

# Senate approves funding for Native medical center

The U.S. Senate recently passed the Supplemental Appropriations Bill, which includes funding for the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage and a national seafood marketing council, Sen. Ted Stevens said.

The bill contains \$750,000 for start-up costs for the National Fisheries Marketing Council. The council was created by legislation introduced by Stevens and passed by Congress last year.

The funds will be used to hire an executive director and other staff, open an administrative office and begin operations.

"The council will put the seafood industry on equal footing with the dairy, beef, citrus and other industries that benefit from similar councils," Stevens said. "It is designed to increase domestic markets for seafood and bring to the American public a better understanding of the health benefits of fish."

Also included in the bill is a provi-

sion which prevents the Indian Health Service from redirecting \$4.5 million in funds appropriated last year for the Alaska Native Medical Center. The Fiscal Year 1988 budget would have reprogrammed the funds, which were intended for design and planning of the Anchorage facility and used the money for other IHS activities.

Another provision directs the Bureau of Indian Affairs to delay certain actions until Congress has the opportunity to review them.

For example, the BIA would not be allowed to cap the amount of administrative costs tribal organizations can charge the federal government for implementing BIA programs.

The BIA is considering a cap of 15 percent, which is lower than the figure currently allowed tribal organizations.

Under the bill, the National Park Service is directed to retain a fish ladder at Brooks River Falls in Katmai National Monument.