

Anderson reveals subsistence law timetable

Interim Subsistence Committee News

By Rep. Nels Anderson

The state subsistence law, HB 960, was signed into law by the Governor on July 19 but the effective date will be October 10, 1978, thus delaying its implementation and the establishment of the new Subsistence section until that time.

The original budget of \$919,400 approved by the legislature was cut back to \$500,000 by the Governor. As a result of this cut the planned subsistence section offices in Fairbanks and Anchorage were eliminated. The fish and game technician positions in the bush offices will be full time jobs, presumably held by local people.

The class specification series

prepared by Fish and Game personnel were approved by the department August 9 and sent to State Personnel for approval. This should take about three weeks.

Three changes will be made to the specifications as written:

- 1) The section chief position will be a partially exempt position rather than one requiring six years of experience as shown.
- 2) In the knowledges, skills and abilities sections these words will be added: "Ability to interact effectively with residents of small communities."
- 3) In the minimum qualifications section "social science" will be added to the list of degrees acceptable.

The current Fish and Game Technician III class specification will be used in hiring technicians. It would probably be a good idea to let people know

that these full time technician jobs will be opening up although hiring will probably not begin until early next year.

The timetable for setting up the section is to hire the Juneau headquarters staff as soon after the effective date as possible with the "Resource Specialists" being hired soon after the first of the year and the technicians being hired after the "Resource Specialists" have set up their offices in the communities.

The other main thing that HB 960 does besides requiring the establishment of a Subsistence section is that it requires that the Boards of Fish and Game adopt regulations permitting subsistence hunting and fishing.

Preparing for the meetings at which these regulations will be made will be a major task for people throughout the state.

There is some possibility that subsistence regulations will not be taken up until the spring Game Board meeting in late March. A final decision has not been made on that by the Department and the Boards yet. Probably a separate booklet containing the subsistence regulations for both hunting and fishing will be printed up rather than including these new regulations in the Game and Sport Fish books, although a final decision has not been made on this yet, either.

The Interim Committee on Subsistence Oversight is chaired by Rep. Nels Anderson Jr., D-Dillingham and has eleven other members. They are Representatives Akers, R-Chuloonawick, Cotten, D-Eagle River, Cowper, D-Fairbanks, Hayes, R-Anchorage, Nakak, D-Nome, Schaeffer,

D-Kotzebue and Senators Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, Sackett, R-Galena, Tillion, R-Halibut Cove, Willis, D-Anchorage, Hackney, R-Fairbanks.

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