

office files
1/11/55



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 1955

FISHERY ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP PRODUCT STANDARDS

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today announced a contract between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fisheries Institute to develop quality, condition, and grade standards for domestic fishery products. The contract provides for the expenditure of not more than \$30,000, the work to be completed within a year.

Under the contract, the Institute will conduct a research project to determine current marketing practices of packers and distributors of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish products. The Institute will then designate the products and areas requiring immediate attention; establish liaison between the fishing industry and the Fish and Wildlife Service; and form advisory groups composed of industry representatives.

Given a satisfactory set of voluntary standards, a system of inspections and certifications would be made available to interested members of the fishing industry and its affiliated interests. The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that this would result in uniformly higher quality products and more orderly markets.

The basic purpose of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act, which has made this standard program possible, is "to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce." Designed to strengthen the American commercial fishing industry as a whole, the legislation provides that an amount equal to 30 percent of duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products shall be transferred annually for three years from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. Expenditures for any one year may not exceed \$3,000,000.

x x x