



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ALASKA ACTIVITIES REORGANIZED:

A reorganization of the Alaska activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service was announced by Secretary of the Interior McKay on May 20. Under this reorganization, Alaska activities will be divided into two major fields: (1) Management of the commercial fisheries; and (2) administration of the wildlife and game-fish resources.

In commenting on this realignment which will separate commercial fishing activities from sport fishery and wildlife management, Secretary McKay said: "This organizational approach reflects the nature and importance of the commercial fisheries functions and the unique responsibilities of the Service in Alaska but it does not represent any departure from regional organization in the continental United States under which all functions are responsible to a single field director."

The salmon fisheries--the Territory's most important industry--suffered a sharp decline during the past 10 years in some parts of Alaska and a vigorous restoration program was inaugurated last year by Service Director Farley. To put this program into operation, a special commercial fisheries administrator was appointed and the fisheries were managed apart from the regional office organization, resulting in greatly improved management of the resource. The new reorganization will formalize on a somewhat amplified basis the operating situation that prevailed in 1954 and will provide more direct lines of authority in the continuation of this salmon program.

Research on the Alaska commercial fisheries, which at present is being

handled by the Seattle laboratory under the direct supervision of the Washington office, will be included in the commercial fisheries organization so that all functions concerned with the management of the commercial fisheries of the Territory will be handled by a single field organization.

Both the commercial fisheries and the wildlife units will have their own enforcement staffs, but personnel, equipment, and facilities will be shifted between the two organizations as seasonal and program demands require. One central unit in the Juneau headquarters office will provide fiscal, personnel, and other administrative services to both organizations.

Donald L. McKernan has been named as Administrator of Alaska Commercial Fisheries. McKernan has been Assistant Director of the Service's Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in Honolulu, Hawaii, for the past three years. Prior to that he served as Director of Research for the Oregon Fish Commission for six years. He also has had extensive experience in fishery research and administration with the Washington State Department of Fisheries where he directed research on the shellfish resources of the State.

In 1950, McKernan spent four months in Japan as a visiting fishery expert at the request of the Department of the Army. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and has completed more than two years of graduate work at that institution. He is the author of a number of publications on salmon and other Pacific Coast fisheries.

McKernan is expected to report to his new post in Juneau some time in June. In the meantime, Seton H. Thompson, Chief of the Service's Branch of Alaska Fisheries, at Washington, D. C., who is now in Alaska, will begin the implementation of the new set-up.

Clarence J. Rhode, presently Regional Director of the Service in Alaska, will head the wildlife management unit with the title of Administrator, Alaska Wildlife Resources. Rhode will continue as a member and Executive Officer of the Alaska Game Commission.

Rhode has been with the Service continuously since July 1935 except for a Three-year period from 1944-47 when he did wartime work as a civilian pilot. He was appointed Regional Director for Alaska in April 1948. In December 1952 he received the Department of the Interior's highest honor, a Distinguished Service Award.

* * * * *

DAY RETIRES FROM FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE:

Albert M. Day, Assistant to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, will retire on June 30 after 36 years of Federal service, Acting Secretary of the Interior Davis announced May 27. Day, who was Director of the Service from 1946-1953, is joining the Arctic Institute of North America where he will direct a fact-finding study of migratory waterfowl.



Albert M. Day

First employed by the former Bureau of Biological Survey in 1919 as a temporary field assistant in Wyoming, Day has since been continuously connected with the Biological Survey and its successor agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, except for a year's leave for graduate studies.

In December 1950, in addition to his duties as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Day was appointed as Administrator of the Defense Fisheries Administration.

From 1947 to 1953, Day served as one of the United States Commissioners on the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. He is a member of practically every scientific organization in both the fisheries and wildlife field.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASE SALE AT NEW ORLEANS:

A third sale of oil and gas leases in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico was scheduled for 10 a. m. (C. S. T.) July 12, 1955, in New Orleans, La., Secretary of the Interior McKay announced May 13.

The sale will embrace 674,000 acres of submerged lands off both Louisiana and Texas extending to waters as far as 60 miles from shore and 100 feet deep. The bulk of the lands advertised--458,000 acres--are off Louisiana. Most of the 595,000 acres of lands nominated by the oil and gas industry on March 25 are included in the advertised lands.

In two previous sales, 487,000 acres of oil and gas lands and 25,000 acres of sulphur lands leased on the Texas and Louisiana Outer Continental Shelf have brought the Federal Government \$142 million.

Cadastral engineers of the Bureau of Land Management have mapped 12 million acres off Louisiana and 8 million acres off Texas as potentially leasable areas of the Outer Continental Shelf. Areas leased in the first two sales constitute less than three percent of the potentially leasable acreage on the Outer Continental Shelf off Texas and Louisiana.

Secretary McKay has described the opening of the Outer Continental Shelf for large-scale development as providing another strong link in this country's chain of national Petroleum security.



Eighty-Fourth Congress (First Session)

MAY 1955

Listed below are public bills and resolutions introduced and referred to committees or passed by the Eighty-Fourth Congress (First Session) and signed by the President that directly or indirectly affect the fisheries and allied industries. Public bills and resolutions are shown in this section when introduced and, if passed, when signed by the President; but also shown from month to month are the more pertinent

reports, hearings, or chamber actions on some bills.

ALASKAN STATEHOOD: H. R. 6178 (Saylor), introduced May 11. A bill to enable the people of Alaska to form a constitution and State government and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the Original States; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

ALASKAN-HAWAIIAN STATEHOOD: On May 10 by a record vote of 218 yeas to 170 nays, the House recommitted H. R. 2535, the Alaskan-Hawaiian statehood bill.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES CONVENTION: The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on May 17, in executive session, ordered favorably reported Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries between U. S. and Canada. Prior to this action, the subcommittee ordered this Convention favorably reported to the full committee.

HAWAIIAN STATEHOOD: H. R. 6177 (Saylor), introduced May 11. A bill to enable the people of Hawaii to form a constitution and State government and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the Original States; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: The Senate Committee on Appropriations on May 2, in executive session, ordered favorably reported to the Senate with amendments H. R. 5085, appropriations for fiscal year 1956 for the Department of Interior and related agencies (including the Fish and Wildlife Service). As approved, the bill would provide total funds of \$327,987,088, an increase of \$30,061,542 over the House-passed figure of \$297,925,546 (S. Rept. 261). Under "Investigation of Resources," which includes the Branches of Commercial Fisheries and Fisheries Biology, the Committee recommended an appropriation of \$4,187,000.

The Senate passed on May 5, with committee amendments H. R. 5085, Senate insisted on its amendment and asked for a conference. Conferees were appointed. Some of the increases recommended by the Senate Committee over House-approved appropriations were: (1) \$200,000 additional to provide a total of \$350,000 for sea-lamprey research; (2) \$5,000 to provide for operation at 100 percent capacity at the Frankfort Fish Cultural Station; (3) \$20,000 for the propagation of fresh-water mussels.

The House Committee on Interior Department Appropriations on May 9 disagreed to Senate amendments to H. R. 5085, and agreed to a conference requested by the Senate; and appointed conferees.

MARKETING FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS: H. R. 6220 (Sikes), introduced May 12. A bill to encourage the improvement and development of marketing facilities for handling perishable agricultural commodities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE: H. R. 5968 (Metcalf), introduced May 3. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards

Act of 1938 so as to increase the minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1.25; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

Also H. R. 6505 (Fino), introduced May 26, similar to H. R. 5968.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION: S. 1924 (Carlson) introduced May 11. A bill to establish a commission on the conservation, development, and use of renewable natural resources; to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Also H. R. 6163 (Hope), similar to S. 1924.

TRADE AGREEMENTS: The Senate on May 4 passed with amendments H. R. 1 to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements, after taking actions on amendments submitted as follows:

Adopted: Morse amendment providing that evidence of serious injury or threat thereof to a readily determinable segment of a producing organization shall be considered evidence of such injury or threat to the domestic industry producing like or competitive products; and

Rejected: Malone amendment (in the nature of a substitute for the bill) authorizing FTC to operate trade agreements program and to provide for periodic adjustment of import duties based on competition between U. S. and foreign-made products; Humphrey amendment to establish a trade adjustment board, the function of which would be avoidance or easing of economic losses to communities, industries, and individuals suffered through operation of trade agreements program; Douglas amendment to repeal peril point section of the bill; O'Mahoney amendment holding in abeyance any future trade agreement until Congress has specifically approved it; Morse amendment providing that no future trade agreement shall take effect until expiration of 90 days of continuous session of Congress following its transmittal to Congress, nor shall take effect if during such 90 days of session either House of Congress shall disapprove such trade agreement; Morse amendment providing that after Tariff Commission makes recommendation and President transmits to Congress his reasons for not taking action thereon, the Congress may within 90 days of continuous session thereafter pass a concurrent resolution favoring the Commission's recommendations and the President shall then put them into effect; Douglas amendment to eliminate sections 5 and 6 of the bill, providing for Trade Commission findings in Federal Register, and providing that increased imports shall be considered as cause or threat of serious injury to a domestic producer of like or directly competitive products when Tariff Commission finds that such increased imports have contributed materially to serious injury or threat thereof to such industry; Malone amendment limiting life of extension to June 30, 1956, instead of 1958; and Malone amendment limiting scope of trade agreements to those with nations in Western Hemisphere.

Senate insisted on its amendments to the bill, requested conference with House, and appointed conferees.

The House on May 5 disagreed to Senate amendments to H. R. 1, and agreed to a conference requested by the Senate. Conferees were appointed.

