

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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THOESEN NAMED CHIEF, DIVISION OF NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES

Robert W. Thoesen has been selected as Chief, Division of National Fish Hatcheries, for the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Director Lynn A. Greenwalt announced today.

The National Fish Hatchery System, started over 100 years ago, has evolved into the largest, most complex fish production system in the world. At the present time 91 National Fish Hatcheries, with a current replacement value of \$300 million, annually rear approximately 260 million fish representing 48 different species. These fish, when stocked, support an estimated 58 million angler-days of sport fishing annually and contribute substantially to commercial fishing in many parts of the country.

Thoesen comes from Atlanta, where he was the Assistant Regional Director for Hatcheries and Fisheries Resources. Prior to this assignment, he was an Area Manager for Colorado and Utah; Arizona Zone Supervisor for the Division of National Wildlife Refuges; Manager of several National Fish Hatcheries, and the Cortland, New York, In-Service Training School--National Fish Hatchery. Prior to his Federal career, he worked at the State of California's Grey Lodge Waterfowl Refuge.

A native of Boulder, Colorado, Thoesen received a B.S. degree in zoology at Colorado State University. He served with the U.S. Army Tank Corps in Germany during World War II. Thoesen also has chaired two committees for the American Fisheries Society, Bonneville Chapter, and was a member of the Utah Wildlife Society.

Thoesen, his wife Elizabeth, and stepdaughter, Tracy, will live in Arlington, Virginia. Mrs. Thoesen is from Beaufort, South Carolina.

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