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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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NEW BANS ON IMPORTING CERTAIN BIRDS AND DISEASED FISH

New regulations effective July 1, 1968, banning importation of certain harmful birds and of fishes or fish eggs that may harbor certain diseases were announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife said the bird ban was actually an extension of listed exotic wildlife that may be imported only as authorized by a permit from the Director, BSFW, for a bonafide scientific, medical, educational, or zoological exhibition purpose. The regulation covers the African dioch (Quelea quelea), the Java sparrow (Padda oryzivora), and the Southeast Asian bulbul (Pynonctus jocosus).

BSFW officials said the banned birds devastate certain cereal crops, grain or fruits in their native habitats and could become a serious nuisance in the United States if introduced here. Importing such live birds without a permit is prohibited.

Importations of live or dead fish of the family Salmonidae must be certified free of viral hemorrhagic septicemia and myxsoma cerebralis, the organism causing "whirling disease" of trout. Officials said the diseases have brought heavy losses to trout in hatcheries in Europe.

Exceptions to the certification requirement are salmonids caught in the wild in North America under either Sport or Commercial licenses or salmonid fish or eggs that have been canned, pickled, smoked or otherwise prepared in a manner that destroys the two diseases.

Otherwise, BSF officials said, it is essential that importations of live and dead fish and eggs of the family Salmonidae be free of the infectious agents to prevent their further introduction into the United States. These diseases pose no threat to human health.

The fish importation prohibition was established after consultation with the Canadian Wildlife Service.

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