

Stevens seeks fisherman training

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The federal agency responsible for marine research and education has been directed to conduct a study of educational facilities in the country best qualified to train young people to become fishermen, and to train fishermen to acquire new skills.

Sea Grant, the educational and research arm of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was asked to do this study by Sen. Ted Stevens.

Sea Grant provides grants to institutions for marine research,

education, and advisory services.

Stevens, a cosponsor of the bill, said the results of the Sea Grant study would be used in implementing the Fisherman's Training and Development Act, a bill which he recently reintroduced in the Senate.

The fisherman's training bill "will promote the interest of American youth in careers in the fishing industry and will improve educational opportunities for such youths and for working fishermen in the science and

technology of fishing," Stevens said.

The educational program is especially important since the 200-mile fishery conservation zone became law, he added.

Stevens said the 200-mile Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 "has created opportunities for United States fishermen to harvest stocks of fish heretofore harvested by foreign fishing operations," but harvesting these fish stocks "will require the utilization of highly mechanized equipment and the implementation of more efficient fisheries operation by U.S. fishermen."

His training measure would create within NOAA a Fisherman's Training and Development Office, responsible for overseeing the educational programs.

The request to NOAA is in the Seante Commerce Committee report accompanying the authorization bill for the National Sea Grant program. The Commerce Committee recently reported the bill that authorizes funding for the program for the next two years.

