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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SHRIMP INDUSTRY RESEARCH PLANS COMPLETED

The first research project to be conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service under the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act (Public Law 466, 83rd Congress) will be an economic study of the shrimp industry, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

The project's main emphasis, the Secretary said, will be on finding better ways of distributing and marketing shrimp. Recommendations to this effect were made recently by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

To initiate the work, the Fish and Wildlife Service has enlisted the services of Charles A. Carter, formerly with the United States Tariff Commission and an outstanding expert in fisheries matters. Contracts with leading marketing research firms also are being let. Independent research by the Fish and Wildlife Service's branch of commercial fisheries also will be conducted.

The domestic shrimp industry produces about 225,000,000 pounds of shrimp annually, valued at around \$50,000,000. The industry provides a livelihood for approximately 15,000 fishermen and contributes to the income of another 15,000 employees in shore establishments numbering around 600. Shrimp are distributed by about 1,500 wholesale firms and 170,000 retail stores.

The basic purpose of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Act is "to promote the free flow of domestically produced fishery products in commerce." Designed to strengthen the American commercial fishing industry as a whole, the legislation provides that an amount equal to 30 percent of duties collected under the customs laws on fishery products shall be transferred annually for three years from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. Expenditures for any one year may not exceed \$3,000,000.

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