

BIA study on supply cost to coastal Alaska

A Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) study is now underway to find out what it costs to supply small villages on Alaska's northwest coast.

The report will help the BIA decide if it should continue the kind of service now provided by the ship North Star III, or look for another way to get food, fuel and many other things to the villages.

Senator Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, wants the shipping service to continue because "it is a vital service which is the life-support system for the many villages which are cut off from population centers." He will support a request for funds to continue the supply program.

A study last year by the BIA said the program should be continued, but said that the North Star III will last only four or five more years.

The BIA is now studying the entire program. Their report will help the President's office decide what to do about the North Star III.