

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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PROPOSED VOLUNTEER MARINE TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR KACHEMAK BAY, ALASKA

There has been considerable concern during the past few years over conflicts between vessel traffic and fishing gear in Kachemak Bay. Kachemak Bay contains one of the most concentrated stationary fishing gear areas in the state. It is also a convenient "hole up" location for vessels during bad weather, a pick up point for pilots for large vessels navigating the Upper Inlet and the location for large vessel traffic servicing the local area. The reported fishing gear loss from this traffic entangling and severing buoy lines is very high.

In an attempt to find a solution to this problem, representatives of the United States Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Division of Lands and the Alaska Attorney General's Office met in Anchorage several months ago. From the discussions at this meeting, it was apparent that the best solution was for the users of the area, if possible, to agree on transportation corridors for the major vessel traffic within Kachemak Bay. Recreation use was not believed to be a problem. Volunteer programs have been highly successful in other areas and were felt to be preferable in this situation to the cumbersome regulation procedure that would be necessary for the Coast Guard and the Corps to impose corridors.

Thus a meeting between representatives of several of the major user groups was held in Homer on Oct. 9, 1975 to draft a proposal for submission to the public. User groups represented at the meeting included marine pilots, towboat operators, timber developers, helicopter services, tanker traffic and fishermen. It was apparent at the meeting that all users could not be completely accommodated without some adjustment of present operating practices of each group. The attached map represents the proposed solution that was generally agreed by the group to be acceptable.

The proposal calls for a one-mile corridor in the southern portion of the Bay south of the primary crab fishing areas. In the vicinity of Seldovia Point this corridor would begin to narrow. By Point Barbara the corridor would narrow to ½ mile where it crosses a shrimp and king crab fishing area at the mouth of Tutka Bay. Another one-mile wide corridor in the northern portion of the Bay is not as critical to commercial fishing since a large part of the area is in a crab sanctuary.

In order to coordinate the establishment of a volunteer corridor, the Alaska Division of Lands plans to hold a public hearing in Homer the latter part of November tentatively set for Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Homer High School Library. The hearing will address only the question of the volunteer establishment of corridors to minimize conflicts between vessel traffic and stationary fishing gear. We urge that all users attend the November hearing and express their thoughts, realizing, of course, that some compromise, such as the proposal shown on the attached chart, will be necessary. The drafting committee has done its work. It is now up to the public to assure that a workable plan is developed.

A volunteer corridor plan will only work if the user public finds it acceptable and agrees to comply with it. We feel confident that if a plan can be developed which has good public support, the vessel traffic problem in Kachemak Bay can be resolved within a short time.

The exact time and place of the November meeting will be advertised well in advance of the meeting.

Michael C.T. Smith
Director

Changes in Fishing Regs

JUNEAU—Proposed changes in sport, commercial and subsistence fishing regulations have been published and the Board of Fisheries is soliciting public comments on them.

The proposed changes will be considered at the board's fall meeting which is scheduled to begin Dec. 1 in Juneau.

Oral testimony on the proposed changes may be presented to the board at the public hearing scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Dec. 2 at the Fish and Game

auditorium in the Subport Building in Juneau.

Written comments may be submitted to the board through the public hearing portion of the meeting. Interested individuals submitting written comments are urged to submit their comments prior to Nov. 21 to provide board members the opportunity for review prior to the meeting.

All written comments should be submitted to the Board of

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Letters from Here and There

TT Successfully Defends Freedom Of the Press

Box 4-EEE
Anchorage, Alaska 99509
October 24, 1975

Editor Howard Rock
and The Tundra Times Board
Box 1287
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Friends:

The Tundra Times is one of the few newspapers I know of that does what the U.S. Constitution hoped for in granting freedom of the press: It has successfully defended the rights of the people—a very special people who didn't seem to have much of a chance when the paper was established.

Editor Rock has a marvelous news sense and his efforts, with those of the Tundra Times Board, to keep the paper on solid middle ground have been responsible for its fine record.

I've always been grateful to you for taking me on when you knew I couldn't spell. And for keeping me calm when I insisted we should be more radical.

Working for the Tundra Times has been one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my life and the idea of receiving an award for doing something that has been so much fun—well, it just never occurred to me.

I am flabbergasted and truly delighted!

With sincere thanks,
Mrs. Lael Morgan

Stickman Tired Of Security Check

Anchorage, Alaska
October 27, 1975

Dear Friend Howard:

Well, I missed my ride so I decided to stay another week here. Also I don't have to cut wood and pack water. Also I decided not to fly with Wien anymore. I'm getting sick of being searched, searched, searched. I've tried to stop that monkey business but one man can't do it.

But the pipeline stopped it.

Well, Howard, as you know I came 1,400 miles to the Tundra Times banquet. And here is what people tells me at the banquet.

—Why don't they give you a microphone and say a few words so we could see you. We don't know who Fred Stickman is.

—They also told me, your picture and your letters should be in the front page. This is why. We and lots more people buying the paper on account of your letters.

—Lots of them asked me if I got a free banquet ticket. I said no. They thought that was awful. I guess they thought I was working for you. You know how people are.

But all the time I was itching to get to that mike since I heard the "land claims." This didn't hit me till now. I didn't realize I was fighting the land claims since I was eleven years old. That's 57 years ago. When I went to Holy Cross mission I was 10 years old.

The mission staked the whole village. Then they tried to kick the Indian out who made home brew or White Mule.

So I came home. I was 11 years old.

Then I realized Nulato mission stake blocked the village from spreading out. They had staked one mile long and ½ mile wide. That's when I started to ask the Brother and later on the priests. How could you own that ground you staked? That ground belongs to us. No, we staked it in Juneau.

But I still knew it's wrong. Then the Signal Corps came in, build a road between the village and the mission without asking the poor Indians.

Then the wireless station was built, 18 soldiers stationed there right in the village. Then I started noticing the soldiers start shacking up while the men were hunting or trapping. Also the soldiers getting drunk, fight sometimes. They didn't get in jail, but there was always some Indians in jail for arguing with their wives because of the soldiers.

Next thing I noticed was the Northern Commercial Co. store there in the front. Main street. They have big fence. They get as much ground as they could grab. Then the hospital. Big area with fence, then the jail, also roadhouse.

So I was fighting or telling all and a lot more people that these business houses don't or can't own the land. I was the only one fighting for land claims.

Then I started or tell the marshal and commissioner that you put those Indians in jail for nothing. That was the reason they started framing me and I started getting arrested. I never was arrested for drunk or stealing but I was arrested for everything in the book. Most of the time, or all the time, they never make it stick.

Another thing I noticed all these years. The one who's got money never goes to jail. So now I have been trying to go to that new jail in Fairbanks so I can fight them with money but I never make the new jail.

So all these years I was fighting for us Indians, the land claims and also for money.

One time when Alden Williams was flying the mail I paid him for a lot of freight. Sometime I never got paid back. So I asked and said to Alden, you owe me some money. He said God will pay you and he laughed and was walking away from me. And that was my pay. I hope he was right. Fred Stickman, Sr.

P.S. I still got my summer clothes on. When it gets cold I'll get my winter clothes.

Trespass Suit

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A trespass suit naming 125 defendants has been filed in the U.S. District Court in Anchorage by the Justice Department on behalf of the Eskimos of the Arctic Slope region. This suit came about as a result of Judge Oliver Gasch's ruling that Charles Edwardsen and other Natives of the Arctic Slope have the right to

collect damages for trespass that allegedly occurred before the Land Claims Settlement Act in 1971.

In the 1960's the state selected land on the Arctic Slope and allowed oil companies to go in and explore for oil. The Eskimos of the Slope said that the companies were trespassing on their land. This alleged trespass included surveying with explosives, drilling wells, building campsites, buildings, and removing large amounts of sand and gravel. It was also stated that Eskimo property consisting of structures from buildings to caches and graveyards was also damaged.

The suit filed by Edwardsen against Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton stated that the Secretary was not performing his duty when he allowed third parties on the land that had been claimed by the Eskimos. It had been his duty to protect the interests of Alaskan Natives in lands claimed on basis of use and occupancy. The Eskimos, in the suit charged that the Secretary violated their Fifth Amendment rights by taking the land without giving them reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Because Judge Gasch gave the Eskimos the right to collect damages, this other suit came about. Many are concerned about the years of costly court battles and the task of working on thousands of law suits. Some are concerned about homesteaders and people who have small mining claims. The Eskimos are more concerned with the big companies who may have done real damage to the land by seismic exploration and other physical damages along this line. The reason the Eskimos are wanting to sue the big companies is because they may have done real damages to the land and they can more than afford to pay for the damages they may have done.

Vicki L. Dull

Luck of Osage

1412 S.E. 28th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214
October 23, 1975

Dear Mr. Rock:

Knowing of your longstanding interest in the affairs of the Alaska Eskimo, Indian and Aleut, I thought you would be interested in the following resume, "The Luck of The Osage Indian Tribe."

Before I get into the subject I would like to know that I'm a Caucasian. One that has been married to a full-blood Eskimo woman for forty-four years, and hoping for another 44.

Albeit I have no pecuniary interest in the Alaska Natives Claims Settlement Act, I cannot but help but to be saddened at the way the individual Alaska Native has been "ripped-off." From what I have been told, and upon empirical knowledge gained during my numerous years with and among the Alaska Natives, the individual native, those assigned to a "legally" recognized village, and those assigned "at large" have been ripped-off continuously since the first whaler and first trapper arrived in their homeland.

This conduct by the "white man" continues today. The ACT required that the natives receive approximately one billion dollars and forty million acres of land. To date the individual native has received, depending on their "village status" or their "at large"

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