

Seawall committee looks for solutions

BETHEL--Citizens of this Kuskokwim River community have organized a committee to deal with the serious erosion problem threatening riverside buildings.

The seawall committee is hoping for results from efforts in Washington, D.C. by Senator Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, to get federal money by next year for a "bank protection structure."

If that effort fails, the committee has been told by the Army Corps of Engineers that "they would be ready to come to Bethel with emergency equipment in the event of accelerated erosion, after a declaration of disaster from the state and federal government," reports the Tundra Drums.

Threatened by the rapid disappearance of the river bank are the Standard Oil bulk fuel storage facilities, feeder line, PHS hospital, Environmental Protection Agency building, hospital housing and private homes on Mission Street.

Gravel's request for \$1 million in FY 1979 (and a total of \$8 million) was addressed to the Senate Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Public Works. Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, also requested that the subcommittee authorize a two-year, \$4 million feasibility study.

The banks of the Kuskokwim River in Bethel.

