

FISH FEUD SHOWS SIGNS OF BEING SOLVED

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**Governor Said
Seattle Mitsubishi
Talks Satisfying**

Barring surprises, the fish feud in Bethel seems to be on the way of being resolved.

After meeting with Mitsubishi International representatives in Seattle Wednesday, Gov. Walter J. Hickel told the press:

"I had most satisfying meeting with the Mitsubishi people, who represent the freezer ship. Within the next few days I believe you can expect an announcement of a changed situation."

The Mitsubishi International is a giant industrial combine in Japan which has made a transaction with the Kuskokwim Fishermen's Co-op to buy the Fresh-caught salmon the co-op bought from the Bethel area native

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Fish Feud..

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fishermen.

The freezer ship, Akitsu Maru No. 5, that has been anchored 15 miles out of Bethel for many days is now reported to be berthed on the Kuskokwim River.

It has also been reported that the attitude of the state toward cooperative has undergone a change and that the co-op was now getting quite a bit of cooperation from the governor.

The attitude of the Mitsubishi has been that of a cooperative spirit from the start and according to reliable sources, has stayed calm all through the controversy.

It had been felt all along that the transaction was legal and that the governor had no legal ground on which to stand.

Last week, William Jacobs, executive director of the Alaska Legal Services Corp. told Tundra Times regarding the Bethel transaction:

"The International North Pacific Fisheries Treaty does not forbid that transaction. The Treaty applies only to high seas and not territorial waters. The federal government has the exclusive power to regulate foreign commerce."

In the meantime, the Bethel co-op has been doing very well on the sale of its fish. It has also been said that fish catches have been very satisfactory.

There is now a general atmosphere of cautious optimism around the fish feud and that things will come out alright.