



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

ASSIGNMENT OF A FISHERY MISSION TO PERU

Bound for Callao, Peru, the 80-foot purse-seiner Pacific Queen cleared San Pedro harbor at noon today. Chartered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, in behalf of the Peruvian Government, the vessel carries Milton J. Lobell, Biologist, and third member of a scientific mission detailed by President Roosevelt to assist the Peruvian Government in conducting a survey of its fishery resources.

Cooperation of the Service experts was effected at the request of the Peruvian Government. The survey group includes R. H. Fiedler, Chief, Division of Fishery Industries, who will serve as chief of the mission; N. D. Jarvis, Associate Technologist, also of the Fishery Industries Division, in charge of practical fishery preservation demonstrations; and Lobell, recently returned from the Byrd Antarctic Expedition and transferred temporarily from the Division of Fishery Biology, to head the mission's study of fishing methods and various phases of fishery biology.

Fiedler and Jarvis have sailed. Fiedler's detail to Peru will cover about two months, while those of Jarvis and Lobell will be extended for a period of approximately four months.

Upon their arrival in Callao, the three United States scientists, accompanied by six Peruvian experts, will immediately begin the survey. Fiedler will study and

make recommendations in all phases of fishery production, marketing, distribution, financing, and warehousing methods. Other work will consist of practical demonstrations in fish capturing methods, collection of specimens, and the expert exploration of the variance in abundance, life habits and history, and migration of fishes along the 1,400-mile coast of Peru.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service it will be for the purpose of outlining the fields in which subsequent investigation, research, and experimentation should be directed.

The three scientists will conduct a general study to evaluate the present nature, extent, and magnitude of the fisheries and fishing industries of Peru. They will utilize new types of fishing gear; demonstrate and conduct research in the packing of fishery products; and, after study of data collected during the survey, will make recommendations for improvement of the Peruvian fisheries, and outline a research program in fisheries to be conducted by the Peruvian Government.

With Fiedler and Jarvis went complete machinery and equipment for the work; also a large, modern, portable cold storage cabinet for holding fish in retail stores; together with newest type cartons, wrappers, and shipping containers for fishery products. The boat carried, in addition, for donation to the Peruvian Government, a compact library of reference publications on the fisheries of the North American continent, which volumes will form the nucleus of a library for the new Bureau of Fisheries to be established in Peru.

For carrying out the actual fishing work, the 105-ton, 240-HP Diesel-motored vessel, Pacific Queen, built at Tacoma, Washington, in 1939, has been chartered for the duration of the survey. Outfitted at San Francisco, the vessel is capable of fishing with every gear--purse seine, gill net, otter trawl, harpoon, troll- and

hand lines; is equipped with crab and lobster pots, and complete gear for tonging and dredging. In addition, specialized marine scientific equipment consists of plankton tow nets, bottom sampling dredges and grabs, and Nansen-Knudsen bottles for water sampling, pickling vats, fathometer, meter wheel, and the newest type Herrington current meter.

Dr. Eduardo Garland, counsellor of the Peruvian Embassy has been designated by his Government to act as liaison officer in Washington. He concluded final arrangements and details prior to the departure of the mission to Peru.

In addition, the Peruvian Government has designated a committee in Peru, having official status, which will constitute a liaison agency for the purpose of enabling the members of the mission, while in South America, to maintain contact with the appropriate officials of the Peruvian Government, and to arrange for transportation within the country and other details. The membership of this committee includes, among others, at least six Peruvian technicians--two qualified in economics, two in chemistry and engineering, and two in biology. These men will accompany the Service's investigators during the survey and will probably be the men to have charge of the organization that will carry out the recommendations of the mission after it departs from Peru.