

Agency seeks comments on subsistence

Comments on subsistence uses on federal lands in Alaska — how the federal government should manage subsistence activities — will be accepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until Dec. 31, according to the agency.

And among issues people may comment on will be the designation of "urban" and "rural" areas. Comments on this issue are sought by Dec. 10.

A "Request for Public Comments" notice was published in the *Federal Register* last week, kicking off a comment period on federal subsistence management. The comment period will include public meetings throughout Alaska, Washington, D.C., and Seattle during this month and November.

Comments will be sought on:

- Proposed rural/non-rural community determinations.
- The adequacy of the present state system of local fish and game advisory committee/regional councils.
- The definition of "customary and traditional" use of fish and wildlife.
- Environmental, socio-economic and cultural impacts of subsistence activities.
- The Temporary Subsistence Management Regulations so that new subsistence regulations can be written and finalized in 1991.
- Other ideas and concerns on

subsistence.

Public meetings will be held in about 60 communities throughout Alaska. In addition, written comments will be accepted.

Information on the meetings and their locations will be publicized in newspapers and announced on radio and television, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Individual communities also will be contacted by letter and telephone.

Specific comments on the board's recommended rural/non-rural determinations will be taken for a 60-day comment period which will close on Dec. 10.

The federal government assumed the management of subsistence on federal lands in Alaska July 1. This action resulted from a State Supreme Court decision last December which ruled that the laws used by the state to provide a subsistence priority for rural Alaskans violated the Alaska Constitution.

This priority is required on federal lands by Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Comments should be addressed to: Chairman, Federal Subsistence Board, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ATTN: Richard S. Pospahala, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage 99503.

Additional information is available

SUBSISTENCE

Specific comments on the board's recommended rural/non-rural determinations will be taken for a 60-day comment period which will close on Dec. 10.

by calling the Fish and Wildlife Service Subsistence Office at 267-1461.

Communities or areas being proposed for non-rural status that would not be eligible for subsistence are:

- Municipality of Anchorage.
- Kenai Area including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Seldovia, Kalifornsky, Kaslof and Clam Gulch.
- Wasilla area including Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, and Bodenbergt Butte.
- Fairbanks North Star Borough.
- Juneau area including Juneau, West Juneau and Douglas.
- Ketchikan area including Ketchikan City, Clover Pass, North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan East, Mountain Pass, Herring Cove, Saxman, Saxman

East and parts of Pinnock Island.

• Kodiak area including Kodiak City, the Coast Guard Station and Chiniak.

• Sitka area — the contiguously developed area and the maintained road system.

• Homer Area including Homer, Anchor Point, Kachemak City and Fritz Creek.

• Seward area including Seward and Moose Pass.

• Valdez area — Valdez.

• Adak.

All other communities and areas not listed are being proposed for "rural" status and would be eligible for subsistence providing they satisfy customary traditional use of wildlife.