UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW STEEL TRAWLER JOINS BOSTON FISHING FLEET

The Boston fishing fleet has its first big steel trawler in more than a dozen years, the Department of the Interior reported today.

Construction of the modern new vessel was aided by a Federal construction grant and mortgage loan.

The 124-foot trawler Massachusetts was delivered to its owner, the Boston Fishing Boat Company, on December 12. It was built by the Sturgeon Bay Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The Boston Fishing Boat Company is a new corporation headed by Thomas A. Fulham, associated with Fulham Brothers of Boston and the Boston Fish Market Corporation. Twenty-eight other firms and individuals long connected with the ownership or servicing of fishing vessels hold shares in the company.

The cost of the vessel was approximately $454,000. The Federal grant made through a program operated by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service was approximately $151,300. The John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company which financed much of the construction cost is now protected by Federal mortgage insurance for nearly $225,000.

Massachusetts will be used in the harvest of groundfish which include cod, haddock, hake, cusk, pollock and ocean perch. It has a carrying capacity of about 250,000 pounds. The usual crew is about 17. Customary fishing cruises last seven to nine days in the summer and as long as 12 days in the winter.

An identical vessel is under construction in the same shipyard for the Charlevoix Transit Company, a Wisconsin firm which operates out of Boston. This vessel also being partly financed by the Federal fishing vessel grant program, will be ready next spring. It will be another modern addition to the older groundfish fleet which because of obsolescence is suffering from the competition of newer vessels operating out of foreign countries.

Under the fishing vessel construction grant program up to one-third of the cost of construction of a fishing vessel can be financed by the Federal Government. This is to offset the lower construction costs on vessels built in non-American shipyards. Mortgage insurance and a program of loans to American fishing vessels are other programs designed to help the American fisherman.

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