

Distributed: Alaska Fisheries - F. Biology
5-29-46



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to PM's OF TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1946.

A hearing on a proposed allocation program for Pacific Coast pilchards during the 1946-1947 season will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 237 Merchants Exchange Building, San Francisco, on Wednesday, June 12. Milton C. James, Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, announced today.

Members of the fishing industry and interested Government and State agencies will be given an opportunity at the hearing to present their views as to the necessity for allocation of the pilchard catch and as to the character of the program if adopted, Mr. James said.

Although the hearing will be limited to June 12, briefs may be filed in Washington for the record until June 17. Andrew W. Anderson, Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Commercial Fisheries will preside.

Allocation of pilchards was first undertaken by the Interior Department in 1943 according to Mr. James, and continued in 1944 and 1945. At the close of the fishing season in March, 1946 it was believed that allocation would no longer be necessary.

Mr. James said, however, that the Department of Agriculture has recently re-issued War Food Order Number 44, requiring producers of principal varieties of canned fish to deliver a stated proportion of their pack to government agencies. Under this order, 45 percent of the 1946-1947 pilchard production will be purchased by the Federal government. At the same time, the Department of Agriculture has requested the Department of Interior to take whatever action is necessary to achieve the maximum production of canned pilchards. If this can be done in no other way, the Department of Agriculture recommends that a pilchard order be issued similar to that in force last year.