



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PARTIAL APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID FISH AND GAME FUNDS PLANNED

A partial apportionment of fiscal year 1961 Federal Aid funds for State fish and wildlife restoration programs will be made about May 15, 1960, the Department of the Interior announced today.

This means that some of the funds which would not otherwise be available to the States until probably late in October will be made available on July 1, when fiscal year '61 begins. This action is designed to help States program their Federal Aid activities more advantageously. It will be of special importance to those States operating on a revolving fund basis.

Under the Federal Aid fish and wildlife restoration programs, States expend their own funds and are then reimbursed up to 75% of the cost of the Federal Government. Federal Aid funds are derived from an excise tax on sporting guns and ammunition and on sport fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial lures. Distribution is made on formula based upon the number of license holders in a State and on its area. The two Federal Aid Acts are administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

On July 1, 1959, 14 States had exhausted their Federal Aid funds for their fish restoration programs and 16 States were without Federal Aid money for their wildlife restoration activities. Several other States had less than \$5,000 Federal Aid funds available. This meant that each of these States had to carry the entire restoration program for about five months or delay work on the projects for a period of time.

The partial apportionment will help such States during that period and will permit others quicker access to their shares of Federal Aid.

The apportionment for the current fiscal year was made November 17, 1959. It amounted to \$20,612,778 for both fish and wildlife restoration programs and included \$2,693,495 of "backlog" funds which have now been fully distributed. This apportionment was based upon final figures from the Department of the Treasury. The planned partial apportionment will be based upon estimates and will be geared primarily toward keeping States in Federal Aid funds during that critical period when they await the regular distribution.

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