

# NAFWS sets annual conference to strengthen tribes

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) will hold its third annual Alaska Regional Conference April 9-11, 1996 in Anchorage, Alaska. This year's conference theme is 'Strengthening Tribal Management: Working Together to Achieve Our Goals.'

Larry Merculieff, one of the Alaska Regional Directors of the NAFWS, says this conference is timely and a unique opportunity: "Because this is a period of human history where we need to share tra-

ditional knowledge and wisdom between Native people and all others, for the benefit of Mother Earth and all of her children."

The conference is unique because of its strong technical focus, while incorporating indigenous knowledge and priorities. The members of the NAFWS believe that all parts of the natural world, including humans, are closely related in an intricate web of harmony and interdependence. The invitations for elders, speak-

ers and presenters reflect this holistic approach.

There will be presentations by Ken Poynter, NAFWS Executive Director, Larry Merculieff, Katie John, Mary Pete, Carol Jorgenson, Randy Mayo, Chief of Stevens Village, Matthew Fred and Jean Gamache.

The technical sessions will provide information on the components of a strong tribal resource management program. These include; natural resource education, ecosystem management, strengthening tribal management, fisheries issues, wildlife issues, tribal use of GIS technology, tribal environmental issues

and contracting & compacting.

Once again, the Anchorage Hilton Hotel is hosting this conference and offering special rates for conference participants. Early reservations are encouraged. Call the Hilton's toll-free number (#800-245-2527) and request the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society conference rate.

The conference pre-registration fee is \$95, which includes the banquet. For more information, call Michelle Davis, NAFWS Alaska regional coordinator at 257-2720.