



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For release: October 1, 1991 Michael L. Smith 202-208-5650

NEW INFORMATION SYSTEM TO HELP NATIONAL FISH HATCHERIES

A new data and computer system called the "Fisheries Information System" will, for the first time, provide the Nation's Federal fishery managers instant and comprehensive information about both the broodstock and output of the Service's 78 national fish hatcheries.

With the new computer system, the National Fish Hatcheries, the oldest component of the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be taking a bold leap toward the future, according to Service Director John Turner.

"It is an advance that not only allows greatly improved access to information for resource managers, but will help ensure that decisions can be based on the very best and most up-to-date data available," said Turner.

The national fish hatcheries annually produce more than 200 million fish and 300 million fish eggs representing 55 species. In recent years, the major focus of the hatchery system has been the restoration of depleted but nationally important species of fishes.

"The importance of the fishery information system," said Service Assistant Director for Fisheries Gary Edwards, "is what it will mean biologically. Ultimately, it will help our fisheries managers produce more fish where they are needed most."

The Fishery Information System is being developed in a modular fashion to permit later additions of new management and data modules. In its initial phase, the system will gather an array of data on fish being cultured for production and breeding stock; fish and fish egg distribution requests; information on production goals for each broodstock station; returned fish tag summaries; and hatchery location, history, operations, and physical facilities.

Additional information on the new Fisheries Information System is available from the Assistant Director for Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1849 C Street, NW., Room 3245, Washington, DC 20240.