

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATURE LOVERS MAY BE CONTACTED IN NATIONAL SURVEY

If you don't hunt or fish that doesn't mean you won't be contacted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the wildlife-related activities you do enjoy.

The "1975 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation" now being started will be broadened to reflect and document a growing national interest in the entire spectrum of wildlife resource uses.

The 1975 survey will differ from past studies which have been done at five-year intervals since 1955. Not only will the base of hunters and fishermen be expanded by sampling a far greater number of rural communities, but the 1975 survey will add new questions for those people who enjoy wildlife from a different perspective such as photography and birdwatching. This was prompted by dramatic increases in visits to National Wildlife Refuges by the general public in the past five years.

These five-year surveys were initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the request of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, representing the state natural resource agencies. They provide the kind of comprehensive data needed by state natural resource agencies and local conservation organizations to design and implement wildlife programs and research. The survey, as in the past, will

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be published by the Government Printing Office and offered as a sales item to the public and it enjoys wide popularity as a valuable reference document for outdoor writers, conservation associations, and many others.

Highlights of the most recent survey show the kind of useful data compiled. Hunters and fishermen in 1970, for example, spent a combined total of \$7.1 billion, participated in 910 million recreation days, and traveled 39 billion passenger miles. Fishermen numbered over 33 million and hunters over 14 million.

The \$985,000 contract for the national survey and compilation of data has been awarded to National Analysts, Inc., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds for the survey come from the Federal excise taxes on sporting and fishing gear, which also serve as the financial basis of Federal aid programs to states for wildlife restoration, land acquisition, and hunter safety programs.

To satisfy the Service's increasingly detailed information needs, a more sophisticated format was designed for the 1975 survey. To increase the survey's statistical reliability, individual states will be encouraged to augment the sample by supplementing the survey within their boundaries.

Publication of the "1975 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife Associated Recreation" by the Government Printing Office is expected early in calendar year 1977. Separate technical reports containing detailed survey findings on individual states will also be produced.

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