



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FWS OPENS NEW FISHERY STATISTICAL OFFICES

New fishery statistical offices have been opened recently by the Fish and Wildlife Service in Tampa and Fort Myers, Fla.; Beaufort, S. C.; Biloxi, Miss.; Astoria, Oreg.; and Ann Harbor, Mich.; Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

In addition, activities are being expanded at existing offices in New Orleans, La.; Beaufort, N. C.; and Coral Gables, Fla.

Under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (Public Law 466, 83d Congress), which is designed to give special aid to the American commercial fishing industry, funds have been allocated to expedite the Service's work of collecting and issuing statistics on the catch of fish and shellfish, the value of the catch, and the employment of men, fishing craft, and gear in the fisheries.

Statistical information is acknowledged to be the basis of most fishery research and must be available before practical management programs can be attempted. The increased funds now available will make possible much more of this type of work. During the hearings held prior to the passage of the Saltonstall-Kennedy bill, expert witnesses from the fishing industry from all parts of the country were in full accord that more work should be done by the Service to extend the statistical coverage of the interior sections of the country and to speed up the release of all statistical data. These statistics are also invaluable to State and Federal agencies in their regulatory work.

The new offices in Florida, at Tampa and Fort Myers, will handle the collection of detailed data on the landings of shrimp in those areas as well as the gathering of general operating unit and catch statistics.

Herbert Munger, who has had wide experience in Federal fishery work, will have charge of the Tampa office. Until permanent quarters can be located in Tampa, Munger will operate from Largo, Fla.

The Fort Myers office will be in charge of V. E. Hefflefinger who has a background of many years of commercial fishery work with the former Bureau of Fisheries as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The office at Beaufort, S. C., in charge of Melvin H. Low, will make a general canvass of the fisheries of South Carolina.

At Biloxi, Miss., principal emphasis will be on the collection of daily information on the landings of shrimp. Charles R. Evans will handle this activity.

A suboffice at Astoria, Oreg., supervised from Seattle, will be in charge of Eino Edward Poysky. Daily landings of fish and shellfish, together with ex-vessel prices, will be collected for the Astoria area.

The new office in Ann Harbor, Mich., at 1220 East Washington Street, will handle the collection of statistics on the commercial fisheries of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River States. Alfred A. Swanson, formerly stationed at Beaufort, N. C., has been transferred to this new office.

A suboffice will be opened later in La Crosse, Wis., and a fishery marketing specialist will also operate out of the New Orleans office to cover the lower Mississippi States.

In New Orleans, La., where the Service has maintained a statistical office for many years, Saltonstall-Kennedy funds will permit a considerable expansion of activities in that area.

C. H. Lyles, who has had wide experience in the collection of fishery data in the Gulf States, has been transferred to New Orleans to head that office which is located in the Custom House, 423 Canal Street. For the past two years Lyles has been stationed at Gloucester, Mass., where he was in charge of the collection of fishery statistics for the New England States.

Additional statistical offices, financed through Saltonstall-Kennedy funds, will be opened shortly in Providence, R. I.; Solomons, Md.; Aransas Pass, Galveston and Brownsville, Texas; Brunswick, Ga.; Key West, Fla.; Pascagoula, Miss.; and Houma, and Morgan City, La. Statistical activities will be expanded in the Service's San Pedro, Calif., office.

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