

# State not in compliance, Sheffield warned

by **Jim Benedetto**

Tundra Times Editor

Gov. Bill Sheffield has been informed by the U.S. Department of the Interior that the State of Alaska has until June 1, 1986 to bring state hunting and fishing regulations into compliance with federal regulation mandating a subsistence preference for those rural Alaskans who customarily and traditionally make use of subsistence programs. Currently, the State of Alaska considers all residents subsistence users, due to a state Supreme court ruling in February.

Gov. Sheffield had sponsored legislation to correct the problem which was passed in the state House earlier this year, but the bill was "resting comfortably" in the State Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Mitch Abood (R-Anch) when the legislative ses-

sion ended.

Gov. Sheffield responded to the action by the Interior Department by stating that, "Alaskans must realize the possibility is real (of federal intervention) if we don't take action soon."

"I'm confident that in working with the leadership of the House and Senate we can pass a law that is constitutional, enforceable and fair to all users," Sheffield said.

The Alaska Federation of Natives had formally requested that the federal government immediately take over control of fish and game management in the State of Alaska, a move which would directly affect about 60 percent of the land in the state. In addition, state lands would also be subject to federal control if game resources migrated through them on their way to federal lands.