



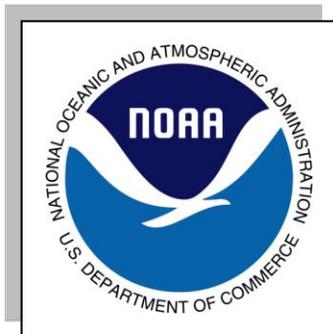
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# Fish News

Jan. 29, 2009

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## **News from NOAA: Challenges Ahead for NMFS's Ability to Get Fisheries Opened and Closed**



With the transition to the Obama Administration, NOAA Fisheries (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) says the ability of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to timely process re-openers has drastically changed. The transitional team is requiring prior approvals and is processing them in batches. The timeline of when and how quickly NMFS can process re-openers will require at least two weeks' notice before the action will be published and effective (one week minimum for prior approval and another week to process). NMFS is unable to process these actions in a couple of days as was done previously. NOAA says this likely will last until the new administration gets their legs underneath them. At this point, it's unknown how long that will be.

NOAA officials say they were unaware these delays were about to be imposed and didn't expect this type of change as the new protocol became effective shortly after President Obama took office on Jan 20th. The agency says it took a while to get clarification on how this would affect NMFS. This will affect the 610 re-opener and NMFS's ability to do multiple re-openers.

If you have any questions, contact Josh Keaton at [josh.keaton@noaa.gov](mailto:josh.keaton@noaa.gov).

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## **NOAA Fisheries Extend Public Comment Period on Salmon Bycatch Document**

NOAA Fisheries is extending the comment period on a draft environmental impact statement that proposes ways to reduce the number of Chinook salmon accidentally caught by Bering Sea pollock fishermen.



“Based on numerous fishing industry requests, we are extending the comment period

for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Bering Sea Chinook Salmon Bycatch Management through February 23, 2009,” said Acting Alaska Regional Administrator Doug Mecum. “We want to give the public additional time for comment without delaying the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s plan to take final action at its April 2009 meeting.”

The draft EIS was released December 5. The comment period was initially scheduled to end February 3, 2009. In the draft EIS, managers suggest methods to decrease the accidental salmon 'bycatch' to help conserve Chinook salmon, maintain a healthy ecosystem and provide maximum benefit to fishermen and communities that depend on Chinook salmon and pollock.

The Bering Sea pollock fishery catches up to 95 percent of the Chinook salmon taken as bycatch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries.

[Read more](#)

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## 2009 Call for Proposals for Alaska Board of Fisheries

The Alaska Board of Fisheries is calling for proposed changes in the subsistence, commercial, personal use, sport, guided sport and guided sport ecotourism finfish regulations for the Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim and the Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands finfish areas and statewide finfish regulations.

**The deadline to submit a proposed change is 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 10, 2009.**

[Read more](#)

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## King Cove Fisherman Launches One of State's Largest 58-Foot Limit Seiners

*Published in In the Loop on Jan. 23, 2009*



**A.J. Newman's vessel, the F/V Lady Lee Dawn, has become one of the largest 58-foot limit seiners in Alaska.**

After five months of hard work, King Cove resident Alvin (A.J.) Newman, owner of the F/V Lady Lee Dawn, launched his new-and-improved fishing vessel in Lenard Harbor last week. Newman's boat is now one of the biggest 58-foot limit seiners in Alaska after he added five feet in width on both sides of the vessel.

King Cove Fisherman Warren Wilson conducted the design work and welding. The additional 10 feet in width has provided more stability to the F/V Lady Lee Dawn.



The extensive work to the F/V Lady Lee Dawn took five months to complete.

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## Sand Point's New Wharf Completed

*Published in In the Loop on Jan. 23, 2009*



The next phase of the new harbor includes the placement of floats.

After three months of construction, the Sand Point wharf within the new boat harbor has been completed by Western Marine.



**Western Marine completed the Sand Point wharf in the new boat harbor in three months.**

“This project was completed within budget at record-setting time,” said AEB Administrator Sharon Boyette. The 18-acre boat harbor extension is intended to accommodate larger vessels, freeing up space for the smaller vessels at the old wharf. The cost of the wharf construction

project was \$2.98 million. The next phase of the new harbor will include placement of floats. Shaun

McFarlane of URS Engineering was in Sand Point on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009 to discuss float placement with the community.

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## **Upcoming Fish Meetings:**

### **North Pacific Fishery Management Council Agenda:**

Feb. 2 – 10, 2009 – Renaissance Hotel – Seattle, WA

#### **Major Issues:**

- Salmon Bycatch
- Amendment 80
- BSAI Fixed Gear
- GOA Sideboards
- BSAI Crab Issues



[Link to NPFMC Agenda](#)

## **Alaska Board of Fisheries:**

Feb. 17 - 26, 2009 – Centennial Hall - Sitka, AK  
Southeast and Yakutat finfish (including salmon, herring and groundfish)  
Comment deadline: Feb. 3, 2009

## **[Link to Board of Fisheries Calendar](#)**

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