

# Bill takes aim at plastics

The disposal of all plastics into the sea from ships would be prohibited under legislation introduced in the Senate recently by Sen. Ted Stevens.

"Anyone who enjoys or benefits from America's coastal and marine resources can appreciate the need to address the marine plastic debris problem," Stevens said.

"In Alaska, even on the most remote beaches one can find plastic debris," he added. "Plastic nets, pellets and six-pack harnesses are common sights. These items are not

only unsightly, but extremely dangerous to man and wildlife."

Stevens said an increasingly serious problem is posed by the growing drift-net fisheries of Japan, Republic of Korea and Taiwan in the North Pacific Ocean.

"It is estimated that over 1,000 miles of plastic driftnet is lost in the waters of the North Pacific every year," Stevens said. "These nets will persist for years continuing to entangle and destroy marine mammals, birds and fish."