



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1952

M. C. JAMES TO RETIRE AS FWS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The retirement of Milton C. James as Assistant Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service on March 31 was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman.

Mr. James, who will be 55 on March 26, has applied for optional retirement after more than 30 years of Federal service.

In addition to serving as Assistant Director of the Service, Mr. James has been a member of several international fisheries commissions and has acted as Deputy Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration since its establishment in December 1950.

Commenting on Mr. James' retirement, Secretary Chapman said:

"The Department of the Interior is reluctant to lose the services of such a capable official. In all positions, delegations, representations and assignments, Mr. James has given outstanding service to the United States Government and to his country in the field of fishery management and conservation."

Mr. James was born in Meriden, Conn., on March 26, 1897, but grew up in Maine where his father was connected with the State Fish and Game Department. Following graduation from high school, he was employed in the State public health laboratory on water analysis, served with the Department of Agriculture on moth control work, and then worked with the Maine State fish hatchery. During World War I he served with the 318th Engineers from November 1917 to June 1919.

Upon his release from the Army, Mr. James went West to attend the College of Fisheries, University of Washington, then the only institution giving training in fisheries work. He graduated cum laude from the 4-year fisheries course with a B.S. degree.

After several seasons of summer employment with the former Bureau of Fisheries as a stream guard in Alaska, Mr. James became a permanent employee in 1923 when he was appointed as scientific assistant to work on fish hatchery problems. From that position he moved to hatcheries in Iowa, West Virginia, and Vermont to carry on fish hatchery research.

In January 1927, Mr. James was promoted to assistant chief of the Division of Fish Culture. In 1936, upon the request of the Peruvian and Bolivian governments, the Service sent Mr. James to make a biological survey of Lake Titicaca—which lies at an elevation of 12,500 feet on the border of the two countries—to determine the

species of fish best suited to its water. In June 1942, he was made chief of the Division of Fish Culture, and in September 1945 he became assistant director.

During World War II, Mr. James served as one of the coordination officers of the Office of Fishery Coordination. When he became assistant director, he was designated also as Assistant Deputy Coordinator of Fisheries.

In March 1946, Mr. James was designated as the Fish and Wildlife Service's representative on the Water Resources Committee. In December 1946, he was appointed by the President as the United States representative of the International Fisheries Commission. In September 1948, he was designated to represent the Department of the Interior on the Water Pollution Control Advisory Board.

In January 1949, the President selected Mr. James as Advisor of the United States Delegation to the International Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Conference which was held in Washington, D. C., in that month. In June 1950, the President appointed Mr. James as a member of the United States section of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

Mr. James' last important international assignment as an official of the Service was his Japanese detail, in the fall of 1951. Mr. James was designated by the Department of State as a member of the United States Delegation to the Tri-Partite Fisheries Conference in Tokyo, Japan, which was convened to negotiate a fishery convention between the United States, Canada, and Japan, in accordance with Article 9 of the Japanese Peace Treaty. After extensive negotiations, a treaty draft was agreed upon which is being recommended to the respective governments for adoption and ratification.

Mr. James is a member of the American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Society, and the Izaak Walton League.

Following retirement, Mr. and Mrs. James are moving to the West Coast where they recently purchased a home near Olympia, Wash. Since 1943 they have lived at 516 Goddard Road, Bethesda, Md.

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