

# Preserving all things

There is no doubt that the preservation of marine mammal species is an all-important goal to achieve. If our bowhead whales or the many variety of seals were to vanish from the face of the earth, words cannot express the loss that would be felt.

It is therefore commendable that Greenpeace, the self-proclaimed protection group for marine mammals, seeks to keep this from happening.

But we feel that Greenpeace sometimes goes too far with too little information on the implications of their acts when it conducts its frequent and often highly publicized activities.

We refer specifically to the Greenpeace contention that the sealing operations on St. Paul and St. George must stop within three to five years once a harbor is built on the islands.

After that, Aleut pride be damned, their centuries-old heritage of seal hunting can be replaced by commercial fishing, says Greenpeace.

IRA Traditional Chief Doug Melevidov says simply, "Someone who says that (get your pride elsewhere) doesn't have much pride himself."

Greenpeace must understand that protecting the marine mammals is important but protecting the traditional indigenous people of this world also is important. Just as losing a species of seal or whales would be tragic, so would losing the traditional lifestyle of ANY peoples.

The Aleuts no more want to see the seal population decimated than do Greenpeacers. They simply ask the opportunity to conduct their lives. They ask for a little understanding.

Instead, they get declarations from outsiders who neither know nor care about their cultures. And that is unreasonable on the part of Greenpeace.