

Anderson calls for subsistence cooperation

State Representative Nels A. Anderson Jr. (D-Dillingham), Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Subsistence Hunting and Fishing, has called for

Alaskans to cooperate and compromise when necessary in dealing with the subsistence issue in the coming year.

Anderson stated that the

establishment of nearly 40 million acres of National Park Monuments, where only subsistence hunting is allowed, "has come about largely because

Alaskans appeared unwilling to compromise and find common ground with one another."

Anderson said that he favored the opening of the Wrangell-St. Elias Monument — largest of the Alaskan monuments — to non-subsistence hunting "because it can support more than a subsistence harvest without harming subsistence users."

Anderson also said that he was willing to talk with leaders of non-subsistence hunting organizations with regards to the determination of other areas within National Monuments where sport hunting may be compatible with subsistence hunting.

"I advocate a subsistence priority throughout the state, not exclusive subsistence use throughout the state," he said. Anderson also stated that himself, Governor Hammond, Congressman Young and Senators Stevens and Grayel all basically agreed with the subsistence title in the Senate Energy Committee version of the d-2 bill.

These comments came in a pre-released statement which will be delivered to a joint meeting of the state Board of Fisheries and Board of Game on Wednesday in Anchorage. The state-

ment dealt primarily with the establishment of a subsistence eligibility system as a result of the passage of a comprehensive subsistence bill by the Legislature last session.

The Boards of Fish and Game are beginning the process of developing regulations to implement the requirements of that law.

Anderson advised the Boards of the problems which would occur from the development of too broad an eligibility system which included persons other than those commonly regarded as subsistence users.

He provided a basic definition of subsistence users as primarily rural people who hunted and fished in the same general area where they have their permanent resident and who have a long-term "customary and traditional" use of the resource. He also stated that subsistence users take fish and game for social and cultural reasons as well as for nutritional reasons.

Anderson's presentation also included a proposal for an eligibility system based on place of residency but subject to "evolution" through the establishment of a permanent system of public input.