

# Early Fishing Season-

## *T-H Indians Ask Early Salmon Season*

JUNEAU — The Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska will press for early opening of commercial salmon season, a uniform weekly Monday opening and will push for legislation defining rights of Alaska natives for subsistence use of Fish and Game resources.

Tlingit and Haida Fisheries Chairman Gilbert Gunderson of Wrangell and Charles Nelson of Ketchikan were designated to represent T-H at the Fish and Game Board meetings.

Gunderson said the committee was moving to implement the convention order on coming up with recommendations to resolve problems confronting Southeast commercial fishermen.

"The seine boat fleet in Wrangell has gone from 51 boats to 5," Gunderson said, "and I am concerned about the reasons behind this." He said

the committee will work hard to establish guides on how to improve returns to commercial fishermen.

Joe Demmert, Jr. of Ketchikan, himself a member of the Fish and Game Board, agreed with Gunderson and said that the late opening at Noyes Island caused the West Coast fishermen to miss a major portion of the commercial season.

The motion for a Monday opening "uniform for all net fisheries" was made by Jeff David of Haines. David is also the President of the Gillnetters Association.

The committee voted to support legislation that would place stringent guides on "limited entry" a program advocated by Governor William A. Egan, which would limit the limit the number of commercial fish licenses.