



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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The United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior today turned the tables on a sector of its customers - the anglers who customarily bombard the agency with questions about fishing. This time the Fish and Wildlife Service decided to reverse procedure and to ask the anglers questions. The occasion was the annual survey of anglers conducted by the agency.

Ordinarily sports-fishermen send thousands of queries to the agency each year, seeking information and data about fish. Today, in its question-asking, the Service sought to determine statistics regarding fishermen, their numbers, the number of resident and non-resident licenses issued by States, the number of aliens fishing, and the like. The results will be published in the Service's annual compendium known as "Anglers' Licenses Issued and Revenue Received Therefrom by States". It will go into circulation in September.

Addressed to conservation of fish and game department officials of each of the 48 States, the 1940 questionnaire seeks principally to find the number of resident and non-resident anglers in the nation and the amounts of money they paid for license fees. The answers will be broken down into categories indicating numbers of men, women, and children, aliens, and tourists, who fished in each of the States. There are this year, for example, 32 States which will issue a license particularly for the tourist trade - an appreciable increase over 1939.

In order accurately to cover the vast hordes of individual anglers, State fish and game department heads this year will be questioned as to increase or decrease in the number of anglers' licenses issued for the period covered, and probable reasons therefor. They will also be asked for the number and names of streams set aside for fly fishing only, the number of streams set aside for the exclusive use of women, and the number of women game and fish wardens. As well, will be sought the names of high schools, colleges, and universities where courses embracing angling are offered; the number of fish and game clubs in each State; and whether there has been an increase or decrease in them during the period for which the report is made, with reason therefor. Other important data desired are the ratio of daily catch per angler compared with daily limit; the estimated amount of money spent by their anglers for licenses, tackle, transportation, food, lodging, boats and other equipment.

These questions, mostly of 6-years' standing, will be augmented by one of considerable importance this year. Each State will be asked to give the estimated number of miles of fishing streams. The answers to this question should supply a long-felt need, if number of past inquiries addressed to the Anglers' Division is considered. Information compiled from answers here, officials indicate, will aid greatly in shaping future policies with reference to stream stocking and angling "load" per stream mile.