UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

For Release to PMs June 29, 1967 Hay 343-5634

INTERIOR AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCE REFUGE EXPANSION AT KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Expansion of land and water areas for controlled public use on the Kennedy Space Center in Florida was announced today by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Center will add 11,436 acres of its area to territory managed by Sport Fisheries and Wildlife under a land-use agreement. The added public-use acreage encompasses land and water areas, including Mosquito Lagoon from Haulover Canal southward, within the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.

Some of the beach in this area will be managed by Florida's Brevard County Commission, under a separate agreement with NASA, to continue the Playalinda Beach program conducted by the county.

The Bureau operates the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and permits hunting during the waterfowl season. Areas of the refuge are also open to fishing. Mosquito Lagoon has long been popular for trout and redfish angling and for duck shooting. Refuge Manager Curtis Wilson will announce the Bureau's program for public use of the lagoon.

This addition makes almost 58,000 acres of NASA-controlled area at the Kennedy Space Center available for use by the public under programs managed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

X X X

95267-67