

Hunting Privileges—

Rural CAP's Mike Harper Hits Abuse

Unless the situation surrounding the gross abuse of hunting privileges in certain areas of the state is vastly improved, many village people will be deprived of much of their annual meat supply," was the comment of Mike Harper, Executive Direc-

tor of Rural Alaska Community Action Program."

Harper recently returned from the Bristol Bay area, where community leaders, experienced guides, and Fish and Wildlife personnel were in unanimous agreement that the game taking is being abused, and also that a tremendous influx of hunters is taking the toll on moose in the Alaska Peninsula.

A recent moose survey indicated that there has been a drastic drop in moose population in the Katmai National Monument. According to local biologists, there were in 1969 93 bulls to 100 cows; 1971 85 bulls to 100 cows; 1972 79 bulls to 100 cows.

Last year, with the influx of meat and trophy hunters, there were only 43 bulls to 100 cows. Federal regulations prohibit hunting in any national monument.

Nick Gregory from Egegik reported that he personally witnessed 40 racks, both moose and caribou, being taken out of the region, with no sign of the carcasses being salvaged, this past hunting season.

Inflated meat prices triggered an abundance of metropolitan

(Continued on page 6)

Oil Exploration

Raymond C. Christiansen, president of the Calista Corporation, a Native Alaskan Regional Corporation, announced that Calista has entered into a preliminary exploration agreement with Shell Oil Company.

Shell is an international petroleum company based in Houston, Tex. Calista is a corporation formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

The multi-year agreement provides for Shell to conduct geological and geophysical surveys on the approximately 18 million acres of land, located within Calista's corporate boundaries, which were withdrawn under the Native Claims Act.

The land is generally located in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Basins, adjacent to the Bering Sea.

Mr. Christiansen stated that Shell's survey data will be used in assisting Calista with its selec-

tion of approximately six million acres, to which Calista shareholders are entitled under the Native Claims Act.

After Calista makes its final selection of acreage, in December, 1975, Shell is to continue with its exploration program in further evaluating and developing the hydrocarbon potential of the area.

Mr. Christiansen views the agreement with Shell as an opportunity for Alaskan Natives in the Bethel-based Calista region to participate in the economic growth of Alaska's oil industry.

The employment of Calista Region Alaskans will be utilized in carrying out the exploration program. Other terms of the agreement were not announced.

Privileges . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

hunters to fly into the region to take the moose and caribou in far greater numbers than has ever been reported.

It is widely held that a few "bandits" are projecting a very bad image for the rest of the big game guides.

"The Office of Public Safety is now accountable for proper game management and protection, and with only 40 officers for the entire state, it is near impossible to catch violators, much less get convictions," noted one guide from the Alaskan Peninsula.

In the past few months, other areas such as Galena, have been experiencing similar problems.

"The State Fish and Game Board will be meeting in late March and RurAL CAP will present positions and/or proposed regulation changes that we hope will be favorably received, stated Harper.

"Something is grossly wrong," he continued, "when low income or near marginal poor people in rural areas are deprived of their meat supply by metropolitan fly-in hunters who certainly don't have the need of those village people.

"The area limitation for guides, as currently proposed in the legislature, would go a long way toward curbing those few 'bandit' guides who start their business in the Brooks Range, then move over to the Wrangell Mountains, and finally wind up the season in the Alaska Peninsula.

"As the advocate for low income rural people, we will be seeing to it that certain measures are either adopted or laws already on the books are more stringently adhered to," concluded the CAP director.