

# • Tribal conference charts practical course

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to question-and-answer sessions with attorneys representing Native interests about just what the 9th Circuit ruling in the Venetie case meant for the exercise of tribal authority in their communities.

Perhaps one of the most significant

developments to emerge from the conference was the unmistakable sentiment expressed by many that it was time to reassure alarmed Alaskans that tribes can and will govern responsibly and fairly, that Native sovereignty is not about denying due process or overrunning prior

existing rights. Many asserted that this was not time nor the place for firebrand rhetoric, that no matter what legal or political provocation is created by state government, tribes must function in the real world where federal, state, and in some cases municipal, governments will have to share governing powers.

Will Mayo, president of Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc. of Fairbanks, told par-

ticipants that reassurance through responsible governance was the only sensible way to deal with the misinformation and scare tactics being used by state officials and legislators to block Native self-governance.

The conference, held April 1-3, also resulted in formation of the Alaska Tribal Judicial Conference to provide technical assistance to tribal courts.

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deemed to have a "high likelihood" of explaining the Steller decline is effects of fishing on Steller prey.

"The Steller sea lions are in direct competition with the factory trawlers for food and the Stellers are losing," said Ken Stump, Greenpeace Fisheries campaigner. "The Fisheries Service must not only address how much fish is taken, but where and when."

Over 800,000 metric tons of pollock are extracted annually from areas designated as critical Steller habitat and that volume has been increasing steadily since 1982, when the U.S. first took over management of the fishery. Greenpeace is calling on Congress to conduct hearings on the failure of the

Fisheries Service to protect marine ecosystems as it manages the fisheries.

"Years of excuses and endless stalling must come to an end now," said Gerry Leape, Greenpeace Fisheries legislative director. "The Stellers' plight has been literally studied to death. Let's save the Stellers while there is still time. The endangered listing is the first to accomplish that."

Greenpeace is calling for cuts in the pollock quota in the North Pacific, a ban on U.S. factory trawling and a comprehensive environmental impact statement on the fishery. In spite of dramatically altered conditions in the fishery, such an impact statement has not been conducted in 15 years.

# • Stellar sea lion protection sought by Greenpeace



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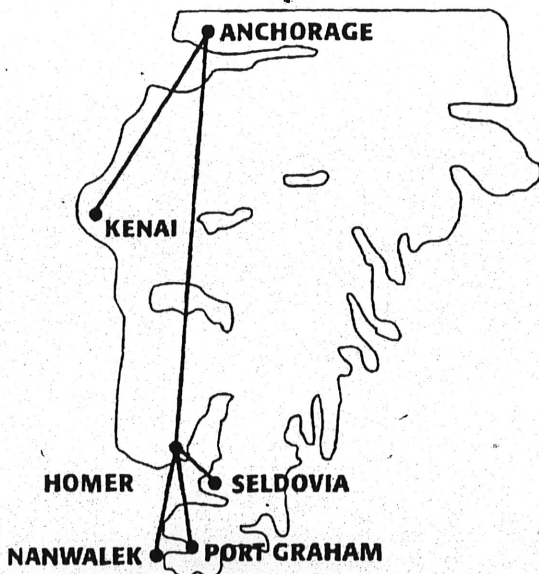
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