



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Waters on Federal lands will hereafter have precedence in stocking with fish from the output of the 120 Federal hatcheries, operated by the Fish and Wildlife Service according to a formal "Statement of Policy" involving distribution, approved by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

"Primary obligation", says the statement, shall apply to "lands under the control of the Federal Government." These include national parks, national monuments, national forests, Indian reservations, Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs, areas under the control of the Tennessee Valley Authority, wildlife refuges administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, areas directly controlled by the Farm Security Administration or other agencies concerned with the relief of agriculture, and any miscellaneous waters controlled or administered by other Federal Government agencies.

For the purpose of this policy, ponds, reservoirs, etc., which are constructed on private lands with the aid and encouragement, either financial or otherwise, of the Federal Government, shall also be included in the foregoing category.

Secondary obligation shall lie in stocking State waters, including the lakes, streams, ponds, etc., which are open to public fishing. This stocking shall be carried on either by direct plant under the supervision of the Service's employees,

by arrangement with State conservation departments, or by furnishing the fish in response to applications submitted by responsible organizations or individuals.

After apportioning the hatchery output to meet the above obligations, any remaining fish may be utilized in filling applications for private waters, this term to be construed as meaning lakes, ponds, or streams which are not open to the general public and which are not commercialized in any way.

"The Service will continue to receive applications bearing Congressional endorsement, as in the past," according to the statement. "However, the Service will exercise full freedom of action in assigning species and determining the time and method of delivery. It shall be the Service's effort to cooperate as far as possible with the applicants and members of Congress who have endorsed the applications but the applications shall be handled in accordance with the priority set forth above. Giving special attention and service to applicants shall be minimized."

Applications for trout and related species filed after March 1 shall be carried over for filling during the succeeding year unless there is a surplus of fish on hand. The comparable deadline for warm water and pond species shall be June 1. Applications, which for any of the foregoing reasons remain unfilled at the end of two years, will be automatically canceled.