

# \$600,000 erosion project starts for seawall protection in Bethel

Work was expected to begin early this month on a \$600,000 project to help combat the serious erosion problems in Bethel, according to U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski.

The contract is for the construction of bottom protection for the seawall near Mission Road. Heavy flooding and icing on the Kuskokwim River has ~~caused severe erosion damage to the~~ river bank near Mission Road and Bethel's oil dock areas.

Murkowski said the \$600,000 contract was awarded to Knik Construction Co. in August. The firm, the only bidder, is based in Seattle, but has an office in Bethel.

"It's our goal to complete the project before the winter freeze because if the seawall protection base isn't completed this year, next spring's breakup could cause even more severe damage to the river bank," Murkowski said.