

# Sealaska holds talks with 13th Regional Corporation

The president of the Sealaska Corporation, Sam L. Demmert and a member of the Sealaska board, Judson L. Brown, met with Dennis Small, president of the 13th Regional Corporation recently in Seattle. Both corporations are regional profit-making corporations formed under the Native claims act.

Previous political differences were put aside according to Sealaska, as the corporations discussed possible joint bottom fisheries ventures and other mutual economic prospects.

The 13th Region is already involved in an Alaska high seas fisheries venture, while Sealaska is the most populous Native re-

gion whose shareholders have a traditional fisheries background.

Demmert, commenting on the meeting, said, "This first meeting went well. We discussed common points of interest, where we can work together, especially on the fisheries. Whatever we do we will work to create better opportunities for our shareholders in the fisheries industry. Future meetings are anticipated."

The announcement by Sealaska of the talks between the two corporations is viewed as significant by close observers of Native affairs for two reasons. First, it signals that the 13th Region may be gaining some acceptance among Alaska Native regional corporations. Sealaska strongly opposed creation of the 13th Region while the proposal to establish it was under consid-

eration. Secondly, Sealaska has been extremely reluctant in the past to give serious consideration to investment in fisheries ventures.

Underscoring the new direction for the large Native corporation, Sealaska board chairman Byron Mallott told the Tundra Times: "Sealaska is also in

discussion with other fisheries firms and intends to thoroughly evaluate every opportunity for getting involved in the fisheries industry."