

# Who's right?

There are a number of questions concerning the current herring fishing taking place in Bristol Bay. Villagers of the area say the resource is being depleted to the extent that the basic food chain of all living things in the area will be irreparably damaged. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, however, maintains that stocks are such that no lasting damage will result from the intensified fishery. Thus, there is no reason for an emergency closure asked for by the villagers.

Unfortunately, the real answer to the question, just who is right and who is wrong, will not be available for years, when the herring may or may not come back. Meanwhile, hundreds of boats are hauling in thousands of herring whose roe sells for thousands of dollars.

The Fish and Game people better be right on this one, or else we're all in deep trouble. The renewable resources, marine and mammal, could disappear, and all the area will be useful for will be the production of oil. Maybe, that's the plan.