



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For release: December 10, 1990 Patricia W. Fisher 202-208-5634

NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION BEGINS IN JANUARY

Do you hunt, fish, or watch wildlife? Beginning in January 1991, you may be among some 130,000 Americans who will be asked that question as part of the 1991 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-associated Recreation.

The survey, conducted every 5 years since 1955 by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, updates information about fish- and wildlife-associated recreational activities in each of the 50 states.

"The survey is one of our best tools to measure what people are doing in the way of fish and wildlife recreation," said Service Director John Turner. "Because the survey gives us information we need to do a better wildlife conservation job, we hope people asked to be part of this year's sample will be willing to take the time to answer our questions."

The national survey is financed by hunters, anglers, and boaters through the payment of excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, fishing equipment, and motorboat fuels. The survey data are used by individual state fish and game agencies to estimate demands for wildlife recreation and to spot trends in participation and expenditures.

Participation is strictly voluntary and all responses confidential. Data collected will be used for statistical purposes only; no participant can be identified from the information released in the report.

The 1991 survey is the first to be conducted by telephone alone. Prior surveys used a combination of telephone contacts and in-person interviews. Interviews are to begin in early January 1991 with a screening of some 130,000 randomly selected households. From this, a representative sample will be chosen to include 40,000 selected hunters and anglers and 28,000 individuals who participate in other forms of wildlife-related recreation.

Participants will be called three times during the course of the year and asked about their outdoor recreation activities. They will be asked such questions as how often they fished, hunted, or watched wildlife; where they did it; and how much time and money they spent in conjunction with these activities.

Conducted for the Service by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, preliminary findings will be available in fall 1992, and the final results published by spring of 1993. Information about the report's availability will be announced at that time.

Last conducted in 1985, the survey revealed approximately 140 million Americans, or 77 percent of the total U.S. population 16 years of age and older, enjoyed some form of wildlife-related recreation. This group included 46.4 million anglers, 16.7 million hunters, and 134.7 million who participated in other wildlife-related recreation such as photography, birdwatching, or feeding wildlife.