

SCOMM

#8:1



Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300



Rep. Phillip Guy

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Special Committee on Subsistence

phone: 465-3893 (new number)

Representative Jack Fuller, Chairman

members: Rep. Nels A. Anderson, Dillingham
Rep. Fred Zharoff, Kodiak
Rep. Rick Halford, Eagle River
Rep. Joe Hayes, Anchorage

David Hoffman, Administrative Assistant

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMITTEE UPDATE -- FEBRUARY 9, 1979

The Subsistence Committee has once again been reincarnated. Nels Anderson, who is now House Majority Leader is no longer Chairman, but he is a member of the committee. The new chairman is Jack Fuller from Nome who is a new member of the legislature. Representative Fuller's number one priority is the subsistence issue, so he will be bringing a great deal of enthusiasm to the issue, as well as a good understanding of the problem. He has lived in Northwest Alaska for the last fifteen years and has traveled extensively throughout the region.

The big news from the Department of Fish and Game lately is that they have finally hired a chief for the Subsistence Section and an Assistant Chief. The chief is Tom Lonner and the assistant chief is Paul Cunningham. Both of them appear to be excellent choices. The enclosed press release tells a little more about them. They will both be in Juneau during the week of February 12 getting oriented and will then begin work officially on March 5, so you can start sending your cards and letters to them any time. They also have hired an administrative assistant for the Subsistence Section who is working down there now. Her name is Thrisa Collins and the phone number for the subsistence section is 465- 4147 or 4148. Their address is:

Subsistence Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Support Building
Juneau, Ak. 99811

They are the people to get in touch with if you have any problems or questions about subsistence.

A big issue for the past year has been the regionalization of the Boards of fish and game. The subsistence committee will not be introducing a regionalization bill this year as it did last year because Representative Terry Gardiner of Ketchikan who is Speaker of the House has written a bill on regionalization which the bush caucus members support. Therefore, the Subsistence Committee will not really be dealing with that issue much this year.

The tentative priority list for the Subsistence Committee this Session is enclosed. As you can see, the Committee will be involved extensively with overseeing the development of various sorts of administrative regulations. There will probably not be any one big subsistence bill as there was last year.

In addition to subsistence issues, I will be keeping an eye on limited entry issues this Session. The enclosed press release gives a general idea of what is happening in the House of Representatives on limited entry.

As always, feel free to call us if you need information or assistance with something. Also feel free to come by if you are in town. The committee headquarters is in Representative Fuller's office in room 103 of the Assembly Building.

David Hoffman,

Administrative Assistant



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Special Committee
on Subsistence

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE

TENTATIVE PRIORITIES

OVERSIGHT DUTIES

Oversee establishment of the subsistence section in ADF&G and work for an adequate budget for that section in fiscal year '80

Oversee the development of subsistence regulations by the boards of fish and game at their April meeting and work with the Administrative Regulation Review Committee.

Provide input on the development of federal regulations for subsistence on National Monuments

Provide input to the development of regulations for state management of sea mammals

Provide input on development of federal regulations to allow spring subsistence hunting of migratory birds

Monitor development of subsistence provisions in d-2 legislation

Work with Alaska Coastal Policy Council re; role of subsistence in planning
LEGISLATION

Bill creating a division of subsistence rather than a section in ADF&G

Supplementary appropriation bill establishing subsistence section regional offices in Tok and Southeast

Legislation to make it easier for village residents to receive guiding certification for sea mammals

Special appropriation bill for freezer facilities for preserving walrus meat

Legislation relating to Eskimo Walrus Commission

Legislation relating to the subsistence hunting of musk oxen

Subsistence Appointments Made

Fish and Game Commissioner Ronald O. Skoog Tuesday announced the appointment of Thomas D. Lonner and Paul B. Cunningham to the top two posts in the department's new Subsistence Section.

The Subsistence Section was created by the 1978 Alaska Legislature to monitor and compile data on subsistence hunting and fishing in Alaska; to evaluate

subsistence-related impacts of laws, regulations, and other factors and to participate in resource management planning for subsistence needs.

Lonner will be chief of the new section. He holds a Doctorate in Sociology from the University of California and is an experienced consultant on resource and land-use planning issues. Most recently, Lonner was senior consultant

with the Anchorage firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, and has supervised socioeconomic studies for the Bureau of Land Management's development program concerning the outer continental shelf region.

Cunningham will be the assistant chief for the subsistence section. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries Biology from

Humboldt State University in California, and previously worked for the Department of Fish and Game in the Bristol Bay and Norton Sound areas as a biologist with the Commercial and Sport Fisheries Divisions from 1969 to 1976.

He was Area Biologist in Nome for three years. Cunningham's latest experience has been as the harvest management biologist in charge of the Quinault Indian Nation fisheries harvest program in Washington State.

Skoog pointed out that Cunningham's resource management experience in rural Alaska will be a valuable complement to

Lonner's background.

Lonner and Cunningham's first task will be to set up the organization of the new section. Plans call for "subsistence" personnel to man field offices in Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Dillingham and Galena. Each office will become the operating base for a "Resource Specialist" and an assistant "Fish and Game Technician."

Skoog said the resource specialist positions form a completely new job class, and the specifications for this new class just recently were approved by the Department of Administration.

NEWS RELEASE

Representative Nels A. Anderson, Jr. of Dillingham, Majority Leader of the state House of Representatives and Speaker Terry Gardiner of Ketchikan are spearheading an effort to re-examine and possibly reform the state's commercial fisheries limited entry system. Anderson and Gardiner, who worked closely during the autumn in conducting public limited entry symposiums, are now proposing legislative solutions to some of the problems voiced by the public.

A first step in this attempt to solve problems with the limited entry system has been the introduction of a bill calling for an appropriation of \$125,000 to fund a study of the limited entry system as it currently stands after four years of operation. Issues to be studied in detail would be free transfer provisions of the present system and alternatives to it such as the development of fishing apprenticeship system and also the present system for determining hardship in the awarding of entry permits. Public hearing would be a part of this proposed study. The bill establishing this eight-month-long study will be introduced by the House Resources Committee which is co-chaired by Representative Al Osterback of Sand Point.

A second step in modifying the entry system has been the introduction of two bills which would make it easier to borrow money for the purchase of limited entry permits. House Bill 30, introduced by Representative Gardiner would make it possible for fishermen to borrow money from the newly-created Commercial

Fishing and Agriculture Bank for the purchase of entry permits. This bill also allows fishermen to put up their entry permits as collateral for loans from the new bank. Under current law, entry permits can only be used as collateral for loans from state loan programs and not from private lenders.

Another bill, dealing with loans for commercial fishermen is HB 20 which was introduced by Representative Mike Miller of Juneau with Representative Terry Gardiner and Representative Jime Duncan as co-sponsors. This bill would allow fishermen to borrow more money under the Department of Commerce's Commercial Fishing Loan Fund. This bill would allow them to borrow up to 90% of the appraised value of the collateral they put up for the purchase of a limited entry permits. The present ceiling is 75% of the collateral put up. It also makes it easier for different members of the same family to each get loans.

In addition to these bills, the House Leadership is considering the possibility of introducing legislation to settle questions brought up by three different court challenges of limited entry. These legal questions center on the applications of non-gear license holders for permits, the re-opening of limited entry applications in certain regions of the state and the applicability of limited entry to the Upper Yukon River.