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**Farm  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **USDA Grants Assistance to Washington and Alaska Salmon Fishermen Under Trade Adjustment Assistance Program**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service has announced that salmon fishermen, including Oregon fishermen who fish in Washington and Alaska may now apply for benefits under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program.

Under TAA for Farmers, USDA provides technical assistance and cash benefits to producers if an increase in imports of a like commodity has contributed importantly to a decline in price and a loss of income.

After receiving petitions from the United Fishermen of Alaska and the Puget Sound Salmon Commission, USDA investigated market conditions for Pacific salmon. The Foreign Agricultural Service determined that increased imports of frozen salmon fillets contributed importantly to a decline in the landed prices for whole salmon in Washington by an average of 32.6 percent and 34.6 percent in Alaska during marketing year 2002 (January-December), when compared with the previous 5-year average.

USDA will provide technical assistance to producers, details of which will be announced later. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be accepting applications and issuing payments. Salmon fishermen may receive 3 cents per pound for salmon landed in Alaska during 2002, and 5.6 cents per pound for salmon landed in Washington during 2002.

Salmon fishermen may obtain a TAA application (FSA-229) from <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>, or from their local Farm Service Agency Service Center.

Fishermen have until January 20, 2004, to submit their applications to FSA. After they submit their completed applications, technical assistance and training will begin as soon as possible. Financial payment will not be disbursed until after applications are certified.

For further information or an application for this program, please contact Jim Worledge at the Tillamook/Clatsop County Farm Service Agency, 6415 Signal Street, Tillamook, Oregon 97141 or call (503) 842-2848 ext 2, or by e-mail at [jim.worledge@or.usda.gov](mailto:jim.worledge@or.usda.gov)