



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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MARINE GAME FISH RESEARCH CENTER ESTABLISHED

Establishment of the first marine game fish research center of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, was announced today by Daniel H. Janzen, Director of the Bureau. Through a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Army, a former base hospital at Fort Hancock on Sandy Hook, New Jersey, has been made available to the Bureau as a laboratory.

The new research center is located in an area of intensive marine sport fishing for such species as bluefish, bluefin tuna, striped bass, flounder, weakfish or sea trout, mackerel, and scup or porgy. It is convenient from the standpoint of travel and communication to Atlantic coastal game fishing centers.

The installation offered by the Army is well adapted to the purposes of the Bureau. It is a substantially built structure with adequate office, laboratory, shop, and storage space; there are boat docks nearby, and university and library facilities are within easy reach.

A proposed staff of nine scientists operating out of the new research center will study the basic life history of important marine sport fishes and the effects that environmental factors have on abundance, distribution, and general well being of the various species. An inventory of salt water sport fishing, its extent, facilities, and harvests will also be conducted.

In making the announcement, Director Janzen said, "Public Law 86-359, signed by President Eisenhower on September 22, 1959, calls for a comprehensive continuing study of the migratory marine fish that are of interest to recreational fishermen of the United States, including species inhabiting the offshore waters and species that migrate through or spend a part of their lives in inshore waters. This is our first step into this important program."

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