

Foreign Fish Fleet Grows

The foreign commercial fishing fleet operating off Alaska increased by three ships last week bringing the total to 241 vessels, according to a Coast Guard and National Marine Fisheries report.

Sen. Ted Stevens said the weekly fisheries patrol summary listed 71 Russian, 166 Japanese and South Korean vessels operating in the Alaska fishery as of May 3.

During the same period last year 69 Russians, 183 Japanese and two South Korean vessels were sighted.

As in previous weeks, the bulk of the activity was reported in the groundfish and crab fisheries northwest of the Alaska Peninsula.

Other foreign ships were reported fishing for blackcod, perch and groundfish along the coast from the Aleutians to the Panhandle.