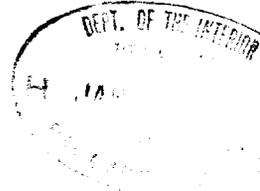




DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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CAREER EMPLOYEES TO BE NAMED TO FISH AND WILDLIFE POSTS, SECRETARY SAYS

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today that he is planning to appoint career employees to the positions of Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

"The vital importance of the Department's expanded programs for conservation of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources demands that this effort be directed at the bureau level by personnel who have a broad background of first hand Government experience," Secretary Seaton said.

"I have joined Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Ross L. Leffler in a careful study of the many administrative and other problems involved in expanding and improving our national fish and wildlife programs. We are convinced that qualified career employees are best equipped because of their specialized experience and training to handle the tasks which will be assigned to the Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and the Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries."

No final decision has been made regarding the number of assistant directors for the two bureaus under the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. However, Secretary Seaton said that every effort would be made to recruit career employees for assistant director positions as well as for the positions of director.

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 provides that the positions of Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife be filled by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Act also provides that there be two bureaus, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and that each bureau have at the head a director to be appointed by the Secretary.

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