

## •Editorial

# Edenso for fisheries post

We noted with pleasure the appointment by Gov. Jay Hammond of Jim Edenso to the post of state Bottom Fish Development Coordinator. Edenso has served Alaskans as Deputy Commissioner of Revenue, and we are proud to know Jim as director of the Tundra Times newspaper.

We have tried to keep readers abreast of developments in the growth of a new Alaska-based bottom fish fishery. We realize the stabilizing effect this endeavor can have on all renewable resource industries, and thus, all Alaskans.

Alaska's promising bottom fish future has been made possible by creation of a 200-mile zone of exclusive American fisheries jurisdiction off our nation's lengthy coastline. Yet so new is the idea of full-scale exploitation of bottom fish by American boats that there has been much talk and dipping of toes in the cold North Pacific to test the economic viability and modus operandi of the new industry. It has the potential of enriching the Gulf coast from the southeast Panhandle to the Aleutian Chain now that destructive foreign competition has been eliminated.

A report by a special legislative committee, chaired by Rep. Alvin Osterback of Sand Point, announced its findings about the viability of a domestic bottom fish industry earlier this year:

"Alaskan bottomfish are a domestically untapped resource which combines the potential for outshining the oil returns with the ongoing advantage of being renewable. Besides offering the potential...of an expanding economy and tax base for Alaska and the communities directly affected by development, bottomfish utilization offers the possibility of year round stable employment to residents of Alaska's coastal communities and new opportunities for the State's fishermen."

Such an ambitious program as the development of an Alaska-based bottom fish industry requires the experience and even hand we know Jim Edenso will bring to the job of coordinating the activities of fishing interests which truly want to make a new beginning, and we commend Gov. Hammond for this appointment.

J.R.R.