



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to AM's OF FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1947.

CLOSING OF FISHERY LABORATORIES AND STATISTICAL OFFICES ANNOUNCED

Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service today informed Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug that he has instructed his field staff to prepare for closing of two of the Service's fishery technological laboratories, four fishery market news offices, and most of the headquarters for regional statistical surveys, as a result of reductions in Fish and Wildlife Service Appropriations made by the House of Representatives.

Under the Interior Department Appropriation Bill as passed by the House of Representatives, appropriations for the Commercial Fisheries Division of the Service were reduced from \$401,000 as provided in the President's budget to \$200,000. A separate item for the Fishery Market News Service was cut from \$141,600 to \$100,000, a 29 percent reduction.

The fishery technology laboratories to be closed are those at Boston, Mass., and Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. These laboratories are engaged chiefly in conducting research and services leading to improved quality and greater efficiency and economy of operation in the fishing industry in these areas.

In addition, operation of four mobile laboratories which have been conducting field studies of fish sanitation problems will be halted, Mr. Day reported. One of these trailer laboratories is now doing sanitation work at the Boston Fish Pier; another, based at College Park, Md., has been operating at Crisfield and other fishing centers on the eastern shore of Maryland; two others, based at Seattle, Wash., are working on sanitation problems in the rapidly growing fillet and shellfish industries on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Day also informed Secretary Krug that the drastic cuts in the commercial fisheries appropriation will eliminate all statistical surveys of the fisheries except those in New England and New York and very limited surveys in Washington and Oregon, thus breaking the continuity of the statistical surveys of the yield of United States fisheries that have been made by the Federal Government since 1880. These Federal statistics of the yield and value of fishery products are widely used by State and Federal Governments as a basis of conservation measures, by industry, and by other Governmental agencies, Mr. Day said. As an example, he cited certain Tariff Commission regulations that are based on production by United States fisheries.

Offices for the daily collection of fishery market data will be reduced from eight to four in number. The offices at New Orleans, La., Jacksonville, Fla., San Pedro, Calif., and Hampton, Va. will be closed.

Activities at the field offices to be closed will be curtailed immediately with actual closures scheduled between the middle of May and June 1st.

Mr. Day reported that the cut in the commercial fishery appropriation also will end virtually all economic studies on costs of production, and on consumption, investment, and income in the fishing industry.

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