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## Penalties Voted on Alien Boats

The House passed legislation yesterday providing stiff penalties for foreign fishing boats caught poaching in U.S. waters within the 3-mile territorial limit.

Without mentioning names, the bill is directed principally at Russia, Cuba and Japan. Fishing fleets from the three countries openly invade American sovereign waters, secure in the knowledge that U.S. law presently provides no penalties.

The House bill, adopted by voice vote, amends a similar proposal passed by the Senate. It provides a penalty of up to \$10,000 in fines, a prison term not in excess of one year for the skipper of the boat, and possible forfeiture of the vessel, its equipment and catch.

Staff members of the House Merchant Marine Committee said it was impossible to pinpoint the value of fish hauled out of U.S. waters by Russian and Japanese fleets but estimated it at several million dollars.

Huge Soviet fleets, numbering as many as 200 boats, have been spotted off the New England coast. Japanese and Russian fleets have been identified near Alaska in search of salmon and king crab.

The bill now goes back to the Senate for confirmation; if approved, it will be sent to the president for his signature.