



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### INTERIOR ENDORSES FEDERAL AID TO COMMERCIAL FISHERY STATES

A proposal of Federal aid to States with commercial fisheries was endorsed today by the Department of the Interior.

In a letter to Chairman Warren G. Magnuson of the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, Assistant Secretary John A. Carver, Jr., endorsed the objective of Senate Bill 1230 but recommended several amendments. Most of these amendments would establish a policy of State matching funds, somewhat on the order of the existing Federal aid to States for sport fish restoration.

Under the Department's proposal, an amount equal to 30 percent of the customs duties on fishery products (\$4 to \$6 million) would be available as grants to colleges or research institutions and as Federal aid to States having commercial fisheries. The Department of the Interior would distribute one-third of this amount to educational and research institutions for fishery studies and for training personnel. The Department would distribute the remaining two-thirds to States with commercial fisheries.

The Department's report declared that many serious problems face the commercial fishing industry and recommended that the Government give aid to States in meeting these problems either under the fiscal procedures set forth in the bill or by direct appropriations.

The report stated that "in addition to Federal research, there is need to encourage and strengthen State fishery research, rehabilitation, and development programs, as set forth in this bill, in those States where our domestic fishing industry is active. State activities of this kind complement the fishery activities this Department is carrying forward. Certain phases of fishery research and rehabilitation are most susceptible of State management. Adequate programs of State and Federal research will be mutually beneficial in promoting the Nation's commercial fisheries."

This proposal would not affect the present Saltonstall-Kennedy program for the betterment of the domestic fishing industry which is also financed by annual amounts equal to 30 percent of the customs duties on fishery products.

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