UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RELEASES NEW MOTION PICTURE

A sound-color motion picture on the economic and recreational importance of the Chesapeake Bay soon will be available for free showing to the public.

This was announced simultaneously today by the Department of the Interior and the cooperating agencies, the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries, and the Virginia Commission of Fisheries.

The 28-minute film, "Watermen of Chesapeake," shows the impact of the Bay and its resources on a large segment of America, from early days to the present.

The picture portrays the activities of fishermen in their harvest of clams, oysters, crab, flounder, and other marine food and shows the importance of the Chesapeake Bay to such sports as duck hunting, water skiing, and boating.

The Department said production of the film was possible only because of the assistance of the Maryland and Virginia fishery agencies.

Highlights of the film include the operation of America's only sail-powered oyster fleet, the widely known crab derby at Crisfield, Md., and the penning and auctioning of the world-famous wild ponies at Chincoteague, Va. There also are visits to Tangier and Smith Islands, where traces of the old English language still remain.

It has been cleared for public service telecasting.

Production of "Watermen of Chesapeake" was supervised by the Department's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Prints of the 16-millimeter film soon will be available on a free-loan basis at Bureau of Commercial Fisheries film libraries in many parts of the country. Inquiries should be sent the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Film Library, Department of the Interior, Box 128, College Park, Maryland 20740.

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