

# Cordova fishermen meet , others set for next week

A unique meeting took place recently in Cordova: Cordova commercial fishermen met with representatives of Upper Copper River subsistence fishermen, dip netters, fish wheel operators and sports fishermen.

It was the first meeting of the Public Input Committee for the Upper Copper River Area. The Committee is charged with determining the desires and needs

for salmon for subsistence, commercial and sport uses. It is a 'working' committee to assist the Prince William Sound Regional Planning Team (PWS-RPT) in preparation of the Comprehensive Region Plan for salmon enhancement in the region.

The first meeting was planned as a get acquainted-orientation session. It was held in Cordor-

va to give interior committee members an opportunity to visit a commercial fishing community and to gain an understanding of that community. They toured an operating fish plant and saw tanner crab processing line. They were given guided tours of Cordova; one committee member requested to see the mouth of the Copper River and that was arranged.

The second day of the two-day meeting was the business session. Jerry Madden, a representative of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, explained the concept of the regional plan and reviewed a draft form that had been developed by Leonard Lane and Associates. The plan will be developed by Regional Planning Team members after the public input committees, biological, land use and use other committees make their reports.

The public input committees have been established to open a forum for public input from all salmon user groups in the region. As one member said, "It is an opportunity for the public to be involved at the basic beginning of a plan that will affect their salmon fishery."

Upper Copper River Public Input Committee members are as follows:

In Cordova: Wendall Jones, Andrew Smallwood, Connie Taylor, Tom Johnson, and Ralph Loshe.

In Glennallen; Walter Charlie, Frank Devlin, Ruth Taylor.

In Fairbanks; Gene Carlson, Ted Dixon, Byron Haley.

A date for a working meeting was set for April 4-5 in Anchorage. Following that meetings will be scheduled in Glennallen and Fairbanks that will be opened for public comment.