

# Fish & Wildlife Service requests comments on coastal lands plan

In developing a land-use plan for the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service planning team is seeking help from the public in formulating ways to manage about 4 million acres of coastal refuge lands.

During this stage of the planning process, required by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the team asks the public to assist in the development of alternative management options.

From the alternatives and suggested management concerns that result from the public workshops currently being held, the service's planning team will develop a number of alternative options in order to issue a draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Wilderness Review and Environmental Impact Statement, in which several alternative management options are discussed.

Also in the draft, which will be available for public review, will be one alternative management plan recommended by the service.

A 28-minute video tape has been

made to aid in explaining all the different parts of this refuge scattered throughout the 35,000 miles of the Alaska coastline. Currently, a series of workshops is being conducted from Point Hope to Ketchikan and from Juneau to Nikolski.

A newsletter describing the refuge and the planning process is available to assist the public in contributing ideas. The deadline for public response is March 23.

Southcentral Alaskans are invited to workshops in Kodiak, March 16, in the Fishermen's Hall from 2-5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m.; in Anchorage, March 18, in the first floor conference room, Regional Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, 1:30-4:30 p.m. and at 7 p.m.; and in Homer, March 23, in the Team Teaching Room of the Homer Junior High School, at 7 p.m.

Interested people can call either 786-3383, or the refuge's toll-free number, 800-478-3501, for more details or to inquire about receiving a print of the video tape or to receive a copy of the newsletter.