

Pt. Hope Archaeological Sites Erosion to Be Studied

A start has been made toward protecting from destruction ancient village sites of archaeological and historical importance.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers has announced they will conduct beach erosion studies at Pt. Hope and Dillingham where important aboriginal living sites are being washed away.

The purpose of the study will be to try to determine some economically feasible way of preventing potential destruction of ancient sites. The Pt. Hope study will cost about \$7,000, and the Dillingham study will cost about \$5,500, according to Col.

Clare F. Farley, Alaska District Engineer.

At Point Hope about half of the site known as Old Tigara has been destroyed during the past 40 years. There has been grave concern among the people in Pt. Hope concerning the destruction of old ruins both to the west and east of the village.

Savage storms racking the Northwest coast annually eat away the shore, doing most damage in the fall. The importance of the Point Hope situation becomes clear when one considers that the site is the oldest continuous settlement known in North America. The village dates back

through time as a constantly settled are 4,000 years. Reported the Point was once as much as seven miles out to sea in recent times. There are other historical sites along Alaska's coasts and rivers that need protection as well.

The Corps of Engineers studies are a start to a problem to which some solution is overdue, according to archaeologists and historians.

In 1964 Point Hope obtained a small village grant of sand-filled oil drums to protect the village from flooding but old village sites remain exposed.