

# Juneau, Sitka, Kodiak Inc. ?

Alaska Natives who call Sitka, Kenai, Juneau, and Kodiak "home" can be included among other Alaska Natives who benefit from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act provided they incorporate under the laws of the State of Alaska, Morris Thompson, Area Director, Juneau Area Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, pointed out.

Kenai Natives have already incorporated as the Kenai Native Association, Thompson said. Natives living in the three cities Sitka, Juneau, and Kodiak will have until 1975 to follow suit.

The corporations, once formed, will be able to select 23,040 acres each within a reasonable distance to the mun-

icipalities where their members live, the Area Director indicated. The land will be similar in character to the Natives' home cities. The selection process will involve review and public hearings.

After the selection is made and confirmed, the corporations will gain title to the land's surface. Mineral and subsurface rights will go to the appropriate Regional Corporation.

Regional Corporations, 12 in all, were established in 1972, based on the same cultural and geographic boundaries as Native associations that existed prior to settlement of the Alaska Natives land claim.

Selections of lands must be made by the corporations by December 18, 1975.