

Hunt move loses

A procedural maneuver designed to free a bill calling for repeal of the state's subsistence law was defeated by the state House of Representatives last week.

Rep. Ramona Barnes, R-Anchorage, had called for a full House vote to move the bill out of the House Committee on Subsistence to the Resources Committee, but the call was defeated 16-23.

Rep. Tony Vaska, D-Bethel, chairman of the subsistence committee, said the committee would issue a full report once public hearings were completed, but that the efforts of the committee would be wasted if the bill were advanced sooner.

The vote reflected not so much the House's feelings about the subsistence issue as it did an adherence to rules of procedure. The major source of votes for the defeat came from the efforts of Rep. Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, who rallied the Democratic Causcus against the move, saying it violated legislative procedure.

Barnes, a member of the subsistence committee, has been the leader of a move to repeal the state's subsistence law, which

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● Subsistence

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gives subsistence hunters and fishermen priority for use of stocks when populations are limited.

As the subsistence issue smoldered in the legislature, the Alaska Rural Development Council last week named six of its members to a special legislative task force to thoroughly study the subsistence issue and to meet with legislators to work out some suitable approach to the volatile issue.

The special rural task force will recommend a course of action to the full Rural Development Council for consideration at its next meeting. That meeting is set for May 13-14 in Juneau.

Alaskans who serve on the Rural Development Council's special legislative committee are Caroline Powell, Yakutat; Ralph Anderson, Barrow; Caleb Pungowiyi, Nome; Freeman Roberts, Dillingham; Herb Smelcer, Copper Center; and Tom Abel, Craig.

Marie Matsuno, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, is chairman of the 16-member Rural Development Council.
