

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

news release

For Release to PMs Friday, July 3, 1970

Carroll 343-5634

## INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES "A TASK FORCE REPORT ON LET'S SAVE THE DESERT PUPFISH"

The Department of the Interior has published an eight-page pamphlet entitled "A Task Force Report on Let's Save the Desert Pupfish."

Six kinds of desert pupfish are clinging to a precarious existence in a series of springs and pools in the arid Amargosa River Basin area along the California-Nevada border--their survival threatened by lowering water levels.

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced on June 14 that his Department was undertaking immediate and longer range measures to protect these endangered species.

A Departmental task force, headed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, was created to devise a program for preserving pupfish. The task force publication announced today describes what Interior plans to do.

The plans include a study of ground water levels, further scientific study, land acquisition to protect spring areas, protective measures around the waterholes, and location of other water areas where the endangered species could be established.

The publication also provides background on the diminutive fishes, and a map shows the location of springs in which they are clinging to life. Included are pictures of one of the springs, called Devil's Hole, a detached part of the National Park Service's Death Valley National Monument.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained, as long as supplies last, by writing to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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