

# Summit viewed as beneficial by all sides concerned

(Continued from Page Sixteen)

subsistence but would not attend any future meeting if the only topic were the state subsistence law.

The summit members did agree that on Oct. 24, at 9 a. m. in Anchorage, they will discuss wildlife enhancement and the delineation of problems and aspects of the state law that each group would like changed. The group specifically asked Skoog for a report on the impacts of the implementation of the subsistence law statewide.

The topic of wildlife enhancement includes discussion of predator control, prevention of wanton waste, and controlled burns.

The group's leaders also decided that 13 persons would sit on the board's new makeup will be Gov. Jay Hammond or a representative, Sen. Betty Fahrenkamp, Sen. John Sackett, Rep. Vic Fischer, Al Adams, Barnes, Rep. Ken Fanning, Sutcliff, Skoog, an AFN representative and representatives from the commercial fishing industry and the sports fishing organizations.

About 50 persons attended the meeting including State Rep. Tony Vaska of Bethel and representatives of several subsistence villages including Tyonek, one of the Cook Inlet villages discussed in the AFN report.

Vaska and others said they would prefer that the meetings be open to the public and one person attending called the meeting a "joke."

But those at the discussion tables felt there is good to be gained by the discussions.

Rep. Adams said he feels the meeting are important because, "at least we got people together to talk

about the matter. There are many people in the state who don't know what the term subsistence means."

Adams said he heard a person complaining that only Alaska Natives could be classed as subsistence users which is untrue.

The right to survive knows no race. From the standpoint of survival... the racial conotation is no element. The issue only revolves around the right to survive, really," said Adams.

While Adams is taking a very neutral stance in the matter, he said that because of recent and on-going federal cutbacks on programs which have aided Native Alaskans, the issue is more important to Alaska Natives.

"If the Reagan administration continues the cutback on funds to rural Alaska ... it's going to make the right to fish and hunt for subsistence probably as important as it ever has been."

Ramona Barnes, who has been an opponent of subsistence, tried to assure people that their rights will not be taken away by the committee. "We're not here to shove anything down anyone's throat."

"We are here to find if an acceptable solution can be reached that we can all live with and no longer have to have a divided and divisive Alaska."

After the meeting Charlie Johnson of Bering Straights said he felt the meeting went well. "It gives us the opportunity to address the issues that have only been publicly explored by those who would like to see subsistence taken away. I don't look at this as a chance to compromise. I look at this as a chance to save subsistence."