

The seal of the Department of the Interior, featuring a bison in a landscape with mountains and a sun, surrounded by the text "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR".

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1947.

SETON THOMPSON NEW CHIEF OF ALASKA FISHERIES

The appointment of Seton H. Thompson as chief of the Division of Alaska Fisheries of the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, was announced today by Albert M. Day, Director of the Service. The appointment became effective on April 16.

Mr. Thompson, who has been assistant chief of the Division since July 1, 1931, succeeds Ward T. Bower, recently retired. He has been associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Fisheries, since 1926, except for a period of military furlough from 1941 to 1946 while on active duty in the Navy. His first appointment, to investigate the razor clam beds and other commercial fisheries of central Alaska, came in 1926 while still an undergraduate, and this work was continued during the summers of 1927, 1928 and 1929. In 1930 he was appointed aquatic biologist at the Stanford University field station and continued his research on the fish and shellfish of central Alaska, devoting particular attention to the red salmon of Copper River. He is the author of a number of publications on these subjects.

A native of the State of Washington, Mr. Thompson received his B.S. in 1927 and his M.S. in 1929 in Fisheries from the University of Washington, and additional graduate work in zoology and physiology was pursued at Stanford University.

Mr. Thompson's military service was identified with naval ordnance almost exclusively and included assignments to duty at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory; the Naval Gun Factory; the Bureaus of Supplies and Accounts and Ordnance in the Navy

Department; Camp Allen; Camp Peary; Staff, Commander Service Force Pacific Fleet; and as Officer in Charge of the Ordnance Supply Annex on Guam. He was released to inactive duty as a Commander in February 1946.

Bringing to his new job fundamental training in fishery biology, Mr. Thompson also has a wide knowledge of Alaska, and a thorough understanding and appreciation of the problems involved in managing the marine resources of the Territory so as to permit the fullest possible utilization that will not jeopardize their future.

As chief of the Division of Alaska Fisheries, Mr. Thompson will have his headquarters at the Central Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Chicago, Illinois.

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