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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ANNUAL REPORT LISTS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The double task of conducting "business as usual" and undergoing a major reorganization as directed by the Congress is detailed in the report of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, for the year ending June 1957.

The report shows that the change-over from the old organization to the new had developed the following in the Fish and Wildlife Service:

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries with four divisions--Administration, Biological Research, Industrial Research and Services, and Resource Management, with a field organization of five regional offices and a Pacific Oceanic Investigations Office; responsible for matters relating to commercial fisheries, whales, seals, and sea-lions.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife with four divisions--Administrative, Sport Fisheries, Wildlife, and Technical Services, with a field organization of six regional offices; responsible for matters relating primarily to migratory birds, game management, wildlife refuges, sport fisheries and sea mammals (except whales, seals, and sea-lions).

The Office of the Commissioner with coordinating responsibility; includes the following offices: Information, International Relations, and Program Review. The new Service is under the supervision of a Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife and under the general direction of an Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.

Important developments are reported by both operating bureaus. The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries got its fishery loan program underway and by the end of the fiscal period had applications which totaled more than the $10,000,000 made available by the Congress; announced success in its several years of experimenting to find a selective poison which would kill sea lamprey larvae but not injure larvae of desirable species of fish; reported an increase in the volume and value of the Alaska fishery products in 1956; showed definite proof of the value of the haddock regulations which the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission established in 1953; saw its exploratory work on royal-red shrimp off the South Atlantic Coast become the basis for a commercial shrimp industry, and its exploratory fishing and gear research program become the forerunner for a commercial shrimp industry off the

coast of the State of Washington; found a new market for the Alaska coctail shrimp in Chicago and a market for the Pacific Coast's Dungeness crab in Florida; developed a market in the pet food industry in the mid-West for the under-utilized fish taken from the Great Lakes; reported contracts with 32 of the Nation's leading research centers for fundamental studies which will mean better utilization of fishery products and better customer satisfaction with those products; and reported continued progress in the field of quality standards for fishery progress; refined the collection of Market News information and developed the collection of shrimp statistics in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife declared that waterfowl habitat in some areas was becoming critical because of the conversion of choice marshland to rice fields and orchards and because of the destruction of coastal areas by intercoastal canals and by sulphur and oil prospecting; reported a ten percent increase in hatchery trout production over the previous year; issued 340 reports on fish and wildlife aspects of proposed water development projects; devoted considerable study to bird and animal pests and pesticides, on one hand trying to discover ways by which the farmer can get the protection he needs without disaster to fish and wildlife and on the other hand seeking ways to control rodents and birds which are nullifying efforts to reforest parts of the Northwest and Southeast and causing damage to agricultural crops in other sections of the country; reported increased cooperation between the States and the Service in waterfowl studies and in mourning dove studies; acquired 14,194 acres of land for wildlife refuge purposes, with an additional 24,000 acres pending; worked with the Air Force on plans for a big fish and game conservation program on Air Force reservations; aided the Navy program to manage renewable resources on all lands under the control of the Navy and Marine Corps; arrested or helped arrest 4,790 persons for violation of State fish and game laws; climaxed a two-year probe by arresting 53 market hunters on the Texas waterfowl marshes; brought in 1,035 new cases into Federal courts exclusive of Alaska and had 1,186 cases terminated with a total of $60,434 in fines and 1,615 jail days.

The report lists in some detail the various activities of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in such categories as exploratory fishing and gear research, technological research, economics, market development, statistics, market news reporting, fishery biological research of various kinds and management and research on Alaska and Columbia River salmon and Alaska fur-seals.

Alaska: In 1956 products of the Alaska fishing industry, including fur-seal by-products, totaled 226 million pounds with a wholesale value of $93 million compared with 186 million valued at $70 million, in 1955. There was an increase of nearly 30 million pounds in the salmon production over 1955, with an increase in value of more than $21 million. The scope of the research program was doubled as compared with the year before, with special emphasis on numerous salmon problems. There was also an increase in the harvest of seal skins because of the necessity of bringing the Pribilof Islands seal herd into conformity with the carrying capacity of the islands. A convention for the protection of North Pacific fur-seals was concluded on February 9, 1957 with Canada, Japan, and the U. S. S. R.

Salmon Research: Northwest salmon studies--Work continued on electrical methods of counting and guiding fish; the use of the electrical fish counters was

extended; salmon bearing sonic tags were tracked for as much as eight hours, giving researchers data of value in fishway studies; work continued on the development of better and more economical fishways, the research being done at the Fishery-Engineering research facility at Bonneville dam; comprehensive spawning and migration studies were made on the Wenatchee River basin in Washington; the ten-year fingerling migration study at Bonneville dam ended during the year.

Coastal Fishery Research: The task of estimating the shad run on the Connecticut River continued; the technique for making this annual estimate is based upon research of former years; the estimate is used in determining the number of shad which can be taken from the river without damaging the reproductivity of the resource; studies indicated that shad in the Hudson River continue to respond to the conservation practices and their numbers are approaching original proportions; similar studies indicate that pollution in the Delaware River still prevents the rebuilding of the shad resource in that stream; the research on striped bass continued in the Albermarle Sound and Roanoke River area and in Chesapeake Bay; Atlantic salmon studies continued in the Sheepscot River area.

Shellfish Research: In cooperation with the State of Connecticut, oyster spawning beds were established for study purposes at the mouths of several streams; in cooperation with the Oyster Institute of North America, the Bureau began research on the use of salt water ponds in oyster culture; the effectiveness of oyster rafts in keeping commercial quantities of oysters away from predators came in for attention; other projects utilized radioisotopes in shellfish biological research; control methods on green crabs, predators on soft clams, and drills (predators on oysters), were investigated and success in control was achieved.

Inland Fishery Research: Conducted numerous studies on cultural and nutritional problems; further work was done regarding the vitamin needs of chinook salmon; a general study of Lake Erie fishery resources was conducted during the year; discovered two selective poisons which would destroy sea lamprey larvae without harming desirable species of fish, the discovery following several years of work including the testing of 5,000 chemicals.

Marine Fishery Research: Underwater television proved to be a practical tool for researchers studying the capture, behavior, and escapement of fish through trawl meshes; studies continuted on cod, haddock, ocean perch, and halibut; ocean perch were successfully tagged for the first time and returns from the 3,385 tagged fish is already beginning to yield needed information on age, growth, migration, and mortality; migrations of shrimp over a period of several months can finally be studied because identification of test stock can be made by coloration induced by immersion in a dilute solution of riboflavin or feeding food stained with certain dyes; answers to the sudden fluctuations of Pacific sardine stocks are still being sought; numerous tuna studies were made and the Service participated in a comprehensive oceanographic survey of central and western equatorical Pacific by Japan, the United States and France.

Foreign Activities: The halibut catch taken in conformity with management practices of the Halibut Commission, was 67 million pounds, well above the five-year average; the pink salmon resource of the Fraser River was brought under the jurisdiction of the Sockeye Salmon Commission; joint research of the North Pacific salmon resource continued with the work of Japan, Canada, and the United States correlated by the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Economics: Transportation rates, import problems, a shrimp survey, household preference studies, and a survey of insurance problems were among the studies completed or nearly completed during the year; new projects included research on factors which affect the prices of key fishery products, research on controlled production, and on the interaction of biological and economic forces in the fisheries.

Market Development: Presented 244 fish cookery demonstrations, engaged in marketing promotional campaigns in cooperation with the industry; produced two industry-financed motion pictures, and issued the monthly Commercial Fisheries Abstracts.

Market News and Statistics: Continued to issue the daily Fishery Market News Reports in seven important fish distribution and production centers; published numerous information news items and statistical bulletins including the monthly Commercial Fisheries Review and the annual Fishery Statistics of the United States.

Technological Research: Contracts which have been awarded to 32 of the Nation's leading research centers include improved utilization, quality and standardization and preservation by radiation studies; methods to prevent discoloration of canned tuna were developed; the use of menhaden oil in leather processing was extended.

The activities of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife are detailed under such categories as Federal aid to States, river basin studies, wildlife refuges, game management, inland fisheries, wildlife research and predator and rodent control.

Federal Aid: Reported that States had "something new" in game management and unique in political science, the cooperative deer disease study which is financed by 10 southeastern States which contribute Federal aid funds into a common pool; listed 254,332 acres of land purchased or leased by States for game restoration work, 12,173 acres for both fish and game restoration, 60,212 acres for fish restoration needs; reported the creation of 37 fishing lands having a total of 6,000 surface acres and the reclamation of 99 lakes, 10,417 surface acres, by removing the undesirable fish; related the development of numerous access roads and access sites and listed numerous research and management studies conducted by the States with the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds for the restoration of fish and game respectively.

River Basin Studies: Issued 340 reports on proposed water development projects, including 135 sponsored by the Corps of Engineers, 30 by the Bureau of Reclamation, 65 requiring Federal power license, and 102 small watershed projects;

reported wildlife management agreements on 11 water-use projects; listed cooperative efforts for the preservation of anadromous fish runs in the Columbia River basin, on the Rogue River and on several streams on the Atlantic seaboard; recommended against the proposed Wood Canyon Dam in Alaska; continued studies on the effect of the proposed Narragansett Bay hurricane barrier on the fishery resource of that region.

Wildlife Refuges: Announced provisions for the protection of the Alaska brown bear and for the management of reindeer herds in some parts of the north; reported $7\frac{1}{2}$ million visitors on wildlife refuges during 1956, an increase of eight percent over the 1955 figure; reported progress in long-range plans for refuges.

Game Management: Listed among its techniques such activities as breeding ground surveys, wintering ground surveys, harvest inventories and studies on distribution patterns; stressed efforts for control of bird depredations and law enforcement and cooperation with State enforcement officials.

Inland Fisheries: Operated 92 hatcheries and distributed 24 species of trout, salmon and warmwater fish; proceeded with hatchery construction, stream development and fishery investigation plan for the Columbia River in cooperation with the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho; listed six new hatcheries and one major replacement authorized by Congress; also listed 14 other hatcheries in the course of construction or repair, as authorized by Congress; planted nearly five million catchable size fish, most of which were trout, and 139 million fingerlings of which 53 million were chinook salmon, 48 million were bluegills and 15 million bass; listed special plantings in two States which had experienced severe fish kills; introduced a Mexican warm water rainbow trout into the Southwest; conducted nutrition and disease studies; reported that Federal pond fish production was at a high level but could not meet the demand for pond fish induced by the ending of the drouth in many areas; emphasized the need for more trout production created by the cold water reaches in the rivers below large dams.

Wildlife Research: Reported graduation of 176 students from schools in the Cooperative Research Unit; listed its major field of activities as being studies to maintain desirable species and to control undesirable species; published reports on the new types of blackbird damage control; screened several hundred chemicals in the quest of new and more effective animal control aids for the forester, game manager and farmer; banded 40,000 mourning doves as part of the management studies in cooperation with States, associations and individuals; proved that under certain conditions pest mosquitoes can be controlled and waterfowl habitat improved at the same time; conducted research on the effects of timber stand improvement for forest wildlife.

Predator and Rodent Control: Continued the long-established practice of cooperating with industry and agriculture in control of predators and rodents;

intensified its efforts on the evaluation of new rodenticides, repellent chemicals and scare devices; reported predator population increases in some instances where the presence of human population makes predator control measures dangerous; reported considerable activity in control of domestic rats and mice and field rodents; made two large-scale field tests of two new anti-coagulants; participated in the Clean Grain program; cooperated with counties in control of rabies in wild animals.

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