

RURALCAP DEFINES SUBSISTENCE



DIRECTORS DISCUSS SUBSISTENCE — RurAL CAP Regional Directors discuss Subsistence at their meeting February 2, in Anchorage at the new RurAL CAP office.

'Subsistence is a Basic Human Right'

In order for any constructive attempts for legislative action or regulation of laws pertaining to subsistence hunting and fishing, the word subsistence must be clarified and defined from the standpoint of Alaskan Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts so that our legislators in

Juneau can come up with a workable plan to protect the aboriginal rights of subsistence hunting and fishing.

This was done at the February 2 meeting of the RurAL CAP Regional Directors. Subsistence was defined as:

Subsistence is a basic human right or full, unrestricted, utilization and protection of any or all available resources in order

to sustain and guarantee physical, environmental, and cultural survival.

The basic subsistence of China consists of rice. The basic subsistence of Western Europe and urban America is the cash market economy.

Alaska is unique. Here the subsistence values of the Western culture are in open conflict with the unique subsistence values of indigenous Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut populations. These subsistence values are still vital to our 50,000 Alaskan Indian, Aleuts, and Eskimos, as they have been for countless thousands of years, as they will be for hundreds of years in the future.

Only in Alaska, in all of North American history, does the opportunity exist to protect the basic human right of subsistence for all citizens.

We believe that Western and traditional values can live side by side; but just as Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts have no right to destroy the cultural values of the White Man, neither do White Men have a right to destroy the cultural values and life-styles of Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts.

With that in mind, and with the very question of survival in mind, we respectfully present the following proposals:

The Fish and Game Board should set seasonal opening and closing dates which are responsive to local suggestions and needs, as determined by public hearings within each region; no aircraft hunter may hunt the same day as those species of game for which he is required to have a trophy tag, and that no permanent structure may be constructed on public lands; and the Board of Fish and Game should establish experimental restricted zones where the taking of animals is limited and where no terrain vehicles are to be used.

Legislators are to be urged to enact legislation which would impose trophy tag fees ten times their current cost for those species required for salvage under the wanton waste laws provided further that 90% of such fee shall be refunded by the State upon submission of evidence satisfying the Department of Fish and Wildlife that the meat has been properly salvaged. Such evidence demonstrating proper utilization shall require an affidavit from either a State Fish and Game agent, Protection Officer, or Village Council, thus having witnessed proper salvage in the area, asserting that the meat has been received by them for utilization.

NEW ADDRESS

The RurAL CAP central office has moved to 1016 E. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501.