

# International Fish Conference

Alaska's own International Fisheries Conference was held in King Salmon last week, sponsored by the Bristol Bay Area Development Corporation.

Present at the Conference were Gov. Egan, Harold Hansen, Director of International Fisheries for the State, Commissioner of Fish and Game James Brooks, Director of Fisheries, Dick Huizer, Fish and Game Board member, Truman Emberg from Dillingham, former State Senate President and Gubernatorial Candidate, Jay Hammond, U.S. Senate candidate Gene Guess, and Tyler Jones from the staff of Senator Mike Gravel.

To get the Conference started, the film "No More Fish," which was produced in Bristol Bay last summer, was shown.

Following that, discussion ranged over a wide variety of topics including such things as Japanese involvement in the high seas fishery, the-domestic Shumagin Island and False Pass fishery on unsegregated salmon stocks, the problems of predators in the Bristol Bay lakes area, and certain fish and game regulations which have affected the Bristol Bay fishery.

At a wrap-up session last Tuesday night, the following plan was adopted:

1. Immediately provide assistance to needy persons in the Bay area. It was brought out that helping agencies exist, but that some people did not know about their activities.

2. Request that Gov. Egan immediately declare the region a disaster area and therefore make it eligible for Federal disaster funds. It was felt that this would provide immediate relief to the residents this summer.

3. Advocate for long-range re-development funding from the State and Federal governments. This funding would include alternative sources of economic stability for the region, fisheries rehabilitation, and other activities to stabilize the economy of the Bristol Bay region.

The Conference was held in light of recently released fish and game statistics showing that there would be virtually no commercial fishing in the Bay for the next few years. It was the consensus of the Conference that

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this situation certainly merited the attention that the more visible disaster situations in the South 48 receive.

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