UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE McMillan or Flanagan - Interior 5634

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INTERIOR ISSUES PROSPECTUS ON ALASKA FUR SEAL PROCESSING

The Department of the Interior today issued an "Invitation for Proposals" and "Prospectus" for processing and selling Alaska sealskins for the account of the United States Government.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Department of the Interior manages the fur seal herd on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea. The Bureau expects that there will be harvested each year some 90,000 surplus animals from which the luxury fur known as Alaska fur seal is prepared. Under the terms of a treaty with Canada, Japan, and the U.S.S.R., 70 percent of the harvest is retained by the United States and 15 percent is delivered to each of the governments of Japan and Canada.

The Department of the Interior announced several months ago that it had canceled its contract with the Fouke Fur Company of St. Louis, Mo., for processing and selling Alaska sealskins. The "Invitation for Proposals" and "Prospectus" are being issued to acquaint all persons and firms interested in providing services for processing and/or selling U. S. Government Alaska sealskins with requirements and conditions under which such operations will be conducted. The deadline for submitting proposals is September 30, 1962.

Copies of the "Invitation for Proposals" and "Prospectus" may be obtained from the Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

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