



"The meaning of 'subsistence' is known, and felt and practiced by many rural Alaskans who have no need to define it or to defend their definition in a court of law or in the halls of a legislature. They simply do it."

This special issue of the Tundra Times was produced by the Tundra Times at cost in the public interest for Alaska Natives and their families and is being distributed free of charge to postal patrons in listed Alaska Native villages, to members of Native organizations in urban centers of Alaska, and to State and national opinion leaders and decision-makers. This not-for-profit project of the Tundra Times was made possible by funds authorized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, supplemented by funds provided by the RurAL Alaska Community Action Program.

The Tundra Times is Alaska's oldest statewide newspaper which provides news of interest to all Alaskans, primarily Alaska Native Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts.

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Should Subsistence be defined?

Should subsistence be defined? What are your feelings about subsistence? What should the State of Alaska do about protecting subsistence?

These are among the questions asked Alaskans by the Legislative Interim Committee on Subsistence.

Chaired by Representative Nels Anderson of Dillingham, the Interim Committee was funded by the 1977 Alaska State Legislature to hear the comments and concerns of Alaskans on the issue of subsistence.

During its six month life the Committee held hearings in 11 communities across Alaska from Juneau to Barrow and from Kipnuk to Glennallen. Committee members concentrated on the urban areas of the State and the "traditional hearing communities" to solicit testimony from a diverse group of Alaskans.

A limited budget (Anderson requested \$100,000 and received \$40,000) prevented the Committee from travelling to many of the smaller villages.

The result of testimony has been presented to the State Legislative Council along with suggestions for legislative action.

The Committee has recommended a Division of Subsistence be established within the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game. The new division would be on the same par as the current Division of Sport Fish.

The second recommendation of the Committee is a proposal to completely decentralize the State Department of Fish and Game to 12 regional boards. The boards would have the same boundaries as the regional corporations established by the Settlement Act and would have full regulatory authority over fish and game management.

The Committee has also recommended the creation of the Board of Subsistence within the Department of Fish and Game.

Additionally, the Interim Committee has suggested two resolutions to the Legislative Council.

The first resolution deals with the creation of an ongoing sub-committee on subsistence, and the second is a recommendation to the Federal government to legalize hunting of migratory birds in the spring.

It now remains to be seen if resulting legislative action will take place by the 1978 Alaska State Legislature.