

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release December 19, 1975

McGarvey 202/343-5634

DREDGE AND FILL GUIDELINES TO PROTECT FISH AND WILDLIFE ESTABLISHED

New guidelines designed to encourage the protection of fish and wildlife values affected by development activities in navigable waters and wetlands were published in the December 1 Federal Register by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Activities covered by the guidelines generally include mineral exploration or development on the Outer Continental Shelf and leasing on other public lands. They also include rights of way on public lands, the filling or removal of sand, gravel, and coral from tidelands, and structural activities such as installation of bulkheads, piers, and jetties.

The guidelines prescribe the objectives, policies, and procedures to be followed by the Service in its review of proposals for all such activities in or affecting navigable waterways. The central focus of the guidelines is on the navigation permit program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A number of Corps suggestions have been incorporated in the new guidelines.

Within the United States permits are also required for discharge of pollutants and the disposal of materials in navigable waterways, and, thus, the guidelines apply. They also cover the disposal of dredged material in navigable waterways and the transportation of dredged material for ocean dumping. Additionally, the guidelines cover the disposal of sewage sludge, the construction of bridges or causeways over navigable waterways, and electric powerplants using navigable waters for cooling.