

# St. Paul awards harbor contract

By Linda Lord-Jenkins

Tundra Times

A contract for the first phase of a bottomfishing port on St. Paul Island was awarded last week to the Calista Construction Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Calista Regional Native Corp.

The \$6.3 million contract is to build Phase 1 of the harbor that St. Paul leaders believe will lead to an economic rebirth of the larger of the two Pribilof islands.

Calista was one of 12 bidders on the project. Bids ranged from a high of \$14 million for the project down to Calista's \$6.3 million.

Work on the first phase of the harbor construction will begin this spring and should be completed by August, said Erik Norgaard of Norgaard Consultants, an international fisheries consultant.

Phase one consists of a 1,000-foot-long breakwater with a 500-foot-long inner breakwater. The Phase One facility would permit expansion of the day-

boat fishery and eliminate the need for "lightering of cargo."

Right now, according to St. Paul Mayor Michael Zacharof, the few bottomfishing boats using the St. Paul harbor must be lifted from the water by cranes to unload their cargo.

Once the first phase is completed, that will no longer be necessary.

The second phase of the project, which could be completed this summer if the State of Alaska was to appropriate money for the project during this legislative session, would extend the main breakwater by another 800 feet. It would afford more protection within the harbor and would allow a processing ship to be moored inside the harbor for continuous operations.

Phase two also calls for construction of docks along the rear of the breakwater and along the shoreline. Berthing would be available for nine boats 85-120 feet long; 12 boats 65-86 feet long, nine boats 35-65 feet long and one 200-foot long vessel.

The dock also could be used  
(Continued on Page Five)

# Calista Construction gets harbor contract

(Continued from Page One)

to support oil exploration and development in the area. Phase two should cost \$6.3 million.

Phase three includes a 900-foot breakwater which would cost \$4.2 million. The third breakwater would lead to further development of onshore fish processing.

Phase three would further increase the boat berthing area to accommodate 18 boats 85-120 feet long; 21 boats 65-85 feet long and 18 boats 35-65 feet long.

The harbor facility is being funded partially by the state government which last year allocated \$7 million for the project, and partly by the federal government which last year made a \$20 million payoff to St. Paul and St. George in exchange for pulling federal management from the island.

Zacharof said St. Paul got \$12 million of that \$20 million with the remaining \$8 million going to St. George which also plans to build a boat harbor.

Zacharof said in a Calista Corp. press release that "We see this as a dawning of a new era where we can finally become the masters of our own future. We are very pleased to award this contract to Calista because it is a rapidly growing company which has the potential to complete any scope of project."

In addition to providing fishery jobs for St. Paul residents when the project is completed, the harbor work will provide about 25 jobs during construc-

tion to St. Paul residents, according to Zacharof. He said this project, coupled with construction on 20 Housing and Urban Development homes and a senior citizens center also are providing jobs for the estimated 125 working age residents in the village.

The state also should benefit from the proposed harbor, said Alex Raider, president of the

Calista Native Corp. He pointed out that less than one percent of the white fish harvested from Alaska waters last year was harvested by American fisherman.

That is due to the lack of onshore processing plants in the area, he said. Once St. Paul is completed, more harvesting opportunities will be available, he said.

Although there has been no

allocation made for paying for Phase two in this year's legislative budget thus far, Zacharof said he is working with Gov. Bill Sheffield and members of the Aleutian Legislative delegation to include Phase two funding immediately instead of waiting for the coming 1985 session.

If work were started immediately on phase two while Phase

one is under way, the project could save about \$500,000 he said.

