



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### INTERIOR BEGINS INSPECTION OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

Inspection and grading services for fishery products became the responsibility of the Department of the Interior on July 1, 1958, Assistant Secretary Ross Leffler announced today.

These responsibilities were recently transferred from the Department of Agriculture by the Bureau of the Budget in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956. Regulations to govern the grading and inspection services as a function of the Department of the Interior were adopted by the Department on June 30.

Inspection and grading services are available on a fee basis to processors who meet the existing voluntary Federal standards of quality for fishery products. The standards are devised by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and were previously made effective by the Department of Agriculture. After July 1, promulgation of voluntary United States standards for fishery products will also be made by the Department of the Interior. Standards in effect at present are for fish sticks, fish blocks from which the sticks are cut, and frozen raw breaded shrimp. Inspection services are also available to assure wholesomeness of the product and conformity to written specifications for fishery products not presently covered by established standards.

Fishery products labels referring to the Department of Agriculture inspection services will be approved by the Department of the Interior for continued use until the supply is exhausted. The Federal shield will continue to be the background for the quality label after the Department of the Interior undertakes the service. There will be no essential change in the label declarations nor in the operations of the inspection and certification service.

Ten employees of the Department of Agriculture who have been engaged in fishery products inspection will be transferred to the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries which will reassign them to their posts in the New England States.

An additional inspection corps of six persons is getting the specialized training necessary to perform this service. They will be assigned where needed, mostly in the South Atlantic and Gulf States.

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