

# Sitka, Saxman and Kodiak get rural status

The Federal Subsistence Board unanimously agreed on Dec. 17 to overturn proposed non-rural determinations for Sitka, Saxman and Kodiak.

"The Board's final consideration of the three communities was significantly influenced by the extensive public testimony presented to the Board," said Curtis V. McVee, chairman of the board, during a recent discussion about the decision.

McVee led the Federal Subsistence Board deliberations concerning the final rural/non-rural determinations for all Alaskan communities at a meeting in Anchorage at the Captain Cook Hotel.

The board's decision was made after they reviewed written public comments, summaries from 57 public

meetings, and heard additional testimony at the board meeting.

McVee went on to say, "The three communities were borderline cases when considering the characteristics used to separate rural and non-rural communities and deserved further Board consideration."

The final Board determinations for Non-rural communities are as follows:

## **Adak**

## **Municipality of Anchorage**

**Kenai Area**, including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatoff, Kalifornsky, Kasilof, and Clam Gulch

## **Fairbanks North Star Borough**

**Homer Area**, including Homer, Anchor Point, Kachemak City and Fritz Creek

**Juneau Area**, including Juneau,

West Juneau and Douglas

**Ketchikan Area**, including Ketchikan City, Clover Pass, North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan East, Mountain Pass, Herring Cove, Saxman East, and parts of Pennock Island

**Seward Area**, including Seward and Moose Pass

## **Valdez**

**Wasilla Area**, including Palmer Wasilla, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, and Bodenbergt Butte

All other communities in Alaska are rural.

Federal Subsistence Regulations went into effect July 1, 1990, and require that "Not later than December 31, 1990, the board shall determine the rural or non-rural status of all areas or communities within Alaska."

Prior to making their decision on the

rural and non-rural determinations, the Federal Subsistence Board members were provided an extensive summary of oral testimony at public meetings throughout the state, copies of all written comments on the rural and non-rural issue, and tapes of the public meetings.

The Board is composed of the Alaska directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and is chaired by McVee, special assistant to the Secretary of Interior for Alaska.

Additional information is available by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence Office at 267-1461. Also, those who are hearing impaired may call 786-3487.