

# NMFS to conduct studies on pollock in Kodiak region

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Marine Fisheries Service has been asked to conduct further surveys in the Kodiak region to determine if an additional quota for pollock might be safely recommended by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

The service closed the Gulf of Alaska to pollock fishing late last month because the 60,000 metric ton quota for 1989 had been reached.

"The fact that the pollock quota has been reached this early in the year poses a great hardship for shore-based plants and fishermen who have invested in the bottomfish industry," Stevens said.

"I am concerned about the impact the greatly increased fishing effort in our 200-mile zone is going to have on traditional fishing in our communities, who cannot move to other areas when a local resource is depleted so quickly," Stevens said.

He also said he was concerned about the high percentage of pollock taken for roe stripping.

"I am particularly concerned that some of the usable pollock resource may have been wasted in the roe stripping operations," he said. "We need to make sure the resource is used as wisely as possible."