

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

news release

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SOVIET FISHERY EXPERTS TO VISIT U.S.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced today that a delegation of four fishery scientists and administrators from the Soviet Union will be in the United States for 12 days to inspect fish facilities in this country.

The Secretary said that arrangements for this exchange conform to the terms of "The Agreement on Exchanges and Cooperation with the U.S.S.R. for 1972-73." "This is an example of the growing cooperation of the world's technological powers in matters of environmental concern," Secretary Morton said.

"Providing adequate protection for fish has become an important consideration of all water use developments in both countries, and to achieve a more useful exchange of knowledge in this particular field will require continued efforts by Soviet and American scientists," the Secretary added. He announced that the Soviets will meet with high-ranking officials of his Department on August 27 at the beginning of their tour.

Accompanying the Soviets will be two officials of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service: Lynn Hutchens, who heads the anadromous fish conservation program in the Washington office, and Ben Rizzo, hydraulic engineer in its Boston regional office. An interpreter is being supplied by the State Department.

After the Washington stop, the group will fly to San Francisco. From there the members will travel north, winding up the official visit in Portland, Ore., on September 5. Several stops at Federal and State fish screen facilities, spawning channels, and laboratories in the Pacific Northwest are on the agenda.

The visit reciprocates a trip made to the Soviet Union by four American fishery scientists of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service in May. Stops were made at fishery facilities in five locations, including Moscow and Leningrad.

The exchanges may lead to a U.S.-U.S.S.R. seminar within the coming year to discuss fish protective devices and further mutual exchange of information.