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SECRETARY UDALL ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF NEEDS FOR HATCHERY FISH

A survey to determine future needs for hatchery fish to help manage the Nation's fishing was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

The survey will be made by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in cooperation with State fish and game departments. It will be used to estimate the water now suitable for sport fishes, how much of this is or should be stocked, fisherman numbers, future stocking needs, and capabilities of National, State, and private hatcheries. The survey is also expected to be helpful in deciding the future roles of public and private hatcheries.

In announcing the survey, Secretary Udall said data gathered will be projected to cover needs for "hatchery fish" in 1973, 1980, and 2000.

"The role of artificial production in providing for America's angling needs must be better defined," he said. "Stocking and production guidelines resulting from this survey are needed to keep up with the ever-increasing angling pressure while still maintaining or improving the quality of fishing."

Full cooperation from State game and fish departments was pledged in a letter to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife from William E. Towell of Missouri, president of the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners.

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