



Larry Merculieff, Chairman of the Board of the Aleut Corporation, welcomes participants to the conference.

Andy Klamser photo

## Fish meeting a success

Two things happened at the Aleutian Pribilof Fisheries Development Conference held last week (Sept. 5-7) at St. Paul.

One, the Aleut people learned more about bottom fish, the potentials of the area, what development might occur regardless of what action they might take, and they got together to provide an initial forum for villagers to discuss to what extent they want to get involved with bottom fish and to learn of the type of assistance available.

Second, and just as important, was an agreement

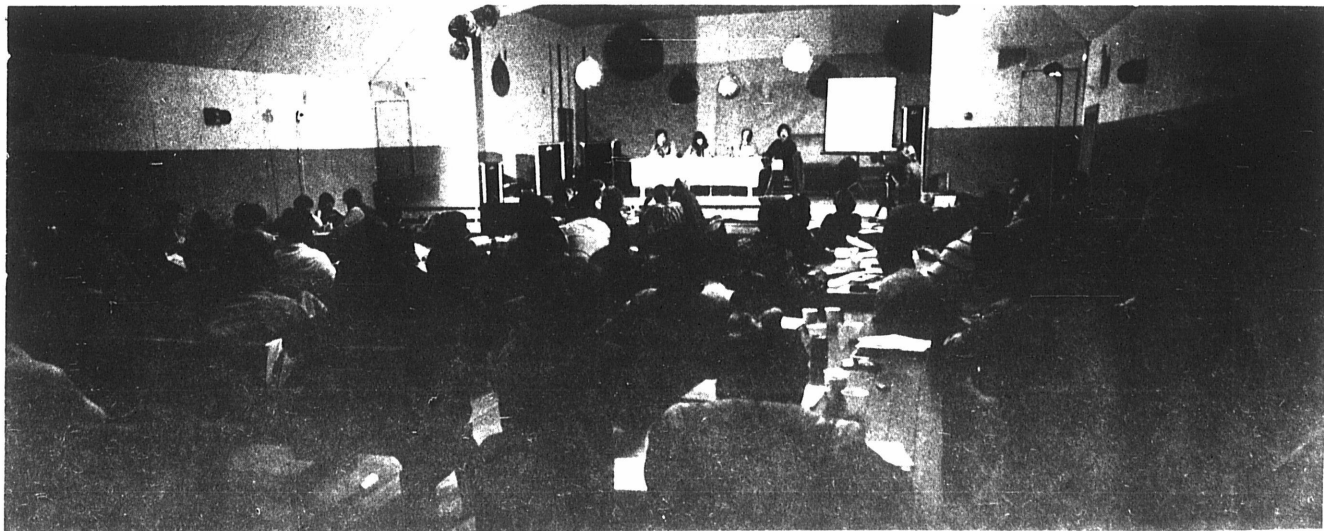
among the villagers to form a United Aleut League, which would bring villagers together to discuss issues that are common to all peoples in the area.

"This is an historic event due to the creation of the United Aleut League which will determine our own future for the first time," said Larry Merculieff, Chairman of the Board of the Aleut Corporation. "Outside organizations have the financing, political know-how, and experience. Each corporation by itself will not survive the pressures from these groups;

therefore, we need the trust and friendship among all villages in order to survive."

Attending the meeting were representatives from each village in the Aleutians, sprinkling of legislators and their staffs, representatives of state agencies, federal agency representatives, private industry experts, the school children of St. Paul, and representatives of various nonprofit organizations that provide technical assistance, such as the Alaska Native Foundation (ANF), which in part sponsors

(see FISH, page 4)



Overview of Bering Sea Fisheries Development Conference held in St. Paul last week

Andy Klamser photo

# Fish conference successful

(continued from page 1)

sored the conference.

"Aleuts look to the waters for their livelihood," said Pat Pletnikoff, president of the Aleution-Pribilof Islands Association (APIA). He pointed out that the Aleution regional population is projected to reach 25,000. "APIA would like to become partners with the state for study and planning. Without planning there will be many adverse effects."

---

"This is the first time the Aleuts can take advantage of its water and land resources. There is a negligible amount of private land and anyone interested in shore based processors must deal with the Aleuts," said Tony Smith, an attorney for APIA.

Jim Edenzo, bottom-fish coordinator for Gov. Jay S. Hammond, said the governor had made bottom-fish development a priority of his administration. According to Edenzo the goals and policies of the state should be to:

1. to develop an efficient and competitive bottom fish industry;
2. to develop the infrastructure needed;
3. to establish adequate on shore processing with adequate on shore processing with adequate ports and harbor facilities;
4. to encourage the maximum involvement by Alaskans in fishing and processing; and
5. to conserve and manage the resource to ensure a long term industry.