



INDIAN COMMISSIONER Morris Thompson, left, congratulates Martin E. Seneca, a New York Seneca, upon stepping into Seneca's new job as the BIA's director of Trust Responsibilities. Seneca is a former White House Fellow and past associate professor of law at the University of Utah. (AIPA Newsphoto courtesy BIA.)



SPECIAL ASSISTANT — Karen Ducheneaux, a Cheyenne River Sioux authoress and specialist in Indian policy, on April 25 was named Special Assistant to Indian Commissioner Morris Thompson, making her the highest ranking woman member of the new BIA administration. (AIPA Photo courtesy BIA.)

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Northern Games

TUKTOYAKTUK, N.W.T. — The Organizing Committee of the Northern Games Association has announced that the fifth annual Northern Games will be held at Cape Dorset and Tuktoyaktuk in 1974.

It is the first time in the five-year history of this popular native festival for it to be held at two separate locations. Staging the games at an eastern Arctic settlement is also a new step. The special emphasis at the Cape Dorset Games will be on Inuit musical traditions.

Previous games have been at Inuvik in 1970, 1971 and 1972, and at Fort Good Hope in 1973.

Organizers expect participation from more communities than ever before. In addition to people from the Northwest Territories, indications are that the Yukon, Arctic Quebec and Alaska will send representatives.

Two Greenlanders are also planning to attend. Once again people will come together to share and demonstrate their traditional skills, crafts, games, songs, dances and legends.

The Northern Games Association was formed early in 1970 to promote cultural development among the original inhabitants of Canada's far North.

Its aim is to encourage the preservation, practice and teaching of the traditions of the Indian and Inuit people.

Longevity Bonus In Second Year

The second year of operations of the Longevity Bonus Program, passed into law by the 1972 Legislature, finds 5,174 bonus payments going to Alaskan "old-timers" for the month of May 1974.

The law requires monthly re-applications excepting for recipients living in remote areas who must reapply every six months. Still each month over 150 recipients fail to mail in their reapplications.

New applications averaged 83 per month last year. Terminations, due mostly to deaths, averaged 25 per month.

A number of recipients failed to return to Alaska within 180 days and will not be eligible for the longevity bonuses for 12 months after return to Alaska.

In addition to those Alaskans receiving the bonus in any particular month from 200 to 400 persons otherwise eligible, do not receive bonuses because of temporary, but over 30 days, absences from the state.

This section of the law has applied to recipients from Ketchikan, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Skagway, and other areas of the state.

Old-timers on trips "outside" should keep track of their days, but time in a medical hospital on doctor's orders is not included in number of days absent from Alaska.

Increase Ten-Fold in 20 Years— Rising Japanese Salmon Catches Serious Threat to Alaska Harvest

JUNEAU — Increased Japanese catches of king salmon from Western Alaska rivers and streams pose a serious threat to the stocks of these important fisheries, James W. Brooks, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, said recently.

King salmon catches by the Japanese high seas fishery in the North Pacific and Bering Sea have increased dramatically in recent years," Brooks said.

"Reports recently submitted by state and federal biologists show that the Japanese have taken as many as 685,000 king salmon from that area in a single fishing season and that most of these fish come from Alaskan streams," he added.

"In fact," Brooks said, "the Japanese high seas harvest of king salmon in the Bering Sea in 1969 and 1970 was larger than the U.S. catch in Western Alaska for the same years."

He cited the following as evidence of the increasing pressure which the Japanese are putting on the king salmon stocks of Western Alaska:

1 — The total Japanese mothership catch of king salmon has increased almost five-fold from the 69,000 taken annually from 1952-63 to 305,000 taken annually from 1964 to 1972.

2 — The Bering Sea portion of the catch has increased about ten-fold, from 24,000 annually in 1952-63 to 226,000 annually in 1964-72.

3 — During the period 1968-70 from 76 to 93 per cent of all king salmon taken by the Japanese mothership fleet were taken in the Bering Sea.

Brooks cited scientific studies that show that most of the king salmon caught by the Japanese in the Bering Sea come from Alaskan streams.

Small numbers of king salmon have been tagged and released throughout the high seas fished by the mothership fleet. The few mainland recoveries made have all been in North America where the fish were found from the Columbia River north to the Yukon River.

A majority of the recoveries were made in Western Alaska streams — the Nushagak, Togiak, Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers — from tagging conducted in the central Bering Sea where the largest catches have been recorded by the mothership fleet.

In order to obtain additional information regarding the continental origin of Bering Sea king salmon, scientists of the National Marine Fisheries Service have

been studying differences in growth patterns exhibited by scales of North American and Asian stocks.

Their findings indicate that the majority of king salmon captured by the Japanese in the Bering Sea are of Western Alaska origin. They also show that Western Alaska kings are found throughout the mothership fishing area in the Bering Sea, including waters immediately off the coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula.

From 70 to 90 per cent of the kings captured by the mothership fleet are immature and would normally continue to feed and grow in the ocean for another one to four years before returning to spawn in their streams of origin.

Kings taken in the high seas fishery average 5-6 pounds while mature kings taken by commercial fishermen in Western Alaska weigh from 20 to 23 pounds. The small, immature fish are selectively captured by the small-meshed gill nets used by the Japanese to capture the more abundant sockeye and chum salmon.

Fishermen in Western Alaska, primarily Eskimos and Indians, are highly dependent on salmon for food and as a means of supplementing their incomes.

During the last seven years, the commercial and subsistence king salmon harvest averaged 323,000 fish per year which represents 53 per cent of Alaska's total king catch.

The major fisheries in Western Alaska are located in the Nushagak district in Bristol Bay and in the Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers.

Catches made in this region during the past two years were below average — 291,000 in 1972 and 238,000 in 1973. The 1973 catch and estimated return were the smallest since 1960. While this decline may not be totally attributable to the Japanese high seas fishery, it was surely a contributing factor, Brooks said.

Japan's production of king salmon is nil and its high seas fishery is dependent totally on production from streams of other countries, notably the United States.

The taking of immature fish of intermingled stocks on the high seas is contrary to good conservation principles. With the worldwide need for protein, commercial fishing practices which do not maximize yield on a sustained basis must be strongly discouraged, Brooks said.



GEORGE MAYAC receives a certificate of Meritorious Service from Commissioner Pat Wellington, Department of Public Safety, for outstanding service rendered to the FBI. Latent fingerprints submitted to the Juneau Crime Lab by the FBI were compared against the inked impressions of the Single Fingerprint Files and a positive identification was established. Due to his diligent effort and lacking any other clues or evidence, the FBI was able to apprehend and arrest the subject identified. Formerly from King Island, Mr. Mayac has been with the department for five years.