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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**INFORMATION SERVICE**

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISHERY EXPERT TO HEAD NEW OCEANIC RESEARCH UNIT IN CALIFORNIA

O. E. Sette, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in Honolulu, T. H. since 1948, is being transferred to the west coast to head an important new oceanic research project, Acting Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis announced today.

Mr. Sette will be succeeded in Honolulu on July 1 by Dr. Albert L. Tester who, as senior professor of zoology at the University of Hawaii, has been in charge of the University's fishery education and research program since 1948.

The new oceanic research will begin on September 1 and will be based at Stanford, Calif. Under the direction of Mr. Sette, the unit will conduct a study to relate fishery production to climate and ocean conditions. The relations between variations in ocean circulation and the sudden and as yet unexplained appearances and disappearances of commercial fish stocks from the customary fishing grounds will be studied on a broad scale. The work will be of a pioneering nature in three fields of science--fishery biology, oceanography, and meteorology.

The ultimate purpose of the project, according to Service Director John L. Farley, is to discover the natural laws governing fluctuations in abundance of our great commercial fisheries. "Such laws, if they exist and are discovered," he said, "would probably have a general application and as profound an effect on world progress in fishery science as did Newton's laws of motion in mechanics or Ohm's law in electricity."

The Service Director explained that the need for such a study has been demonstrated by the fact that many of our important sea fisheries are subject to large, unexpected and sometimes catastrophic failures. Recent advances in oceanography and meteorology, however, suggest that the abundance of fish may be greatly affected by large-scale changes in the weather pattern. If the study of oceanwide events, as they may be related to worldwide weather fluctuations, discloses the causes of major fishery fluctuations, then it may be possible to predict future fluctuations.

Mr. Sette has been selected to head the new project because of his extensive experience in both fishery and oceanographic studies. He has been with the Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Fisheries, since 1924. From that date until 1929 he was chief of the division now known as the Branch of Commercial Fisheries. From 1929 to 1937 he conducted marine fisheries investigations on the Atlantic coast. During the period from 1937 to August 1948 he conducted studies on the sardine fishery from headquarters at Stanford University in California. During World War II he was detailed as Area Coordinator of Fisheries for California. He has been director of the P.O.F.I. research since 1948. Mr. Sette recently returned from Italy where he served as one of the United States delegates to the International Technical Conference on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Sea, which convened at Rome on April 18.

A native of Clyman, Wis., Mr. Sette received his B.A. degree from Stanford University in 1922 and his M.A. from Harvard in 1930.

Dr. Tester, who becomes the new director of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations, was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and acquired United States citizenship in 1954. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto, having obtained his B.A. degree in 1931, his M.A. in 1932, and his Ph.D. in marine biology in 1936. From June 1931 to August 1938, he was associated with the Pacific Biological Station of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, located at Nanaimo, B. C. Since joining the University of Hawaii in 1948, Tester has worked closely with the P.O.F.I. staff.

The P.O.F.I. program was authorized by the 80th Congress to conduct fishing explorations and necessary related oceanographical, biological, technological, statistical, and economic studies to insure maximum development and utilization of the high seas fishery resources of the Territories and island possessions of the United States in the tropical and subtropical Pacific Ocean and intervening areas.

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