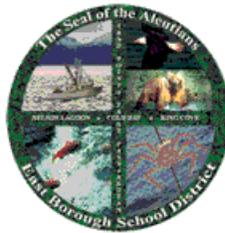
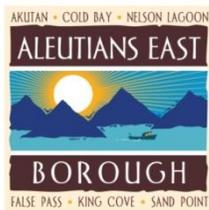


In the Loop



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

State Sues to Overturn NMFS Decision on Western Sea Lions

The State of Alaska filed a lawsuit last week in an attempt to stop the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from restricting fishing in the westernmost Aleutian Islands. NMFS claims the fishing restrictions are needed to protect food sources for endangered Steller sea lions. However, Governor Parnell said the agency's conclusion that additional fishing restrictions are necessary is not supported by the best available scientific information.

“The drastic measures proposed by NMFS are simply not necessary given the overall health of the Steller sea lion



The State of Alaska has filed a lawsuit to stop NMFS from restricting fishing in the westernmost Aleutian Islands.

population,” Governor Parnell said in a press release. “This decision will have immediate and significant impacts on local communities and fishermen in the area.”

If the NMFS plan goes forward, the decision would cause fishery losses up to \$66 million annually and would affect approximately 900 people employed by commercial mackerel and cod fisheries fleets. The state’s lawsuit asks the court to issue a ruling to prevent NMFS’ plan from being implemented January 1, 2011.

Governor Parnell said the state believes that NMFS committed procedural violations that limited input from the public and experts. The state further argues restricted fishing isn’t necessary because western Steller sea lions had an average annual population growth of between 1 and 1.5 percent between 2000 and 2008, and now number more than 70,000.

[Read more: Anchorage Daily News article](#)

[Read more: press release from the Governor's Office](#)

Highlights from the December NPFMC Meeting

By Sam Cotten, AEB Fisheries Consultant & NPFMC Member

The December 2010 North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting was well-attended by several fishermen from King Cove and Sand Point. Those who attended included Taylor Lundgren, Kylie Thompson, Paul Gronholdt, Dwain Foster, Mike Alfieri, A.J. Newman, Danny Cumberlidge, Robin Larsen, Dale Peterson and Marvin Mack.

Chinook Salmon Bycatch in the pollock fishery reached a record level in 2010. Local fishermen in attendance presented several ideas, including:

- A requirement to retain all chinook salmon.
- Voluntary observer coverage for a portion of the fleet.
- Trip limits to slow down the fishery.
- Season date changes (i.e.: moving the D season



Local fishermen presented several options to the NPFMC to help lower chinook salmon bycatch numbers in the pollock fishery.

into the A, B & C seasons).

- Investigating the feasibility of using salmon excluders in the trawls.

All of the salmon avoidance proposals advanced by the Sand Point and King Cove pollock fleet were incorporated into the State's motion. In addition, the motion included options for hard caps (limits that would close the fishery similar to the halibut hard caps that are already in place). The hard cap proposals would divide the cap between the pollock and non-pollock fisheries at the rate of 75% for the pollock and 25% for non-pollock. The ranges for the cap that will be analyzed are 15,000, 22,500 and 30,000 for pollock and 5,000, 7,500 and 10,000 for non-pollock. Additionally, the motion asks for an analysis of the potential benefits of a bycatch co-op and an examination of a quota system for pollock fishermen based on their catch histories.

Other Council business included:

Steller Sea Lion regulations: More restrictive regulations will be imposed by NMFS in the westernmost Aleutians. The Council has opposed these new measures, but the agency is moving ahead as they feel the Endangered Species Act requires additional protections for the

western population. The State of Alaska disagrees, and has filed a lawsuit (see first story in newsletter).



The Council may consider changes to the crab rationalization program.

Crab rationalization:

The Council has received the 5-year review of the program and may consider changes to the program. One item being considered separately deals with community protection, specifically the Right of First Refusal to purchase processor shares if the processor wants

to sell the shares outside of the community. A new option was added requiring the community to approve any transfer.

Cold Bay was added as a CQE community, allowing it to purchase halibut quota and to be eligible to receive two fixed gear LLPs for western gulf P. cod.

The Council approved the groundfish specifications for the Gulf and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands: The new TACs for pollock are up for Area 610 from 26,256 metric tons (MT) to 27,031. Pacific cod federal waters are up from 20,764 to 22,785 MT. Pacific cod in state waters is up from 6,921 MT ($X 2204.62 = 15,258,175$ lbs) to 7,595 MT (16,744,089 lbs).

The P. cod jig fishery will undergo some changes as the state and federal fisheries combine. Fishermen will not be required to have an LLP to jig in federal waters. The change will not take place this year.

The Council has appointed Katherine Reedy-Maschner to the SSC. Dr. Maschner is well-known in the region as a hands-on anthropologist with experience on Sanak Island and has authored several publications about the eastern Aleutians and its people. Dr. Maschner will be a welcome addition to our science and statistical committee as a person with a good understanding of our area.

The Council has asked for a discussion paper to examine **the possibility of changing the opening of the P. cod trawl season from January 20 to a later date**, possibly around the 15th of February.

IPHC Staff Recommends 19 Percent Cuts Across Pacific Coast for 2011 Halibut Catch

Previously published in Fish News on Dec. 3, 2010

Scientists with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) recommended this week that the halibut catch for 2011 be cut by 19 percent along the Pacific coast. That translates to 41 million pounds. Alaska fishermen would get 32.5 million pounds of that portion, down from 40 million pounds in 2010. If IPHC managers follow the recommendations, Southeast Alaska (Area 2C) would see the most drastic cuts. That area



IPHC staff is recommending a catch of 7.52 million pounds in 2011 for Area 3B, down from 10 million pounds this year.

would be down 47 percent, to just 2.33 million pounds. The recommended catch for the Western Gulf (Area 3B) would be 7.52 million pounds, down from 10 million pounds this year. The Central Gulf (Area 3A) would experience a 28 percent decline to 14.36 million pounds.

The IPHC will make final decisions on the 2011 halibut catches during its annual meeting January 25 - 29, 2011 in Victoria, British Columbia.

For more information, visit the links below:

[IPHC Website](#)

[Read more - Deckboss](#)

Progress on Fish & Game's Sampling Program, Tanner Crab Fishery & Chinook Bycatch Discussed at Fishermen's Meeting in Seattle

*By Beth Stewart, AEB Resource Director
Previously published in Fish News on Dec. 3, 2010*

The Aleutians East Borough held its annual fisheries meeting with fishermen from Nelson Lagoon, False Pass, Sand Point and King Cove during Expo week (Nov. 18 - 20, 2010). This year's meeting included several ADF&G folks who were available to discuss a wide range of topics.

We led off with an overview of the Department's progress on WASSIP. Eric Volk gave an overview of the Department's sampling program, and the work to identify genetic markers that could allocate chum and sockeye stocks to specific management areas. As it turns out, sockeye are much easier to separate into discreet stocks than chum salmon. However, progress has been made in breaking out the large "Western Alaska" pool of chums so that we can see some separation between Bristol Bay and AYK stocks. The Department has put together a Technical Committee of salmon and stock assessment experts that will be assisting by reviewing the Department's methodology.



ADF&G's sampling program seeks to identify genetic markers that would allocate chum (shown above) and sockeye stocks to specific management areas.

Mark Witteveen then discussed issues related to obtaining genetic samples from the Southeast District Mainland (SEDM) fishery. Last year's efforts were only marginally successful, and the Department wants to work with fishermen to plan for a better collecting effort this next summer. Unfortunately, there were not many set netters at this meeting, so additional work needs to be done. The Borough will set up a meeting well in advance of the salmon season to assist the Sand



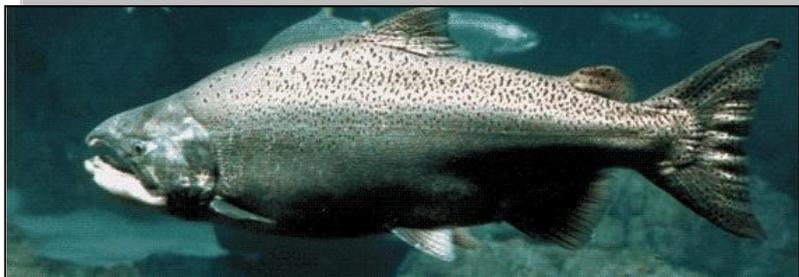
ADF&G's Nick Sagalkin said the Department took a very conservative approach in coming up with this year's GHL for the Tanner crab fishery.

Point set netters in coming up with an acceptable sampling plan.

Nick Sagalkin discussed the upcoming Tanner crab fishery. Several folks asked questions about this year's GHL, and Nick explained how ADF&G came up with the number. According to Nick, the department took a very conservative

approach to this GHL. As frequently happens with Tanner crab, there is a very large year class of legal-sized crab that can be safely harvested. Nick stressed the importance of communication during the season. ADF&G will be setting up a meeting in King Cove to discuss this year's fishery just prior to tank inspections. A similar meeting was held in Sand Point last year. We will keep you posted on the actual date of this meeting.

We also had quite a bit of discussion about the salmon bycatch during the recent pollock D season. As most of you have heard, NMFS estimates of this bycatch were at an all time high. While adjustments are being made to the number, the current estimate is somewhere around 50,000 chinook. NMFS uses a rate of chinook to pollock catch that they establish, based on observer data, and then they apply that rate to the entire fishery. As far as we know, there were 3 vessels with observers on board during the D season, so their rate of chinook bycatch was applied to all pollock catch. Below are a number of important points:



1) The vast majority of vessels (and catch) in our area is taken by vessels under 60'. Under current rules, these vessels do not carry observers.

Borough fishermen believe NMFS' current methodology has resulted in overestimating the number of Chinook in the bycatch this year. AEB would prefer that NMFS use the actual number recorded on fish tickets to assess the Chinook bycatch for the under 60' fleet.

2) Salmon are a Prohibited Species (like halibut) and fishermen are barred from retaining them. However, the vast majority of our vessels cannot sort pollock catches on deck. Many years ago, NMFS accepted this and has not cited vessels for retaining salmon.

3) Our vessels deliver their pollock to the dock where any salmon are removed from catch and placed in a separate bin, which is observed by the plant's federal observer. The number of salmon is then recorded on each fish ticket.

We have discussed this fact with NMFS in the past and suggested that they use the actual number recorded on fish tickets to assess the bycatch for the under 60' fleet. However, the



In the past, the Borough has suggested that NMFS use the actual number recorded on fish tickets to assess the bycatch for under the under 60' fleet.

agency prefers to use the methodology in all fisheries.

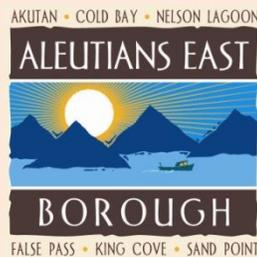
This hasn't created a problem in most years. This year, however, we believe that the NMFS methodology resulted in overestimating the number of chinook in the bycatch. Based on everything we've heard as well as reports from the hydro acoustic survey just prior to the season, there were definitely a lot of salmon in the area during the D season. However, we don't believe that the current reported number is accurate.

We have asked the council to require retention of salmon in the Gulf. We also requested that the Council ask NMFS to take a good look at the methods for estimating bycatch by using the numbers actually reported on fish tickets.

I'd like to thank the fishermen who have worked with Peter Pan and Trident to obtain fish ticket totals so that we can demonstrate how many salmon were taken by the local vessels.

AEB Temporarily Discontinues Hovercraft Service During Winter Months

The Aleutians East Borough recently decided to discontinue hovercraft service between King Cove and Cold Bay during the winter months (2010 - 2011). The Assembly discussed the matter for several months before reaching this decision. The last day of service, prior to winterizing the hovercraft, was Nov. 27, 2010. Below is a letter that was sent out to King Cove residents and was posted in Cold Bay.



December 13, 2010

To the Residents of King Cove and Cold Bay:

The Aleutians East Borough has had to make the very difficult decision to discontinue hovercraft service between King Cove and Cold Bay for the coming winter months.

This decision was made based on the amount of money spent directly from the AEB general fund in support of hovercraft operations. We looked at the history of service during the winter months and found that the hovercraft service was erratic and unreliable in past winters, and ridership, while it never has been large, was minimal.

When will the hovercraft resume service? We hope to start up hovercraft service in the spring but we aren't prepared to say exactly when. We will be developing a plan that addresses increased revenue and decreased spending and better service and vessel reliability in the meantime.

We sincerely regret not having the hovercraft available for medical evacuations knowing the hardship this places on medical folks on both sides of the Bay. Most importantly, we recognize and sympathize with the anguish that King Cove residents bear when they or

their loved ones need a medivac knowing that the hovercraft is unable to help.

Sincerely,

Stanley Mack

Mayor

CC: Assembly Members

New AEB Employee Assists Finance Director

A new Borough employee has joined the King Cove office to assist Finance Director Roxann Newman. Summer Drake, the Borough's new Financial Assistant, began working full-time for the Borough on November 29, 2010. Her duties include performing daily accounting functions for the AEB under the direction of the Finance Director. Her previous experience includes working in the King Cove Clinic as a CHA, working for the Valley Medical Center as a Medical Records Clerk, serving as a Patient Services Representative for Pace Staffing Network and working as a Patient Financial Specialist for the University of Washington Medical Center. Please join us in welcoming Summer to the Borough office in King Cove!

AEB Booth at Fish Expo Attracts Numerous Visitors

Previously published in Fish News on Dec. 3, 2010



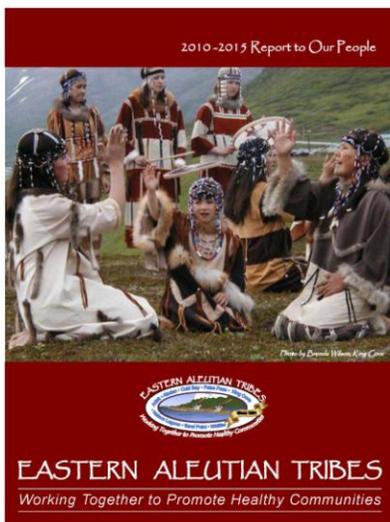
New promotional handouts drew additional visitors to the AEB booth at Fish Expo this year.

If the numbers of people stopping by at the AEB's booth at Fish Expo (Nov. 18 - 20, 2010) in Seattle were any indication, then the exhibit at the 2010 Pacific Marine Expo in Seattle was a success. The Borough displayed several new promotional items, including the 2011 AEB calendar, community harbor schematic layouts, a colorful and informative presentation folder and community flyers. Updated photos of community harbors and other infrastructure adorned a display board in the background. The AEB pens, calendars and community flyers are popular give-away items every year. This year, the Borough also offered flyers with harbor layouts.

Several Borough staff members, elected officials and others from the AEB communities manned the booth, including Borough Mayor Stanley Mack, AEB Administrator Sharon Boyette, AEB Finance Director Roxann Newman, Borough Assemblyman Paul Gronholdt, King Cove Administrator Gary Hennigh, King Cove Administrative Manager Bonnie Folz, King Cove Harbormaster Dave Bash and AEB Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten.

2010-2015 Report Charts EAT's 5-Year Course

Submitted by Eastern Aleutian Tribes



Eastern Aleutian Tribes recently published its fourth five-year Health Services Plan. The colorful 36-page document, entitled the 2010-2015 Report to Our People, describes EAT's network of services and details goals for the next five years in the areas of People, Programs, Outreach, Elders, Communication, Information Technology, Finance and Quality Improvement.

As Board President Joe Bereskin noted in his introductory remarks, EAT started out with a handful of employees and a miniscule budget under \$500,000 in 1991. Nearly 20 years later, EAT has grown into a corporation with more than 100 employees and an operating budget of \$9.2 million, offering a level of professional health services utilizing mid-level practitioners and Community Health Aides / Practitioners.

The 2010-2015 Report to Our People clearly states EAT's vision, mission, core values, the objectives for the next five years, and tasks required to fulfill them. It is a guide for the future, one that clearly reflects the vitality of EAT and the considerable commitment of our board and staff. Forward-focused, the plan seeks to ensure quality and reliable health care for the residents of one of the most formidable and remote areas of the nation.

"The time had come for us to take a fresh look at our health care delivery, to re-design it for the future," Executive Director Michael Christensen explained. "This plan seeks not only to preserve EAT's mission, but also to advance our newly adopted vision of having 'the healthiest people in the nation.' "

While the report charts a five-year course, some of the tasking has already been implemented. By way of illustration, providers at all eight clinics have been trained in the Electronic Health Record. Another major initiative already underway is becoming accredited from The Joint Commission. We recently learned that EAT has been awarded funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration to achieve this important objective. And in November, EAT filled a newly-created position of Director of Quality Improvement and Quality Management who will administer a framework for accountability for quality at every level of the organization.

The Report to Our People also outlines strategies to prepare our clinics, staff and our people for a sustainable and vibrant future. A complete pdf version of the document can be found at www.eatribes.org.

DHATs "Put Some Teeth" in Continuity of Care

Submitted by Eastern Aleutian Tribes



Erik Linduska gets some tips from Dr. Gregory Todd Smith, National Periodontal Consultant for the IHS. Photo courtesy: DENTEX.

Erik Linduska of King Cove and Chelsea Shoemaker of Sand Point have officially become Dental Health Aide Therapists (DHATs) after graduating from a two-year course of study in December. Sponsored by EAT, they're now looking forward to moving back home to their communities on the Aleutian Chain to provide year-round mid-level dental care. They'll be under the general supervision of our new dentist,

Dr. Michael Costa, who is expected to arrive in Alaska early in 2011.

Once they've returned to the region, the two DHATs will face the daunting task of addressing the vast unmet need for dental care. Alaska Native children suffer rates of tooth decay 2.5 times the U.S. national average, and more than one-third of rural Alaskan school children have missed school because of dental pain. By living and providing care year-round, Erik and Chelsea will be able to introduce community-based prevention to residents, build strong links to their communities, schools, and surrounding villages, emphasizing oral disease prevention and provide much needed continuity of care.

Erik and Chelsea expressed their gratitude to EAT's Board of Directors for its support in their pursuits to become DHATs.

The DHAT represents a new dental health professional in the United States, a mid-level provider in remote settings. They work hand in hand with a supervising dentist to expand access to and availability of dental care. DHATs offer a new mix of skills, including the behavioral and public health skills needed to affect change. DHATs take a biological approach to oral disease, focusing on reducing the bacteria in the mouth that produce caries and periodontal disease. DHAT training emphasizes behavior change through patient education, motivational interviewing, risk assessment for dental disease and triage. Using a primary care team approach, students learn to work with other health professionals - physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and

nurses - and integrate their work into existing community-based medical prevention programs. They receive special training in tobacco cessation, maternal oral health and diabetes, conditions typically prevalent in rural Alaska.



Chelsea Shoemaker injects local anesthetic under the watchful eyes of Dr. Sarah Shoffstall. Photo courtesy: DENTEX.

During their didactic year of training in Anchorage, Erik and Chelsea's coursework focused on anatomy and physiology, local anesthesia, pathology, and other basic health sciences. They learned practical clinical skills based on simulation and direct patient contact.

In their second year at the clinical training site in Bethel, Erik and Chelsea learned to perform routine clinical procedures involving restorations and extractions and also flew into rural bush locations with clinical instructors to perform village-based dentistry. Following completion of their preceptorship and federal certification by the Alaska Community Health Aide Program Certification Board, each DHAT receives a prescribed scope of practice based upon his/her

demonstrated clinical skills and guided by tribal health organization clinical needs. Practicing DHATs must log 24 hours of continuing dental education annually, and need to be recertified every two years.

DENTEX is a partnership between the University of Washington's MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Training Program and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The program provides a focused, competency-based primary care curriculum emphasizing culturally sensitive community level dental disease prevention for underserved Alaska Native populations. The curriculum incorporates innovative public health-related preventive and clinical strategies to manage rampant dental caries, as well as other safety net services, needed most by rural community members.

DOT&PF Revises STIP Criteria

The DOT&PF is revising the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) criteria. The comment period is open until January 18, 2010. The explanation for the changes can be found at the following link:

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip_stip/Rev_15/Assets/Criteria_Change_Rev_15.pdf

Future Leaders Summit to be held in January

The Aleut Foundation is excited to announce that we will hold a Future Leaders Summit on January 29 - 31, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska.

- ✓ **Do you have a child who is in high school?**
- ✓ **Is your child interested in college, vocational school, or working after high school graduation?**
- ✓ **Is your child trying to decide what s/he wants to do after high school graduation?**
- ✓ **Then the Future Leaders Summit is perfect for your child!**

The Aleut Foundation is committed to providing professional development opportunities to its shareholders and descendants. The goal of the Future Leaders Outreach Program is to prepare shareholders and descendants for life after high school. The Aleut Foundation will sponsor a three day Future Leaders Summit January 29 – 31, 2011 in Anchorage, Alaska. During this fun-filled summit, shareholders and descendants who are high school students will participate in trainings that will prepare them for entering the workforce and college/vocational educational institutions.

All Aleut shareholders and descendants who are high school students are encouraged to participate in the Future Leaders Summit.

DEADLINE is 5:00 p.m. December 27, 2010

Please contact The Aleut Foundation for Application and Guidelines.

Upcoming Meetings:

- AEB Assembly Meeting: Jan. 12, 2011 via teleconference.
- NPFMC Meeting: Week of Jan. 31, 2011 - Seattle, WA - Renaissance Hotel.
- SWAMC Economic Summit & Business Meeting: Feb. 10 - 11, 2011 - Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage.

Job Announcement

Plant Engineer Trainee

Bering Pacific Seafood's (BPS) is accepting applications for Plant Engineer Trainee for the 2011 plant operations. BPS is a seafood processing facility located in the remote community of False Pass on the Aleutian Chain. BPS operates June through September processing salmon, halibut and black cod.

The position will train under the current plant engineer for operations in 2011. Afterwards, the position will move to the primary plant engineer at BPS. The position is responsible for the daily operation of the engineering department including maintaining the flooded ammonia refrigeration system and diesel electric power plant during operation. Applicants must have extensive knowledge and experience, including trouble shooting and electrical understanding in basic switch gear, diesel power generation, heavy equipment maintenance, welding and fabrication and seafood processing equipment. Must have basic knowledge of OSHA safety regulations. The successful applicant is required to be certified as a universal technician as required by 40 CFR part 82. Must be a motivated, self-starter and work well with minimal supervision.

The position is seasonal, working mid-May through late-September. Work days and hours vary based on production. Housing, meals and transportation provided. Position is open until filled.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to BPS Human Resources at ldelgado@apicda.com or fax (907) 646-7741.



Got News?

If you have news you'd like to share, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.



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