



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### U. S. AIDS VENEZUELA FISH INDUSTRY

A fishery mission headed by a biologist of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will explore the coastal waters of Venezuela during the next year in an effort to help this South American country increase its production of aquatic food, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The mission is being undertaken at the request of the Government of Venezuela, which approached the State Department of the United States with a request for technical aid in developing its fishery resources. The expenses of the mission are being borne by Venezuela.

Two representatives of Venezuela are now in Washington completing arrangements for the fishery mission. They are Sr. Julian Veroes, chief of the division of fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and Dr. Werner Mora, a fishery biologist of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has detailed Robert O. Smith of its Office of Foreign Activities to the Venezuelan survey for one year, after which the work will be continued by Dr. Mora. Sr. Veroes, Dr. Mora, and Mr. Smith left Washington this week for Louisiana, where they will purchase a fishing vessel for use in the survey. They will then proceed to Venezuela.

The cooperative survey now being undertaken will result in better knowledge of the extent and distribution of the fishery resources, and will aid in determining how large an annual yield they can provide, Mr. Day said.

The annual catch of fish by Venezuelan fishermen is now at least 100,000,000 pounds annually. Because of the nature of the offshore currents and the ocean bottom adjacent to the coast line, it is believed that fishery resources may be extensive enough to support considerably larger catches.

Fertility of the Venezuelan waters is influenced by the equatorial current which sweeps northward from the Brazilian and Guianan coasts, bringing quantities of nutrient salts washed down by the large rivers of the area -- the Amazon, Maroni, Couranti, Essequibo, and Orinoco. These nutrient salts induce a rich growth of the microscopic sea life which provides food for fishes.

The largest Venezuelan fishery is the one for several species of sardine-like fishers, almost the entire production of which is canned. Large fisheries also exist for Spanish mackerel, and for red snapper, groupers, and other reef fishes.

A large portion of the Venezuelan population is dependent on fish for food, and increased production is needed to supply domestic demand. According to a report of the Venezuelan Ministry of Development, about 20 percent of the population of the country lives from the fish in marine and fresh waters.

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