



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the SUNDAY PAPERS, APRIL 1, 1945.

Shad fishermen from Delaware Bay to southern New England are asked to be on the alert for fish bearing two button-like tags on the back just beneath the fin—one tag white, the other red. For each set of tags returned to the Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, with information on locality of capture, the sender will be paid a reward of one dollar.

Tagging of shad, chiefly for the purpose of tracing their migrations, will begin early in April and will be carried on in Delaware Bay, along the ocean coast of New Jersey, in Sandy Hook Bay, and along the southern shore of Long Island, according to Charles E. Jackson, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. About 1200 shad will be tagged this season under the direction of Service biologists, Mr. Jackson said.

The study of shad migrations will provide information useful in a general program for restoring the runs of shad, now seriously depleted in many areas. Recent annual catches of this favorite market fish have averaged only 9,000,000 pounds for the entire Atlantic coast, compared with about 50,000,000 pounds taken annually in the 1890's.

The season's shad runs are getting well under way in the Hudson this week. The shad entered Chesapeake Bay about a month ago and made their first appearance in North Carolina in February.

Fish and Wildlife Service officials said that because of the current scarcity of fresh fish and the high prices being paid, the shad fisheries are unusually intensive this season and in some localities the catch may be so large as to endanger future runs. In some rivers the nets are being set so close together that it is hard to see how any shad escape to make their way to the spawning grounds, Mr. Jackson said.