



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SURVEY NEW JERSEY AND DELAWARE FISHERIES

New Jersey and Delaware marine fisheries will be the subject of a Fish and Wildlife Service survey to begin next week, Andrew W. Anderson, chief of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, announced today.

Statistics on the volume and value of landings, methods of catching, number of fishermen employed, number of fishing craft used, and quantity of fishing gear utilized by fishermen in waters off New Jersey and Delaware during the past year will be collected.

The information will be the basis for determining the condition of these fisheries, and is required by biologists in recommending necessary action to preserve the fishery resources of the area.

Because it is seldom practical to determine the population of fish in the sea by direct measure, statistics which indicate variations in the catch, in relation to the fishing effort, are often the only standard for determining the condition of the stock of fish on the fishing grounds.

The survey will be completed by the end of the year, but the results will not be known until next spring. Two Fish and Wildlife Service fishery marketing specialists, Ray H. Wilson and R. G. Personius, will conduct the survey. Mr. Wilson has done similar survey work in New York and Connecticut since 1942. Mr. Personius who was graduated in June from Oregon State College as a fishery major, has just joined the Service.

The last survey of New Jersey and Delaware fisheries was made for 1945. It showed a catch of 208 million pounds, valued at 11 million dollars for New Jersey fisherman, and a catch of 169 million pounds, valued at 2.1 million dollars, for the fishermen of Delaware.

No survey was made for 1946 because of the lack of funds. A continuing survey of the fisheries is necessary to get maximum value from the statistical data.

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