

Young fears loophole in fish zone law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) has co-sponsored legislation to prevent foreign nations from violating the intent of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (the 200 mile limit law).

"Despite the restrictions on foreign fishing vessels within the U.S. fishing zone foreign governments or corporations are still able to buy controlling interest in American fishing companies," Young said.

Young's amendment will require that any ship that has more than 25 per cent foreign ownership be considered a foreign flag vessel and be subject to the imposition of all use permits and fees.

Under the 200 mile limit law U.S. fishing vessels get preferential access to the U.S. zone. In order for the vessel to be considered American it must be documented by the U.S. Documentation is given to any vessel

constructed in the States and has a majority of U.S. citizens on the board of directors.

"Stock could be held 100 per cent by a foreign nation. It could be a foreign corporation with the board of directors being Americans and get preferential access to the U.S. zone," said Young. "This amendment will halt foreign nations exerting control over our fish stocks."

Young's amendment to the Act further requires that the Secretary of Commerce submit

an annual report to Congress on foreign investments in the U.S. fishing industry and make recommendations on any action necessary to reduce the adverse impact of such investments.

"This amendment will enable us to deal from a position of strength when negotiating fishing agreements," said Young. "It is useless to impose a 200 mile limit if our fishing vessels can still be controlled by foreign powers."