

Limited Entry

Hearings on Limited Entry and Wanton and Waste were held March 13-16 in Bristol Bay by members of the House Resources committee. In addition to Dillingham, the committee heard testimony in the villages of Togiak, Naknek, Newhalen and Nondalton.

Testimony from these villages was basically in support of the Limited Entry law, but with emphasis, it should be made certain that the young people be able to get into the fisheries.

Speakers in all the villages stated that anyone born and raised in the Bristol Bay watershed should be issued a permit.

Other testimony on Limited Entry stated that: 1) more points should be given for where a person was born; 2) feel that non-residents should not be equal to a resident; 3) why Limited Entry treats all parts of the state the same instead of going by individual areas;

4) how much money was spent on helping people outside the state with Limited Entry; 5) feel Limited Entry has disrupted a way of life; 6) people are tired of no public input from the smaller areas of the state, especially when the bills affect the local areas;

7) question why the state doesn't conduct its own research instead of using University of Washington staff; 8) stated that the Alaska Department of Fish

and Game and the Limited Entry Commission should be based in Naknek where the fisheries are, on year round basis.

Testimony from these villages on Wanton and Waste law included the following statements: 1) in favor of the bill; 2) increase surveillance personnel to enforce regulations; 3) Togiak — feels that Fish and Game leave trophy hunters alone and pick on Natives; Natives are not used to having a license; 4) Newhalen (people from Kokhanok, Pedro Bay, Iliamna, Igiugig testified) last year was the worst year for the slaughter of animals in Iliamna-Nondalton area — not much meat was seen;

5) Should be a limit on the number of animals taken; 6) should establish a radius around a village where trophy hunting is not allowed; 7) ask for more enforcement officers; 8) the villages want the meat if the hunters and guides don't; 9) have mandatory check points;

10) discussed the amount of animals slaughtered when hunting and transporting were allowed on the same day — caribou especially; only allow two caribou per day to be taken was the suggestion; 11) price of trophy tags should be raised;

12) department should keep track of how many animals are taken out of a lodge; 13) if game is short, stop trophy hunting and allow only subsistence; 14) for the bill but with more controls and enforcement personnel.

Upon his return to Juneau after hearings in the Bay, Rep. Nels Anderson, Jr., House Resources Committee chairman, reports that his committee has been holding a series of Limited Entry workshops which have been well attended by fishermen from all

around the state. Presently before the resources committee is a bill to repeal Limited Entry.

Anderson states the committee is in no hurry to schedule formal hearings on the bill or to establish a timetable for its consideration. "The time is uncertain when this bill will receive a full hearing by this committee," he said.