

# Stevens seeks tougher oil industry regulations

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said last week he would not support oil exploration and development in the Bristol Bay region until new measures are put into place to protect Alaska's environment from oil spills.

Speaking to Alaska reporters in a teleconference from his Washington, D.C., office, Stevens discussed a legislative package he introduced that would fund oil spill research and restoration programs, require the Coast Guard to take over the response to a major spill using industry funds and impose new restrictions on tankers operating in Prince William Sound.

Also among changes Stevens is seeking is an amendment to the Stafford Act to include oil spills under the definition of a major disaster. This would make disaster relief funds, emergency assistance and other federal aid readily available to areas hit by a spill.

The bills introduced by Stevens

would establish a \$500 million fund to restore and enhance areas affected by oil spills. The fund, which would be financed by a 1 percent barrel tax on refined domestic and imported oil, would be administered by the head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The fund would be financed by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Service liability fund at a rate of \$5 million a year in 1989 and \$2 million annually in subsequent years.

When asked whether he could support Bristol Bay exploration and development without the passage of the new protections, Stevens said he and Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, support holding off on Bristol Bay until more assurances are in place.

Stevens said he would not necessarily insist on every word of the new package before moving ahead with Bristol Bay, but that further protections are needed.