

# Alaska Congressional Delegation secures funding for Salmon Treaty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Alaska Congressional Delegation announced that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will receive \$6.2 million for the implementation of the U.S.-Canadian Pacific Salmon Treaty.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) appropriation for Fiscal Year 1986 includes \$3.35 million for salmon enhancement, \$2 million for research and technical support and \$707,000 for the operation of the Northern advisory panel and joint technical committees.

Senator Frank Murkowski, sponsor of the treaty legislation, said the State of Alaska requested a one-time appropriation of \$20 million for salmon enhancement, but Congress agreed to fund \$3.35 million for FY86.

"Preservation of our fisheries is by

far the most important element of the Pacific Salmon Treaty," Murkowski said. "Through continued and dedicated research provided by the treaty, we will ensure that the declining chinook salmon stocks are allowed to again become a healthy and vibrant natural resource."

"The Senate adopted my amendment to the Commerce Department appropriations bill for FY86 which earmarked \$3.35 million to the State of Alaska for enhancement activities," Senator Ted Stevens said. "I plan to seek a similar amount for 1987, but the pressure to reduce the deficit will have an impact on all Commerce Department programs, including programs related to the U.S.-Canada Salmon Treaty."

"This is only the first step in a long-term process to rebuild our salmon

stocks," Congressman Don Young said. "I will continue working with our senators to ensure that funding for these programs continue in the future."

Murkowski said the state will analyze Congress' enhancement appropriation while issuing its own funding for the treaty.

Last year, Murkowski managed the treaty on the Senate floor and it was

approved by a vote of 96 to 0. In March of 1985, President Reagan and Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada ratified the treaty.

The treaty regulates North Pacific salmon fishing levels and management. It also establishes a salmon commission with representatives from Canada, the Pacific Northwest states, Indian tribes and Alaska.