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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Interior 5634

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INTERIOR ISSUES BOOKLET ON FISHERY COOPERATIVES

A 57-page booklet explaining that many of America's commercial fishermen can better meet their competitive markets through the organization of fishery cooperatives has been issued by the Department of the Interior.

The Department pointed out that the United States has approximately 100 fishery cooperatives with about 11,000 members and that the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, provides information to interested fishermen wishing to organize cooperatives to provide efficient purchasing and marketing services to member fishermen.

The new booklet presents the aims and principles of fishery cooperatives and outlines procedures for organizing and operating them. It explains the Fishery Cooperative Marketing Act, gives a resume of the legal requirements for organizing cooperatives under the various State laws, procedures for incorporation, tax liability, and other important considerations, such as responsibilities of officers and members.

It explains how the expenses of the fisherman can be cut by cooperative buying of supplies in discount quantities, by cooperative operation of facilities for quality control, transportation services, processing, freezing, icing, and packing. Cooperative procurement of fishing vessel equipment and fishing gear is discussed. Explained in detail are cooperative marketing methods and cooperative action in collective bargaining for the sale of the products to fish processors.

Copies of the booklet, "Organizing and Operating Fishery Cooperatives in the United States," Circular 155, are available from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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