



Office Memorandum
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1951

DR. JOHN L. KASK RECEIVED NEW FWS POST

The promotion of Dr. John Laurence Kask to the position of Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Foreign Activities was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Dr. Kask, who has been Assistant Director of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in Honolulu, T.H., will succeed Dr. Hilary J. Deason who resigned in September because of poor health.

Albert M. Day, Service Director, declared that Dr. Kask is "admirably fitted by academic training and experience" to handle the technical aspects of the foreign programs which his new assignment will require him to administer. "On prior assignments, notably with SCAP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, he has demonstrated his skill in negotiating with representatives of foreign governments and his ability to gain the consent of groups having diverse interests."

Dr. Kask was born in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada, on March 21, 1906. He was graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1928 and received his Ph.D. degree at the University of Washington in Seattle in 1936. He investigated the biology and utilization of the Pacific halibut for the International Fisheries Commission from 1929 to 1939; was associate scientist and assistant director of the International Salmon Commission from 1939 to 1943; and curator of aquatic biology at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco from 1943 to 1948. In 1948 he was appointed as chief biologist of the Fisheries Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Washington, D. C., where he served as adviser to member Governments of FAO on fishery research and developmental programs.

During 1945 and 1946, Dr. Kask spent 15 months in Japan in Military Government duties with the Fisheries Division of SCAP. During 1948, 1949, and 1950, he traveled extensively in New Zealand, Australia, the Far East, Middle East, and Europe on various FAO missions.

Dr. Kask will report for duty in Washington, D. C., as soon as he completes certain phases of his investigations in Hawaii.

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