

Shareholder group, BBNC officials disagree about Seattle meeting

Although some Bristol Bay Native Corp. shareholders are complaining about the regional corporation holding its annual meeting Oct. 3 in Seattle, a BBNC spokeswoman said the meeting is being held there in an effort to reach shareholders who live Outside.

"For some time it has been our practice to hold meetings in different places," said Elizabeth Johnston, BBNC vice president. She said the corporation has held 13 annual meetings since its inception. Those meetings have been in Naknek, Newhalen, King Salmon, Dillingham and Anchorage.

Although 15 percent of the corporation's shareholders live in the Lower 48, Johnston said an annual meeting has never before been held Outside.

A group of shareholders, however, met in Dillingham recently in an attempt to stop corporation from holding the annual meeting in Seattle. The group is headed by Carl Backford as acting chairman.

Group members decided to ask shareholders to sign a petition asking that a special meeting be held in Bristol Bay which would request future annual meetings be held in the Bristol Bay region.

Earlier, Nels A. Anderson Jr. of Dillingham issued a press release also opposing the meeting location.

"I do not have anything against Seattle, but I think that it is unwise to cater to out-of-state shareholders at the expense of the majority of shareholders who live in Bristol Bay," he said.