



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE ACHIEVEMENTS LISTED IN ANNUAL REPORT

Establishment of clear-cut guidelines to limit oil and gas leasing on Federal wildlife lands is one of the highlights reported by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton in the Department's annual report released today.

The guidelines, enumerated in the Fish and Wildlife Service section of the report, prohibit oil and gas development on four and one-half million acres of national wildlife refuges, except where adjacent private operations causes drainage of publicly owned natural resources. Drilling on other types of wildlife areas is allowed under carefully stipulated conditions which fully protect wildlife values.

Other highlights mentioned in the report include: settlement of the Wichita Mountains Refuge land-use problem with the Department of the Army; ending the livestock-wildlife conflict on Alaska's Kodiak Island; installation of facilities to freshen the waters of the important Topack marsh along the Colorado River; and the ear-marking of key areas in the Klamath-Tule Lake area for waterfowl purposes.

The report lists the three-pronged effort being made by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries to solve technological problems in processing and distributing fish and fishery products--studies of the physical and chemical property of fish; applied research to show usefulness of fish oils in diet, ore flotation and other things; efforts to encourage faster application of technological knowledge.

Other activities of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries include:

The development of a commercial shrimp fishery off the Oregon-Washington coasts;

The discovery of an important shrimp fishery off the Shumagin Islands in Alaska;

More precise information on the fishery resources in the Gulf Stream;

The development of a simple telemeter which not only shows the depth of a trawl in operation but which records water temperatures;

Numerous studies of distribution factors such as transportation costs and producer-consumer price spread;

Studies of economic factors affecting supply; water and employment; competition of domestic fish with imports;

Presentation of 151 fish cookery demonstrations;

Cooperation with the fishing industry in nationwide promotional campaigns to emphasize the value of fish as a low cost, high value food.

Numerous market and preference studies;

Continued assembling of fish production and distribution information and dissemination of that information to interested units of the public;

Continued processing of fishery loan applications which in 20 months have totaled 445 requests for \$16,000,000 in loans; 240 applications for \$6,000,000 approved;

Continued research which showed the value of copper ions in repelling oyster drills;

Search for ways to combat the devastating starfish invasion of the Long Island Sound oyster grounds;

Research which proved the necessity of protecting hardshelled crabs from predation during the first year;

Comprehensive studies on passage of fish through fishways of various widths and gradients and with various water velocities;

Four large scale field tests which proved the devastating effect of the newly developed selective poison on sea lamprey larvae without injury to native fish;

Underwater television studies on the behavior of cod, haddock, whittings and flounders captured in trawl nets;

Additional experiments on electrical guiding of downstream migrants;

Intensified efforts to identify fish populations which must be studied to explain abundance variation, to forecast fishery success and to develop new ways of managing species for highest sustained yield.

The report also showed that Alaska fisheries products including fur-seal by-products in 1957 totaled 197 million pounds with a wholesale value of \$79,231,000 compared with 229 million pounds and \$94,618,421 for 1956. In 1957, there were 23,130 persons engaged in fisheries in Alaska compared with 24,549 in 1956.

The world's largest fish ladder, 3 miles long; went into operation at Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River;

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife section of the report shows that--

Tree protectant formulas and techniques which the Bureau helped develop have been so successful that the forest industry is now reseeded vast areas where reforestation had been impossible because rodents had taken the seeds;

The indiscriminate use of pesticides is a threat to fish and wildlife, not only by direct killing but by adversely affecting reproduction in animals not killed;

There is a possibility of developing disease-resistant trout through a process of selective breeding;

Hatchery fish produced under good conditions of nutrition and disease control and properly handled when planted, are at least equal to wild fish in quality and ability to survive;

The capacity of many State and Federal fish hatcheries has been strained because of the growing practice of eradicating trash fish from lakes and rivers and replacing them with game fish; and because of new trout waters created by cold water released from the lower levels of large reservoirs.

The Bureau submitted 172 reports on fishing management programs on 137 Federal installations;

The Bureau also submitted 366 reports on water-development projects planned by Federal agencies or under Federal permits;

Four new wildlife refuges were created or authorized and 38,532 acres were added to the refuge system, 11,914 of which were purchased;

The number of visitors to wildlife refuges exceeded 8,670,000;

The Bureau aided in the arrest of 4,238 persons who violated State game laws; 361 who violated Federal game laws in Alaska and 1,434 who violated Federal game laws in the 48 States.

Research was continued on upland wildlife to devise wildlife management practices that can be employed by farmers and forest or range managers in developing the multiple-use concept of conservation;

Predator animal control operations were conducted under 59 cooperative agreements with 61 State agencies;

State programs using Federal Aid included: Fish restoration--161 investigative projects, 134 projects developing new fishing waters and providing access, 91 land purchases; game restoration--200 projects on population trends, and hunter success, 327 on habitat development and 261 on land acquisition.

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