



FEDERAL ACTIONS



Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

MARYLAND SHIFTED TO SOUTHEASTERN REGION FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION WORK:

The Department of the Interior on June 23, 1955, approved the transfer of the State of Maryland from Region 5 to Region 4 for Federal fish and wildlife conservation purposes, Acting Secretary Clarence A. Davis announced June 23, 1955.

Effective July 1 this year, the transfer is the result of recommendations by the Fish and Wildlife Service, based on requests from officials of Maryland and a number of southeastern States.

The principal reason for the transfer is to coordinate Federal work in Maryland with that of southeastern States and especially Virginia, Maryland's neighbor, which is in Region 4 and concerned essentially with the same fish and wildlife conservation problems. Region 5 is considered a northeastern area.

While Maryland is frequently referred to as a "border" State, its major conservation interests are similar, for the most part, to those of Virginia and other southeastern States. Maryland and Virginia have interdependent interests in such important commercial and sport resources as fish, crabs, oysters, and waterfowl concentrations. Many of Maryland's resource management practices and regulatory policies resemble those of the States to the south. The recent acceptance by the State of Maryland of an invitation to join the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners is further evidence that Maryland's fish and wildlife activities are related to those of the southeastern States.

In commenting on the transfer, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, John L. Farley, said: "From the standpoint of concentrating in a single region those States which have similar conservation problems, the transfer is unquestionably logical and sound. This move, I am sure, will prove beneficial to the Service, the States of Maryland and Virginia, and the southeast in general."

NEW CHIEF OF EXPLORATORY FISHING AND GEAR RESEARCH SECTION APPOINTED:

Stewart Springer has been appointed Chief of the Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Section in the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries, replacing Donald E. Powell who was transferred to Seattle to take charge of the Service's Exploratory Fishing Station there.

Springer was formerly in charge of the Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Station at Pascagoula, Miss. Operation of the vessel Oregon from this station in the Gulf of Mexico has resulted in the recent discovery of a tuna resource there and deep-water red shrimp grounds. Springer has been with the Service for about seven years. Prior to that time he was engaged in various fishery enterprises and brings a wealth of experience to his new position as Chief of the Section.

Harvey Bullis will be Acting in Charge of the Pascagoula Station as a result of Springer's transfer.



Department of State

INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FUR-SEAL TREATY PROPOSED:

The United States Government has issued invitations to the Governments of Canada, Japan, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to attend a conference to negotiate a treaty for the conservation of the fur seals of the North Pacific Ocean. The conference is expected to open in Washington in the latter part of November 1955, the Department of State announced April 22.

The invitations were delivered by the U. S. Embassies at Ottawa, Tokyo, and Moscow.

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ALLEN RESIGNS FROM INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION--MADSEN APPOINTED:

Edward W. Allen of Seattle has resigned as a member of the International Pacific Halibut Commission, the Department of State announced June 10. Allen has played an important role in the development of international fisheries commissions as a means of cooperation between nations in the conservation of high seas fishery resources. He will continue to represent the United States in the tripartite International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, but asked to be relieved of his duties on the Halibut Commission when a suitable successor could be found. Captain Mattias Madsen of Seattle was appointed to that post by the President on June 9.

Allen has served on the Halibut Commission--the oldest of the international fisheries commissions--since 1932. During 14 of those years he was also a Commissioner on the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. The work of these Commissions has been signally successful, both in the preservation of the natural resources and as outstanding examples of international cooperation in the solution of joint fisheries problems. To a very substantial degree this success has been due to Allen's continuing active interest and leadership.



Eighty-Fourth Congress (First Session)

JUNE 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 of the bills.

ASSISTANCE FOR ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO U. S. TRADE POLICY: H. R. 6717 (Dodd), introduced June 8. A bill to provide assistance to communities, industries, business enterprises, and individuals to facilitate adjustments made necessary by the trade policy of the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES EDUCATION PROGRAM: S. 2379 (Payne for himself and 26 other Senators), introduced June 30, to promote the fishing industry in the United States and its Territories by providing for the training of needed personnel for such industry; to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The bill authorizes an annual appropriation of \$550,000 for grants to public and nonprofit private colleges and universities for education and training of fishery technicians and teachers, and \$375,000 for vocational education in secondary schools in the fishery trades and industry. The money would be apportioned among the states on an equitable basis, taking into consideration the extent of the commercial fishing industry within each state as compared with the total commercial fishing industry in the United States.

CUSTOMS SIMPLIFICATION ACT: The House on June 22 passed H. R. 6040, to amend certain administrative provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 and to repeal obsolete provisions of the customs laws. A motion to recommit the bill was rejected by a rollcall vote of 143 yeas to 232 nays. The bill, in addition to repealing a number of obsolete provisions, would provide improved procedures for the valuation of imports and the conversion of foreign currency into dollars for the purpose of assessing customs duties.

Customs Simplification Act of 1955, House Report No. 858 (June 18, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 28 pp., printed. Reports that H. R. 6040 would provide improved procedures for the valuation of imports and the conversion of foreign currency into dollars for the purpose of assessing customs duties. This will bring about greater speed of administration, increased certainty, and commercial realism in our customs laws. The bill would also repeal a number of obsolete provisions in these laws.

Section 2 of the bill would make "export value" the preferred basis of valuation for the purpose of assessing duties. "Export value" is defined as the price at which merchandise is freely sold to purchasers in the usual wholesale quantities

in the ordinary course of trade for exportation to the United States with certain added charges. Present law provides that the higher of "foreign value" or "export value" shall be used as the preferred basis. In addition, the bill redefines certain terms used in the definitions of "export value," "United States value," "constructed value," and "American selling price."

Section 3 of the bill would simplify currency conversion procedures without major alteration in the existing statutory framework. The Secretary of the Treasury would be authorized to provide by regulations for the use of the foreign exchange rate first certified for a particular quarter of a year as long as the rate certified for the day of exportation does not vary by 5 percent or more from the certified rate. This would eliminate the effect of present law which requires each customs collector to check the daily rate for each day's importations.

Section 4 of your committee's bill repeals a number of obsolete provisions of the customs laws.

Also contains a brief report on the minority views.

TRADE AGREEMENTS: Conference report on H. R. 1, to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements was filed on June 9 (H. Rept. 745).

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES CONVENTION: The Senate on June 1 adopted resolution of ratification concerning Great Lakes Fisheries Convention between the United States and Canada.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATIONS: Conferees on June 6, reported H. R. 5085, making appropriations for the Dept. of the Interior (including Fish and Wildlife Service), and related agencies for fiscal year 1956 (H. Rept. 731).

The Senate on June 8 adopted conference report on, and cleared for President, H. R. 5085.

The President on June 16 signed H. R. 5085 (P. L. 78). The law provides funds to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Investigation of Resources (including the Branches of Commercial Fisheries, Fishery Biology, and Wildlife Research) as follows:

"For expenses necessary for scientific and economic studies and investigations respecting conservation, management, protection, and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, including related aquatic plants and products; collection, compilation, and publication of information concerning such studies and investigations; and the performance of other functions related thereto; as authorized by law; \$4,187,000."

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1956, Conference Report No. 731 (June 6, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 9 pp., printed. In reporting an appropriation for the Fish and Wildlife Service Investigation of Resources, the report appropriates \$4,187,000 as proposed by the Senate instead of \$3,977,000 as proposed by the House.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE: The Senate Labor Subcommittee on June 3, in executive session, ordered favorably reported to the full Committee on Labor and Public Welfare certain proposals amending the Fair Labor Standards Act, including increasing the minimum hourly wage from 75 cents to \$1, effective January 1, 1956, and certain proposals relating to minimum wages in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The committee agreed to postpone, until a later date, consideration of coverage of additional workers under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare on June 7, in executive session, ordered favorably reported a clean bill S. 2168, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in order to increase the national minimum wage from 75 cents to \$1, and for other purposes (S. Rept. 498).

The Senate on June 8 passed without amendment S. 2168.

H. R. 6821 (Widnall), introduced June 14. A bill to increase the national minimum wage to \$1 an hour; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

Also H. R. 6665, introduced June 6, similar to H. R. 6821, except that the minimum wage proposed is \$1.25 an hour.

Amending the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 in order to Increase the National Minimum Wage, Senate Report No. 498 (June 7, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 15 pp., printed. The report points out that the committee, on the basis of its study of the operation of the Fair Labor Standards Act and of the minimum wage presently provided for in the law, concluded that it should recommend to the Senate an increase in the minimum wage to \$1 an hour, with corresponding adjustments in the various minimum-wage rates currently applicable to employees in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by virtue of outstanding wage orders issued by the Secretary of Labor under the act.

CUSTOMS SIMPLIFICATION ACT: The House Committee on Ways and Means on June 18 reported H. R. 6040, to amend certain administrative provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 and to repeal obsolete provisions of the custom laws (H. Rept. 858).

TRADE AGREEMENTS: Conferees, in executive session on June 7, agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate- and House-passed versions of H. R. 1, to extend the authority of the President to enter into trade agreements.

The House on June 14 adopted the conference report of H. R. 1, and sent the legislation to the Senate. The Senate on June 15, adopted the conference report and cleared the bill for the President.

The President on June 21 signed H. R. 1 (P. L. 86).

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL: The Senate Committee on Public Works on June 13 in executive session ordered favorably reported, with amendments, S. 890, to extend and strengthen the Water Pollution Control Act (S. Rept. 543).

The Senate on June 17 passed S. 890, to extend and strengthen the Water Pollution Control Act, and cleared bill for President.

Extending and Strengthening the Water Pollution Control Act, Senate Report No. 543 (June 14, 1955, 84th Congress, 1st Session), 18 pp., printed. The report points out that among other provisions the bill would expand and strengthen the research and related activities of the Public Health Service in the field of water pollution control; broaden the existing authority with respect to grants to States and to interstate agencies for water-pollution control work, and would authorize grants to States and interstate agencies to cover part of the cost of their programs for the prevention and control of water pollution; and would change the enforcement provisions of the act so that a finding of interstate pollution would be issued after a public hearing held before a hearing board, rather than issued by the Surgeon General before the hearing is held.