

# Bill would ban antifoulant paints

WASHINGTON — Congressman Don Young, R-Alaska, announced recently that he has joined with 20 other House members in introducing legislation that would ban the use of certain antifoulant paints which are toxic to fish and shellfish.

The bill, HR 2210, has been referred to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, on which Young serves.

"I have been contacted by a number of fishermen and members of the state Legislature who are concerned for the continued use of organotin-based paints, commonly known as TBT paints," Young said. "Evidence indicates that some of these paints can be highly toxic to Alaska's fisheries resources. By preventing the use of the worst offenders, we can help keep Alaska's waters clean and productive."

The objective of the bill is to protect the aquatic environment until final rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the release of harmful substances can take effect. Under normal procedures, this may take two to three years.