

# Anaktuvik Pass and Point Lay join in on suit



Anaktuvik Pass and Point Lay have joined the legal fray involving the Beaufort Sea oil and gas lease sales.

Those two villages filed in the State Superior Court in Barrow yesterday and join the villages of Kaktovik, Wainwright and Archie Brower who have intervened earlier in the North Slope Borough suit against the State, Atlantic Richfield and 10 other oil companies. The Borough and its fellow plaintiffs include the villages of Barrow, Nuiqsut, Pt. Hope, Eben Hopson and Jacob Adams.

The Natives, however unified in asking to invalidate the lease sale, seek slightly different remedies if the court rules otherwise. The Borough hopes to exempt drilling to beyond the Barrier Islands while the Kaktovik group hopes to halt development and drilling inside the islands as well.

life and fish supplies which consequently will endanger the traditional Inupiat way of life.

The suit was filed December 10 and the lease sale took place December 11 in Fairbanks. A hearing on the suit is scheduled for May 8 in Fairbanks.



Anaktuvik Pass has intervened because though it is an inland Inupiat village -- its fellow plaintiffs are coastal communities, the people depend primarily on the subsistence of muktuk and whale meat. All the groups fear drilling and the accompanying oil activity will severely harm and damage the whale migration, other marine mammal

A motion was filed last month by the Kaktovik village group to change the hearing location from Fairbanks to Barrow so that they might be able to witness those actions which will have an impact on the decision of Eskimo existence or extinction. A ruling on that motion by Superior Court Judge Jay Hodges is expected soon.