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Fairbanks Native Association May Aid Demientioff

Jules Wright, president of the Fairbanks Native Association, told the Tundra Times this week that his group would help Nick Demientioff, "if it is for certain that his aboriginal fishing rights have been abused."

Wright, a candidate for the state house in District 16, said that if Demientioff had clearly been in the wrong, there wouldn't be much the Association could do.

He also pointed out that the Association would have to know complete details of Demientioff's case before taking any action, and that he would have to consult with other members of the organi-

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Aid Demientioff

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zation.

The Fairbanks group recently gave support to Native fishermen at Copper Center when the state Fish & Game department attempted to set a later date for subsistence fishing along the Copper river.

Fish and Game authorities set the date at June 15, while the Indian residents of the community had traditionally begun subsistence fishing on June 1.

The June 15 date was set because of, "conservation reasons," game authorities said.

After pressure from powerful Native associations around the state and publicity plus the Indian fishermen threatening to start fishing June 1 anyway, authorities back-tracked and allowed fishing to start on schedule.