

Fishing Violation Fines Deemed Low

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Congressman Howard W. Pollock reported this week that the Department of Defense has also taken an interest in the violation of Alaskan waters by foreign fishing vessels.

The Defense Department asked that it be included in the meetings requested by Alaska's Congressman with the heads of the State, the Interior and Transportation Departments and the Attorney General, to more fully examine these violations by foreign fishing fleets and the reluctance to impose meaningful fines on those found guilty.

"The Pentagon's interest makes it clear that the seriousness of this problem is recognized not only by Alaskans but by the National administration as well," Pollock stated.

He continued, "Thus far the value of the catch taken illegally is far lower than the penalty, making fishing violations profitable rather than costly. The U.S. must move with a firmer hand in these matters, and I am confident that the time to press that point is now."