



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### DR. VAN OOSTEN TO DEVOTE TIME TO RESEARCH

Dr. John Van Oosten, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Fishery Investigations at Ann Arbor, Mich., since 1927, will henceforth devote his specialized talents exclusively to the fields of fishery research and writing, Milton C. James, acting director of the Service, announced today.

"With the Service about to undertake an expanded program of investigation into the depletion of the fisheries of the Great Lakes due to the depredations of the sea lamprey, there is urgent need for the study and release of much valuable data on the fisheries of that area for use as background for the new studies," declared Mr. James. "In order that Dr. Van Oosten may have the time and opportunity to complete his analysis of the results of the numerous projects which he has carried on during the past years, and prepare them for publication, we authorized him on October 10 to relinquish all administrative and supervisory duties."

Mr. James stated that this change in the assignment of duties "will not deprive the Great Lakes program of the benefits of Dr. Van Oosten's broad knowledge since he will assist the Service and other cooperating agencies in an advisory capacity in matters affecting the Great Lakes fisheries."

Dr. Van Oosten has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service since 1920 when he was employed as an assistant while still a graduate student at the University of Michigan. It was during these graduate years, according to Mr. James, that Van Oosten issued his first paper on the scales of whitefish of known ages, and prepared his monographic study of the life history of the lake herring of Lake Huron. Both of these publications still stand as monumental contributions in their field.

"Although this early interest in studies of age and growth has always been maintained," said Mr. James, "Dr. Van Oosten's interests and activities expanded into many fields during his years of development and direction of research programs in the Great Lakes. Today he is an internationally recognized authority in such phases of fishery science as factors of abundance, depletion, and overfishing, the collection and analysis of fishery statistics, and the development of savings gear."

With Dr. Van Oosten's withdrawal from administrative activities, Mr. James stated that the direction of the Great Lakes program of the Service has been taken over temporarily by Dr. Ralph Hile. "As an employee of the Service since 1930 and a member of the Great Lakes staff since 1932, Dr. Hile is well acquainted with the fishery problems of the Great Lakes region. His special interests in fishery work have been the study of factors of growth and abundance in populations of fish and the analysis of commercial fishery statistics."

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