

Fisheries Conference

The AFN, Inc.-sponsored Fisheries Conference which was held in Juneau on Feb. 7-8 was termed an overwhelming success. The following recommendations and resolutions were passed by the participants of the conference and, in turn, have been ratified by the RURAL CAP State Board, the AFN Human Resource Committee and have been forwarded to the State Legislature for appropriate action:

That the smaller hand-troller who has fished for years and has fishing as the main source of income during those years become eligible for points for those years under the Limited Entry Commission; and, that those hand-trollers who pay the fee as it pertains to power trolling be given the right to use power gear if they so wish.

That the Limited Entry Commission give points to the fishermen that have been either in school or in the military service during the 1960 to 1972 period; and that those fishermen who were restricted from fishing because of government action be given the required points to qualify said fishermen to participate in the Limited Entry fisheries.

That all Bristol Bay watershed residents—the present and future generations—be presented with a fishing permit from the state. Justification for this amendment is as follows:

Eighty per cent of some 5,000 people are totally dependent on this fishery in Bristol Bay for their livelihood. Twelve villages ranging from 450 to less than a 100 people in a few villages, are totally dependent on these fisheries for their livelihood.

A conservative 75% never leave the Bristol Bay watershed in their lifetime.

That the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate be advised that joint hearings be convened by the Alaska Legislature for the sole purpose of seeking amendments to the Limited Entry Fishing Law.

The hearings and recommendations would then be announced to the Alaska Legislature by March 10, 1975. It is further recommended that the State Legislature establish an interim Fisheries Committee similar to ones established by the Legislature charged with the responsibility of seeking suggestions or recommendations on Alaska's Fisheries.

That the Legislature mandate a transfer of administration of the Fisherman's Loan Fund from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Fish and Game.

That Fisheries jurisdiction within the 200-mile contiguous zone be claimed around all islands that are part of Alaska's continental shelf as well as from the mainland.

That Alaska should be

considered a separate region for State and Federal fishery management arrangements and not become bound to other regional management structures or institutions; and that this management regime be reflected in the National Fish Plan; and that the Alaska Legislature appropriate monies to establish an "Alaska Fisheries Education Committee" to represent Alaska's interests in extended jurisdiction to the rest of the country and to the Congress of the United States.

That the participants of the AFN Fisheries Policy Conference assembled in Juneau on Feb. 7-8 request the Alaska Legislature to take the following actions:

1. Assign the Fishery Management Policy developed by

the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to an interim committee charged with holding public hearings on this or related policies throughout the state during 1975; and

2. Direct the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through the Governor to refine and expand Alaska's Fishery Policy in accordance with the new information developed thereby.

And, that this committee be adequately funded in order to assure that hearings will be held in all affected areas of the state, including the Native villages; and that this information received be of such a nature as to be definitive as to positive remedial programs to be instituted.