

Alaskan films take Native American film honors

Two Alaska films, "Spirit of the Wind" and "The Sea is Our Life" received top honors at the Fifth Annual American Indian Film Festival held recently in San Francisco. "Spirit of the Wind" the Doyon-backed film about dogsled champion George Attla, won several awards including Best Picture and Best Soundtrack. Directed by Ralph Liddle and starring Pius Savage, the film is now being distributed nationally and enjoying enthusiastic sell-out receptions.

"The Sea is our Life" produced by Bo Boudart of Anchorage, won the award for Best Live Short Subject. The film is a 16-minute documentary about the North Slope Inupiat opposition to the government-

sponsored Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sale. This sea is the breeding and feeding waters of the Bowhead whale and other marine mammals necessary for the subsistence economy of the North Slope residents. The film features the local people offering public testimony at hearings and private comments on the prospects for the wildlife on America's Arctic coast in the face of industrial development proposed by industry and government.

Accompanying Boudart to San Francisco to introduce the film were Roger Silook of Gambell and Raymond Neakok of Barrow. Silook was sent by the North Slope Borough and Neakok by Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation. Both organizations,

along with the Film Fund and National Endowment for the Humanities, were major contributors to the film.

While introducing the film the first night of the Festival in San Francisco's Palace of the Fine Arts Theater, Silook, one of the four whaling captains subpoenaed by the federal grand jury in investigating the spring whale hunt, told the audience

of more than 1,000 about the need for subsistence in the Arctic. He said that the government doesn't understand survival in the Arctic and has violated basic human rights. Raymond Neakok went further to accuse the government and industry of greed in endangering the marine resources of the Arctic.

Bo Boudart has several Arctic films to his credit, including

an important NOVA film aired last year about the bowhead whale controversy, "Umealit: The Whale Hunters." Other films he filmed for the North Slope Borough were "Inuit," and "Hunger Knows No Law."

All of the above-mentioned films are currently being offered to Alaskan audiences by Pictures, Inc., 811 West 8th Ave., Anchorage, AK. 99501.