

ASRC gives support to Beaufort sale

The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) has come out in strong support of the Beaufort Sea Lease Sale scheduled for December.

But, that support is conditioned on demands that the environment, particularly that that might affect the bowhead whale, be protected.

Further conditions were that strong local planning and management of developmental activities by local institutions be encouraged and supported and that any exploration outside the Barrier Islands be postponed until after areas nearer to shore have been investigated.

The unanimous vote supporting the Beaufort Sea development after a statement encouraging such a vote from ASRC president Edward E. Hopson, Sr.

"The United states is short of energy," Hopson said. "It is critically short of energy. Its way of life and the way of life of its citizens must drastically change if a solution is not found."

"The Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries have much to gain by being an active participant in the exploration and development of the Beaufort Sea," he continued.

Hopson asked his board to:

- 1) Support the Beaufort Sea Lease Sale.

- 2) To encourage strong local planning and management of developmental activities by local institutions;

- 3) To insure that all development is conditioned upon the involvement of local people and local corporations who have unique experience and understanding of our environment, our mammals and fisheries, ice conditions, and resources.

- 4) To join with government and industry in

efforts to safely develop those resources necessary to sustain a healthy borough, state and nation to insure this development proceeds in ways which benefit our economy, our life style and our subsistence.

- 5) To oppose at the present time, the development of resource potential in areas which, on the basis of present technology and knowledge, pose obvious risks, such as the areas outside the Barrier Islands in the Beaufort Sea. Further recommend strongly, that before any exploration takes place outside of the Barrier Islands, every attempt should be made to make sure that on shore exploratory programs take place first.

- 6) To encourage research on the bowhead whale continue and to strongly recommend that the U.S. Government make every effort to have the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission participate in determining the type of bowhead research to take place.