



Glacier Bay fishing bill introduced

In an effort to head off a possible ban on commercial and subsistence fishing in Glacier Bay, U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski reintroduced legislation to permit fishing to continue in the national park and preserve.

'Commercial fishermen and local villagers have continually fished in Glacier Bay long before it became a park or monument and they have not adversely impacted the bay,' Murkowski says. He says Hoonah Natives were given federal assurances they would be allowed to fish in the park at the time the preserve was

created in the 1920's.

The Park Service justified its fishing closure citing the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), though the act specifically calls for the continuation of subsistence.

'If Park Service rules are unchallenged, the villagers will no longer be able to feed their families - - - to fish for halibut, salmon, crabs; collect clams, seaweeds, berries and traditional foods. Hoonah residents and a few from Elfin Cove, Gustavus and Pelican only practice subsistence. We're not talking about thou-

sands. These Alaskans live miles from the nearest supermarkets. They rely on the land and water for food. They aren't harming resources or affecting the environment,' Murkowski told the *Tundra Times*.

Commercial fishing affects only one-sixth of the 3 million acres of park waters in Glacier Bay. The coves and inlets protected the trollers during rough weather. The bill requires a seven year study of park fisheries.

For 9,000 years Natives used the bay and should not be barred from their history the senator says.