

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

***** news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR OPENS EMERGENCY FISHERY LOAN OFFICE IN ALASKA

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced that the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is opening an emergency office in Kodiak, Alaska, to arrange for loans to fishing vessel owners in the Kodiak area whose vessels or fishing gear were lost or damaged during the recent earthquake.

The action follows a recommendation by Under Secretary of the Interior James K. Carr who has been on an inspection trip of the disaster area. Secretary Carr heads a special Interior Department Task Force to aid in recovery operations.

C. E. Peterson, Chief of the Branch of Loans and Grants, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Washington, D. C., will be in charge of the office, which will be open for business by April 11. Arrangements are being made for immediate processing of loan applications so that the vessels can be made ready for the coming fishing season. The Bureau's Alaska loan office in Juneau will also receive applications for priority action. Offices will also be set up in other localities if conditions require them.

This emergency action is being taken under the Secretary's authority to operate a fisheries loan program which permits loans for financing and refinancing operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and equipment of fishing vessels and gear.

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