

Drunk boating penalty urged

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) has sponsored legislation which would establish a federal civil

or criminal penalty of up to \$5,000, or imprisonment for up to a year for operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol. The sanctions are comparable to the federal penalties which presently may be assessed for gross negligence in the operation of a vessel.

The legislation also requires that all boating accident reports include a statement as to whether alcohol abuse was the cause of the accident. It will require, as well, that federally assisted state boating safety programs maintain statistics on the involvement of alcohol in boating accidents, and that they distribute information to the public concerning the hazards of operating a vessel while intoxicated.