

Fish and Wildlife Names Native liaison

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage has announced the appointment of Jimmy Akaran as the new Native liason specialist for the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range headquartered in Bethel.

The post was created in order to increase communications between residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Interior Department agency.

Akaran will also be responsible for working with the 10man Clarence Rhode Advisory Board established through a cooperative management agreement with Yupiktak-Bista, the social political arm of the Association of Village Council Presidents.

For nearly five years he worked summers for the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game, mostly in the Yukon Delta area. During this time he conducted test fishing counts and collected data for subsistence fishing studies.

He received an associate science degree from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks in 1975 and has served in the National Guard as a radio operator and tank driver.

Akaran was born in the small village of Chaniliak near the mouth of the Yukon River and has lived on the Delta most of his life. He is married and presently resides in Bethel.