UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

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FISHING VESSEL CONSTRUCTION SUBSIDY REGULATIONS ADOPTED

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today that certain regulations have been adopted under the United States Fishing Fleet Improvement Act (P.L. 88-498).

Part 256 of the regulation, which has been published in the Federal Register, says a commercial fisherman can, under certain conditions, be reimbursed by the United States Government for the difference between the cost of building a vessel in United States shipyards rather than in less-expensive foreign shipyards. The amount of the subsidy cannot exceed one-half the United States cost.

Eligibility is restricted to vessels of advanced design, capable of fishing in expanded areas (fishing grounds not usually fished by the majority of vessels working in a particular fishery), equipped with newly developed gear, and scheduled for operation in a fishery where such use will not cause economic hardship to other operators now in that fishery.

The regulations provide for hearings on each contract under the new law. Such hearings will give persons who feel they will suffer economically and opportunity to present evidence of potential economic losses.

The United States Fishing Fleet Improvement Act authorized the appropriation of $10 million annually for the construction subsidy program. For the current fiscal year, Congress has appropriated $2½ million to start the program.

A proposal by the Department to adopt regulations under the new law was carried in the Federal Register in October and interested persons were given 30 days to comment. Several changes were made as a result of comments received.

Further information regarding the program and application forms may be obtained from a Regional Director of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, at any of the following addresses: 1319 Second Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101; Don Ce-Sar Federal Center, Post Office Box 6245, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida 33736; Post Office Building, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930; 5 Research Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103; First Floor, Mendenhall Apartment Building, P. O. Box 2481, Juneau, Alaska 99801; 101 Seaside Avenue, Terminal Island, California 90731.

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