

# Freeman supports subsistence

From staff and wire reports

JUNEAU — Gubernatorial hopeful Rep. Oral Freeman says the state should not repeal its subsistence hunting and fishing law.

In a speech to the Juneau Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, the Ketchikan Democrat said if the law is repealed the federal government will step in and once again take control of fish and game management on 60 percent of Alaska's land.

"It's absolutely imperative that both sides work out a compromise that we can live with," Freeman said. "If they don't, the whole state will lose. We spent too much sweat and effort 25-35 years ago to manage our own resources to squabble among ourselves and let the federal government

come in and take it over now."

Freeman said the legislature should alter the law, but not repeal it altogether. The law allows priority allocation of fish and game resources to subsistence users when resources are tight.

Another gubernatorial candidate, Bill Sheffield, of Anchorage, last week told the board of directors of the Alaska Federation of Natives that he too was opposed to the repealing the subsistence law.

Sheffield made his statement at the AFN board meeting in Juneau where he stopped to introduce himself. He was asked about his feelings in the subsistence issue and told the board he supports subsistence in the state.