

# Trawlers pose threat

To the editor:

With the boat explosion in the Gulf of Alaska to catch all types of fish, it has become necessary to put restrictions on the efficiency of all gear types to minimize gear loss, overharvest and waste on vessels and at shore-based plants.

No one group at this point in time is exempt from this problem. Many miles of longline, pots and cod ends from trawlers are left each year.

Lately the North Pacific Fishery Management Council has made overture to the longline fleet for one of a multiple choice limit without mentioning the escalating problem being posed by the factory trawler increase now and in the future.

Twenty percent Alaska cod bycatch is an unacceptably high figure leading to many abuses. I see ways to deal with this problem: No bycatch of black

cod, halibut or any other species that are considered overharvested by new entries into the factory trawl fleet and closing areas where large bycatch of any prohibited species is recorded.

The rap sheet proposing limits on the longliners because of safety didn't mention the factory trawl fleet. All I can see is continual dwindling stocks with only the longliners bearing the brunt of the conservation.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council should more aptly have named that sheet "the reallocation to trawlers issue."

Do we cut our throats or do we ask for a moratorium on the trawl fleet and a reduction of the 20 percent black cod bycatch?

Sincerely,  
Ralph Guthrie  
Petersburg

## APU's Trotter was wrong

To the editor:

I was shocked to read in the Nov. 20 issue of your paper that Alaska Pacific University President Tom Trotter suggested that his college may have the highest percentage of Alaska Native students in the nation at 16 percent.

Sheldon Jackson College's Alaska Native student percent of enrollment is consistently between 30 percent to 50 percent. In addition to a higher percentage of enrollment, ours is the oldest educational institution in the state, and the only institution of higher education I know of in this state whose

mission has always included Alaska Natives.

As a fellow four-year liberal arts college, we certainly appreciate APU's recent efforts to attract Alaska Native students. The announcement of this recent change at APU should not be allowed to hide the 111-year history of serving the educational needs of Alaska Natives that we at Sheldon Jackson College hold with pride.

Bill Stenberg  
Vice President for Student Services  
Sheldon Jackson College  
Sitka

## Let's stop beach littering

To the editor:

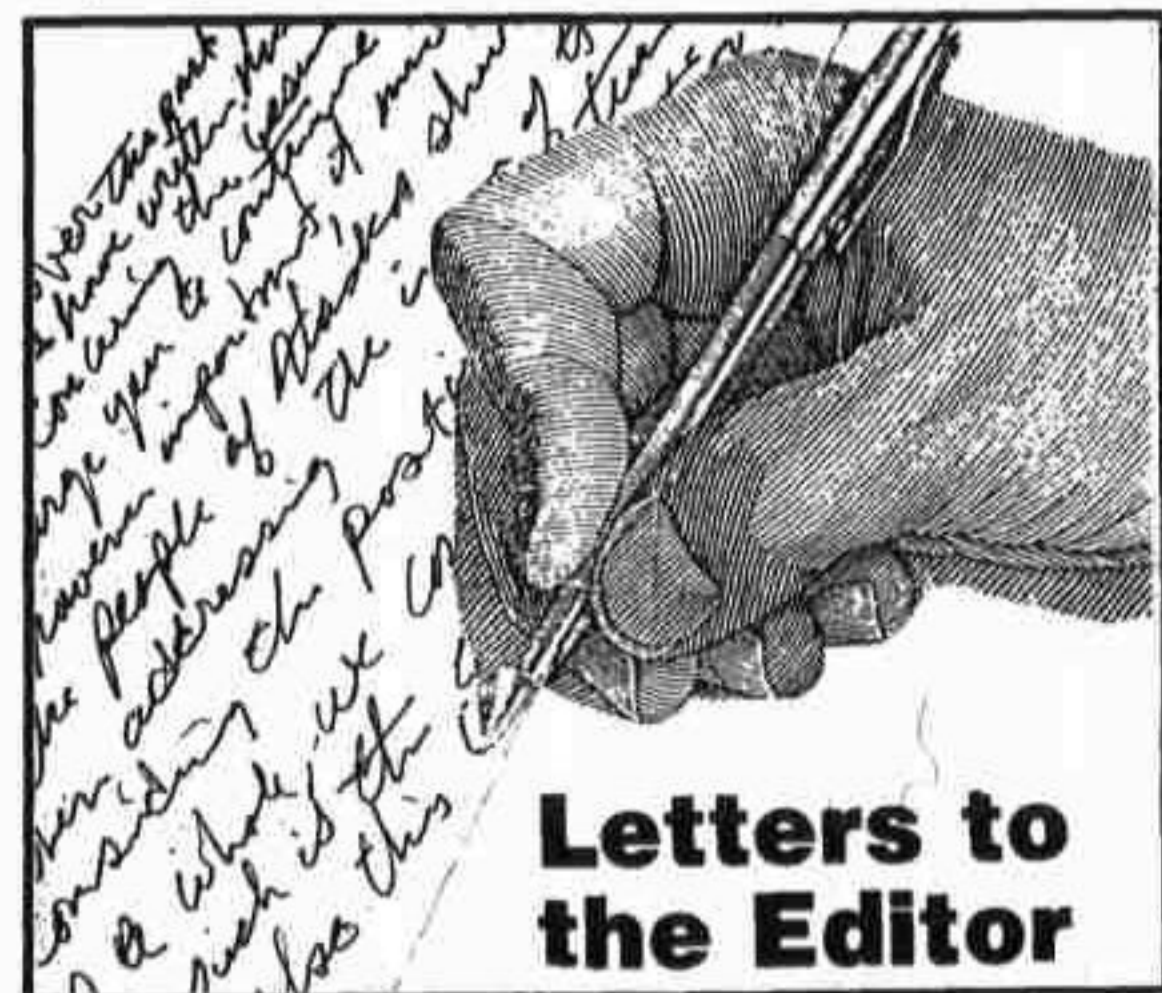
We are approaching a new year with spring and summer fishing not too far off. This holds true for the sports minded as well as the commercial minded.

So I hope during the rest of this year and the one coming up each person using our floats and our waterways puts their styrofoam cups, sandwich containers, bait trays, cups and plastic wrappings into the bag you get at the store counter and makes use of the dumpsters placed in each harbor for

your convenience.

Despite Marpol 5 and the threat of a \$25,000 fine, there seems to be very little diminishing of this type of waste. People are making a lousy garbage dump out of every beach a person wants to picnic on. The woods are no better. The reward for not littering is not only yours, it's also a consideration for your neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Guthrie  
Petersburg



## • Stevens discusses housing

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Regional Affairs last year documented 6,740 units needed across the state, and that has indeed been helpful. The most recent BIA study indicates that Alaska's new Indian housing need is 4,845 units. At my request, the Indian housing programs administered by HUD have agreed to use the higher state figure.

Last year (Fiscal Year 1989) Alaska received 12.26 percent of the total amount available (based on percentage of total need for Indian housing) and this year it will receive 10.8 percent of the total — for a total of 181 units this year.

The reason that our percentage of the total has been reduced is that our state study, which determined Indian housing needs, was significantly greater than the BIA study and was done two years ago. The BIA updates the national needs assessment annually and other areas of the country are determined to have a higher need than

the previous year.

The BIA's new national needs assessment demonstrates the need for 98,781 new Indian housing units and predicts that this figure is increasing by 1,000 units per year.

In Alaska, we have a greater problem, because although the cost cap has been removed for Alaska (it was previously \$74,000 per unit), it is more expensive to build homes in Alaska. With Alaska included, the average unit cost for Indian housing is \$90,000.

This means that Alaska, even with an increased allocation, can build fewer homes than another area can.

We will continue to monitor this issue, and I will do all I can to raise the level of new Indian housing in the FY91 HUD appropriation, as well as through the Housing Improvement Program which BIA administers.

With best wishes,  
Sen. Ted Stevens  
Washington, D.C.