

Pact means Sealaska will cut timber

JUNEAU — Sealaska Corp. has reached an agreement with the other 11 regional corporations in Alaska, enabling Sealaska to continue to actively develop its timber holdings this year, according to Sealaska spokesmen.

The corporation's board of directors had announced that unless an agreement was reached with the other regional corporations which would clearly define its obligations to share timber revenues under Section 7(i) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Sealaska would be unable to harvest its ANCSA timber.

"The timber markets remain at historically high levels and all of the regional corporations saw that it was in each of their interests to allow Sealaska to continue its timber harvest program this year," said Byron I. Mallott, Sealaska chief executive officer.

"This was an important event for Sealaska Corp. and for the other

regional corporations because the Native leadership itself formulated a solution to a complex and volatile issue rather than going through costly arbitration and the courts," Mallott said. "This benefits the entire Alaska Native community."

Sealaska officials recently reached an agreement in principle with the other regions. Sealaska's board authorized the corporation to proceed with the Fiscal Year 1990 timber harvest and the final agreement with the other regional corporations.

Sealaska expects to harvest ANCSA timber from the following areas during 1989: View Cove on Dall Island; Beaver Creek, Cabin Creek and Kina Cove on Prince of Wales Island; Gun-nuck Creek near Kake; and Gallagher and Humpback Creeks near Hoonah.

About 100 million boardfeet of ANCSA logs are expected to be exported to the Far East.

"The decision to proceed with Sealaska's timber harvest program is



important to the economy of Southeast Alaska, and particularly villages whose residents depend on our timber program for employment. Approximately 400 direct jobs were affected, including those employed by independent logging and road building contractors," Mallott said.

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—Byron Mallott
