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HUDSON RIVER FISHERY STUDY REORIENTED

A special study, started in 1965 regarding the effect of a proposed pumped storage hydroelectric plant on certain fish in the Hudson River of New York and New Jersey, is being expanded to cover all possible factors influencing fishery resources of the river, the Department of the Interior announced today.

John S. Gottschalk, Director of the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and Dr. E. L. Cheatum, Director of Fish and Game for the State of New York, said the decision to reorient the study was reached by representatives from the Department of the Interior, fishery agencies of New York and New Jersey, and the Consolidated Edison Company, which is proposing the project near Storm King Mountain, 40 miles upstream from Manhattan. The study will aid the Federal Power Commission in re-evaluating the Company's application to construct the plant.

The expanded study will be conducted under the supervision of a policy committee consisting of Dr. Cheatum, chairman; Lester G. MacNamara, Director of the Division of Fish and Game, New Jersey; Richard E. Griffith, Northeast Regional Director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; and John T. Gharrett, North Atlantic Regional Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

A technical committee, including biologists from the Department of the Interior and the New York and New Jersey Conservation Departments, will make a detailed review of data collected. This will include water quality and other environmental factors, as well as research on hatchery propagation of striped bass.

This evaluation will provide a basis for additional studies of the fishery resources and existing environmental factors. A model of the hydroelectric project will help determine impact of project operation on the critical life history stages of striped bass and shad, as well as the general effect on ecology of the lower Hudson River.

The expanded study, like the present one, will be financed by the Consolidated Edison Company.

A Federal fishery biologist will serve as full-time project leader of the study, which should be completed early in 1969, Director Gottschalk said.

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