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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1953

International problems occupied an increasing share of attention in Pacific fishery research in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, Director John L. Farley stated in the Fish and Wildlife Service's annual report released today.

Salmon fishing and crab fishing have been resumed on the high seas of the North Pacific, and exploitation of the fisheries by Japan, Canada, and the United States was the subject of a new convention signed by the three governments. This convention became effective on June 12, 1953. A biologist aboard the Service's vessel John N. Cobb has been making biological studies near the western Aleutian Islands to determine whether the salmon stocks are of American or Asian origin, and to find the area of intermingling, if any. A biologist working with the Japanese crab fleet has been investigating the biology of the king crab.

Canadian and Service investigators are collaborating on a study to develop means of protecting salmon at an irrigation project on the Okanogan River in British Columbia. This Columbia River tributary supplies a large part of the valuable catch of blueback salmon in the United States fishery at Astoria, Oregon.

Service and Canadian biologists also collaborated in measuring herring spawning on the beaches of British Columbia and Alaska. This joint determination will increase the accuracy of catch forecasts.

In addition to its offshore salmon research, the vessel John N. Cobb conducted explorations in the northeastern Pacific for albacore tuna, deepwater bottom fish, Alaska herring, and shrimp.

In the Gulf of Mexico, some encouragement for a new tuna industry was seen from the work of the exploratory vessel Oregon. Several kinds of tuna have been caught in the gulf and northern Caribbean. Good sources of live tuna bait were located, and more exploration of the tuna resource is scheduled.

Further exploration for New England bluefin tuna revealed that this species, of a size excellent for canning, was present over a wide area in the Gulf of Maine during the summer. Catches were made with Japanese-type long line gear used for the first time in domestic fishing.

Experiments in locating commercial fish by means of underwater listening devices were continued. An underwater television camera was developed for studying fishing gear in operation.

The program to increase the sale and distribution of frozen fishery products through the locker plants of the United States was carried on in seven States. Special emphasis was given in Iowa since it has the greatest concentration of locker plants of any State.

Home economists of the Service conducted 158 fish-cookery demonstrations for homemakers, institutional managers, and education groups. Extensive demonstration programs were carried on in cooperation with seven States, and in seven other States a limited number of demonstrations was given at "workshops," summer school sessions, and special meetings. Increases of up to 80 percent in the use of fishery products have resulted.

During fiscal year 1953, Fish and Wildlife Service technicians were carrying on fishery-development projects in Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, India, Iran, Liberia, Lebanon, Egypt, and Indonesia under the Point 4 Program. In addition, technologists made preliminary studies of fishery resources and industrial facilities in the Dominican Republic and Colombia.

Major emphasis in the Great Lakes research program was centered on developing methods for controlling the parasitic sea lamprey during fiscal year 1953. Eighteen lamprey electrical-control devices have been installed in streams along the Michigan shore of Lake Superior. Of the 10 in continuous operation since the last of April 8 took 765 lampreys. The improved Burkey Screen continued to suffer transformer difficulties but during its operation it killed at least 153 adult lampreys.

The Service's enlarged law-enforcement staff made an enviable record in fiscal year 1953; apprehensions of violators and penalties for violations increased about 20 percent.

Work under the Pittman-Robertson wildlife restoration program reached an all-time high in terms of funds obligated, number of projects, and accomplishments, despite the fact that receipts from the excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition declined from the record collections of fiscal year 1952. The carryover of unobligated funds from 1952, plus the apportionment of $10,145,106 for 1953, gave the States a total of $17,821,224. With the 25 percent matching funds that the States contribute, obligations amounted to almost $20 million. During the year, 364 publications resulted from Pittman-Robertson projects. One report, Sage Grouse in Wyoming, was given the Wildlife Society's award as the best terrestrial wildlife publication of the year.

Under the Dingell-Johnson fish restoration program, the sum of $2,628,527 was allotted to the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to defray costs of the Federal share of the projects selected by them. In all, 261 projects were approved. The year witnessed a sharp increase in the number of projects to create new fishing waters and to improve environments; 49 such restoration projects were approved. Work outlined in these projects called for the expenditure of $1,265,043, or 40 percent of the funds obligated by the States on program work during the year.

The recorded catch of predatory animals included 55,000 coyotes, 1,862 wolves, 18,905 bobcats and lynxes, 729 stock-killing bears, and 184 mountain lions.

Of 182 reports made during fiscal year 1953 by the Fish and Wildlife Service on water developments planned by Federal agencies or private interests under Federal permit, 92 were on Corps of Engineers projects, 35 on Bureau of Reclamation, 7 on Department of Agriculture, and 48 on power projects requiring licenses from the Federal Power Commission. In addition, two special reports were prepared, one

on the effects on fish and wildlife of a plan of the Rogue Valley Irrigation Association for development of the Rogue River in Oregon, and the other on the relation of fish and wildlife resources to the development of the Delaware River which is being studied by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In cooperation with State conservation departments and with other Federal agencies, the Service has developed fishery-management plans for selected areas. During calendar year 1952 fishery-management planning for Federal areas had high priority. Fishery-management aid was given to 17 Veterans' Administration hospitals, 54 Army installations, 26 Air Force bases, and several Navy and Marine establishments. Fishery management assistance to the Forest Service has been concentrated largely on the Green Mountain National Forest. Here a comprehensive plan for management of the streams and lakes is being developed as a pilot activity pointing toward a broader program to provide management assistance on forest areas.

Comprehensive fish-stocking programs have been established with consideration given to all available means of attaining more effective use of the hatchery product. The water areas served by several fish-cultural stations have been surveyed with a view to revising distribution programs to reflect management needs. In the 97 fish hatcheries operated by the Service, a total of 332,247,000 eggs, fry, fingerlings, and fishes of 6 inches or larger, was produced in calendar year 1952.

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