

Japan Fishing To Increase Egan Fears

JUNEAU — Governor William A. Egan today expressed "grave concern" that Japan will soon intensify its already highly destructive fisheries in the North Pacific and Bering Sea because of curtailed quotas on salmon, crab and herring imposed on the Japanese by Russia at negotiations which concluded on April 29 in Moscow.

"This is a matter of grave concern to Alaska," the governor said. "In view of past performance, I can only believe that Japan will attempt to offset these Russian quota reductions by taking even more North American fish.

"The likelihood of such action was anticipated last December when Japan told United States fisheries negotiators that it would not agree to any reduction of its high-seas fishing effort on Bristol Bay red salmon even though existing stocks total less than half of what is required as spawning stock to save this resource.

"At the same time it is clear that the United States government must take unilateral action by extending its fishery jurisdiction to 200 miles, by imposing economic sanctions, or by invoking protective measures allowed by the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas."