

# U.S. Coast Guard Japanese Captives Blinked by Nippon Made Cameras

Robert Koweluk, who is now working for the State Fish and Game, was a member of a boarding party on two of the Japanese fishing boats that were captured by the U.S. Coast Guard ship Storris recently in the Norton Sound area.

"One of the crew members was surprised that the boarding party used Japanese made cameras!" Koweluk noted. "One Nikon 8, a Yashica and a Mamiya Sekor—all 35 millimeters."

Koweluk said that the boats were 90 feet long and 25 feet wide.

"John Burns, Mike Geiger and I went aboard one of the two fishing boats to take scale samples from the herring. The fish had already spawned in the Norton Sound area. Their age was

estimated to be seven to eight years and the length to be about nine inches," said Koweluk.

"We began," he continued, "collecting scales from individual fish once aboard. The Japanese crew members 'pitched in' with the collecting and in less time than I thought we were done with 500 samples.

"The Japanese regarded us with much curiosity. We in turn photographed some of its crew and the ships as a tourist would."

Robert Koweluk is an Eskimo young man. He took photograph and photo processing course at the University of Alaska under Prof. Jimmy Bedford, head of the journalism department.