

New Fish and Game committees established in Kotzebue area

BY STAN JONES

At its December meeting, the Alaska Joint Board of Fisheries and Game approved four new Fish and Game Advisory Committees in the NANA region. They are:

1. The Upper Kobuk committee, representing Ambler, Shungnak, and Kobuk.

2. The Lower Kobuk committee, representing Kiana and Noorvik.

3. The Northern Seward Peninsula committee, representing Selawik, Buckland, and Deering.

4. The Noatak-Kivalina committee, representing those two villages.

According to Bobby Schaeffer, a subsistence coordinator employed by Mauneluk Association, the villages involved decided for themselves how the four committees would be constituted at a series of meetings preceding the state board's session.

The next step, Schaeffer says, is to hold meetings in the villages to select members for the new committees and train them in board procedures. Once that is accomplished, there are plans to set up a regional meeting involving all five committees in the Kotzebue area — the four new

ones and the Kotzebue committee which has been in existence for some time.

The local advisory committees were established by the state as conduits to assure that the views of rural Alaskans on fish and game issues reach the regulatory bodies.
