

Urban Alaskans Support Development

ANCHORAGE—The majority of Alaskans favor development of oil and gas offshore Alaska, according to a recent public opinion survey for the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

The survey, conducted by Alaska Analysts/Dittman Research, sampled the opinions of 546 Alaskans in Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak, Juneau and Fairbanks. The sample communities constitute approximately 80 percent of the State's urban population.

The survey found 74 percent of those polled said offshore oil and gas development should be allowed, while 23 percent responded that it should not. The greatest support for offshore lease sales came from the Kenai area, where onshore and offshore oil development has been going on for about 20 years. There, 90 percent said "allow" and 7 percent said "not allow" offshore develop-

ment. The least support was from Kodiak where community 48 percent opposed. The question did not specify the Kodiak area for leasing activity.

In related questions on offshore oil development, the survey revealed:

73 percent said drilling should start immediately on lease areas in the Beaufort Sea while 17 percent said drilling should be postponed and 6 percent opposed any drilling;

74 percent of respondents said proposed lease sales in offshore Western Alaska scheduled for 1982 thru 1985 should be postponed or cancelled.

The survey also revealed 91 percent feel oil development has been good for Alaska. A majority of those sampled felt the State government should encourage more oil and gas

development, but only 29 percent believed the State government provides a business climate that is good or excellent; 66 percent feel the business climate is "fair" or "poor".