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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Broad policy recommendations adopted by the American Fisheries Advisory Committee at its first session on April 28 and 29 have been submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The Committee recommended continuance of the program launched last year by the Fish and Wildlife Service after the 83d Congress passed the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act to promote increased production and marketing of domestic fishery products.

Continued emphasis on research and marketing activities in the Service program was urged. The Department's policy of contracting for as much research as possible by educational institutions and private research organizations was indorsed by the Committee.

The Committee after reviewing applications for allocations for Saltonstall-Kennedy funds in the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year beginning July 1, advised against committing substantial amounts for major construction projects.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis presided over the initial Advisory Committee session which was attended by 16 of the 19 members. He outlined the program of research and marketing development already underway with some \$2,500,000 of Saltonstall-Kennedy funds. He urged the Committee not to become entangled in detailed discussion of individual projects, but to recommend "broad boundaries" for the use of Saltonstall-Kennedy funds.

"It is my belief," Assistant Secretary Lewis said, "that the greatest good can be accomplished if we gather around the conference table as good partners to discuss with our operating officers--the experts of the Fish and Wildlife Service--the broad outlines of the objectives all of us want to reach. We shall expect you to speak your minds freely."

Senator Saltonstall of Massachusetts, co-author of the Act, urged the Committee to recommend a policy which will see the United States fishing industry go forward well prepared to meet competition from any source.

The Committee recommended that the following criteria be considered by the Department in passing on applications for Saltonstall-Kennedy projects:

- Degree of emergency or extent of distress.
- National scope or degree of application to more than local areas of problems.
- Extent of large scale capital investment.

Substantiality in value, volume and employment.
Extent to which fishery is affected by imports.
Extent to which results can be obtained in a reasonable time.
Relative need to fill gaps in knowledge.
Degree to which industry or States could do the work.
Relative need for the work and prospects for successful achievement.
Relation of costs to benefits.
Effect on balance among major categories of work.

The following members of the Committee were in attendance:

Harold R. Bassett, Salisbury, Maryland
Lawrence Calvert, Seattle, Washington
James S. Carlson, Boston, Massachusetts
Mark L. Edmunds, Garibaldi, Oregon
David H. Hart, Cape May, New Jersey
Leon S. Kenney, St. Petersburg, Florida
Donald P. Loker, Terminal Island, California
J. W. Mendenhall, Ketchikan, Alaska
J. Richards Nelson, Madison, Connecticut
Moses B. Pike, Eastport, Maine
H. F. Sahlman, Fernandina Beach, Florida
Arthur Sivertson, Duluth, Minnesota
Lawrence W. Strasburger, New Orleans, Louisiana
George R. Wallace, Morehead City, North Carolina
Earl B. Webster, Brownsville, Texas
Alphonse J. Wegmann, Pass Christian Isles, Mississippi

Three members, E. M. Concannon, Chicago, Illinois; Thomas F. Sandoz, Astoria, Oregon; and A. H. Mendonca, San Francisco, California, were unable to attend. The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for the early fall.

Designed to strengthen the American commercial fishing industry as a whole, the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act 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 million.

Some of the major projects already undertaken with funds made available by the Act are:

1. Studies to determine racial characteristics of salmon on the high seas.
2. Research on fluctuation of the California sardine.
3. Study of causes and control of toxic red tide off the Florida coast.
4. Development of voluntary Federal grades and standards for fishery products.
5. Development of chemical index and nutritive value of fish meal and development of new uses for fish oils.
6. Exploration of deep water fishing grounds in the North Atlantic.

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