

Sheffield transfers money to St. George

By Linda Lord-Jenkins
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The St. George Harbor project which was left unfunded by the Alaska Legislature during this spring's legislative session, will receive funds which had been allocated to build a harbor on Latouche Island in Prince William Sound.

Gov. Bill Sheffield announced Thursday that he was re-allocating money originally earmarked for Latouche Island to build the St. George project.

The Alaska Legislature had funded \$7.5 million for a boat harbor on St. Paul Island but left unfunded the requested \$3.4 million for a harbor in St. George.

No reason for the omission was given but St. George Tannaq Corp. President Flore Lek-anof theorized that it was because St. Paul has more residents.

According to Sheffield press secretary Pete Spivey both the Latouche and St. George projects were included in a harbor fund. "The fund listed a whole bunch of eligible projects including St. George and Latouche."

Sheffield determined that

construction at St. George would be more beneficial to a greater number of people, said Spivey.

The entire construction project is expected to cost \$12 million. Spivey said \$4 million already has been appropriated and the governor's re-allocation will add about another \$4 million although exact figures haven't been set.

Spivey said the federal government is also expected to toss in another amount of money for harbor construction which should bring construction up to the total cost.

Spivey said that he knows of no timetable for using the money and expects that the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities will be waiting "to see what Congress does."

Money for the St. George project was transferred from the controversial Latouche Island project which was championed by former State Sen. Ed Dankworth of Anchorage.

Dankworth said he was disappointed that the transfer was made and he said the big losers in the deal were the people of Anchorage.