



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

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DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

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McKAY ABOLISHES DEFENSE FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today that because of the progressive relaxation of emergency controls he has ordered the Defense Fisheries Administration to terminate its activities formally on June 30, 1953.

This defense agency was originally established on December 4, 1950, as a counterpart of World War II's Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries to handle manpower, material, production, and other problems confronting the fishery industry as a result of the stepped-up defense production operations.

After June 30, 1953, such functions of DFA as the following will be continued in the Branch of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service: (1) making studies of proposed military restricted zones in marine areas; (2) making studies of individual requests for draft deferment, delays in recall of Reservists, and discharges from the military of persons employed in the commercial fisheries; (3) making studies of and compiling data on material and equipment requirements for the industry under various degrees of mobilization; (4) rendering spot assistance to the fishery industry in obtaining scarce materials, equipment, and supplies; and (5) making studies and recommendations concerning applications for Federal financing of fishery facilities.

The resignation of Maurice Rattray, who had been recruited in January 1951 from the firm of Anderson and Miskin, Ltd., of Seattle, to serve as a Deputy administrator and later as Assistant to the Administrator, was accepted by the Secretary on April 29, 1953.

Key personnel of DFA's remaining staff will be returned to the Branch of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, from which they were originally selected. These personnel include Fred F. Johnson, presently Executive Officer of DFA, who will return as one of the two Assistant Chiefs of the Branch of Commercial Fisheries, FWS, E. A. Power, currently Chief of the Branch of Material Facilities, DFL, who will resume his duties as Chief of the Statistical Section of the Commercial Fisheries Branch; and R. A. Kahn, Chief of DFA's Branch of Economic Facilities, who will return to his position as Chief of the Section of Economics and Cooperative Marketing, of the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries.

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