

GENERAL SCIENCE

Fight Fisheries Move

Conservationists voice strong opposition both to legislative and executive plans to remove present fisheries functions of Fish and Wildlife Service, charging proposals are political.

► THE NATION'S CONSERVATIONISTS have fired a double-barreled shotgun point blank at the President and Congress.

They charge that, under the thin guise of trying to save the country's commercial fishing industry, both Republicans and Democrats are playing politics. The result, they state, will be to set sport fishing and wildlife conservation back 15 years.

The reason why the conservationists, who normally shun weapons of all kinds, are up in arms is a sudden race between the legislators and the Administration to divorce the fish from Fish and Wildlife.

The Senate, they point out, has already passed a bill jointly sponsored by Senator Warren G. Magnuson (D.-Wash.) and Senator Thomas H. Kuchel (R.-Calif.) that would create a semi-independent Fisheries Commission within the Department of Interior and transfer to it all fisheries functions of the present Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The Eisenhower Administration," the conservationists pointed out, "has countered with a plan to set up a separate Bureau of Fisheries by executive order. A press release from the White House said the reorganization would take place July 1."

Nine national conservation organizations have gone on record opposing either of these plans. They say both are designed to win votes and Senate seats rather than to help the commercial fishermen.

The conservationists heatedly said that the sport fisherman in the United States will become an "orphan," and a "step-child" if either plan is adopted. They foresee the cost of sport fishing doubling. They also foresee the destruction of several marine mammals such as the hair seal, walrus and Beluga whale if either plan is put into motion, because these mammals would come under the administration of the commercial fisheries people who consider the mammals no more than predators.

The solution, the conservationists pointed out, is not to reverse the progress made in the United States towards an integrated program of conservation but, rather, to tackle the commercial fisherman's plight at the roots. The economic ills besetting the commercial fisherman, they said, stem largely from "American foreign policy and reciprocal trade agreements which permit unrestricted imports of Japanese tuna and certain other foreign fishery products," and "over-fishing and depletion of the resources by the industry itself."

In a statement, the nine organizations said, "we have been and remain unalterably opposed to a separation of fisheries from wildlife. We have been and remain

unalterably opposed to a split between commercial fisheries and sport fisheries."

The statement was signed by the executive officers of the Citizens Committee on Natural Resources, the Forest Conservation Society of America, the National Parks Association, the National Wildlife Federation, the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Public Affairs Institute, the Sport Fishing Institute, the Wilderness Society and the Wildlife Management Institute.

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BIOLOGY

Tip-Toeing Rats Found in Africa

► RATS THAT WALK like men have been collected in the North African desert by Dr. Henry W. Setzer of the Smithsonian Institution.

Known as jerboas, the biped rats are seven to eight inches long and have long bushy tails. Ordinarily, they get around like kangaroos. For a living, the jerboas gather seeds after a heavy rain when the desert comes to blossom suddenly, then they store the seeds underground.

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MEDICINE

Protection for Arthritics

► EXISTENCE of a watch-dog committee to help protect arthritis sufferers from being exploited by quacks was announced by Dr. L. Maxwell Lockie of Buffalo at the American Rheumatism Association meeting in Chicago. This was the first public announcement of the committee.

The committee, set up by the association, works with the U. S. Food and Drug Administration. It gathers evidence required by law to develop a case that will hold up in the courts against a misbranded drug or device sold as a cure or a treatment for arthritis and rheumatism.

Members of the committee do this through controlled clinical evaluations to show by objective criteria that the products in question have no value.

"There is no cure for arthritis," Dr. Lockie said. "We doctors in the field of arthritis know of none. Every person with the disease should be very suspicious of any remedy or procedure that is advertised or represented as being a cure for the disease."

"Many new and worthwhile drugs do appear from time to time as a result of

● RADIO

Saturday, June 23, 1956, 1:45-2:00 p.m. EDT
"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the CBS Radio Network. Check your local CBS station.

Dr. Harold A. Edgerton, Richardson, Bellows, Henry & Co., Industrial Consultants, New York, will discuss "Picking People."

TECHNOLOGY

Combine Old and New Food Storage Methods

► THE WORLD'S OLDEST and newest methods for keeping food from spoiling have been combined, the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers meeting in Cincinnati was told.

Refrigeration and atomic radiation by gamma rays have been joined to preserve food by scientists at the University of Michigan, Dr. L. E. Brownell, supervisor of the University's fission products laboratory, reported. The new food storage method is called "high radio-pasteurization."

The use of high radio pasteurization, Dr. Brownell said, would mean a greater use of refrigeration in both the home and industry. Housewives, he said, might use an additional refrigerator solely for foods that are going to be kept for two to three months or longer.

Foods treated with refrigeration and radiation can be stored at temperatures of 40 degrees Fahrenheit, which would be cheaper than storage at home freezer temperatures. The treatment also eliminates the thawing period before cooking.

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extensive research in the field. But even these drugs, potent as some of them may be, are not cures for arthritis. At best, and when used properly by a physician, they will do little more than lessen the pain, stiffness, and discomfort associated with the disease."

Among the many examples of quack cures and bogus remedies, now out of business, listed by Dr. Lockie, were:

1. A pair of metal plates, one of copper and the other of zinc, to be worn inside a person's socks and which supposedly set up an electrical current that was to benefit the arthritis sufferer.

2. A packaged product of natural vegetation that on its label claimed it was good for rheumatic aches and pains. Analysis of the product proved it was nothing more than peat the promoter was digging from a peat bog near his home.

3. Mineral water sold at \$20 a gallon on the West Coast for arthritis treatment. Analysis proved it was a bit of the Pacific Ocean with a dash of potassium iodide.

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