

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALASKA'S 1976 FISHING harvest is matching up to preseason Fish and Game predictions with a total of 20 million fish caught through the end of July.

DOYON LIMITED has "plugged and abandoned" its first exploratory drilling well in the Kandik Basin, 60 miles east of Circle. A move to a second site is scheduled for November with corporation spokespersons declining to say if oil or gas had been found at the first site. The possibility of a return to drilling at the first well was not ruled out.

BIA'S ANTIOQUIA says as many as 4,000 Seattle-Tacoma area residents may be eligible for benefits under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. 77,000 natives have already enrolled under ANCSA, and up to 10,000 more may qualify, 75 per cent of whom are thought to live outside Alaska.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has rejected a plan to extend the life of the Indian Claims Commission for three years, but approved \$1.65 million to fund the commission for FY '77. The commission was established in 1947 by Congress to judge all unsettled tribal claims against the U.S.

THE NON-PROFIT ARM of the Bering Straits Native Association, Kawerak Inc., has announced it will undergo complete financial and management reorganization under provisions of the federal Bankruptcy Code. Existing programs in job training and education will continue. The decision was made July 26 in Nome.

THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT appropriations bill for FY '77 has been signed into law by President Ford and includes \$8 million for the Bethel hospital, \$1.35 million for emergency medical services for native corporations, and \$805,000 for the first phase construction of a salmon hatchery in Matlakatla.

CHRIS ANDERSON has resigned as executive director of Tanana Chiefs Conference stating there is "no need for the position" with the president, Al Ketzler, handling executive duties and a new comptroller just hired. Anderson will take over as director of travel operations.

Death rate . . .

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exploitation of the Interior by white miners from 1890 on. He also cites the harshness of the climate, the fact that the Athabascans are a highly dispersed people lacking organized social structure, and the fact the violent deaths are mainly a village phenomenon related to the high number of villages in the Interior.

Although non-native suicide is decreasing overall, suicide among the non-native young is rising mainly due to drugs and transience. An increase in suicide among native youth is also occurring although it does not appear to be drug related.

Responding to the suggestion that high violent death rates in Alaska for natives may point out only that non-natives are used to being able to flee the state under stress, Kraus smiled and reminded the group that Alaska was supposed to be "an escape hatch."

Interim caribou regulations . . .

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But what pleased Hinman most was the way people talked about the method of curtailment of human harvest, something that would have a "drastic impact" on their lives by reducing the availability of protein by about two million pounds, as estimated by NANA head John Schaeffer.

Still, discussion centered on if a quota was needed, how it would be done to assure that one village did not get more than its fair share. Preceding the public meeting, discussion had also taken place with NANA Corp. people about other ways to alleviate the loss of protein. Hinman reported that possible programs were talked about with a representative of the Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs.

Some at Kotzebue even advocated total closure. "I was surprised no end at that,"

says Hinman.

The Fairbanks meeting, held on Wednesday evening, Aug. 4, was a disappointment. The turnout was poor and there were no representatives of Doyon, Ltd present. Hinman would have liked to have seen someone from the regional corporation because the Koyukuk River villagers are "fairly major users of caribou."

The variety of opinions expressed by the approximately 55 people attending were either strongly supportive of emergency action, saying, "why didn't you do something sooner?" or were concerned mainly with the portion of the plan that calls for reducing the wolf take. Hinman says that in Fairbanks, no one questioned the need for action but they did question the methods.

He was obviously pleased to say that the Alaska Conserva-

tion Society had made a detailed analysis of the situation and concurred that the wolf population needed to be reduced.

The final hearing took place in Barrow on Thursday, Aug. 5. Characterizing Eben Hopson's presentation at the last Game Board meeting as "rather militant," Hinman was prepared for the possibility of a "shouting match," but the meeting turned out to be "fairly productive."

Attended by about 70 people, there was a good representation from the area and from the two native wildlife management groups: the North Slope Management Committee and the Barrow Advisory Committee to the Board of Fish and Game.

Hinman said there was the usual hesitation in accepting the Game Board's figures on herd population decrease because, like Kotzebue, Barrow area

people have seen no great decline in the number of caribou wandering through their area. However, they are aware that Anaktuvuk has not had caribou for several seasons.

The Barrow hearing was dominated by an idea fostered someplace, says Hinman, that the pipeline is responsible for decline in the herd. Hinman, who says he is as willing as anyone to blame the pipeline, feels that it simply cannot be done in this case. The Game Board representatives presented data suggesting that caribou had not been migrating across that area for some time.

Although there was general agreement on the need for curtailment of human harvest, Hinman was disappointed that there was not much on how that curtailment would be allocated. Also, unlike Kotzebue, there was no discussion of other possible social programs to help out in the probable loss of a sizable amount caribou protein.

When asked why he felt the meeting was not as fruitful as the one in Kotzebue, Hinman said he felt the Barrow discussion was dominated by four or five individuals and an initial tone had been set by Charlie Edwardson Jr. challenging the legality of the state's control vs. the federal government's and citing laws and court cases, all of which may have had a determining effect on the discussion. "There was not the same degree of involvement present in Barrow. In Kotzebue there was more free expression."

The September Game Board meeting to finalize emergency regulations will probably take place somewhere in the Interior.

Alaska State Game Board members are chairman, Sam Harbo; Darrell Farnen, Anchorage; Sydney Huntington, Galena; Jim Reardon, Homer; Clint Buckmaster, Sitka; and Urban Nelson, Juneau. Fish and Game representatives taking testimony at the public hearings included Hinman, Game Director Rausch, Sam Harbo, Darrell Farnen, Commissioner Jim Brooks, and biologist Jim Davis.

fore lacks "social responsibility."

Saying that sharing is necessary and must be free, Hopson also said that sharing has rules, one of which is that the native people must have a say in what they share with scientists. The circumpolar Inupiat community can supply the base for a strong community organization for scientific inquiry, because it is "free of narrow, national, specialized interests."

Environmental risks must be measured in the Inupiat language and arctic Eskimos must have a hand in sponsoring international scientific negotiations since they are an international community.

As a solution, Hopson proposed a "regional circumpolar science agenda for a single arctic policy for safe resource extraction." Strengthening regional community organization in the arctic can only aid scientists in their research and make scientific knowledge more complete and realistic.

In line with this, Hopson announced that the North Slope Borough is planning to sponsor the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference this coming November to continue what was begun at the Arctic People's Conference in Denmark in 1973.

Hopson's paper followed directly on the heels of Commissioner Guy Martin's frank appraisal that in the midst of "a transitional period of serious complexity," Alaskans feel "a lack of contentment" with the results of their resource development.

Martin attributes the feeling to a lost "sense of community" where the same values and objectives are shared by all much like in the only real community that is left—the arctic native community.

Alaska can make no boasts about helping to foster cooperation among circumpolar nations because it usually followed one or both of two popular policies: "we don't give a damn about how they do it outside, or let the bastards freeze to death in the dark."

With this "bumper sticker philosophy," Alaska has been unable to really deal with its independence without succumbing to narrow provincialism. What is needed, according to Martin, is a conceptual basis for development, a plan for "the Alaska we would like to see."

Martin is concerned about the "character of the results," as he feels most Alaskans are. Those things are hard to dis-

cuss because they relate to natural qualities that are more difficult to define, but they are more important in the long run than political parties, economic status and jobs, Martin feels.

But to get to a central, identifiable conceptual basis, Martin says requires strong policies plotted out in such a way that they can be used for avenues of expression for people to carry out their beliefs in action.

Those policy issues that are going to determine how good the character of the Alaskan results are will be: 1) our ability to respond to resource development in the watershed, "post ANCSA era" (OCS, d-2, easements, subsistence, etc.) 2) the ability of large structures to cooperate so that we don't just decide on one issue without knowing how it affects others (such as the haul road), 3) the willingness of the major land owners to establish "true priorities on specific lands" rather than conducting an issue-to-issue battleground, and to focus on renewable resource priorities; and 4) how

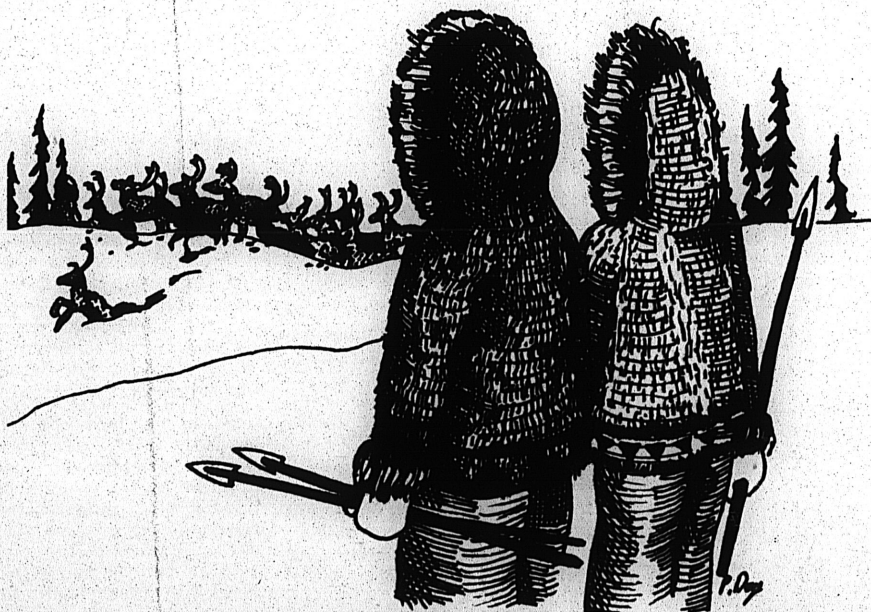
well it is recognized that a commitment of land is the foundation for any good management of resources.

Stability in Alaska is "illusory and demanding" and Martin feels that controversy defeats most viable proposals. What is necessary is for people to admit to the necessity for planning and then to follow a policy direction for a system of resource development. That way, Martin hopes, time-consuming litigation can be avoided in the future.

Martin also feels that Alaskans have to be aware of and insist on "something better than the way they do it outside" and that following out a well-developed policy, which might seem slow to some, is the only thing that will accomplish this, because it will allow the "character" of the state and its people to be the controlling factor in resource development.

With the tone set of development controlling people or people controlling development, the conference was off and running, debate centering on the underlying and usually technical

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