

Statewide in Alaska

April, 1970

Big Salmon Catch Expected: According to predictions, Alaska's 1970 salmon catch will be the State's largest in 30 years; nearly 100 million fish should be taken by fishermen this summer. This would result in a total salmon pack of around 5.6 million cases, better than double the 1969 figure. A salmon pack of this magnitude would comprise 10 percent of the total national fish production and nearly 20 percent of the value of that production. Much attention will be focused on the Bristol Bay area which expects the largest red salmon run in its history. However, major harvests of pink salmon are expected in both the South-central and Southeastern areas of the State.

Freezer Barge Completed: A 150 foot long seafood processing barge, built for the Kuskokwim Fisherman's Cooperative Incorporated of Bethel, was launched in Seattle in early May. The vessel, whose construction was financed through grants and loans by the Economic Development Administration, will be towed to the Kuskokwim River and is expected to be available for fishing operations by about June 10. The facility has a sharp freeze capacity of 50,000 pounds with a storage capacity of 500,000 pounds. It is anticipated that the facility will provide immediate benefits in terms of employment and increased incomes from higher fish prices for the 171 members of the cooperative. Depending upon the success of the venture, membership in the cooperative may be raised to 300 persons in the near future.

Uranium Found in Southeast Alaska: Core Drilling by Newmont Exploration Ltd, a subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corp., has confirmed the presence of commercial quantities of high grade uranium-thorium ore on Prince of Wales Island. The drilling was carried out on property of the Kendrick Bay Mining Company. Ore from the deposit is to be milled at the mine site and then shipped to Washington State for further processing. Preparations for further mining operations are expected to begin as soon as weather conditions permit. Because only minimal processing is to be done at the mine site, total employment will probably not exceed thirty persons.

Denali Copper Venture: In another hard rock mining project, Cities Service Minerals Corp. resumed work during May on a copper mining venture it is managing near Denali, Alaska. Plans include diamond drilling along a 1400 foot decline to evaluate the deposits at a greater depth than had previously been attempted. Currently an estimated 20 men are to be employed at the site with the possibility that the workforce will be expanded if results continue to be favorable.

Oil Company Expenses: According to figures released by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, oil industry expenditures in Alaska totaled roughly \$2 billion during 1969. This accounts for about half of the total \$3.9 billion spent by the industry in Alaska. Of the \$2 billion, \$900 million was spent by companies in acquiring oil and gas leases on the North Slope, while the balance went for drilling, exploration and other operations.

Residents Being Recruited for Oilfield Training: Statewide recruitment is