



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Navy blimps, on the lookout for enemy submarines and surface craft in Northwestern waters, also are helping the war food program. Under an arrangement worked out between the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries and Vice Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, Navy commandant in the Seattle area, blimps which sight schools of fish will communicate the news by short wave to fishing vessels, Coordinator Harold L. Ickes reported today.

The patrolling blimps from their vantage points can easily spot schools of fish which might take fishermen hours to locate. The assistance of the blimps is expected to be of special importance to the sardine, or pilchard, and tuna fisheries.

Vice Admiral Fletcher has arranged for the blimps under his command to broadcast the location of fish to any nearby fishing vessels, and the blimps will also shortwave the location of any schools they have sighted every day at noon. In addition each pilot will report on fish sighted at the conclusion of their routine patrol flights and the compiled reports will be communicated to the Columbia River Packers Association which in turn will give the information to fishing vessels.

Coordinator Ickes said that the arrangement undoubtedly would contribute materially to increased production of fish in Northwestern waters and said it was a good example of the cooperation being given to the fishing industry by the Navy.

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