

280 Officers and Men—

Ships to Chart Alaska Waters

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Nick Begich said four U.S. government ships—manned by approximately 280 officers and crew—and an aerial photo

plane will chart Alaskan waters this year in a long-range program to provide detailed, up-to-date information for the state's increased marine activities and economic development.

The program will be conducted by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The data will be gathered for 23 new charts for use by fishing and deep-draft cargo vessels. Some of the areas have not been surveyed in over 50 years.

Representative Begich explained that hydrographic survey ships **DAVIDSON**, **PATHFINDER**, **RAINER**, and **FAIRWEATHER**, operated by NOAA's National Ocean Survey, will perform this year's task.

The surveying ships, which will spend about five months in Alaska, will work in Cook Inlet, the Gulf of Alaska and Clarence, Keku, Sumner and Shelikof Straits. These waterways include the ports of Ketchikan and Anchorage.

Ship operating schedules and the ports they plan to put into

follow:

—**DAVIDSON**: Keku and Sumner Straits, Southeast Alaska, April through September. Ketchikan and Wrangell.

—**PATHFINDER**: Clarence Strait, Southeast Alaska, April through May. Cook Inlet, May through September. Ketchikan, April 17, and Kodiak, May 28.

—**RAINER**: Shelikof Strait, April through August. Kodiak, April 4.

—**FAIRWEATHER**: Cape St. Elias waters, April through August. Cordova, April 14, and Kodiak, May 29.