



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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LONG-RANGE REPORTS POINT OUT ROLE OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Measures for protecting fish and wildlife resources and ways to strengthen and preserve the Nation's vast food-fishery resources, are outlined in two long-range reports issued today by Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton.

The two reports are: Operation Trident by the Fish and Wildlife's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, and Conservation in Action. A Fledge for the Future by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The reports were previously distributed for comment to the Governors of the 50 States, and to conservationists and conservation organizations. Both reports have been substantially revised since that time. These reports must now be submitted to the Bureau of the Budget for coordination within the Executive Branch, and final submission to the Congress.

Operation Trident, named from Neptune and his three-pronged spear--standing for research, development, services, pictures the sea as a vast reservoir of natural resources still relatively untouched. It points out that although it is only about seven miles from the surface of the water to the deepest part of the sea, we know less about this real world so near than we do about the cold reaches of outer space. It also calls attention to the growing importance of fisheries in world affairs and urges that the United States strengthen its position of leadership in international fisheries. The long-range program of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is designed to help narrow this gap in knowledge and thus aid the national economy and the national defense.

A Fledge for the Future details the fish and wildlife areas in which the Federal Government has management responsibilities, and emphasizes the part the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife can play in research on the problems which must be solved if the Government, the States, and other land holders are to manage their wildlife resources at optimum levels. It stresses phases of the work which extend beyond State boundaries. The report stresses programs which it says are of such urgency that immediate action is needed.

Topping the list is wetlands preservation and saving choice marshes for wildlife while there is still time.

Also cited are: bringing the National Wildlife Refuges up to maximum capacity; intensive waterfowl production, making two ducks grow where only one grows now; species management of waterfowl; protecting birds in trouble and hunting those in adequate supply; mourning dove management, so this popular game bird in 30 States and a song bird in the others can continue to exist in satisfactory numbers; protection of endangered species; research on pesticides to learn how to protect farm crops without endangering fish and wildlife resources; control of depredations by wildlife to facilitate reforestation and aid agriculture; research on reservoirs to make them real fishing havens; studies on marine sport fisheries to keep pace with their increasing popularity; selective control of fish populations by chemical, mechanical or electrical methods to protect wanted species of fish from the inroads of undesirable species; and an educational program to acquaint the public with problems and progress.

The report emphasizes that most of the hunting and fishing now is, and in the future will be, on private lands and that through research these lands can be made to support wildlife as well as agriculture and forests.

To begin the acquisition of wetlands at a rate fast enough to be worthwhile, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reports propose that Congress establish a Federal revolving fund of \$150 million dollars, to be repaid by duck stamp revenue. It recommends also that the Government make \$100 million available to the States on a 30-year basis for the purchase of wetlands.

Operation Trident shows how proper financial planning and adequate financial support can bring quick results of permanent benefit to the Nation and provide valuable basic knowledge to improve and reduce the costs of harvesting, processing and marketing of fish.

It cites accomplishments that point the way to the eradication of the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes; rehabilitation of the shad runs on the Atlantic Coast; increased medical research on the use of fish oils recently found to be particularly effective in lowering the cholesterol levels of the blood; increased knowledge of the circulation of the ocean through a recent discovery of a major ocean current in the Pacific; development of air-bubble curtains to guide and capture fish; and discovery of valuable new fishery resources and fishing grounds.

The reports have been prepared in limited quantities for Congressional and other official use. Republication for public distribution is under way and copies will be available through the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C., within a few weeks.

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