

Salmon for Army

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense closed bids on April 25 for the purchase of 983,808 cans of salmon, a department spokesman said recently.

The military services decided to make salmon available to the troops again after a three-year deletion from the menu, when told that an inventory of Alaskan salmon was available.

Paul H. Riley, deputy assistant secretary of defense, told Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, that the Department of Defense would solicit the salmon industry for bids.

Gravel had told Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger that Pacific Northwest and Alaskan salmon packers had an inventory of over one million cases of salmon valued at approximately \$80 million.

Because of its large inventory, Gravel explained, the salmon packers are in a capital bind and may not be able to support a salmon fleet this year unless they can sell their present inventory.

In the past, the Department of Defense had purchased substantial quantities, but due to increased costs it had not bought salmon for several years. The present cost of the salmon is less than in recent years, and Gravel suggested that the military reinstitute its purchase of salmon.