

Aquaculture venture begins

The Imarpik (Yupik Eskimo word for "Big Bay") Regional Aquaculture Corporation has been formed by a group interested fishermen and others in the Bristol Bay area. An interim board of directors has been established and consists of commercial, sports and subsistence fishermen, processors, marketing associations, representatives of local communities, and other interested groups.

The formation of regional aquaculture associations was provided for by the Private Non-Profit Hatchery Program of 1974 and subsequent legislation, due to

the poor salmon runs experienced throughout Alaska during the early and mid-1970's. The program allows commercial fishermen to form regional planning teams in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to rehabilitate and enhance the salmon runs of the state, and will develop comprehensive salmon enhancement plans, looking at such projects as lake fertilization, predation control, habitat protection, hatcheries, salmon passage plans and management techniques.

The boundaries of the
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corporation have been defined by the Imaprik board as the area between Cape Newenham in the north and Cape Menshikoff in the south, and all fresh waters flowing between the two areas. This encompasses a total of 23 communities from Togiak to Pilot Point and Ugashik.

Coastal zone management, d-2 legislation and outer continental shelf oil development are some of the public issues that Bristol Bay fishermen are concerned about and will be dealing with in the next few years, and may be addressed by Imaprik.

Jack McBride, Imaprik's Public Involvement Coordinator, will soon be conducting public meetings and is now available to interested individuals and groups.

An informational brochure explaining the program has been published and sent to each commercial fisherman limited entry permit holder of Bristol Bay. It is available to other interested individuals and groups and copies may be obtained by writing the Imaprik Regional Aquaculture Corporation, P.O. Box 179, Dillingham, Alaska 99576.