

# Kake owned processing line to help revive southeast industry

A new fish buyer is on the scene in central southeast Alaska. Kake Fisheries, owned by Kake Tribal Corporation, opened its fish processing line in mid-May during the black cod season. According to Kake Tribal President, Gordon Jackson, the plant processed nearly

300,000 pounds of black cod during that time.

At the close of the June halibut fishery, dozens of boats filled the bay in front of Kake, a small Native village about 40 miles west of Petersburg, waiting to unload their catch. Over thirty-five village resi-

dents worked furiously on the cold storage production line to process a quarter million pounds of halibut.

The start-up of the Kake Fisheries Cold Storage marks aggressive entry by the village corporation into the fisheries business. According to Jackson, the cold storage venture is an effort to revi-

talize the once thriving fisheries industry that has all but disappeared from the village.

"Our corporation built the cold storage a dozen years ago, but it has only operated intermittently over the years, and always by a third party operator," Jackson said. "We had an underused asset that we felt could be the cornerstone

for rebuilding the fisheries industry in Kake."

The cold storage is a 22,000 square-foot metal fabricated building with a production capacity of approximately 150,000 pounds of fish a day. There are three unloading bays at the dock, a fish pump, and a brand new ice rake system.