



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES:

The development of a blueprint by the recently-reorganized United States Fish and Wildlife Service for a broadened conservation program for fish and wildlife resources was requested by the Secretary of the Interior on December 16, 1956.

"The challenge of soundly managing our commercial fishery resources to assure a continued harvest and of meeting the growing demand for opportunities to fish and hunt at a time when those opportunities seem to be diminishing must be met head-on," Secretary Seaton declared. "A special task force will begin work shortly on a plan of action to carry out the long-range effort to meet this challenge."

Secretary Seaton's announcement coincided with a memorandum, which he directed to be distributed to all Fish and Wildlife employees, stating the broad objective of the program and calling upon the employees to contribute suggestions and proposals to further it.

The memorandum calls for a review of policies and projects, and for development of a full effort in the Service's areas of responsibility in the conservation field.

The memorandum declared the Department must "make certain that Federal, State and private conservation activities effectively supplement each other in such a way that greatest progress can be achieved."

As the result of legislation approved by the 84th Congress, the Secretary

continued, the Service now has the authority to undertake greatly expanded programs for commercial fisheries. The Service is reviewing every possibility which will benefit the fishing industry. All this material will be used in developing the new program.

Preliminary material in outline form already has been submitted to Secretary Seaton, forming the basis for expanded programs both for sport fisheries and wildlife and for commercial fisheries. This outline envisions a 10-year program. It is proposed that program planning should be accomplished in two segments--immediate, short-range goals which, in turn, will contribute to long-range objectives.

The special "task force" committee is divided into two groups representing the component bureaus of the Service. These task forces will consolidate planning material, establish priorities and spell out research programs.



Interstate Commerce Commission

FISH AND SHELLFISH EXEMPTION IN REGULATIONS FOR LEASE AND INTERCHANGE OF VEHICLES FOR MOTOR CARRIERS:

New rules and regulations regarding the lease and interchange of vehicles by motor carriers requiring a minimum 30-day lease period, were issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission and became effective February 1, 1957. Among the new rules and regulations published in the December 6, 1956, Federal Register was the following part dealing with equipment used in agricultural or perishable operations which also applies to

vehicles carrying fresh or frozen fish as defined by the Interstate Commerce Commission:

(1) *Equipment used in agricultural or perishable operations.* That such 30-day minimum period shall not apply to equipment, with driver, of a farmer, agricultural cooperative or private carrier of certain perishable property or which is exempt under section 203 (b) (6) of the act, to the extent that such equipment falls within the terms of the exceptions of section 204 (f) (1) or (2) of the act (49 U. S. C. 304 (f)), and is utilized in accordance therewith; *Provided,* That prior to the execution of the lease, the authorized carrier receives and retains a statement signed by the owner of the equipment, or someone duly authorized to sign for the owner, authorizing the driver to lease the equipment for the movement or movements contemplated by the lease, certifying that the equipment so leased meets the qualifications enumerated in section 204 (f) (1) or (2) of the act, and specifying the origin, destination, and the time of the beginning and ending of the last movement which brought the equipment within the purview of section 204 (f).

These new rules and regulations as published supersede all of the previous ones; the other parts deal with equipment, interchange of equipment, augmenting equipment and contracting requirements, and safety inspection of equipment by the authorized carrier.



Small Business Administration

LOAN TO FISHERIES COOPERATIVE IN BOSTON:

Approval of a \$1,000,000 pool loan to Boston Fisheries Cooperative, Inc., 17 Fish Pier, Boston, Mass., to aid in maintaining the economy of the New England fishing industry was announced December 28, 1956, by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The loan will provide working capital to assist the members of the cooperative to purchase fish during the peak production season, for immediate processing. The fish will be placed in cold storage for orderly marketing during the entire year.

SBA said that the First National Bank of Boston is participating in the loan, and will administer the \$1,000,000 as a revolving fund to provide credit when it is needed.

The loan will mature in three years and will carry an interest rate of 5 percent per annum. The loan will be secured by warehouse receipts on the fish in storage. A further provision is that not more than \$400,000 of the loan shall be outstanding as of April 1 of each year, to prevent unwarranted accumulation in storage.



Department of State

LAW OF THE SEA COMMENTED ON:

In an address before the World Affairs Council of Northern California at San Francisco on October 24, 1956, the U. S. State Department's Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs commented on the "Law of the Sea" as follows:

"There is another problem that will come up before the General Assembly relating to the law of the sea. You may know that the International Law Commission was authorized by the Assembly to study this matter, and it has now made its final report on four problems--'The Regime of the Territorial Sea,' 'The Regime of the High Seas,' 'The Contiguous Zone,' and 'The Continental Shelf.' This may sound like a very dull matter, but it could be one of the most complicated and highly charged questions the Assembly has to examine. The International Law Commission has recommended that the General Assembly summon an international conference to examine the law of the sea and to draw up such international agreements as it may deem appropriate.

"As you know, we have been having some difficulties off the coasts of Latin America, where a number of states have claimed rights to jurisdiction up to 200 miles from shore and have even interfered with our ships to give effect to these claims.

"For some centuries now the 3-mile limit has prevailed. This dates back to the Dutch jurist Bynkershoek, who contended that it would be sensible to extend, in legal theory at least, the shore limits of a sovereign state out 3 miles because that was the distance a cannon could shoot in those days.

"Meanwhile, some states have supported a 200-mile limit for certain purposes, such as the protection of fishing rights and the riches of the sea. Still other states have been inclined to favor a 12-mile limit.

"This problem involves the issues which revolve around the concept of the continental shelf and the extent to which states should be permitted to have jurisdiction over territorial seas and the submerged oil lands that may lie beneath them.

"We have not formulated any change in our own policy. We adhere to the 3-mile limit as being the soundest basis upon which to operate.

"This is the kind of problem which affects many countries and which quite properly belongs in the United Nations. It is another example of our growing interdependence and the absolute necessity of having an organization like the United Nations consider the conflicting interests of all parties concerned.

"Obviously, if each country were to determine for itself the extent of its jurisdiction over the territorial seas, chaos would result. It would be very much as though each citizen of San Francisco were to draw upon his own set of traffic regulations."

Among the subjects to be considered during the eleventh General Assembly of the United Nations, convened November 12, 1956, will be the "Final Report on the regime of the high seas, the regime of the territorial sea and related problems (resolution 899 (IX) of December 14, 1954)" by the International Law Commission.



Treasury Department

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

APPRAISEMENT OF ENTRIES OF FROZEN WHOLE ALBACORE FROM JAPAN WITHHELD:

The Treasury Department has instructed Customs field officers to withhold appraisement of entries of frozen whole albacore from Japan pending investigation to determine whether the albacore is being sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Under the Antidumping Act a determination of sales in the United States at less than fair value would require reference of the case to the Tariff Commission, which would consider whether American industry was being injured. Both dumping price and injury must be shown to justify a finding of dumping under the law.

The two principal steps in an anti-dumping case are (1) to prove to the Bureau of Customs that the imported article is being sold in the United States at a price that is lower than the freely-offered price in the country of origin or at a price that is lower than the cost of production and (2) to prove to the Tariff Commission that, as a result, the domestic industry is being injured. If both of these findings are made, the Tariff Commission would determine the amount of countervailing duty that would be warranted, and would recommend to the President that he apply such a special duty to the particular shipments subject to investigation. The duty collectible is an amount equal to the difference between such purchase price or exporters sales price and the fair value as may be determined by the Bureau of Customs.



White House

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE APPOINTED:

The President on January 1, 1957, appointed Ross L. Leffler (assistant to

the executive vice president for operations of United States Steel Corp.) to be the first Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife.



Ross L. Leffler

Leffler was born in Butte, Mont., August 7, 1886, and has been very active in civic affairs and has gained considerable prominence for his civic

welfare in the State of Pennsylvania and the city of Pittsburg. He was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 1927, elected president in 1928, served as executive director in 1931; was reappointed to the Commission in 1935, and was elected vice president and president for a second time. He served as a member of the Commission for 28 years, 16 years as president.

He also is a member of the Izaak Walton League and helped to organize the first chapter of that organization in Pennsylvania. He also helped to organize the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs of Pennsylvania. He is a past president of the International Association of Game Fish and Conservation Commissioners; Atlantic Deeper Waterways Association; a member of the Advisory Committee for the Economic Development of Analysis for Industrial Land and Facilities, Philadelphia; and a member of the Board of Governors, Philadelphia Maritime Authority.



UNUSUAL FISH TAG RECOVERY

The proverbial "finding a needle in the haystack" became an actuality when a plastic fish tag was returned to the Oregon Fish Commission research laboratory at Astoria, Oregon, in August 1956.

Hundreds of fish tags have been forwarded to the Commission by cooperative citizens in the past, but the "find" of the Skipper of the Marian F., Astoria drag boat, is perhaps the most unusual to date. While sorting a catch of bottom fish taken by his otter-trawl net off the mouth of the Columbia River, the Skipper noticed two red and white discs held together by a silver pin laying on the deck. The tag had apparently caught on the webbing on the net and was dredged up from the deep.

Following the "Return to Oregon Fish Commission" directions on one of the discs, the Skipper learned from biologists that the tag had been put on a 19-inch chinook salmon near the mouth of the Columbia River during a biological study in 1951.

Just how and when the fish and the tag parted company must be left to one's imagination. The Commission biologist who was in charge of the 1951 study surmised that the tag may have worked loose and dropped to the ocean floor shortly after the salmon was released. Then too, the fish could have perished, and in due time the set of discs came to rest on the bottom until dredged up by Marian F. net.

--Oregon Fish Commission News Release