

Bottomfish Study Completed

Gov. Jay Hammond has announced completion of a study conducted by the Department of Labor for the Governor's bottomfish development office. According to Jim Edenso, Gov. Hammond's bottomfish coordinator, the study says 71 percent of the fishermen say they need information on bottomfish gear and how to use it. "We have

conducted five gear demonstration workshops already in 1980 alone," Edenso said.

The second highest priority uncovered by the survey shows sixty five percent of the fishermen list marketing as the most important requirement to develop the state's bottomfish potential.

"We have been trying to develop marketing programs for some time, but the processors have resisted the state's involvement in marketing, perhaps for good reasons, philosophically" Edenso said. "But realistically, we know, as the fishermen know, market development is the key," he added. He is beginning a major market study for whitefish in the lower 48, in conjunction with the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association.

The third highest priority, say Alaska's potential bottomfishermen, is financing. Sixty-three percent of the respondents hold it most important. "This coincides with our support for creation of the Commercial Fishing and Agricultural Bank, the Alaska Renewable Resources Corporation, the Alaska Industrial Development Authority, and for revising the Commercial

Fishing Revolving Loan program to enable fishermen to purchase

gear, vessels and permits," Edenso maintains.

Entitled "The Alaska Fisherman's Survey", questionnaires were mailed to 4,000 vessel license holders, and more than 1,500 responded.