



NORTH STAR III — The famous old ship, the North Star III, has been given a much needed vote of approval by none other than the General Accounting Office (GAO) that the ship's services to remote coastal villages of Alaska far outweigh the dollars with which it is operated. North Star delivers vitally needed goods to the remote areas each year.

— Photo by LAEL MORGAN

North Star III Gets New Lease on Life

The General Accounting Office has told U.S. Senator Ted Stevens that the many services

afforded Alaska's coastal communities by the North Star III and the MV Pribilof outweigh any dollar savings possible through contractual arrangements.

The senator had earlier joined Alaska Native organization and village spokesmen in protesting a preliminary GAO report suggesting economies could be realized by discontinuing the two government owned vessels and enlarging the commercial barge service contract now used by the Air Force in resupplying remote early warning stations.

"After additional study and public hearings in Alaska," said Stevens, "The GAO has come to realize we were right in saying the North Star III and Pribilof perform irreplaceable services for the people of western and northern Alaska and that these cannot be measured in dollars.