

Subsistence teleconference

BY NANCY HARVEY

Once again this week Alaska Natives are being asked to speak out on subsistence. The forum this time is the State Legislature, currently considering a series of bills designed to bring management of fish and game resources closer to the people whose lives and cultures depend upon the survival of the subsistence way of life.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week, and Monday of next week, the House Special Committee on Subsistence will hold teleconference hearings in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nome, Bethel, and Ketchikan on H.B. 673, 674 and 725. The hearings will begin each day at 12:30 p.m. (Juneau time) promptly.

H.B. 674 and 725 would unify the Alaska State Boards of Fisheries and Game and create 12 regional boards established along the boundaries of Native corporations. Each board would have full regulatory powers over its area and would be assisted by regional advisory committees whose membership would be determined by each individual board.

H.B. 673 seeks to establish a division of subsistence within the State Department of Fish and Game which would compile data, hold hearings, and conduct studies on all aspects of the role subsistence plays in the lives of Alaska residents.

If you have any comments or questions, or if you would like background information, call Elizabeth Ali or David Hoffman at 465-4986.