

Alaska Steam Plans Slope Through Haul

SEATTLE—Alaska Steamship Company this week announced through service to Alaska's booming North Slope oil field upon completion of the winter ice trail construction, announced last week by Gov. Walter Hickel of Alaska.

"This new route is expected to be open between January 1 and 15 and will be in connection with the Alaska Railroad to Fairbanks and truckers beyond," W.S. Post, Jr., executive vice president and general manager of the line, said.

The ice trail will run from Livengood, about 50 miles north of Fairbanks, via Stevens Village, Dall, Bettles, John River, Anak-

tuvuk River.

"Considering the tremendous volume of equipment and supplies necessary for this oil development, we fully support Gov. Hickel's move for a surface route to continue the great job the air lines have done in opening up the Arctic," Post said.

It's expected that more than 50,000 tons will be trucked in over the ice trail before spring breakup.

"Our weekly trainship and vanship services are both in a position to support this lift from the lower 48," Post said, noting that the Trainship Alaska provides the fastest railcar link.