



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRESSES MARKETING ACTIVITY

The American Fisheries Advisory Committee, at its fifth meeting held recently in Biloxi, Mississippi, recommended expansion of activities and services aimed at increasing markets for fishery products of domestic origin, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler reported today.

Established under the terms of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act which was passed in 1954 to foster increased production and marketing of domestic fishery products, the committee meets periodically to advise the Secretary of the Interior on the research and services which the Fish and Wildlife Service is conducting under the terms of the Act.

Assistant Secretary Leffler is chairman of the committee and presided at the meeting. In his opening remarks, Mr. Leffler urged the committee members to visit Service offices and installations, to meet its personnel, to ask questions and to offer suggestions and criticisms. In this way, he pointed out, committee members can obtain a more complete picture of Service activities and take a more direct part in the partnership between industry and Government as the problems facing the United States fishing industry are attacked. The Assistant Secretary assured the committee that all possible steps are being taken to strengthen the Service's ability to hold its present staff and to recruit additional technical personnel, a matter over which the committee expressed concern at its October 1956 meeting in Chicago.

The committee stressed the need for continued market development activities, market research, education of consumers on the nutritional values of fishery products, and various types of fundamental research in all fields of activity authorized by the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act.

Members of the committee visited the newly completed Fishery Laboratory at Pascagoula, Mississippi, where the Service's exploratory fishing and technological activities in the Gulf of Mexico area are being conducted.

Of the 16 active members of the committee, 14 attended the meeting. They were: Harold R. Bassett, Salisbury, Maryland; James S. Carlson, Boston, Massachusetts; Chris Dahl, Petersburg, Alaska; Mark L. Edmunds, Garibaldi, Oregon; David H. Hart, Cape May, New Jersey; Leon S. Kenney, St. Petersburg, Florida; Donald P. Loker, Terminal Island, California; Arthur H. Mendonca, San Francisco, California; J. Richards Nelson, Madison, Connecticut; Moses B. Pike, Eastport, Maine; H. F. Sahlman, Fernandina Beach, Florida; Thomas F. Sandoz, Astoria, Oregon; Lawrence W. Strasburger, New Orleans, Louisiana; and Earl B. Webster, Brownsville, Texas.

The next meeting is scheduled for Juneau, Alaska, in the latter part of August 1957.

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