

# Native American Fish & Wildlife Society n

Native American Fish & Wildlife Society's, fourth annual Alaska Regional conference, is on April 8-10, 1997. The conference theme this year is "The Importance of Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom to Strengthen Tribal Technical Capabilities". It will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is a national, Native American non-profit organization with over 1200 individual and 100 tribal members. The Society recognizes that traditional values, eth-

ics and ways of knowing are powerful gifts which may provide guidance for people through the increasingly complex challenges of the future.

Adelheid Herrmann, one of the Alaska Regional Directors believes that this conference's emphasis on traditional knowledge is especially vital now:

"We need to offer choices and support for our young people. We need to spark an interest in them to become involved in a western institution, we need to convey

to those institutions that Native American students are coming in with a wealth of knowledge. This background knowledge should be acknowledged and used in the student's learning process. We need to also build natural resource programs relevant to the Native American community. In doing this we need to teach young people how to affect public policy decisions."

Larry Mercurieff, a NAFWS Alaska Regional Director says this conference is a

unique opportunity:

"The wisdom keepers speak of the time of the Fifth World and the Whirling Rainbow. This is a prophecy of a time we are entering which speaks of the reconnection of the four sacred colors and a time of healing. It is a time when world views will converge and be integrated into each other. Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom is one world view with a great

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deal to offer to the world, which is beginning to ask for these ways. We need to reach out to people who are willing to listen, and to create new allies amongst the four sacred colors. In this way, we make our contribution to the vision of healing during this time."

This conference is unique because of its strong technical focus, while incorporating indigenous knowledge, wisdom and priorities. The members of the NAFWS believe that all parts of the natural world, including humans, are closely related in an intricate web of harmony and interdependence. The invitations for elders, speakers and presenters reflect this holistic approach. There will be presentations by Howard Luke, Matthew Fred, Larry Mercurieff, Adelheid Herrmann, Miss

Alaska Rea Bavilla, Dr. Pam Colorado, and others.

Technical sessions will provide information on the components of a strong tribal resource management program. These include: Natural Resource Education, Jurisdiction Over Natural Resources; Funding a Natural Resource Program, Fisheries and Wildlife Management.

The Anchorage Hilton Hotel is offering special rates for conference participants. Early reservations are encouraged, to ensure the best rates. Call the Hilton's toll-free number (1-800-245-2527) and request the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society conference rate.

The conference pre-registration fee is \$95, which includes the banquet. Call Michelle Davis, NAFWS Alaska Regional Coordinator at 257-2720 for an agenda and registration form.