



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Increased production of ocean or black quahogs, deep-sea members of the clam family, is the objective of the establishment of a study laboratory at Warren, R. I., announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

Cooperating in the investigation are the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Fish and Game Commission, and the Rhode Island College. William Arcisz, a bacteriologist on the Service's staff, will direct the field work at Warren, while some laboratory studies are being made at the College Park, Maryland, technological laboratory. Biological investigations will be conducted by Dr. Victor L. Loosanoff at the Service's laboratory at Milford, Connecticut.

The ocean quahog, which has recently grown considerably in popularity, is a different species from the more familiar hard shell clam, which it resembles in shape although it is somewhat larger. The ocean quahog has a darker shell and lives in deeper water than its cousin. The flavor of the two is similar.

The program of the investigation will include a general biological study, and the charting of all potential production areas, as well as bacteriological studies.

The 1943 production of ocean quahogs is estimated at about 50,000 bushels which yielded some 430,000 pounds of meat. About one fourth of the production went to the armed services. The average price paid to fisherman was in excess of \$1 a bushel and small boats of from 40 to 50 feet usually are able to bring in from 100 to 150 bushels a day.

Full information concerning the investigation may be obtained from William C. Neville, Area Coordinator of Fisheries, 155 John Street, New York, N. Y.