UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Commercial Fisheries
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

Guinan 343-38701

For Release June 10, 1966

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSES REGULATIONS TO START NEW ANADROMOUS FISHERIES PROGRAM

The Department of the Interior today announced proposed regulations to govern a new Federal program to conserve and develop the Nation's anadromous fishery resources. Anadromous fish, such as striped bass, salmon, and shad, live in the ocean and return to fresh water to spawn. The proposed rules are being published in the Federal Register.

The Anadromous Fish Act, passed in October, 1965, provides funds for States and other non-Federal interests to finance up to 50 percent of the cost of projects such as stream improvement and construction of fishways, spawning channels, hatcheries, and research.

Thirty-one States having anadromous fishery resources, including Coastal States and those bordering the Great Lakes, are eligible for funds under the new program. The regulations spell out requirements for loan eligibility and specify that all research must be coordinated to avoid costly duplication.

Stanley A. Cain, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said the Anadromous Fish Act will be administered jointly by Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. He said cooperative administration is desirable because the legislation concerns both commercial and sport fishermen.

Funds to launch the program have just been authorized by Congress. For Fiscal Year 1967, which begins July 1, 1966, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife each will have $2.5 million for loans among the 31 eligible states. A ceiling of $1 million has been placed on the amount that can be granted in any one year to a single state.

The Anadromous Fish Act authorizes appropriation of $25 million through June 30, 1970.

Anyone desiring to comment on the proposed regulations may do so within 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. Comments may be addressed to either the Director, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, or the Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

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