



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### INTERIOR MOVES TO MEET SPORT FISHING PROBLEMS

A program designed to help meet the need for improved recreational opportunities in the form of sport fishing is being given impetus by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

The program, conducted by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, consists of helping other Federal agencies develop better fishing through the use of better management methods, rendering technical assistance to States and public conservation agencies when such assistance is needed, and in cooperating with States in fish restoration projects where a pooling of efforts is especially beneficial.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes at the outset that the regulation of sport fishing is primarily a responsibility of the States and that Federal effort is designed to complement that of the States and to help make available information gained from research and experience.

Among the numerous things about which fishery management is concerned are: aquatic weed control techniques; stocking with the proper numbers and species of fish to fit water conditions; proper methods of fertilization; eradication of trash fish or the reestablishment of a proper ratio between game and forage fish; recognition of common danger signals on such things as fish population imbalance, evidence of disease, and pollution.

Management biologists assist in the formulation of cooperative fish stocking programs and have a continuing responsibility to insure the best possible use of fish produced at the Federal hatcheries. It is extremely important that all efforts, both in hatcheries and in the field, contribute materially to fish restoration and better fishing.

A large part of the fishery assistance effort is directed at such Federal installations as the Veterans' Administration hospitals where fishing has a therapeutic value in convalescence; military installations where it serves recreational functions; toward the national parks and forests where fishing vacations are popular; or on Indian reservations where both fishing and the sale of fishing permits have an economic meaning.

Statistics for the calendar year 1957 show that technical advice was given in 7 such areas, including 40 Air Force bases. Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, for example, has developed an outstanding cooperative sport fishing program. Twelve new ponds, in addition to preexisting ponds and streams, have been created and managed for fishing under carefully prepared plans. The public is allowed to fish upon payment of a small permit fee and the receipts from such fees go to support and enlarge the program.

Somewhat similar services were rendered at 33 Army bases including Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, where there are 52 ponds; and at 16 naval and four Marine Corps installations. Other Federal areas upon which recommendations on managing the fisheries have been made include: Veterans' Administration, 8; national forests, 7; national parks, 4; Indian reservations, 13; national wildlife refuges, 12. Such public conservation agencies as the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee and the Steering Committee for Roanoke River Studies also were given certain technical assistance.

Farm pond demonstrations were given in Arkansas, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Ohio. Among the State-Federal cooperative programs is one in Kentucky involving a study on the effects of strip-mining on streams and the plant and animal life streams normally support.

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