

# Summit informative

Several occurrences at last Week's Subsistence Summit Group meeting point to the need for such a process.

Those occurrences include the discussion of the Nelchina Caribou herd, Cook Inlet tributary catch limits and the overall effect of subsistence hunting and fishing on fish and game stocks.

In the case of the Nelchina Caribou herd, it was stated that only about one-third of all subsistence permits available were applied for. Only when a representative of a Native group asked did the state admit that perhaps there was a problem with publicizing the permits.

Then, no one in the room, including representatives of Fish and Game, seemed to know for certain what the catch limits were for king or other salmon in rivers feeding into Cook Inlet.

And then, no one from Fish and Game could give the study group figures on the effect of subsistence usage on game and fish stocks.

These three examples are indicative of much of the rhetoric surrounding the subsistence issue. People opposed to subsistence usage talk about the massive numbers of fish and game taken by the subsistence users *but even Fish and Game doesn't know the effect of such users.*

One aim of this summit is to bring forth information on subsistence usage in the state. Once such information is available, it will be difficult for people to rationally oppose subsistence activities continuing.

And, if for no other reason, the Summit is a valuable process and it should continue.