

Salmon treaty approved

After 15 years of deliberation between the two countries, the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty was approved last week. The Treaty regulates North Pacific salmon fishing levels and management. It also establishes a salmon commission with representatives from Canada, the Pacific Northwest states, Indian tribes and Alaska.

President Ronald Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulrooney are expected to sign the document in Toronto March 16.

"I think the overwhelming support the treaty received is indicative of the importance this agreement will have in the enhancement of the Pacific salmon stocks and the desire for an equitable treaty for both the U.S. and Canada," Senator Frank Murkowski said.

"The salmon industry is cen-

tral to the cultures, traditions and economies of the north Pacific region," Senator Stevens noted following the vote. "This treaty is a victory for the region and the resource."

The treaty was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier last week. "It took some 15 years to reach this agreement, but now is not the time to lessen our efforts," Senator Murkowski continued. "It's imperative that we fully develop and implement our enhancement programs to ensure that the declining stocks are allowed to again become a healthy and vibrant natural resource."

Everyone has had to compromise in order to achieve this goal," Senator Stevens said. "I congratulate those who worked long and hard to develop this document."