



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF UNLAWFULLY TAKEN LIVE FISH PROHIBITED

Federal and State fish and wildlife agencies now have been armed with stronger enforcement weapons to combat interstate transportation of illegally taken game fish, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Steps are now being taken to use the new authority provided by a recent amendment to the "Black Bass Act". The amendment was approved by President Eisenhower on August 25, and became effective immediately.

Officials of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, declare that it gives them the legal authority to halt a practice which is creating serious problems for State conservation agencies.

Federal and State conservation officials supported the amendment because of the growing practice by some groups of fishermen to net game fish unlawfully in one State, and sell them to fee pond operators in another State. The new law, which not only covers the transporting but also the buying, selling and possessing of unlawfully taken live fish, gives the Federal Government authority to cooperate with the respective States in protecting their fisheries resources.

The Black Bass Act was passed in 1926 to halt interstate commercialization of a popular sport fish. Later it was extended to include all fish, except steel-head trout caught in the Columbia River between the States of Oregon and Washington. In those days the farm pond, and especially the fee pond, did not create an appreciable market for live game fish; thus, provision was not made in the original Act to include live fish or eggs.

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