

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## FWS VESSEL PROSPECTING FOR TUNA IN PACIFIC

The 100-foot troller Oregon is now engaged in an exploratory tuna fishing operation in the north Pacific waters, Milton C. James, assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service revealed today. The trip is designed to test new types of gear and search for untapped resources of albacore tuna, he said. Excellent results are reported from the first experimental trip off Oregon and Washington.

Leaving Seattle August 8, the Oregon began experimental trolling off the west coast. Daily reports were supplied by radio to the tuna fishing fleet. When a school of tuna was located, the Oregon would determine the size and extent, reporting the results. The tuna fleet would take a radio fix on the Oregon and proceed to the scene -- if fishing the school appeared to be profitable.

After completing this test trip the Oregon moved north to Southeastern Alaska waters. Although the tuna fishing fleet off Oregon and Washington profited from the brief test-run in their waters, and an exploratory escort is needed in this area, the Oregon proceeded north to carry out its assigned task of locating tuna in areas which are within range of the Southeastern Alaska fishing fleet.

The Oregon is one of four ships constructed by the RFC for the Pacific Exploration Company. The craft was subsequently turned over to the FWS.

Because of cloudy weather -- making a "fix" on the sun difficult or impossible -- the Oregon has been making extensive use of Loran to establish its exact location. This is the first time that the "long range aid to navigation" has been used by a FWS vessel surveying fishing conditions.

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