



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### SECRETARY SEATON ALLOTS \$3,595,000 ADDITIONAL TO COMMERCIAL FISHERY STUDIES

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton has increased by \$3,595,000 the funds allotted for market, technological and biological research and for the exploration and development of American commercial fisheries. With the \$3,000,000 currently allotted for this work, the total now available is \$6,595,000.

Secretary Seaton's action was based upon provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 which increased the amount of money available to the Fish and Wildlife Service under the Saltonstall-Kennedy program to aid the domestic fishing industry.

Funds for this activity are provided from customs receipts on fishery products. Expenditure of \$6,595,000 now available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, will be under the direction of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

In some instances long range projects will be contracted with state, college, or private research organizations during this fiscal year but the work performed over a longer period.

Funds available through the Saltonstall-Kennedy sources are larger this fiscal year than normal because the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 permitted the use of some accrued receipts. In the future the amount of money available through this source will approximate \$4,500,000 per year.

The new allocations increased the amounts available for fishery biological studies in the commercial fishery field from \$1,376,500 to \$3,394,000, an addition of \$2,017,500.

Other commercial fishery studies, which include exploration and gear research, economic research, market reports, market development and education, and technological research, have been allotted \$2,814,000, an increase of \$1,395,500 over the initial amount granted. Miscellaneous items including administration, total \$387,000 under the new allotment, compared with \$205,000 previously.

The additional funds will help the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries begin work on the backlog of fishery problems which have been calling for attention for some years but for which funds were not available, Secretary Seaton said.

An allotment of \$630,000 will finance a three-year research program on tuna. Studies will be undertaken in the area fished by the Pacific Coast tuna men, a vast region north of the equator and extending for several hundred miles into the Pacific ocean.

This work will include research of hydrographic fronts, food prevalence under varying oceanic conditions, tuna and tuna bait fish behavior under changing conditions and numerous other items which will help technicians understand and forecast tuna abundance.

Coastal and offshore biological research was granted an additional \$1,009,500 making \$2,073,200 available for that purpose. Alaska salmon research will get \$389,600 of this money which will give a big impetus to research in that important fishery. Total available for the Alaska salmon research is \$572,600.

Projects include development of methods for more accurately predicting salmon runs and measuring escapement, studies of migration patterns of red and pink salmon and causes of pink salmon mortality during the fresh water phase of its life history. Nearly \$84,000 of the new money was earmarked for Pacific herring studies in Alaska and \$130,000 was allocated to study Alaska's king crab.

Because more biological data is needed on sea scallops, flounders, whiting and ocean perch, \$145,000 was added to the \$294,000 designated for the North Atlantic trawl fishery. North Pacific ocean fisheries got \$90,000; menhaden research got \$121,000, principally for work in the Gulf of Mexico; Atlantic striped bass work got \$20,000 added to \$32,000; and \$30,000 was added to the Gulf of Mexico expenditures for improvement of research facilities.

Oyster problems got the bulk of the extra shellfish research money, \$108,000. Under the previous allocation, the New England, Gulf and Middle Atlantic oyster fisheries each had \$25,000 for research matters. \$75,000 was allocated for new blue crab research. The total now set up for shellfish research is \$258,000.

Inland commercial fisheries, principally the Great Lakes, which had no Saltonstall-Kennedy research funds originally, received \$195,000 of the new funds.

Of the \$1,395,500 added to commercial fishery studies, exploratory fishing and gear research got \$453,300; technological studies, \$386,700; fishery statistics, \$50,500; economic studies, \$104,000; market development and education, \$300,000, and market news, \$101,000. Total available for these various studies from fiscal 1957 funds is now \$2,814,000.

The added exploratory fishing and gear research funds will permit the Service to expedite and expand its survey of resources available to domestic vessels. More adequate information on the extent and character of potential resources and the best means of harvesting them will be sought.

The new money will permit more extensive exploration work in the North Atlantic for trawl fish and scallops. shrimp in the South Atlantic, bottom or

midwater varieties in the North Pacific, as well as more thorough exploration of shrimp and other potentialities in the Gulf and Caribbean. The total amount available for exploration and gear research is \$757,300.

Research in fishery technology has been along two major lines. One is to devise ways and means of retaining fish freshness for a longer period to give inland America an opportunity to enjoy "ocean fresh" fish and fish products. The other is to devise new uses for industrial products such as fishmeal and fish oil.

To the \$459,000 originally set aside for this work has been added \$386,700 to make a total of \$845,700. Nearly \$80,000 of the new funds have been allocated to the new laboratory under construction in Mississippi for work on Gulf technological problems. This is in addition to \$40,000 now available for Gulf oyster processing and transporting problems.

About \$50,000 has been added to the \$127,000 designated for development of standards for prepared fishery products, and \$100,000 has been allotted for developing improvements in blue crab processing techniques to meet new standards.

Eighty thousand dollars has been provided for radiation preservation research on fishery products as part of the President's Atoms for Peace programs; \$50,000 for extending tuna quality studies to the processing stages; and smaller amounts for development of a chemical index for fishmeal and for new uses for fish oil and meal.

Economic studies, especially on fish consumption, have been allotted \$242,000 under the revised plan, of which \$104,000 represents added funds. For the promotion of the use of domestic fishery products by marketing studies and educational means \$300,000 was added to the original \$317,500.

The bulk of the added money--\$250,000--is for market development activities, including special marketing programs, and intensive studies of market patterns. Because the Nation is only partially covered with respect to school-lunch and similar programs the balance will be devoted to filling these gaps.

The additional funds also permit an opportunity to strengthen the market news service which the Service maintains in the major fish marketing areas of the Nation. For this work \$101,000 of the additional funds was allocated.

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