



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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THIRD VESSEL OF PACIFIC OCEANIC FISHERY PROGRAM SAILS

The motor vessel, US FWS John R. Manning, sailed from Seattle on February 21 via San Pedro for Honolulu where it will undertake exploration for tuna. Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman was notified today by Director Albert M. Day of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The John R. Manning, whose construction was recently completed at Tacoma, Washington, is the third of three fishery research and exploratory vessels to be completed for the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations which has its headquarters in Honolulu. The Hugh M. Smith and Henry O'Malley -- both former Navy vessels of the YP-600 class -- are now on research and exploratory cruises in waters west and south of the Hawaiian Islands. They are both scheduled to return to their dock at Pearl Harbor in March.

The John R. Manning, which is of wooden construction, is 86 feet, 6 inches in length, 22 feet, 6 inches in breadth, and 12 feet, 8 inches in depth. The vessel, whose cruising speed is 9 knots, is equipped with two diesel generators for auxiliary power. Her cruising range is 8000 miles which is in excess of the typical West Coast purse seiner. A large cruising range is necessary because of the vast authorized area of operations comprising 13,000,000 square miles with very few refueling points. The vessel is equipped with such modern navigational equipment as Loren, radio direction finder, 250-watt radio telephone and telegraph transmitter, and an automatic steering pilot.

The vessel will be primarily concerned with experimental purse seine fishing for tuna on a commercial scale in the tropical and subtropical seas between Hawaii and the Palaus as authorized by the 80th Congress. Not only are the features of a West Coast purse seiner included in the vessel, but experimental features such as live bait tanks and numerous gurdies for deep trolling and long-line fishing also have been installed.

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