

Stevens wants more money

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A reduction in funding for management of the U.S. 200-mile fishery conservation zone is not in the best interest of the U.S. fishery industry, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, who has asked for an increase in the proposed budget.

During Senate Commerce Committee hearings on the bill to reauthorize appropriations for

the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, Stevens pointed out that the administration's request of \$20 million for 1979 is \$10 million less than the present authorization level.

The FCMA budget is used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in implementing the 200-mile-limit act.

NOAA distributes the funds to the eight regional fishery management councils, which are responsible for developing fishery management plans within the 200-mile zone, outside the 3-mile limit managed by individual states.

Funds also go to the National Marine Fisheries Service, which is responsible for surveying fish stocks, providing economic and statistical fishery data, and placing U.S. observers on foreign vessels fishing within the 200-mile limit.