



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FISHERY BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY AWARDED

Contract for the construction of a fishery biological laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts, and for the razing of present structures, has been awarded to the Mishara Construction Co. Inc., of Brighton, Mass., the Department of the Interior announced today. The contract price is \$371,100. There were 16 firms bidding on the project.

According to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the new building will be a three-story, brick and masonry, fire-resistant structure, 44 feet by 190 feet, providing 25,000 feet of floor space. It will replace the present laboratory which was constructed more than 70 years ago and which is not only old and obsolete but has suffered extensive damage from hurricanes in recent years.

Congress has appropriated \$930,000 for the complete reconstruction of the Woods Hole installation. Future plans include a flexible arrangement of plumbing to provide sea water under controlled conditions of temperature and ionization so that natural water conditions in the North Atlantic can be duplicated in the laboratory. Estimates of the cost of the building and complete equipment approximate \$570,000.

Plans for a second unit to be constructed later will include a new aquarium which would be used for public educational and scientific purposes. In addition provision will be made for the necessary shops, garages and storage space.

The Woods Hole laboratory is the focal point for the biological study of the commercial fishes of the Northwest Atlantic. The work of this laboratory has assumed increased importance in the implementation of the work of the international Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. Research at Woods Hole has resulted in the use of nets with meshes large enough to permit noncommercial-size fish to escape and be available at future times.

The projects over the years have covered a wide range of fishery problems. Among future research projects are studies on the difficulties of survival faced by young fish, chemical and biological aspects of sea water, continuation of the net studies, microbiological work, migration and spawning studies and sundry other projects on the various species of commercially important fishes in the New England fisheries.

During the period of constructing and equipping the new laboratory the research program is being conducted from temporary quarters near Falmouth, Mass.

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