

Gravel Fights For Community Harbor Projects

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, is working to rewrite enabling legislation that would allow U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participation for harbor projects at Kotzebue, Nome and Bethel.

The action comes in the aftermath of an extended trip to these areas by Gravel, who chairs the Senate Subcommittee on Water Resources.

"Any project that the corps undertakes has to have a cost-benefit ratio of at least one-to-one to save one dollar for each dollar spent," explained a spokesman for the senator's office. "So a boat harbor in a

(Continued on Page 6)

Gravel Fights . . .

(Continued from page 1)

small community is hard to justify."

The proposed legislation would give equally strong consideration to the social and economic impact of new harbor facilities and erosion prevention measures on the regional area.

A check with Gravel's office at Fairbanks Sept. 19 showed that the Senate subcommittee did plan to take up the matter later in this congressional session, but had not yet done so. Meanwhile, the senator has met with Washington Corps of Engineers officials on this matter.

A case in point is the proposed dry harbor for Kotzebue . . . a proposal that would allow for construction of a sea wall in such a fashion that boats could be hauled up onto it. A proposed deep water harbor, meanwhile, would probably be

located at Nome.

A feasibility study and preliminary engineering report completed in January by consulting engineers Harold H. Galliett Jr., Anchorage and George Silides, Fairbanks, says the so-called "dry land harbor" could be built at Kotzebue at a cost of \$437,500. There is some question, however, according to Gravel's office on whether an adequate harbor could be completed for that amount.

The report, prepared for the Alaska Department of Public Works, concludes that such a facilities, divided into 20 foot wide parcels, could accommodate 400-500 boats, including sufficient room for net and fish drying racks. "Such a waterfront improvement may have greater immediate return for dollars expended than any other," the report said.