

Lower Yukon Hatchery Site Investigation

By MATTIE PAT SHAW

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development Division, (I think the name is bigger than the project), recently sent a repres-

entative, Bob McLean, to Grayling to conduct a preliminary site investigation to determine if a suitable site could be found locally, and if so, what type of hatchery would be suitable.

A great deal of interest has

been expressed in recent years by local governments, regional corporations and interested user groups, according to McLean, as to the advisability and practicality of developing a supplemental production hatchery program within the Yukon drainage

to augment the existing natural runs of salmon and to stabilize or increase the harvest potential for both the subsistence and commercial groups.

In response to this expressed interest, the legislature passed HB 60, granting the State's Division of Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) \$150,000 to conduct this site investigation.

McLean stated that chum salmon incubation requires a water flow of 1 gallon per minute for every 10,000 eggs. Thus, for the proposed 10 million egg hatchery, 1000gals/per minute would be required. He added

that FRED was conducting an experimental project this winter in Fairbanks to test the feasibility of recirculating water through the hatchery for incubation, thereby lessening the requirements for water. He noted, that if this project is successful, it may open more potential sites that have the proper temperature and water quality, but not sufficient flow.

Grayling is the tenth village visited by McLean, and according to his itinerary, will be visiting the following villages: St. Mary; Mountain Village; Emmo-nak; Katlek; Kayukuk; Hughes; Huslia and Allakaheet.