

Robert C. Nichols awarded

Anchorage, Ak.—Commander Robert C. Nichols of Anchorage has been awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal for supervising removal of 160,000 of fuel from the grounded Soviet fishing vessel Samarga. His actions took place while serving as Federal On-Scene Coordinator at Kayak Island from January 2-10.

The ceremony took place today (Wed. Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.) at the YMCA Auditorium in Anchorage. The medal was

presented to Commander Nichols by Rear Admiral John B. Hayes, head of all Coast Guard forces in Alaska.

The Samarga grounded Dec. 31 on Kayak Island. The possibility of a major oil spill was averted by the removal of the 160,000 gallons of fuel. Removal of the fuel was completed Saturday January 10.

Commander Nichols is the Commanding Officer of the Marine Safety Office in Anchorage.