

Some ABC's

in education

BY RON INOUE

(Editor's Note: Thank you for your responses to this column. If you have any questions about the column, or suggestions for topics for future columns, please write to me at the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, University of Alaska, Fairbanks Alaska 99701, or call (907) 479-7185.

Have students in your schools met 'Spout'? "Spout" is a whale of a columnist who answers students' questions about marine life in Alaska waters in "Alaska Tidelines," a free monthly newsletter for students.

The 8-page tabloid newsletter provides students with information about marine life and aquatic research in Alaska waters.

The first issue (September) discussed salmon. A species identification chart illustrated the differences between the various types of salmon, a board-type game portrayed the life cycle of a pink salmon, and a traditional Tlingit story about Raven and salmon was included.

The second issue, (October) the Halloween issue, discussed the Lake Iliamna monster and presented a map and information about the lake's district of the Alaska peninsula between Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet.

The third issue (November) featured tides and their causes, beautifully illustrated, with instructions on how to read a tide table etc.

Regular features of every issue include a crossword puzzle, an interview/biography of someone involved with marine fisheries or research, and stories and illustrations about traditional human uses of the seas.

The reading level of the newsletter is junior and senior high school. The pages are approximately 8" x 11", appropriate for smaller students to use comfortably. Every issue makes good use of photographs and illustrations to maintain reader interest and to transfer information.

With the state's vast amount of coastline and the proximity of so many of our communities to saltwater, it is very appropriate for students to learn more about the seas and their contributions to our history, our present, and hopefully, to our future.

"Alaska Tidelines" is published once a month during the school year and is distributed free to all Alaska schools requesting copies. The copies are bulk-mailed to the schools through the principals and teachers who request copies for their students. If your school would like to receive copies or if you have questions about "Tidelines," please write to 'Alaska Tidelines,' Communications Office, Alaska Sea Grant Program, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.