

Office distribution
8-11-45



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release To PM's, FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1945

A warning to the fishing industry against attempts to use the new insecticide, DDT, in fish processing plants without first consulting experts in its use was issued today by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

In spite of its apparent usefulness in improving sanitary conditions in such plants, DDT may have undesirable and even dangerous effects unless its use is properly controlled, Service experts declared.

Preliminary experiments indicate that DDT is toxic to both human beings and animals if taken by mouth; hence the contamination of food with the insecticide might have serious consequences.

Other points relative to the efficient use and possible effects of DDT when applied in food plants are not yet thoroughly understood, according to J. M. Lemon, Chief Technologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Apart from possible dangers attending its use, the insecticide must be applied properly to obtain maximum effect and prevent waste of material. Under certain conditions, DDT may lose its insecticidal properties in a very short time, Mr. Lemon said.

The Technological Section of the Fish and Wildlife Service now has under way a study of the use of DDT in fish processing houses, and preliminary experiments indicate that the material may be very useful to the industry, Mr. Lemon said that as soon as the Service has acquired sufficient information to guide the safe and effective use of DDT in fishery establishments, the information will be made available to processors and the public,

X X X