

\$6.1 million contract awarded for Pribilofs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a \$6.1 million contract on Dec. 29 to dredge St. George harbor navigational channels deep enough to serve commercial vessels, according to the Corps.

Wanting to establish an economy without fur sealing, the Pribilof Island city of St. George joined the Corps in signing a local cooperation agreement six days earlier, pledging to share the contract cost.

Deepening the existing breakwater-protected harbor is the latest step in St. George's efforts to develop a fishing fleet service industry.

The contractor, J. E. McAmis Inc., of Chico, Calif., will blast and dredge 176,500 cubic yards of rock and sand to deepen the harbor's entrance channel and maneuvering basin to 20 feet below low tide. St. George constructed the partially completed eight-acre harbor with state funds in 1987.

St. George raised the \$3 million in local matching funds that were required for Corps participation in the project, in part, from loans by three island entities, the St. George Traditional Council, the St. George Tanaq Corp. and the St. George Trust, as well as a loan from the Farmer's Home Administration.