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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WAYS SOUGHT TO CONTROL MOSQUITO AND AID WILDLIFE

The need for research to develop mosquito control methods compatible with fish and wildlife management objectives was stressed by most speakers participating in a mosquito control--wildlife management symposium held recently in the Department of the Interior Building.

The purpose of the symposium was to provide a better understanding of mosquito control and wildlife management objectives and methods, and to explore possibilities for a greater coordination of interests where conflicts exist.

About 75 persons actively engaged in mosquito control or wildlife management in the eastern portion of the United States attended the meeting. A feature of the two-day session was a constructive group discussion following the presentation of 12 prepared papers.

Because of the growing resistance of mosquitoes to many insecticides and the damage that these chemicals may cause to fish, shellfish and wildlife, the trend in present-day control programs is toward the use of water management and biological control methods. Ditching and filling are widely used but since these practices often adversely affect fish or wildlife, there is a growing recognition by mosquito control workers that effective substitute methods are needed.

Cooperative studies by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies in Delaware and New Jersey, from 1953 to 1955 showed the value of controlled flooding as a means of mosquito abatement in some areas. Under this system, the production of salt marsh mosquitoes was virtually halted by preventing the exposure of soil upon which the pests lay their eggs. At the same time, waterfowl conditions were greatly improved. This method is now being used in suitable situations in Florida for the control of mosquitoes.

The symposium, the first of its kind, was sponsored jointly by the American Mosquito Control Association, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Wildlife Society, the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the United States Public Health Service.

Papers on the first day were restricted to the fundamentals of mosquito biology and control and to the fundamentals of wetland management for fish and wildlife. Papers on the second day included reviews of methods of mosquito control by chemicals and by water management, their effects on various types of fishes and wildlife and the effects of fish and wildlife water-development projects on mosquito breeding.

Proceedings of the meeting will be available at $1 a copy through the American Mosquito Control Association, Morris Plains, New Jersey.

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