

Young introduces legislation to cut fishermen's insurance bill

Congressman Don Young, R-Alaska, recently joined with Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., in introducing legislation designed to ease the burden of skyrocketing insurance rates for the commercial fishing industry.

Young is the ranking Republican on the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, one of three subcommittees having jurisdiction over marine insurance issues.

He said the bill provides fair compensation for injured fishermen, while allowing some certainty in the insurance market so that fishing vessel owners can obtain insurance at affordable rates.

Included in the bill are provisions for set levels of compensation for temporary injuries and a requirement that documented fishing vessels operating on the high seas carry certain safety equipment, such as survival suits.