

Kissinger Requested To Call Fish Meeting

JUNEAU Bristol Bay Area Development Corp. has called for an International Fisheries Conference at King Salmon April 15 to develop a program insuring rehabilitation of red salmon resources in the Bristol Bay area.

In a letter to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the development corporation urged the State Department to call such a conference, warning that if the

federal government would not organize it, leaders of the development corporation would do it themselves.

The letter was signed by Nels Anderson, chairman of the Bristol Bay International Marine Fisheries Conference Task Force.

Anderson, who serves as executive director of the Bristol Bay Native Corp., was elected last week to chair the board of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc.

Anderson noted in his letter to Kissinger the published 1974 red salmon forecast of five million fish. The forecast, the lowest ever published, reflect the depressed status of stocks, not only in 1974, but for 1975 through 1978, he wrote.

The letter, released to Tundra Times at Juneau by Nick "Jake" Gregory, a board member came in the aftermath of testimony from Gregory before the House Resources Commit-

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tee on fish and game management.

The veteran fisherman from Bristol Bay told legislators that there are two regions of Alaska alike so far as game goes—that in order to have effective management of the resource local control was needed.

"They should be in the power of regional development corporations because they're everybody's resources," Gregory said.

"The most important part is who is going to manage the resources. What is needed is integrity, honesty and truthfulness—and that automatically lets the federal government out," he said. "That also lets the state government out."

Those being invited to attend the King Salmon conference so far include Japanese fishermen and processors and their counterparts in Washington State and Alaska.

Gregory said other West Coast fishing interests were also being urged to attend.

In his letter to Kissinger, Anderson made clear the anger and frustration of the Bristol Bay area fishermen, in addition to all peoples living mainly on subsistence in that area.

The letter said, in part, "The Native people of Bristol Bay, like all other members of the family of man, have deep personal involvement in the usages to which the natural resources of their homeland are put. By virtue of their residence in Bristol Bay,

"Restrictions placed upon the commercial and subsistence use of the salmon resource bear more heavily upon them than upon non-residents of the area. Because of their traditional dependence upon the subsistence fishery and their present identification with the commercial fishery, the unprecedented austerity and duration of the announced regulatory regime puts at issue their ability to satisfy even the most basic and pressing of their human needs."