

Some ABCs

in education

By RON INOUE

Editor's Note - Readers with questions or suggestions about this or future "ABC's" articles are requested to contact the author at the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 99701, phone (907) 479-7185.

The public's awareness of Alaska's fisheries resource is increasing. The issues surrounding the foreign fisheries intrusion into the U.S. and Alaskan waters, the environmental pollution of feeding grounds, and the economic cultivation of the bottom fishery have raised our concern about the marine resources of the state. However, many Alaskans know little about the fish species which inhabit the state's fresh and salt waters. Teachers and youth group leaders may wish to alleviate part of that problem by helping students learn about the life in Alaska's waters.

There are numerous state and federal publications which are informative. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's division of National Marine Fisheries Services has a series of full-color fish charts on plasticized paper which make excellent references. Of particular interest are the charts of the "Marine Fishes of the North Pacific," "The Marine Fishes of the California Current," and "Marine Mammals of the Western Hemisphere." The color chart on "Marine Fishes of the North Pacific" depicts many of the salmon species found in Alaskan waters and also shows many of the bottom fishery species. For further information about these fish charts and other interesting and informative government maps and publications, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, and request their order blank for Marine Animal charts and lists of maps and publications.

Teachers interested in introducing marine education into their classrooms should request the free, monthly "Alaska Tidelines" newspaper for students, published by the Alaska Sea Grant Program at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 99701 (see *ABC's in Education* article, January 11, 1979). Teachers may also wish to request "Alaska Seas and Coasts," a newsletter for the commercial fishermen also published by the Alaska Sea Grant Program at the address listed above.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (1300 College Road, Fairbanks, 99701) has a number of useful publications, films, video tapes, etc. on marine and wildlife. Request their publications list entitled "Publications and Audio-Visual Materials for Teachers" and their "Free Loan A-V Materials." Interesting film titles listed are films on the king crab, sheefish, razor clam and salmon.

Other sources for films and audio-visual materials are the Alaska State Film Libraries located in Juneau (Pouch G, Juneau 99811) and Anchorage (650 International Airport Road, Anchorage 99502). Request their film catalogs if one is not already available in your school or community library. There are many source materials on Alaska's fishes and marine life. Providing such information to students may result in new career possibilities and a greater respect for and understanding of the marine resources of the state.