

# Letters to the **EDITOR**

## **Cenaliulriit objects to government policies**

Janet Burleson Baxter  
ACMP Coordinator  
Dept. of Natural Resources  
400 Willoughby Avenue, Suite 400  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Baxter:

Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the Cenaliulriit Coastal Management Plan. We appreciate your opinion that the coastal boundaries are so extensive, this is contrary to the intent of the federal and state coastal management programs, and anadromous fish are not sufficient justification for those boundaries.

The ties that bind the Yup'ik Eskimo in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River villages are ancient. Our relationship to each other and the land are more ancient than the United States Government. The very same U.S. Government whose policy, about 100 years ago, was to exterminate Native Americans and herd the survivors onto reservations. Our relationship to the land is more ancient than the State of Alaska,

the very same state that, about 50 years ago, allowed legal discrimination against Alaska Natives until Elizabeth Peratrovich changed the law. These historical considerations justify our assertion that we continue to face such injustices in the manner in which federal and state government policies and policy processes are imposed upon Alaska Natives.

The Yup'ik Eskimo's historical land use boundaries precede the creation of the United States of America, our historic land use boundaries exceed the birth of the State of Alaska, it exceeds the job tenures of all policy-interpreting bureaucrats. **Our** interpretation and implementation of Cenaliulriit boundaries cannot and will not be imposed upon by federal and state government policy, much less a bureaucrat in a state division office.

*Cordially,*  
*Moses Paukan Sr, Board Chairman*  
*George Owletuck, Program Director*  
*Cenaliulriit Yukon-Kuskokwim CRSA*