

# Charges are dropped against Native duck hunters

Stating that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has made "no clear attempt to define or communicate to people where subsistence hunting stops and sports hunting begins," U.S.

Attorney Alexander Brenner announced that charges against Bethel residents for taking migratory waterfowl out of season were being dropped on June 29. On May 25, boxes of ducks

shot by three Bethel hunters were seized by U.S. Fish and Wildlife officers at the Bethel airport. The ducks were shot in the area outlying Bethel, which the hunters reached by

scheduled mail-plane service.

Federal agents asserted that it was possible the hunters were not subsistence hunters since they could afford to fly to the hunting area. For the last 18

years, treaties and laws which forbid the taking of migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese and swans) out of season have not been enforced against Native (See DUCK, Page 8)

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# Eskimo whalers will ignore IWC



**WHALERS CONFER** — Representatives of the Alaskan Eskimo whalers attending the London meeting of the International Whaling Commission last week are shown here in a caucus during the meetings. From left to right, are, Jacob Adams, Chairman of the Alaskan Eskimo Whaling Commission; Eben Hopson, Mayor of the North Slope Borough; Arnold Brower, Sr., President of the Barrow Whalers Association; whaling captain Roger Silook of Gambell; and whaling captain Oscar Swan of Kivalina. Adams, Hopson and Brower were members of the United States Delegation at the talks. —MICHAEL I. JEFFREY PHOTOGRAPH

**"I'm not going to let my people suffer again" — Adams**

BY MICHAEL I. JEFFREY  
and PAM HERMAN

Calling a recommended subsistence bowhead whale quota of 24 "unjust" and "totally unfair," the three-member Alaskan Eskimo delegation to the International Whaling Convention and their supporters walked out of a meeting last Wednesday of the IWC Technical Committee, symbolically removing themselves and future hunting by member captains of the Alaskan Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) from the jurisdiction of the IWC.

18 Landed, 27 Struck

The 24 whale quota was narrowly approved by the Technical Committee (a committee of the whole) late Wednesday. As the Eskimos predicted after abandoning the meeting, the recommended quota was cut even further when the issue reached the floor of the IWC itself in plenary session Thursday. The final quota approved for 1979 was 18 whales landed, or 27 struck. At the motion of the Danish delegation, the quota for 1978 was raised from 12 landed to 14. So far this year 10 whales have been landed, and five struck and lost, in Northwest Alaskan coastal waters.

The whaling captains reported that in four of the five; whales struck but lost, they believed the whales escaped without serious injury as the bombs failed to explode.

"Let Them Stop Playing with Our Lives"

In a statement released after the walk-out, the AEWC accused the IWC of switching the rules of the game in order to keep the quota low.

"The Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission hereby gives

notice to the International Whaling Commission that it objects to any action taken by the IWC concerning bowhead whales. By filing this objection, the AEWC removes itself from any asserted jurisdiction of the IWC. Alaskan Eskimo whalers will conduct a bowhead whale hunt in the fall and next spring. The hunt will only be subject to AEWC regulations.

"The AEWC members on the U.S. delegation have informed U.S. Commissioner Richard Frank of their decision to file an objection and of their withdrawal from the U.S. delegation and departure from Alaska.

"Despite the good faith efforts of Eskimo whalers to abide by an unjust quota of 12 landed or 18 struck whales during 1978 the IWC ignored the proposal of the United States to permit a hunt at a level to meet nutritional and cultural needs. The IWC ignored the advice of the people who know most about the bowhead whale and who are most interested in its conservation.

"Last year the IWC said there

were about 1,300 whales with net recruitment of 4-5 percent. So we counted whales this year. We counted 2,264 whales that passed just one of our whaling villages. Our whalers saw many other whales at other villages. So the IWC switched the rules of the game, and said the whales were reproducing at only a 1 percent rate. The reason for changing the rules of the game, according to IWC Commissioners, was a 'low calf count.' Even the smallest Eskimo child knows how difficult it is to count calves. Even a child would expect a 'low calf count' when the counters stop counting before the majority of the calves migrate past the counting stations.

"But the IWC did not listen. They pompously parcelled out a small number of whales, allowing only half of the number which the U.S. government determined to be a reasonable and fair number.

"Such charity will not be tolerated. Let them stop playing

(See IGNORE, Page 3)

## Native contractors will face further BIA money problems

BY PAMELA HERMAN

Native organizations that contract with the BIA for social service programs faced a money scare in recent months, and can look forward to another one in the coming fiscal year, according to Clarence Antioquia, area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Juneau.

The money shortage resulted from Congress' failure to appropriate enough money to implement the Indian Self-Determination Act which it passed in 1974.

The problem was solved, temporarily, when the BIA stripped its own operating budget of all uncommitted funds at the beginning of 1978, so that Native groups could be reimbursed for their overhead expenses.

Projections Prove Correct

The Indian Self-Determination Act allows tribal governing bodies (such as I.R.A. Councils and Native corporations) to take

control of BIA programs. Native groups can operate BIA education, job training, welfare, and other services; they can design programs to meet regional or village special needs, and hire staff of their own choice to run the programs. The BIA provides program money to these organizations, and also awards a percentage for overhead or "indirect" expenses.

Antioquia explained that the BIA's budget is planned two years in advance. He said the Juneau office "projected accurately" the money requirements for indirect costs in fiscal year 1978 (October '77-September '78) at about \$2.5 million. However, since contracting programs were just starting up, the Bureau had trouble documenting the need for this amount, and Congress only appropriated \$732,000 for FY '78 indirect costs.

Attempts to get supplemental funds failed, despite the work of

Assistant Secretary of the Interior Forrest Gerrard and the Alaska Congressional delegation.

Again in FY 79

Antioquia said the Bureau expects another shortfall in FY '79 of about \$1.4 to \$1.6 million. The projected need is for over \$2.5 million, the appropriation only \$1.2 million.

Efforts are underway to persuade Congress to appropriate additional money for indirect programs for Native groups all over the country. Nationwide, the projected shortage for con-

(See CLIFF-HANGER, Page 3)

The Tundra Times is publishing a smaller than usual eight-page newspaper this week in order to allow our employees to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday. Many of our regular features and special news reports will resume in next week's issue.