

ISEGR Announces Major Study Of Alaska's Fisheries Resources

Plans for a major study of Alaska's fisheries resources were announced last week by Victor Fischer, director of the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research.

The \$127,000 year-long study is financed by a \$97,000 grant from the Economic Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The additional \$30,000 consists of \$15,000 each from the State of Alaska and from the institute.

"The purpose of the study is to examine and analyze the potential contribution to Alaska's economic development of the fisheries resources in Alaskan waters and the adjacent high seas," Fischer explained.

Fischer stressed that the project will be carried out in collaboration with all concerned state and federal agencies working in conjunction with all segments of the fishing industry.

"The study has several primary objectives," Fischer said. "We first want to describe the fisheries resources in detail, including information on the geographical and seasonal abundance of 12 major species groups.

"Market potential for each group will then be assessed in terms of the domestic and international demand for each, with projections of any foreseeable demand. The prevailing technology of catching and processing will be described, together with the outstanding features of transportation and distribution."

Fischer said the next major step would be to describe and assess the present organization, physical plant, and equipment of the fishing and processing industries and marketing institutions in Alaska and else-

"We also hope to describe the social and economic characteristics and development problems of Alaska communities dependent on, or potentially benefiting from the development of, fisheries resources," Fischer said.

"We then hope to set forth alternative sets of goals for fisheries-related economic development in Alaska, to examine alternative development strategies for achieving these goals, and to develop appropriate conclusions and recommendations.

"A review committee to include broad government and industry participation is being set up," Fischer said. "The committee will include industry advisors recruited from all aspects of the industry and from the staffs of state and federal agencies concerned with fisheries and with economic development."

Several nationally known fisheries experts will participate in the project.

These include Clive Southey, a fisheries economist now at the University of British Columbia;

Hiroshi Kasahara of the United Nations Development Programme; Ralph W. Johnson, professor of law, James A. Crutchfield, professor of economics, Richard A. Cooley, associate professor of geography, all of the University of Washington; and Anthony D. Scott, professor of economics at the University of British Columbia.

Additional technical personnel will be selected in consultation with the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.