

Stevens firm on Beaufort sale opposition

U.S. Senator Ted Stevens, submitting a Sunday Washington Post article on the proposed Beaufort Sea oil lease sale for publication in the October 22 Congressional Record, has repeated his concern that the sale may adversely impact the traditional way of life of arctic slope Eskimos.

In remarks from the Senate floor, Stevens stated, "Today, it is the Interior Department of

the United States that is actively and aggressively pursuing the leasing of Beaufort Sea tracts for exploratory drilling. I question whether this is an environmentally sound or wise move."

Stevens pointed out that the Post article contains an acknowledgement from a U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report that little hope exists for oil spills to be contained in arctic waters.

"I intend to continue to urge

the President and the Interior Department to allow exploration of Alaska's on-shore resources where there is technology that is already developed to allow that exploration to go forward in a safe manner," Stevens said.

The Alaska senator added, "Nowhere else in the world would the drilling offshore take place then the resident people object so strenuously. I hope that both the Interior Depart-

ment and our own State government will listen to the pleas that are coming from the Arctic

Slope, from the Eskimo people there, to be careful with the development of the Beaufort Sea."