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# Fish News

Nov. 5, 2009

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## **NPFMC Makes Pacific Cod Sector Split Motion Draft Available for Public Review Early This Month**

*Published in In the Loop on Oct. 30, 2009*



**The Council is scheduled to take final action on the proposed Pacific cod sector allocation in December 2009.**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is scheduled to make public the review draft



of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Pacific cod sector allocation motion available on its Website next week. The Council is tentatively scheduled to take final action during the week of December 7, 2009. This proposal will also be discussed during a Fish Meeting at the Silver Cloud Hotel, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. - Noon in Seattle on Nov. 19,

2009. The complete sector split motion is available on the Web. Click on the links below to see details.

The Council identified distinct Western and Central GOA options for defining sectors. For example, there's an additional option in the Western GOA to establish three separate allocations for pot catcher vessels (CVs), trawl CVs and combination pot/trawl CVs (operators who hold dual licenses). In Component 4, the Council proposed distinct Western-and Central-GOA options for defining the sets of years used to calculate catch history. The NPFMC added options to take the average across these sets of years. For details, visit the links below.

Comments can be made to the council in person during the December meeting.

**Written comments may able be sent to the council via fax or mail in time for the December meeting.**

**Fax number: (907) 271-2817**

**Address: 604 West. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252**

[Link: GOA Pacific cod sector allocation motion](#)

[Link: NPFMC October 2009 Newsletter](#)

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## **Exxon's Unoiled Fishery Claimants Receive Final Percent Share Reports**

*Published in In the Loop on Oct. 30, 2009*

The Exxon Qualified Settlement Fund (EQSF) recently mailed out more than 8,000 Final Percent Share (FPS) Reports for the Unoiled Fishery (U00B) claim categories (which include the Bristol Bay salmon fisheries). The reports were sent to claimants who filed claim forms in the 39 unoiled area fisheries as described in the U00B Plan of Distribution. Each report lays out information that is specifically relevant to each claimant, including a summary of lost income claims, a final percent share, a summary of prior payments and instructions as to how to appeal if you



**In 1989, the Exxon Valdez spilled nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound.**

disagree with any of the information contained within the report. For more details, visit the link below.

The court-approved Plan of Allocation established 52 claim categories. Payments of damages are made by Exxon to the EQSF, which in turn disburses payments to plaintiffs depending on the various plans of distribution. Judge Holland appointed plaintiffs' attorney Lynn Lincoln Sarko of the Keller Rohrback L.L.P. law firm of Seattle, Washington, as the Administrator of the EQSF.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill contaminated 1,500 miles of coastal lands and more than than 10,000 square miles of ocean.

[Link: Exxon Mails Unoiled Fishery Final Percent Share Reports](#)

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## Sand Point Seafoods Update

*By Nancy Blakey, Snopac Products, Inc.*

*Published in In the Loop on Oct. 30, 2009*

The Sand Point Salmon Derby in September was the backdrop for the on-site Sand Point Seafoods Start-Up Committee meeting. Greg and Nancy Blakey, co-owners of Snopac Products, Inc., flew in from Seattle. Paul Schwitters, Snopac's Director of Engineering, arrived from Dillingham, and Arlene Gunderson, Glen Gardner, Jr., Tiffany Jackson, and Start-Up Director Robbie Townsend Vennel were in town to help hold the community informational meeting September 9 after a weekend filled with food, fish and fun. At the community meeting, Snopac Products, Inc. announced it would bring the M/V Snopac Innovator to Sand Point for the 2010 salmon season.



The M/V Snopac Innovator

While the M/V Snopac Innovator is in Bristol Bay for the sockeye season, there will be an alternative processing ship until the M/V Snopac Innovator returns to the Sand Point

area. At the meeting, a time line was established that projected milestones for the processing plant. These dates include:

- LLC and Business plan completed: end of October, 2009.
- LLC capitalized: November, 2009.
- Financing obtained for processing plant building and gear storage: Sept. 2009 - Jan. 2010.
- Lease finalized with the City for land for the plant: November, 2009.
- Gear storage facility built and fishermen supported by Snopac: for the 2010 salmon season.
- Pad poured for the plant: April 2010.
- Plant built and outfitted: June 2010 - May 2011.
- Processing begins: June 2011.

The objectives of the new plant were presented at the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Provide a fair and competitive price to fishermen.
- Provide a supportive infrastructure to generate economies and a financial return.
- Contribute to the economic health of Sand Point and the Aleutians East Borough with increased revenue to local businesses, more infrastructure and an increased tax base.
- Develop the plant for year-round processing to utilize the Sand Point area fisheries more fully.
- Create a plant where fishermen are partners and are involved in determining LLC strategies.

There are provisions in the LLC agreement for bi-annual (twice a year) fishermen's meetings to communicate concerns and ideas for planning and support of the fisheries. In addition, the plant will be state-of-the-art to meet the standards of an expanding global market, and will concentrate on producing high-quality products for international niche markets. Plans are being developed for branding Sand Point Area seafood products.

With Snopac's reentry into the Sand Point Salmon fishery, there will be a gear storage shed built for fishermen's gear, with construction to begin as the land is secured and plans are finalized. It is anticipated that construction will start in the spring of 2010, and the gear storage facility will be completed by the summer of 2010.

Although there has been robust interest in the plant from various entities and outside sources, Sand Point Seafoods' intention is for fishermen to have the first opportunity to invest. To support that intention, there will be two meetings held exclusively for those

fishermen interested in investing in the plant. The first will be held Friday, November 20, the weekend of the Seattle Fish Expo, at 2:00 PM in the Snopac office (6118 12th Avenue South, Seattle, 98108). The second will be held in Sand Point on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the City Council Chambers (time to be determined). All fishermen interested in attending either of these meetings are encouraged to call a Start-Up Committee member or Robbie Townsend Vennel to confirm. The contact information is below.

### **Start-up Director**

#### **Robbie Townsend Vennel**

907-383-2502 (in Sand Point); 970-570-7828 cell  
[r.townsendvennel@gmail.com](mailto:r.townsendvennel@gmail.com)

### **START-UP COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Nancy Blakey** - Corporate Development, Snopac Products, Inc.  
206-764-9230 (Snopac Office); 206-617-6019 (cell)

**Glen Gardner, Jr.**  
Mayor, City of Sand Point  
907-383-2696 (office)

**Arlene Gundersen**  
Administrator, Pauloff Harbor Tribe  
907-383-6075 (office)

**Tiffany Jackson**  
Aleutia  
907-383-8433 (home)

**Rayette McGlashan**  
(Maternity leave)

**Paul Scwhitters**  
Director of Engineering, Snopac Products, Inc.  
206-764-9230 (Snopac Office); 206-972-7157 (cell)

### **Contacts for 2010 Fishing Season**

**Snopac Products Inc.**  
6118 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Seattle, Washington 98108  
206-764-9230 (office)  
206-764-5540 (fax)  
[www.snopac.net](http://www.snopac.net)



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## NOAA Fisheries Adds More Rural Residents in Subsistence Halibut Fishery



Pacific Halibut

NOAA Fisheries has published new regulations effective December 4, 2009, which allow additional residents in remote areas to participate in the subsistence fishery for Pacific halibut in waters in and off Alaska.

The biggest change is the definition of a rural resident. In 2003, the regulations stated that a subsistence halibut registration certificate (SHARC) holder had to be a rural

resident of a community with customary and traditional uses of halibut (the communities were listed), or had to be a member of an Alaska native (qualifying) tribe with customary and traditional uses of halibut. The problem was the previous regulations left out some potential subsistence halibut fishermen who were not members of a qualifying tribe and who lived rurally, but outside of listed rural communities.

New participants in the subsistence halibut fishery will have to qualify for a [subsistence halibut registration certificate \(SHARC\)](#).

[Read more](#)

# Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery

## Reaches Halfway Mark



Bristol Bay Red King Crab

The Bristol Bay Red King Crab season is off to a promising start, according to a report from KUCB News. So far, the fleet of 70 vessels has caught 54 percent of the IFQ total allowable catch (7.8 million pounds of crab). Alaska Department of Fish and Game Area Management Biologist Forrest Bowers said that's less than this time last year, when the fleet had brought in 70 percent of the total allowable catch.

Bowers says the crabs are averaging about 6.1 pounds each. The average price is \$4.40 per pound. The fishery is expected to close around Thanksgiving.

[Read more](#)

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## Calendar of Fish Meetings

**Nov. 19, 2009 - 10:30 a.m. - noon - Area M Fishermen's Meeting - Silver Cloud Hotel in Seattle (near Qwest Field)**

Issues for discussion include:

- NPFMC Pacific cod sector allocation motion
- Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals.



### **Week of Dec. 7, 2009 - North Pacific Fishery Management Council - Anchorage Hilton Hotel**

Issues include:

- GOA P. cod sector allocation motion (final action)
- Salmon bycatch data collection (final action)
- BSAI Crab Amendment package (review process)
- BSAI crab right of first refusal (Initial Review)
- Salmon Bycatch data collection (final action)
- AI processing sideboards (initial review)
- CGOA rockfish program (action as necessary)



### **Feb. 2 - 6, 2010 - Alaska Board of Fisheries - Anchorage - Egan Civic & Convention Center**

Issues include Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish  
*Comment deadline: Jan. 19, 2010*

*It's a good idea for Area M fishermen to start planning ahead to attend this event.*

[Link: Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Finfish Proposals](#)



# Area M Fishermen's Meeting



10:30 a.m. - Noon

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

Silver Cloud Hotel (across from the Qwest Field Center in Seattle) - Meeting Room: Avenue One North (9<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Issues: GOA P. cod sector split and  
B of F proposals

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