

letters

tionaire of limited value. Dr. Ken Peterson spent last year in the village of Wainwright and conducted various pediatric studies there. He indicated that he had discussed this with Jack Peterson at the University and felt that data such as would be obtained by the questionnaire had been gathered previously.

At the Ad Hoc meeting Ms. Nobman suggested that 24-hour recall nutritional studies performed in a standard manner are quite acceptable but definitely not one-year recall. In further discussion she felt population cross-sampling rather than interviews with household heads would be in order. Preference questions are acceptable.

While Ms. Nobman feels all data should be gathered perhaps by one person for standardization, both Dr. Peterson and myself suggest there are already village persons such as alternate Health Aides (the Health Aides being already overextended) or Community Health Representatives who could be brought together at central points for instruction in conducting statistically valid 24-hour recall nutritional studies which could be done weekly in their villages. Professional support should be provided them. This material, and all previously collected, would be analyzed to provide a reasonable base line.

Seasonal availability and usage of various species need still be considered. It obviously would take many other animals such as seals to substitute for one whale. The taking of caribou has already been severely curtailed in many of the villages concerned and is certainly related to increased need for alternate species usage. There may be, in fact, some long term relationship between the cycles of availability and taking of bowhead whales and caribou.

The heads of households could provide information by annual recall of the number and perhaps size of various animals utilized by the persons of that house. Whaling captains could provide information on the number and size of whales caught for each village last year along with distribution patterns to get a rough idea of how much food was obtained from the bowhead. This would be more accurate than meals per week or pounds per household.

These same people could answer the question you asked regarding "what and how many other substitute animals would they plan to harvest?" They could also, along with biological data from NMFS Fish & Wildlife Service and State Fish and Game, answer you remaining "what is the status of subsistence resources in the vicinity of each village?"

Resource management should be coordinated as to allow the alternate species of fish and wildlife be taken only by local people until the caribou and bowhead crises are resolved. As expressed by the whalers food stamps are of little help in villages to obtain protein and flown in beef replacement would be a last choice.

As a physician with the Public Health Service for five years in Alaska I have visited many villages and homes and have discussed subsistence foods with health aides and physicians as well as many other persons and feel that probably 75% of protein intake and significant amounts of iron, vitamins and other nutrients still come from locally acquired foods. A great deal of the substituted or store bought foods are of poor nutritional value. Examples are crackers, white bread, white rice, etc. Some are certainly the cause of health problems, as exemplified by the relationship between pop and dental

Dear Editor:

The Tundra Times' Special Subsistence Issue for January 1978 was prepared by the "Alaska Native Foundation" with funding provided by "BIA Juneau Area Office" and "Rural Alaska Community Action Program." A note of appreciation for their time, endeavors and contribution in dealing with a rural lifestyle/tradition: "Subsistences." Also, for your paper in publishing articles on "subsistences," letting the public become more aware on its importances in our area.

The Tundra Times stated that rural Alaskans should help in making decisions on "subsistence" policies/laws that are now being made in Juneau and Washington, D.C. By supporting our subsistence life style through: letter writing, petition signing, voting for representatives or attending public hearings.

Could you help rural Alaskans by telling us who we could or should write to in Juneau, Alaska and Washington, D.C. in support of "subsistences?" Thank you.

Sincerely,
Gerald Trigg

Editor's Note: Although the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Land and the full House Interior Committee have taken steps to protect subsistence in federal d-2 land legislation, more work is yet to be done before the full Congress passes an Alaska land bill. If you want to make sure that subsistence land and wildlife resources will be protected, here are some good places to write.

Honorable Don Young
1210 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Robert Leggett, Chairman
House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee
2263 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Henry M. Jackson, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
3105 Dirksen Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

letters

Subsistence whaling

Mr. Jerry Gilliland
Special Assistant to the
Secretary
Department of Interior
Box 120
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Mr. Gilliland:

For the past year I have followed the issue of bowhead subsistence whaling closely. In Washington, D.C. on January 31st at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) I listened with interest as Juanita Alvarez of DOI discussed a nutritional study in whaling villages to be done jointly by Interior, Public Health Service (PHS) and NMFS.

Upon returning to Alaska I discussed this with Ms. Irene Rowan of Interior learning that a questionnaire would be done to obtain information. NMFS de-

nied any direct role. PHS was not doing any separate study. Thus I attended the March 10th meeting of the Ad Hoc Force on Bowhead Whale Alternate Food Study with interest. As I expressed there I felt the draft questionnaire (dated 3-4-78) as developed by Jack Peterson of the University of Alaska to be quite meaningless in terms of medically valid nutritional data.

The basic flaw is expecting accuracy from a one year recall of meals per week or pounds per household of various meats or fish. This obviously would be most difficult. The draft further goes into income and general subsistence activities in a manner that will add no value to the data.

This week I have given this matter much thought and then discussed the questionnaire with Betsy Nobman, nutritionist with Indian Health Service, and Dr. Ken Peterson, clinical director at the Alaska Native Medical Center. They both found the ques-

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carries.

Any study that is done should involve and be approved by the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and other village leaders. Perhaps you are aware of the North Slope Borough ordinance that requires any study undertaken in the Borough to first be approved.

The whalers have organized for conducting a limited and regulated hunt in good faith. Let us not fail them by producing nutritional data that would be meaningless at the June International Whaling Commission meeting in London. If an adequate study cannot be done within the limited time frame, it should be undertaken for the following meeting. In that event it would be advisable to collect all known relevant data that now exists, review and compile it for the June IWC.

Sincerely,
J. Michael Holloway, MD
Subsistence Dept./RurAL CAP

cc: Tundra Times

Bootlegging in Barrow

Mr. Raymond I. Petersen

President
Wien Air Alaska
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Petersen:

I need not remind you that the recent accident with a snow machine that killed one of our local young men and injured another did not happen to an otherwise sober couple.

The consumption of alcohol by the local people has not at all been reduced by the closure of the liquor store by the people. The supply of booze has continued pretty heavily and the biggest contribution to the flow of booze has been the traffic allowed by Wien Air Alaska. I say this because very shortly after the liquor store was closed by the city on the 31st of December, your airline came up with weekend special trip for the Barrow people which now takes place on Saturday and back on Sunday. This is fine but, you also allowed no limit luggage on this one trip, encouraging about 20-30 people to get involved in a bootlegging operation for booze.

This trip, the weekend special, is now called the "bootleg special," \$81 for a round trip to Fairbanks plus no limit for luggage.

Mr. Petersen, whether you want to believe it or not, the recent loss of life can only be at-

tributed to alcohol provided by a bootlegger who utilized your 'bootleg special' to bring in booze to Barrow.

I am not at all convinced that the FAA or CAB approval of this weekend trip may not be subject to cancellation if all facts were known to them. I am led to believe that these kinds of reasons are not the criteria for approval or cut rate specials either by FAA or CAB.

Your airline may be making some money from passenger fare money on the weekend trip but I'm sure you are losing a hell of a lot more by the freight tariff which you are not collecting.

With your permission, I am taking the liberty to send copies of this letter to whoever I think should want.

Sincerely,
Eben Hopson, Mayor

cc: Tundra Times

Water quality standards commission

Commissioner Ernie Mueller
Department of Environmental

Conservation
Pouch O
Juneau, Ak. 99811

Dear Commissioner Mueller:

We have finally received a copy of the draft water quality standards, dated March 2 for comment. We feel that an oversight has been made by the department particularly in regard to rural participation in review of the draft water quality standards. No meetings are scheduled for western Alaska, and of more urgent concern considering the proposal by Governor Hammond to expand the western Alaskan fishery, and thereby increasing significantly western Alaskan fish processing, no hearings in the Alaska Peninsula or the Aleutian areas. We would urge your staff to contact George Allan of RurAL CAP or the offices of Byron Mallott, the Alaska Federation of Natives, to develop a mechanism to contact rural representative organizations that would have standing to comment on these critical gradings of receiving waters. The majority of rural Alaska's regional organizations are unaware of the conditions surrounding discharge and water quality standards. A mailing of this nature will go by unnoticed. We also suggest that your staff contact the Tundra Times in Fairbanks to coor-

dinate a news release and informational article in that paper explaining the significance of this issue to rural Alaskans.

The second concern we have is the description of the major economic force in rural Alaska, and that is subsistence. It is difficult to determine if the Department of Environmental Conservation considers the harvest of wildlife from Alaska's waters to be part of (1)(A)(i) or (ii), or part of (B)(i) Water Recreation, or even (C) Growth and Propagation of Fish...We understand the regulation to imply that receiving waters in rural Alaska would only qualify for class (C) under your proposed regulations, but we point out that the receiving waters surrounding a village are often prime habitat for food harvest and thereby qualify for (1) Fresh Water (A) Water Supply (1) drinking, culinary, and food processing. In order to include this description, we would urge that the phrase "primary food harvest" be inserted as an amendment to (1)(A)(i). We also urge that a similar designation be made for Marine Waters.

If you have any questions, please contact our offices.

In peace,
Harold Sparck, director
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cc: Tundra Times