Meetings target fisheries industry

Congressmen from Alaska and Washington planned to host conferences in Anchorage Saturday and Seattle today to discuss several critical issues currently facing the North

Pacific fisheries industry.

Congressman Don Young of Alaska and Congressmen Don Bonker, Mike Lowry and John Miller of Washington planned to chair the two Conferences on North Pacific Fisheries Cooperation. They planned to examine issues affecting the regional fishing economy—from the resource itself to harvesting, processing, financing and marketing—and to explore ways to strengthen cooperative efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

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Calio to speak at events

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Dr. Anthony Calio, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was scheduled to be the function speaker at both events. Other speakers were to include industry representatives and government leaders.

"The fishing industry is a vital component of the economics of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest." Young said. "My colleagues and I are chairing this conference in an effort to explore ways in which government and the fishing industry can cooperate to manage the North Pacific fishery to its fullest extent."

Miller pointed out that the fishing industry is one of the largest employers in Washington, with one company alone providing more than 600 jobs.

"The world is beating a path to our fisheries and, more than ever before, American fishermen and American businesses are reaping the direct benefits of this growth," he said.

He also stressed that coordination and cooperation is needed between the private and public sectors.