

Commission to study fish crisis

Governor Walter J. Hickel has announced the appointment of ten rural Alaskan leaders to serve as public members on the newly formed commission on Rural Alaska Village Economics and Needs (RAVEN).

The first task of the commission will be to assess the economic impacts to communities and residents in the Yukon-Kuskokwim delta region and Interior river systems caused by the failure of the season's chum run. The commission is to report to the Governor within 60 days on recommended preliminary response actions.

The commission will also have a long-term focus and will work cooperatively with the Alaska State Rural Development Council's Statewide Needs Assessment Project.

Co-chairs of the RAVEN Commission are Edgar Blatchford, commissioner of Community and Regional Affairs and Myron Naneng of Bethel, president of the Association of Village Council Presidents.

Other members of the commission are Andrew Guy, chairman of Calista Corporation; George Yaska, Tanana Chiefs Conference; John Jemewouk, Western Alaska

Fisheries Development Association; Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Yukon River Drainage Fishermen's Association; Frank Charles, Kuskokwim Cooperative Management Group; and Moxie Alexie, Sleetmute businessman.

Names as at-large representatives for impacted communities were Nick Tucker, Sr., of Emmonak and Roger Huntington of Galena.

The Governor also appointed Emil Notti of Anchorage, president of the Alaska Native Foundation and Dr. Jerome Komisar of Fairbanks, president of the University of Alaska.