

pollution from water pollution and decay of coastal marshes. Catches of 18 species along the coast were said to have dropped nearly 50 percent from 1960 to 1965.

In the field of oceanography—as with the estuaries—proposals have been made leading to better resource management. But a department with responsibility for natural resources would in all probability have prevented much of the deterioration of the fish life of the Continental Shelf.

NEW DEPARTMENT WOULD HANDLE MAJOR RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Turning briefly to the provisions of S. 886, the bill in essence sets up a Department of Natural Resources and assigns to it all major Federal responsibilities having to do with water, power, land management, wildlife, outdoor recreation, minerals and fuels, ocean resources, and clean air.

The bill provides for a Secretary of Natural Resources and a Deputy Secretary. It provides for two Under Secretaries, one for water and one for land.

The jurisdiction of the Under Secretary for Water includes: the functions exercised by the Bureau of Reclamation; the civil works office might also be created to coordinate efforts of our other mineral resource agencies in development of the minerals in and under the ocean.

While I have not provided for further administrative division in the bill, it would appear logical to divide the responsibility of the Under Secretary for Land into four branches, each headed by an Assistant Secretary.

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management could report to an Assistant Secretary for Land Resources. The National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation could report to an Assistant Secretary for Recreation and Wildlife. The Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey, the Office of Coal Research, and the several other agencies in the Department of the Interior with responsibility in the fields of minerals and fuels could report to an Assistant Secretary for Minerals and Fuels. The fourth Assistant Secretary would supervise our air pollution abatement program.