UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE — Most or Flanagan - Interior 5634

For Release APRIL 21, 1962

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL IS SUBJECT OF NEW INTERIOR PUBLICATION

A publication to aid fishery biologists, pond owners, and others who are having problems with aquatic weeds has been released by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Circular 128, "Improving Sport Fishing by Control of Aquatic Weeds" is designed to help solve one of the problems that has plagued fishermen since the 17th Century days of Izaak Walton. Large amounts of either submersed or emergent vegetation in fishing waters often interferes with anglers' efficiency, and also leads to overpopulation of stunted fish.

The new publication points out that one of the best ways to control submersed underwater plants in shallow ponds is to apply fertilizer to the water. The fertilizer encourages the growth of microscopic green or blue-green plants called algae. This free-floating algae, when it becomes dense enough, shades out the larger plants.

Many aquatic plants however, cannot be easily controlled by fertilization and the algae itself can become a problem. In these cases, chemical control can be effective. Circular 128 has a list of aquatic plants and the chemicals that control them. Methods of application are discussed and easy-to-follow instructions on measuring the volume of water to determine the rate of application also are included.

Various mechanical methods of control are mentioned by the publication, including cutting bars and hand-operated weed-cutting saws.

Copies of Fish and Wildlife Service Circular 128, "Improving Sport Fishing by Control of Aquatic Weeds," are available from the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

x x x

P.N. 6223-62