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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SETON THOMPSON APPOINTED TO INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that Seton H. Thompson, Chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Branch of Alaska Fisheries, has been appointed by President Truman as one of the two United States members of the International Fisheries Commission.

Mr. Thompson succeeds Milton C. James who retired on March 31 as Assistant Director of the Service.

The International Fisheries Commission is responsible for the regulation of the halibut fishery of the North Pacific Ocean. It was established by a convention between the United States and Canada which was signed on March 2, 1923, and subsequently revised on May 9, 1930, and January 29, 1937. This convention was the first one in the history of the world designed to save a high seas fishery. The Commission is composed of two members appointed by the United States and two appointed by the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. Thompson has been associated with the Fish and Wildlife Service and its predecessor agency, the Bureau of Fisheries, since 1926. From 1929 to 1931 he was engaged in research on the life history of salmon and mollusks of Alaska, seeking methods to protect them. In 1931 he was promoted to the position of assistant chief of the Branch of Alaska Fisheries and served in that capacity until 1941 when he was called to active duty in the Navy. His military service was identified with naval ordnance almost exclusively. From 1944 to 1946 he was Commanding Officer of the Ordnance Supply Depot on Guam. In March 1946 he was released to inactive duty with the rank of Commander, and returned to his former position with the Service. In 1947 he became Chief of the Branch of Alaska Fisheries.

A native of Seattle, Washington, Mr. Thompson received his B. S. degree in 1927 and his M. S. in 1929 in Fisheries from the University of Washington.

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