

AVCP delegation seeks Congressional help on postponing Norton Sound OCS

A five member delegation from the Association of Village Council Presidents will journey to Washington D.C. during the week of May 5 to meet with Administration and Congressional principles on Federal OCS leasing.

The delegation will seek to have Congress and the Secretary of the Interior alter the proposed 5 Year OCS Leasing Program, announced by the Secretary of the Interior on March 27. Congress has sixty days to review and comment

on the Secretary's plan.

Carl Jack, President of AVCP, has represented AVCP's member villages in testimony before the Ad Hoc Select Committee on OCS in the House, and has forwarded information on the AVCP position to the Senate Energy Committee. The AVCP delegation plans to follow-up on the work initiated by Jack.

Representatives of the Boards of Nunam Kitlutsisti, the environmental arm of AVCP, the AVCP Executive Commit-

tee, and the chairman of the newly elected Coastal Resource Service Area Board which will develop the AVCP area's district plan, will make up the delegation.

AVCP has voted to seek a five year delay in the proposed leasing schedule for industry has little knowledge of the environment of the Bering Sea, and that neither industry or Government has the technology or experience to control and clean up oil spills under the ice.

Village residents, learning of OCS

from a special AVCP convention in Alukanuk, a Yukon Delta village merely 8 miles from the proposed offshore leasing area, were concerned that the coastal tundra, which supports the majority of Pacific Flyway's geese and ducks, and the marine mammal and salmon of the Yukon Delta, would suffer irreparable damage from premature oil development without proper safeguards established in testing cold water systems in less environmentally sensitive regions.