

Walter Puzzles Folks But He's Identified

FAIRBANKS — A strange looking fish nicknamed "Walter," whose identity has stumped marine biologists, has been identified by Dr. James E. Morrow, professor of zoology at the University of Alaska here.

Walter was scooped up by mistake from the ocean depths last month in a tanner crab pot operated by Martin Goresen, a Seward fisherman in Two Arm Bay between Seward and Homer. His identity had stumped marine biologists.

Morrow, a noted specialist in prehistoric life study, traveled to Anchorage Dec. 5 to view Walter and meet with Yvon Van Driessche, Walter's keeper and operator of the Alaska Black Dolphins Diving School.

He identified the fish, with a 90 per cent certainty, as a polkadot snail fish, *Liparis cyclostig-*

ma. Walter is probably not rare, he said, but lives in areas not utilized by most fishermen — in deep water on rocky bottoms in both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans. There are about 100 species of this family of which about 45 occur in Alaskan waters.

While in Anchorage Dr. Morrow met with Mrs. Nelda Glaheen's biology class from Service Hanshaw High School, showed them Walter, and explained that his colors did not entirely agree with written descriptions of this type of fish.

Walter has been seen to change his color pattern under stress conditions, which makes it probable that the polkadot snail fishes in museums are showing the stress pattern, Morrow told the students.