

Claims Act Amendments

By SUE GAMACHE

The omnibus package of amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was held up in the U. S. House of Representatives last week when the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee decided to state its claim to jurisdiction over the package.

The committee in particular, referred to the "land swap" negotiated between the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., and the State of Alaska in their claim.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee requested a "sequential referral" of the legislation to the package for further study.

The subcommittee claims that it has a right to review the bill since the land swap involves substantial portions of refuge lands.

In addition to the Cook Inlet agreement the legislation also includes provisions: extending the enrollment of late filers for one year under the terms of the settlement act; establishing an escrow account for the proceeds from activity on federal lands withdrawn for Native selection according to the act; authorizing mergers or consolidation among native corporations in the same region; and the authorizing of four grants of \$250,000 each to the corporations for Kenai, Sitka, Juneau, and Kodiak.

Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, amended the bills provisions creating a 13th regional corporation, which was rendered moot by a recent federal court decision establishing the region.

Young said that certain stock