

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ news release

Guinan - 343-5634

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT INVITES NEW PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVED PROCESSING
TECHNIQUES OF ALASKA SEALSKINS

Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries manages and harvests the fur seals of the Pribilof Islands, 300 miles off the Alaskan coast in the Bering Sea, and cures the sealskins before shipping them to a processor.

Under an existing contract, seven-eighths of the harvests through 1967 are delivered to the Fouke Fur Company, Greenville, S. C. for processing and sale. The remainder of the sealskins is reserved for experimental processing contracts with other interested firms.

Each year the United States harvests about 60,000 surplus young animals, of which about 45,000 processed pelts are sold for the United States account. Under the terms of the North Pacific Fur Seal Convention of 1957, Canada and Japan each receive 15 percent of the annual separate harvests of the United States and the Soviet Union. Alaska receives 70 percent of the net proceeds from the semiannual fur seal auctions of United States sealskins.

Other seals of the same species breed at rookeries on islands off the coasts of Russia and Japan. These rookeries are administered by the Soviet Union.

Further information concerning the latest invitation may be obtained from the Division of Resource Development, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

x x x