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It's all happening
at the museum

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Interior's list called a blow to sovereignty 'Erodes tribal status'

by Steve Pilkington
Tundra Times reporter

An Interior Department publication listing Lower 48 and Alaska Native entities eligible for federal services struck a blow last week against groups seeking sovereignty through tribal status, according to tribal advocates.

The department's list includes Outside Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities which are eligible to receive federal health, housing and other services.

For Indian groups in the Lower 48, the list means recognition as tribal governments. For Alaskan entities, however, the effect of inclusion on the list is less clear.

The Alaska section of the list, last published in 1986, now includes more than 30 villages left off the last list. But also added are Alaska Native regional corporations created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Larry Aschenbrenner, an attorney with the Native American Rights Fund, said the addition of the regional corporations to the list erodes the position of groups supporting tribal status.

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International ban now in effect for disposal of nets

by Steve Pilkington
Tundra Times reporter

An international ban on disposal of plastic waste at sea that went into effect this week could be a big help to Alaska commercial fishermen, who are losing 1.3 million fish to discarded plastic nets each year.

The problem for the marine ecosystem is that plastic nets, and other solid wastes, can remain in the oceans for unlimited amounts of time, killing marine and other mammals in what is called "ghost fishing."

Environmental organizations have estimated that plastic nets, cut loose or lost at sea, kill up to 750,000 seabirds, more than 5,000 Dall's porpoise and as many as 50,000 seals each year.

The ban on plastic waste disposal, which affects every sea-going vessel, was signed by 30 countries. The

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Whalebone carver Anatoly Lyutikov is a Native craftsman from Magadan in the Soviet Far East who creates Arctic souvenirs. The Natives of the Soviet Arctic Coast have been creating items for sale for many years. In Magadan there is a crafts factory which supplies Natives with materials and buys their products. The souvenirs are sold locally, flown to other parts of the Soviet Union and even exported, largely to Japan, according to Soviet officials. They said an Italian dealer recently concluded a contract with the factory. Among items made are fur parkas and mukluks embroidered with colored beads, tools carved of driftwood, tusks or whalebone.

Adams responds to charges

Charges concerning Sen.-elect Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, made by Anchorage contractor Thomas Gittins in the North Slope corruption trial led Adams to respond publicly last week, according to a statement he issued to the press.

"Acting on the advice of my attorney I have until now remained silent during the trial of Lewis Dischner and Carl W. Mathisen," Adams said. "Being neither a defendant in the case nor as yet called to testify, I have considered responses to media inquiries an improper and unfair forum for myself, the public and those actually accused."

Adams said, however, that

testimony offered under immunity last month by Gittins produced allegations he could no longer ignore.

"These are false allegations that if left uncorrected, hold potential for damage to both my personal and professional reputation," he said. "Lacking status as an active participant in this trial, I am forced to seek another method for a fair and equitable review."

Gittins claimed that he paid \$772,668 between 1982 and 1984 to Adams for his influence at getting jobs for Gittins Construction Inc.

Legislative leaders have said an investigation may be undertaken by the Select Committee on Legislative

Ethics into issues raised by Gittins.

Adams said he would welcome such a probe.

"Through that process I have no doubt I will be treated fairly, cleared of any wrongdoing and shown to have conducted my business activities above any question of impropriety," he said. "Beyond that and more importantly, the evidence will show that the interests of my constituents were foremost in my mind, then and now."

Adams said he has "full faith" in the judicial process to determine the guilt or innocence of those being tried and he remains unwilling to participate in a "trial by press."