

(EXCERPTS FROM RECORD OF DOCTOR ROSE'S INTERVIEWS)

Wednesday, March 25, 1925 - Washington, D. C.

Radcliffe, Mr. Lewis (Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Fisheries, in absence of  
and Mr. O'Malley)  
Rich, Mr. Willis F.

1. Mr. Rich has charge of the Bureau's scientific work. Biologists have done more or less scientific work on fisheries for a long time. It is only within very recent years, however, that scientists in this country have come to look at their work from the point of view of fisheries. That development is so recent that the work is at present altogether inadequate and relatively unorganized. Many workers are working in more or less isolation.
2. The Bureau has been devoting its attention in the field of science to a study of conditions on the banks, to a study of the oyster industry and some other related industries on the southern Atlantic seaboard, to a study of certain scientific problems in connection with fish propagation in inland waters, to a study of the salmon and related industries on the Pacific Coast, and to a study of the fisheries in the Great Lakes.
3. The conditions on the banks call for special study at this time. These important fishing grounds - perhaps the most important single region for this country - are being exploited at the present time by the U.S., Canada, New Foundland, England, Spain, Portugal. There is strong reason to believe that European exploitation of the banks will increase. There is marked depletion in the fisheries of the North Sea and Baltic. With this depletion, which under present conditions should be expected to continue - for with increased efficiency in fishing craft, one may reasonably expect craft from European countries to visit the banks on this side for operations - unless a scientific study be made of the conditions underlying the fishing resources of this field, we are not going to be in position to protect them. Very little is now being done in this direction. The one ship - "Albatross" - which the Bureau of Fisheries had had in use has recently been sold as a part of the general government program of economy.

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Messrs. Radcliffe and Rich, (Cont.)

4. The scientific men connected with the Bureau are quite conscious of the fact that oceanography should be an international undertaking, to be carried out properly. It would be extremely difficult for the Government Bureau to bring about proper international cooperation. The Bureau has found it difficult even to bring about cooperation on the part of all classes of workers in this country.

5. There is at present a voluntary association of men engaged in the field of fisheries. This association meets occasionally. Its membership includes representatives from the U.S., Canada, New Foundland, nominally from England, Spain and Portugal. The association has not undertaken any working program. Its activities up to this time have not gone beyond the talking stage. The Bureau will welcome any effort in the direction of national and international organization of scientific work in this field.