



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR PLANS BROAD ANALYSIS OF GROUND FISH INDUSTRY PROBLEMS

A study to determine the underlying economic and technological factors which dictate the long-term competitive status of the New England groundfish industry is being made by the Department of the Interior.

A contract to make this analysis has been awarded to Boston College by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The contract price is \$31,700. Boston College's Bureau of Business Research will conduct the study.

The work will necessarily involve collection and compilation of comparative cost data. However, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is asking that the study "go behind such cost data" and establish, by basic economic and sociological analysis, the reason for cost differentials. The Bureau wants to have explored the present and future alternative economic opportunities available to capital and labor, the degree of dependence of the area upon the fishery, the growth of other industries and their demands upon investment capital and labor supply and the effect of changes in social habits.

Among the factors which will be evaluated are the cost of production, and the availability of the groundfish resources; the labor market; living standards; management of capital in terms of types of vessels and equipment; primary marketing arrangements; and the role of governmental bodies in terms of capital grants, subsidies, price supports, research and tariffs. The Bureau of Business Research of Boston College expects to assemble and evaluate available source material influencing the general economic and social trends and to compile cost of production data from published or unpublished material already available.

A secondary feature of the contract with Boston College is to make a limited evaluation of the sea scallop fishery in relation to its general economic background.

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