UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

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FIRST APPLICATION RECEIVED UNDER NEW FISHING FLEET IMPROVEMENT ACT

The Department of the Interior announced today that the first application under the new Federal law to assist commercial fishermen in the construction of modern fishing vessels has been received from the firm, Boat Pat-San-Marie, Inc., New Bedford, Mass.

The new law--The Fishing Fleet Improvement Act of 1964--provides financial assistance to help offset the higher cost of vessel construction in United States shipyards compared to a representative foreign shipyard. The maximum assistance cannot exceed 50 percent of the domestic cost.

The Massachusetts firm proposes to order from a United States builder a 100-foot all-steel vessel to fish for scallops, groundfish, and flounders.

As required under the law, a notice is being published in the Federal Register that a hearing on the application has been scheduled for January 20, 1965. It will be at the Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D. C. Anyone desiring to intervene at the hearing must file a petition with the Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Washington, D. C. 20240, before January 10.

To qualify for assistance under the Fishing Fleet Improvement Act a proposed vessel must be of advanced design, capable of fishing in expanded areas, and be equipped with newly developed gear. The vessel may not operate in a fishery if such operation would cause economic hardship to efficient vessel operators already operating in that fishery.

Hearings are announced on each application to allow any person who feels he may suffer economic hardship to present evidence demonstrating how he would be injured if the financial assistance were granted.

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