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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Evans - 343-5634

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FISHERIES CENTER DESIGN PROGRAM BEING PREPARED

The architectural firm of Matthews & Associates of Bryan, Tex., has been selected to prepare a design program for the National Fisheries Center and Aquarium in Washington, D. C., the General Services Administration and Department of the Interior have announced.

GSA's Public Buildings Service negotiated a $50,000 contract with the Texas firm to prepare proposals for allocating facilities within the Fisheries Center for convenience of public viewing and operations.

Completion of the design program is expected by June. After approval, the program would serve as the basis for architectural design of the Fisheries Center. The design will be done by two firms selected earlier, Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles, Calif., and John J. Flad and Associates, Madison, Wis.

The design program will include recommendations for traffic access to the Aquarium Site in East Potomac Park, parking accommodations, and other aspects of site development.

The program also will make recommendations for the placement of facilities according to their relationship within the Center, such as the type and location of display areas, public viewing facilities, research laboratories, and feed rooms and water supply for aquatic animals.

The National Fisheries Center will cost an estimated $10 million and show about 1,300 different kinds of aquatic life. Completion of the Center is expected in late 1967.

Legislation which authorized the Fisheries Center requires that it be self-supporting. Construction and operations costs are to be paid from an admission charge to all except supervised youth groups.

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