

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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INTERIOR, COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS TO HOLD CONFERENCE TO CELEBRATE FISHERY CENTENNIAL

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced today that the Interior and Commerce departments will sponsor a conference on "Fish in Our Lives" in December to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Federal fishery conservation efforts.

The conference is expected to draw leading fishery scientists, interested public economists, sport fishing interests and nutritionists to Washington, D.C. The sessions will deal with all aspects of the resource, including the growing menace of environmental contaminants.

Secretary Morton also said that in connection with the centennial year, open houses for the public will be held at Federal fish hatcheries and laboratories during 1971.

Beginning in 1871 with the appointment of Spencer Fullerton Baird as the first commissioner of fish and fisheries and the signing into law of a resolution "for the protection and preservation of the food fishes of the coasts of the United States" by President Grant, Federal fish conservation activities have been the responsibility of a succession of agencies--presently Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service.

BSFW operates 100 national fish hatcheries and 16 fish research laboratories. NMFS has about 30 laboratories and exploratory fishing bases engaged in aspects of fishery research.

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