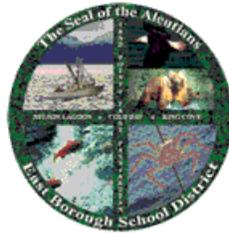
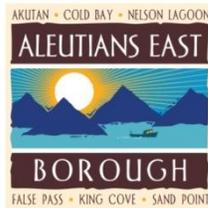


In the Loop



Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

In the Loop Wants to Hear from You



Newsletter Introduces Letters to the Editor Section

In the Loop covers a variety of issues in the Aleutians East Borough (AEB), including capital improvement projects, transportation issues, commercial fishing, subsistence lifestyles, health and potential oil and gas development in the region. The Borough would like to know what you

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think about these issues. If you'd like to submit a letter to the editor, please email ltanis@aeboro.org and ccorbridge@aeboro.org .

Letters must be no more than 225 words in length. Letters will be edited for length, clarity, grammar and taste. We will publish only one letter a month per writer. Letters must include the writer's address and a day phone number (for verification, not publication). We will not print open letters to third parties and will not knowingly publish letters submitted to other publications.

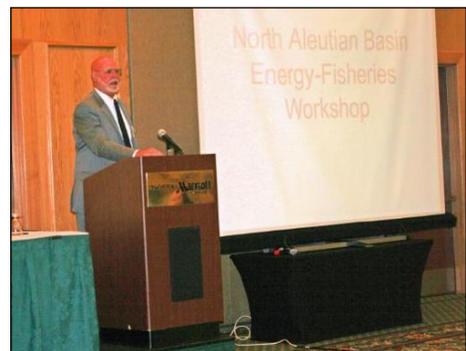
North Aleutian Basin Fisheries/Energy Workshop Draws Strong Attendance



Approximately 200 people attended the North Aleutian Basin Fisheries/Energy Workshop earlier this week in Anchorage to discuss what steps should be taken if gas & oil are developed in Lease Sale 214, adjacent to Nelson Lagoon. Those attending the conference included fishermen, community leaders, tribal members, scientists, government officials, environmental groups and representatives from energy

companies. The goal of the workshop was to bring various groups together to discuss a variety of viewpoints and continue a dialogue that began last October.

“There are billions of dollars at stake in existing fisheries and billions of dollars at stake in potential oil and gas development,” said Mark Hamilton, president of the University of Alaska and the workshop’s keynote speaker. “Today, we learn about each other as equal participants. Let’s start this conference with the thought, I have much to learn.”



Learning about how fisheries and the energy industry can successfully co-exist in other places around the world, such as Canada, the Shetland Islands and Norway was part of the presentation. Panel members from Norway’s Bodo University, the

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Norwegian Fishermen's Association and energy companies were able to take part in the workshop thanks to an audio and visual link. The panelists described how forty years ago, fishermen in Norway had many of the same concerns about oil and gas development as they do here in Alaska. Petroleum and fishing have co-existed successfully for many years but research continues there with several groups studying the implications of gas and oil development along the northern coast of Norway.

[Read More](#)

Proposed Mitigation Measures for OCS Leasing In the North Aleutian Basin¹

The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) is supporting the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) to achieve mitigation measures for gas & oil development in the North Aleutian Basin before it gives final approval. The Borough first explored the issue in 1984. During spring of that year, the Alaska Coastal Management Program invited a cross-section of interest groups from the Shetland Islands to Sand Point, Alaska to participate in a regional OCS (Outer Continental Shelf) conference. Speakers from the Shetland Islands in the North Sea, representing the fishing community, oil and gas industry, local government and Aberdeen University described their general experience with oil and gas exploration, development and production. The information shared was particularly relevant to the Borough because of social, economic and environmental similarities between the two areas. The Borough began planning in earnest five years ago. A 2006 workshop in Cold Bay set the stage for the conditional endorsement of the lease sale based on the following mitigation measures. The AEB has been working on the issue since then.

Fisheries Protection

¹ The proposed mitigation measures are in addition to the lease stipulations listed in the OCS DEIS (draft environmental impact statement) for the Alaska Region, and to replace the Fisheries Protection stipulation which AEB has determined to be inadequate.

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Lease related use will be restricted to prevent conflicts with local commercial, subsistence, and sport harvest activities. All OCS (outer continental shelf) operations, both onshore and offshore, must be designed, sited and operated to ensure that:

- (a) adverse changes to the distribution or abundance of fish resources do not occur;
- (b) fish or shellfish catches are not adversely impacted by OCS activities;
- (c) all exploration, construction and operation activities will be coordinated with the fishing community to maximize communication, ensure public participation, and avoid conflicts;
- (d) ballast water treatment is required to remove or eliminate non-indigenous species.
- (e) fishermen are not displaced or precluded from access to fishing areas, unless they are adequately compensated for the displacement;
- (f) fishermen are not precluded from participating in designated fishing seasons, unless they are adequately compensated for the lost season(s); and
- (g) fishermen will be compensated for damage to fishing equipment, vessels, gear and decreased harvest value from OCS operations in a timely manner.

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries must complete a baseline fisheries assessment prior to commencement of OCS (outer continental shelf) exploration. NOAA Fisheries must review and approve all exploration and development activities under the leases issued in collaboration with local, state and federal agencies, and implement federal monitoring programs to ensure these fish resource standards are met.

Transportation, Utility Corridors and Infrastructure Siting

Transportation routes, utility corridors and infrastructure must be carefully sited and constructed to allow for the free passage and movement of fish and wildlife. Timetables must be designed to avoid construction during critical migration periods for fish and wildlife. Pipelines should be buried wherever possible. The siting of facilities, other than docks, roads, utility or pipeline corridors, or terminal facilities, will be prohibited within one-half mile of the coast, barrier islands, reefs and lagoons, fish bearing water bodies and 1500 feet from all surface water drinking sources.

[Read More: Link to Borough's Complete Mitigation Measures](#)

Aleutians East Borough Puts Hovercraft on Operational Hiatus while Administration Explores Funding Options

Hovercraft Rescues Man from Boat Fire and Conducts Medevac during Stand Down



The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) has placed operation of the hovercraft Suna-X on an approximate four-week hiatus while administrators contemplate several funding options for the hovercraft operation. Between now and April 1, 2008, the hovercraft will be available for

medevacs and charters (contracts will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis). The hiatus began March 1, 2008 and will end approximately April 1, 2008, depending on available financing options.

Since it began commercial operation between Cold Bay and King Cove last August, the hovercraft has been incurring a substantial monthly operating loss. Mechanical problems, delays in getting replacement parts from the United Kingdom and poor weather have combined to keep the hovercraft out of service much more than previously anticipated.

During the stand down, the Borough will consider several money-generating options. One includes selling two hovercraft engines in storage, which could bring in \$150,000 - \$200,000. The AEB will also pursue reimbursement for medevacs done during the past several months and look into obtaining a mail contract.



On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the hovercraft crew rescued a man from a boat on fire. That same day, the hovercraft performed a medevac from King Cove to Cold Bay.

[Read More](#)

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Alaska Senate Supports Local Communities Wraps Up Work on Three-Legged Stool Package

The Alaska Legislature wrapped up work this week on one of the most significant packages of legislation it has produced in many years. The “Three Legged Stool” refers to three bills that provide significant financial support to local governments and school districts.

Those three legs are: SB 125, funding for shortfalls in public employees and teachers retirement systems (PERS and TRS); HB 273, K-12 education funding; and SB 72, revenue sharing with municipalities and communities.

- Senate Bill 72 restores community revenue sharing at \$60 million per year over the next three years. It provides a formula that includes a basic amount for each community, and then a second portion based on population.

House Bill 273 makes numerous improvements to state programs that provide aid to K-12 education. The changes include: \$100 increase per year over the next three years to the base student allocation (BSA); increases in funding for pupil transportation and intensive needs students; updating area cost factors over five years; and holding harmless school districts that are experiencing declining enrollment.

[Read More](#)

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AMHS Schedules Early May Aleutian Chain Trip

The Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS) has announced the implementation of an early May trip along the Aleutian Chain.

“The originally scheduled Aleutian Chain trips filled up very quickly this year, and we’ve received requests to add more sailings,” said Chuck VanKirk, AMHS Operations Manager.



In an effort to meet the public’s request for additional sailings, AMHS will offer an additional trip during the first week of May. The motor vessel Tustumena will depart Homer May 6 and stops at ports it regularly serves along the route.

“During this time, service interruptions are expected to occur between Kodiak, Homer and Seldovia,” VanKirk said. “However, our

reservations specialists will contact any and all customers who may be impacted by the adjustment, and they will rebook itineraries as necessary.”

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Debunking polar bear fears

More Scientists Speak Out Against Global Warming Forecasts; Urge Better Science

By Rose Ragsdale

(excerpt from Petroleum News)

As environmentalists press the federal government to list the polar bear as an endangered species, more and more prominent scientists are warning public policy makers to regard forecasts of [global warming](#) and climate-related disasters with a healthy dose of skepticism.



An escalating scientific debate over global warming has entered the halls of Congress in recent months as committees in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. [Senate](#) have grappled with reshaping U.S. policies to offset predicted dire effects of human activity on the earth's atmosphere.

But growing numbers of eminent scientists, including Alaska's own physicist Syun-Ichi Akasofu, are coming forward to question widespread assumptions that global warming is a reality and human activities, especially those involving fossil [fuels](#), are exacerbating the phenomenon.

[Read More](#)

King Cove Boys Muscle Past Fort Yukon

By Alex DeMarban

(excerpt from the Bristol Bay Times)

Charley Dushkin's good-luck charm is a drawstring cut from a pair of shorts. The senior forward for the King Cove T-Jacks ties it to his wire-frame glasses so they stay on his head.

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The trick is finding the pair of shorts, because Dushkin is afraid he'll lose the luck if he doesn't get a new drawstring for each game.

Dushkin said the unusual amulet helped his team win the opening game of the 1A state boys basketball championship, when the King Cove T-Jacks slipped past the Fort Yukon Eagles 55-49.



[Read More](#)

Kalskag Rallies in Fourth Quarter; Overpowers King Cove in Boys' Class 1A State Semifinal

A last minute basket ends King Cove's run at a state championship. The King Cove T-Jacks lost to Kalskag, 61-59 in a boys Class 1A state semifinal game Wednesday.

[Read More - Anchorage Daily News story - March 19, 2008](#)

News from the Akutan School



The Akutan students have changed the entire hallway. It reflects a new theme "International Polar Year" and we are using this theme to reinforce topics taught in class. We received an "International Polar Year" packet from the state and are presently doing art projects on changes caused by global warming and cultural changes caused by this trend.

We are also building a quilt, which will be raffled off in a fundraiser. Each student is taking a turn at sewing a square into the quilt. This quilt has many squares with pictures of animals and plants from Alaska.

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In science, we are studying anatomy. We have memorized the position and names of the bones, and have covered most of the nervous system. Presently, we are studying the muscles.

[Read More](#)

Radio Internship in Sand Point

This semester four students from Sand Point School will be participating in a radio station internship with KSDP. Chris Conde, Ivy-Jane Gundersen, CJ Roby, and Brandon Smith will start their school day at the radio station. With the guidance of Kells Hetherington and Heather Meinert, the students will learn a variety of aspects of radio broadcasting such as: how to report city, state, and national news, researching musical artists and musical genres they are unfamiliar with, knowledge of the history of radio broadcasting and the progression that has occurred to leading to our modern day radio stations. This internship will develop valuable skills which will help future employability.



This is another exciting educational opportunity for our students at Sand Point School where we are striving to provide an education that meets all students' needs and helps them be successful in life!

Message in a bottle

By [Sarah Koenig](#)
Enterprise reporter

(excerpt from The Enterprise Newspapers – Shoreline/Lake edition)

In December, Merle Brandell was beachcombing near his village of Nelson Lagoon, Alaska, when he found something unusual.

Floating amid a crowd of Japanese glass floats was a plastic soda bottle with a letter inside, yellowed and ripped at the seams. The return address was North City Elementary School in

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Shoreline, Washington.

"Dear Finder," the letter read. "My name is Emily Hwaung and I am in fourth grade at North City School. This letter is part of our science project to study oceans and learn about people in distant lands. Please send the date and location of the bottle with your address. I will send you my picture and tell you when and where the bottle was placed in the ocean. Your friend, Emily Hwaung."

The letter had no date. Brandell, a 34-year-old born and raised in Alaska, set about finding where it came from.

[Read More](#)



High School Graduation Qualifying Exam - April 1-3, 2008

SBA Testing - April 1-4, 2008:

Grades 3-10

Help your student do his or her best!

- Make sure your child gets plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Make sure your child attends school on testing days and get him/her there on time. Avoid scheduling other appointments that day.
- Feed your student a good breakfast the day of the test and be positive when he/she leaves for school.
- Encourage your child. Let your child know you think he/she will do well on the test. Remind him/her to relax and focus on the test.

If you have any questions regarding the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam or the Standard Based Assessment,

Please contact your school principal or the district test coordinator.

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OPEN WIDE AND SAY "AH*"...

... for an "AH*-mazing" career opportunity
to serve your community as a
DENTAL HEALTH AIDE THERAPIST!

*DENTEX is an Alaska-based program
that educates dental health aide therapists to provide
dental care in rural Alaskan villages .*

**Submit a Request for Consideration by APRIL 30
to indicate your interest in applying
for the next DENTEX class.**

You may be eligible to enter the application process if you have:

-  High school diploma or GED
(Preference given to applicants with some college level academics)
-  Prior experience in dental or medical setting
-  Personal statement as to why you want to be a DHAT

 Mail or fax a completed Request for Consideration to:
Eastern Aleutian Tribes Fax: (907) 277-1446
3380 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Attn: Katherine Cart
For more information, call (907) 564-2506

The Alaska Native population has the highest tooth decay rate of any population group in the United States. Long-term lack of access to professional dental care has been a major contributor to these high rates. Through the University of Washington School of Medicine's DENTEX program, Alaska Natives are being trained to provide ongoing clinical care and oral health prevention programs in their own villages. Training is a two-year program with the first year in Anchorage. The second year is in Bethel in collaboration with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation at the Yuut Elitnaurviat People's Learning Center.

This "Ah*-mazing" opportunity is brought to you by these collaborating agencies:



Aleutia Begins Selling Commercial Crewmember/Sports Fishing Licenses

The Aleutia office now sells commercial fishing crewmember licenses and sports fishing licenses. Those in need of a license can stop by the Sand Point office and see Tiffany Jackson, Aleutia Operations Manager, to purchase one. Tiffany can be reached at (907) 383-5909 or email: Aleutia_tiffany@arctic.net.

Become an Aleutia Member: 2008 Aleutia Memberships Available

Join the Aleutia fishery in one of Alaska's most beautiful, wild and dramatic regions. Capture the flavor of this treasured resource – Aleutia sockeye salmon.



All permit holders can re-apply for 2008 memberships. Membership forms are available at the office in Sand Point or visit the link below. Those who submit their applications and membership fees will receive a free 2008 Aleutia hat and floating permit card holder.

[Aleutia Membership Application Form](#)

[Aleutia Web site link](#)

Figure 1 - permit card holder

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Find One-of-a-Kind Aleutia Products on Zazzle.com

Looking for a special gift for someone that reflects the fishing tradition of our region? Aleutia has several unique products with the Aleutia logo for sale on Zazzle.com. You can find an Aleutia mouse pad, coffee mug, magnet, keychain, bumper sticker and more. Check out the link below for Aleutia one-of-a-kind products.

[Link to Zazzle.com](#)

Fill Your Freezer with Delicious Aleutia Sockeye Salmon



Craving premium-quality, all-natural Aleutia sockeye salmon? If your freezer is empty, and your mouth is watering for the full-flavored, rich taste of sockeye salmon, Aleutia still has some fillets left. Get 'em while supplies last. It costs \$141.63 for a 25-pound box.

Call the Aleutia office at (907) 383-5909

or email Tiffany Jackson at Aleutia_Tiffany@arctic.net.

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Got News?



If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org and ccorbridge@aeboro.org.

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