management problems.

Mr. Jackson was general manager of the National Fisheries Institute for 17 years, from 1945 until 1962. Prior to that he was an assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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