

Begich Announces Report on Foreign Fishing Off U.S. Coasts

Congressman Nick Begich announced the results of the August, 1972 REPORT ON FOREIGN FISHING OFF U.S. COASTS published by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Foreign fishing off Alaska peaked in July when over 500 vessels were observed, and decreased by almost 50 per cent in August.

The decrease was due, in large part, to the departure of the Japanese salmon fishing fleets (about 240 vessels).

The largest Japanese fishery in August was for Alaska pollock (over 100 vessels), now in its sixth month.

Japan's catch of Alaska pollock for the East Bering Sea increased from 175,000 metric tons in 1964 to an estimated 1,400,000 tons in 1971 when it

represented 80 per cent of Japan's total East Bering Sea catch.

The second largest fishery, in terms of vessels, was that for Pacific crabs (48 vessels). Tanner crab, rather than king crab, was the main species sought, but its catches this year are reportedly 30 per cent smaller than in 1971.

Other minor Japanese fisheries off Alaska in August were

for Pacific ocean perch (18 stern trawlers), various groundfish (24 stern trawlers), and sablefish (8 longliners).

In contrast to the Japanese effort, that of the Soviet fishermen was small. Only 32 vessels were observed, most of them in ocean perch and other demersal fisheries.

The number of South Korean vessels fishing off Alaska decreased from 4 to 2 stern traw-

lers in August. The two trawlers which had been fishing off the Pribilof Islands in the central Bering Sea departed.

The two remaining stern trawlers continued fishing for ocean perch in the Seguan-Amukta Passes area in the central Aleutians.