



Department of the Army

EXTENSION OF EASTERN SHORE FISHING LIMITS: Extension of fishing limits off the Eastern Shore of Virginia in Chesapeake Bay, from Onancock Creek to Cape Charles, was announced August 19 by the Secretary of the Army. These limits apply generally to commercial fishermen and regulate the placing of fishing structures, such as traps and pounds.

The extension, which ranges from a few yards up to a maximum of approximately 2,000 yards, will become effective 30 days after details of the new limits appear in the Federal Register. Existing limits generally follow a line of 18-foot depth. A series of straight lines, marked by buoys, will designate the new fishing boundaries.

Extension of the Eastern Shore limits, and a number of other changes in fishing regulations for Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, were recommended by Lieutenant General R. A. Wheeler, Chief of Engineers, following public hearings and the presentation of views by representatives of Maryland and Virginia and other affected parties.

At the lower end of Chesapeake Bay, the fishing areas are being revised. Two small areas in Lynhaven Roads are being eliminated, and one new area is established there. Another new area is designated in Hampton Roads, at Newport News Middle Ground.

Another change will prohibit fishing structures in a 200-yard fairway in James River. The fairway or open channel is to insure an unobstructed approach to the mouth of the Chickahominy River.

The new ruling also provides that Federal regulations on the marking of leased oyster grounds shall be in accordance with State laws.

Regulations governing the placing and maintenance of fishing structures, such as traps and pounds are issued by the Federal Government solely from the standpoint of protecting the public rights of navigation.



Reconstruction Finance Corporation

LOANS FOR FISHERY ENTERPRISES: Fishery enterprises organized or operating under the laws of any State (including the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) of the United States, which are privately owned and conducted for profit, are eligible to apply for loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, according to that agency.

RFC will consider loans to business enterprises for such purposes as the following:

1. To pay labor and purchase material required in the business, including merchandise for resale.
2. To repair vessels, replace machinery, etc.
3. To finance new business or to enable established business enterprises to expand.
4. To finance construction.
5. To pay existing indebtedness.

At the time an applicant first communicates with an RFC Loan Agency in regard to obtaining a loan, he should advise the Loan Agency as to the amount of the loan applied for, how it will be secured, the purpose of the loan, and the nature of his business.

No loan or participation in a loan may be approved by RFC if the financial assistance applied for is otherwise available on reasonable terms. For further information, write Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 811 Vermont Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.



THE CUBAN FISHING INDUSTRY

The economic importance of Cuba's fish industry may best be gauged from its commercial production estimated at roughly 40 million pounds annually before the war, 25 million during the war and 30 million since the end of the war. The wholesale value of this commercial production is estimated at about 2.3 and 3.5 million dollars during the respective periods. No accurate data are available concerning production for all ports of the Island; the above estimates are based on the quantity reported for Habana with estimates for the rest of the Island.

The industry permanently employs some 9,000 men and, in addition, provides work for 7,000 more in allied and subsidiary industries. Although fish is an important item in the Cuban diet, nevertheless the total wholesale value of fish production is considerably less than one percent of Cuba's national income.

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