Treaty in jeopardy

By John Hughes

WASHINGTON - The Pacific Salmon Treaty is in trouble, just four months after the United States celebrated the deal with Canada, a Clinton administration official said Thursday

A lack of proposed funding for the pact and an effort to exempt Alaska fishermen from the Endangered Species Act could make the treaty unworkable, Assistant Commerce Secretary Terry Garcia

'This is a good deal," Garcia insisted to a House Resources Committee panel. "It is one we should support and one that should be adequately funded."

U.S. and Canadian officials signed the treaty on June 30, after five years of tough negotiations and years of disputes between U.S. and Canadian fishermen. The agreement revised a 1985 deal to rebuild wild salmon runs and ensure that both countries get a fair share of the catch.

The Clinton administration said it needs \$190 million over four years to implement the deal.

While President Clinton requested \$60 million for the treaty next year, the House and Senate approved just \$10 million as part of the massive bill that finances the Commerce, Justice and State departments.

Clinton vetoed the \$39 billion

spending bill Monday, in part because of the lack of treaty funds.

But equally objectionable to the administration was a provision by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, which exempts Alaska fishermen from salmon harvest cutbacks if salmon problems worsen.

The provision would create inequities in the region, lead to law-suits and hamper treaty and recovery plans, Garcia told the fisheries conservation, wildlife and oceans subcommittee.

But Alaska lawmakers say they only agreed to the treaty in return for assurances that the deal would satisfy the Endangered Species

House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young, R-Alaska, faulted the treaty for not protecting Alaska fishermen should the Canadians fail to protect salmon.

"Every time a species declined, my fishermen took a hit," Young said. "Somewhere along the line, those who do good should be rewarded; those who do bad should be punished."

García hopes a preliminary bi-ological opinion released Monday by the National Marine Fisheries Service satisfies the Alaskans' concerns.

The opinion says Alaskan and Canadian fisheries covered under the treaty will not jeopardize any threatened or endangered salmon species over the 10-year pact.

Calendar

Friday, Oct. 29

ASUO Women's Center Panel Discussion: "Changing Laws of Domestic Abuse" is among many campus and community events during October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 1 p.m.-3 p.m Room 110, Knight Law Center, 1515 Agate St. Free. For information, browse darkwing.uoregon.edu/~women/, 346-4095.

Convocation, with Gov. John Kitzhaber as the keynote speaker, has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date. For information, call 346-3036.

■ Fall Family Weekend: Reception with administrators and informal discussion about parent and family involvement with the University. 4:30 p.m. The Buzz in the EMU basement. Free. For information, browse darkwing. uoregon.edu/~stl/parent/ Weekends.html, or call the Office of Student Life, 346-3216.

Sunday, Oct. 30

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Eugene Hooky Bus Breakfast - Wednesday, October 27

Meet at the Original Pancake House at 7:30 am- Hooky Bus regulars- bring your friends and get the latest information on the 1999/2000 Season Hooky Bus Program.

> Bachelor Weekend at Berg's Ski Shop-Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30

Berg's Ski Shop, 367 West 13th in Eugene - Last chance to purchase your pre-season discounted Season Pass and get the latest information on the 1999/2000 Mountain Dew and Hooky Bus session.

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