

## Letters from here and there

Dear Editor,

Keep up the good work!

Alfred R. Nollner  
Tenino, WA

Dear Editor,

What a sad day it was when *Tundra Times* ceased to be but what joy when you started publishing again.

Geraldine  
Martin Whitmore  
Long Beach

Dear Editor:

I subscribe to your paper (*Tundra Times*.) I do enjoy your paper.

Katherine Sharp  
Juneau

### Salmon spawn in flooded road

Dear Editor:

As I set my teeth for another jolting plunge into a misjudged pothole - the third in less than a 100 yards - my thoughts turn to Cordova's special relationship to the Alaska Department of Transportation's (DOT) highway maintenance.

In the summer of 1991, because of a chronic lack of DOT maintenance, flooded parts of a well used local road became a spawning channel for eager salmon. This was happening at the same time the DOT merrily spent nearly \$700,00 (according to a legislative audit) "maintaining" parts of the Copper River Highway which hadn't been driven on for over 20 years.

This would have been bad enough if DOT had only used funds appropriated for our area, but instead they pulled the money out of the general maintenance pot for the entire DOT Northern Region. Those funds belong to all roads in the region, not just the Copper River Highway.

So, if you've been wondering why routine DOT maintenance in your community takes so long to get done, you're not alone. In fact, if any of your readers have any favorite DOT mis-maintenance stories, I'd like to read them. Please send them to: Karl Becker, c/o Alternatives for Cordova, Box 1464, Cordova, AK 99574.

Thanks and have a nice spring.

Sincerely,  
Karl Becker  
Cordova

### Fishermen fed up with attacks on seafood industry

Dear Editor:

This is a response from United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA) to all the residents of Alaska, particularly those serving in the Alaska Legislature. We, the commercial fishermen of the state of Alaska, are paying our way! We are fed up with all the misinformation and recent attacks in the media about the seafood industry.

As the second largest industry and Alaska's largest private sector employer, commercial fishing is the economic backbone of Alaska's coastal communities, including Anchorage. Fisheries employs almost one-fourth of the work force in the state of Alaska. Also, seafood is the state's largest export product, valued at \$1.3 billion annually.

UFA is very concerned the State of Alaska will create undo hardship on commercial fishermen if they continue to support a decline in funding for fish and wildlife resources. To maintain the current level of sustained yield for fish and game resources, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has to have a fair share of general funds. If you have followed the ADF&G budget over the years, it has less general funds in the House Subcommittee's FY94 recommendations than it had in FY83. This is more than a decade of declines in the operating budget and this does not even account for the inflation which has affected the buying power available in today's market. Instead of pumping this economic engine for generating easy revenues, the state wants to forego maintenance for this lean and efficient engine.

The collected revenues generated in licenses and taxes associated with ADF&G programs have not exceeded the management program expenditures by \$14,698.8 million. Other than oil and gas, no other program in the state can claim this fact.

For commercial fishing, the user is paying their way. UFA believes the current status of ADF&G's budget asks this fundamental question for Alaska's future: "Do we or do