

Subsistence Concerns Villages

Strong village concern was repeated over and over regarding the possible loss of subsistence hunting by many speakers at the Joint Federal - State Land Use Planning Commission Subsistence Hearing, held in Juneau February 5-6.

RURAL CAP sponsored Jimmy Huntington, Galena; Nick Gregory, Egegik; and Bill Barr of Shishmaref who presented some steering testimony and proposed changes for consideration by the State Fish and Game Board.

Jay Hammond, State Representative from the Bristol Bay area, proved to be a strong supporter of many of the proposed changes that are being offered by village leaders. Commissioner James Brooks of the Department of Fish and Game presented the policy on subsistence hunting, as mandated by the Governor's office and declared that subsistence or domestic utilization of wildlife was the number one priority for the Department of Fish and Game.

The rural vested interests did present their case and it is hoped that proposed regulation changes and proper consideration is given to these regulations by the State Fish and Game Board at their spring board meeting.