

Salted Alaskan codfish shipped from Dutch Harbor to Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first shipment of salted Alaskan codfish was recently shipped from Dutch Harbor to Ponce, Puerto Rico, Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski announced recently.

Murkowski was informed by the Alaska World Trade Corp. that 184,000 pounds of codfish was shipped via Sea-Land freezer containers to Codfish Corp. of Ponce, Puerto Rico, for further processing.

Murkowski said the shipment is the first of a projected annual production of at least 10 million pounds.

"This shipment is extremely significant because it not only marks the first successful Alaska venture into Puerto Rico for selling wet salt codfish, but it also is the first American salt cod production in a market that traditionally has been dominated in this

hemisphere by Canadian product," Murkowski said.

In addition, the Alaska senator noted that during the month of May, the Codfish Corp. will also begin the first stages of opening commercial sales in the Portuguese salt codfish market. One hundred metric tons of salted codfish are scheduled to be shipped directly from Dutch Harbor to Portugal, he said.

The codfish is being processed in Alaskan waters by Alaskan Cod Inc. When the operation reaches full production abroad the 250-foot factory vessel, the *Estevao Gomes*, Alaskan Cod will employ an estimated 30 to 40 people.

Alaskan Cod Inc. is buying all of its raw fish from Alaskan fishing boats in Alaskan waters.