



**FISHERIES COURSE—** George Neck of Nunapitchuk, a student at the fisheries extension course at the University of Alaska, practices constructing a small hand net. Neck is one of 20 Eskimo fishermen and VISTA volunteers attending the course. (U of A Photo by Colin Mick)

## 20 Eskimo Fishermen End Fisheries Course

Twenty Eskimo fishermen and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) have completed a three-week fisheries extension course at the University of Alaska.

The course was sponsored by the university's Division of Statewide Services.

The students represented villages along the Arctic coast: Eek, Emmonak, Koyuk, Pilot Station, Kwethluk, Quinhagak, Mekoryuk, Napaiskak, and Gulovino. A VISTA volunteer and an Eskimo fisherman from each village attended the course.

It was taught by John Doyle, instructor in fisheries extension at the university. The course stressed knowledge of fishing gear and quality control.

"We are trying to help these men increase the efficiency of their operations," Doyle said. "An efficient fishing operation

means more net profit at the end of the season."

Students studied various types of fishing gear and learned which types are best suited to fishing in their home areas.

They learned the latest maintenance methods to keep fishing gear in top shape. The class also studied ways of minimizing fish spoilage, freezing fish and fish handling procedures.

Marketing problems and fishermen's organizations also were reviewed.

The VISTA volunteer and fishermen representing each village worked as a team and helped each other with the difficult parts of the course.

The Eskimos, according to Doyle, had a better grasp of the methods and techniques that are taught while the VISTA workers had an easier time with technical portions of the course.

The students have returned to their villages to begin preparations for the coming fishing season.