

High Seas Management of Fisheries Is Issue

International high seas management of the fisheries resource is an issue which must be addressed immediately. Adequate plans to conserve these living resources must be centered around the State of Alaska's local efforts in hatcheries activity, reported Mark Johnson of the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation on Friday.

Mr. James Brooks, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has recently stated that within the time frame of one year, his department would be unable to utilize 1 1/2 million dollars in funds earmarked for fisheries rehabilitation in Bristol Bay.

Although the department currently has projected programs to rehabilitate the Sockeye Salmon resource, it is questionable whether or not this plan is adequate to deal with the needs of Bristol Bay.

High seas fishing pressure in natural conditions has caused a major lack in this vital resource resulting in the disaster of Bristol Bay. It appears that intensive rehabilitation programs could potentially return this resource to its previous levels of production.

One thing to be emphasized

is that the Native stocks to these waters must be used in some type of rehabilitation program if we are to save the resource.

The hatchery programs provide long-term solutions to the maximum sustain yield of these fisheries as well as providing additional industrial potentials.

It is discouraging that Commissioner Brooks and his staff find it not necessary to even

research these potentials on an in-depth basis. Their decision to relinquish this opportunity limits their support of any maximum sustain yield program.

If the state is not interested in the rehabilitation of these vital resources, how can the Federal Government be expected to take international action complementary to programs on a state level.