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# Fish News

May 25, 2011

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## Report from AEB's Natural Resources Director

*Submitted by Beth Stewart*

**Fisheries Meeting In Sand Point:** In spite of several flight delays, Sam Cotten and I arrived in time for last week's fisheries meetings in Sand Point. We were joined by Martin Loeffled (NMFS Observer Program) and Kurt Iverson (CFEC Research). We were joined online by King Cove, Akutan and False Pass.



AEB Natural Resources Director  
Beth Stewart

**SEDM Discussion:** The first day's agenda included a discussion of the SEDM (Southeast District Mainland) 2011 sampling program. Aaron Potter and Mark Witteveen of ADF&G answered questions and helped define this season's goals. SEDM fishermen worked together later that day and by Wednesday they had developed a plan to get this year's work accomplished.

As you may recall, WASSIP (Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program) collected samples from commercial fisheries for three years. However, at the last Board of Fisheries meeting, it became clear that without samples from the closed periods in the SEDM, the board was unwilling to change the current management plan. ADF&G pulled together a program in time for last year's fishing season, but did not have the money to continue sampling or processing collected samples and had some difficulty getting last year's samples.

The borough stepped up with funds for processing the samples and agreed to work with the fleet to insure that adequate samples were collected this season and in 2012.

Observer Program: Martin Loeffled then outlined the new observer program that will be implemented in 2012. The revised program includes vessels under 60' for the first time. Martin explained that even though the new regulations allow NMFS to place observers on small vessels, they will not be looking at vessels under 40' in the first years of implementation.

During his stay in Sand Point, Loeffled toured the boat harbor and checked out several local groundfish vessels, checked out the Trident facility, and chatted with local skippers and crew. Several fishermen had questions about how the expected Chinook cap in the pollock fishery will fit into the new observer program. The biggest problem is that vessels may be required to carry observers under the Chinook



**The biggest problem is that vessels may be required to carry observers under the Chinook cap regulations before the new observer program becomes effective.**

cap regulations before the new observer program becomes effective. Loeffled said the simple answer is that fishermen would have to hire an observer from a contractor during the interim, but that NMFS didn't view this as ideal.

Limited Entry for P. Cod and Crab? I have received several calls from fishermen who are interested in or opposed to limiting entry into the State waters cod fishery or into the local crab fishery. AEB has no position on limiting entry into these fisheries, but it seemed like it was time to provide a forum to discuss this topic. Fortunately, Kurt Iverson from CFEC (Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission) was able to join us for this meeting. Iverson outlined the differences between the State and Federal programs, and described the process the state uses for limiting entry into fisheries. The biggest difference between the State and Federal programs is that the State cannot award permits to vessels. Permits can only be awarded to natural persons, not corporations. Another big difference between the two approaches is that the State had no overriding policy to implement new programs.

The process to initiate a new program requires that interested fishermen submit a petition to CFEC. The Alaska Administrative Procedures Act gives the agency 30 days in which to reject the petition or submit new regulations, so CFEC automatically rejects petitions. However, if it looks like there is widespread support for going forward, the agency asks its staff to write a report assessing the potential for regulations. If this report indicates that there is widespread support for moving forward, the agency then proposes rules and holds numerous public hearings. In other words, it's a slow deliberative process. Unless the agency determines that there is a lot of support for limiting entry, they generally do not go forward.

Like Martin Lloeffled, it was Kurt's first trip to our region, and he joined us on the tour of the harbor and spent time chatting with local fishermen. Thanks go out to Martin, Kurt and ADF&G for helping make this meeting a success.

Community Economic Quota and Aleutia: Aleutia's President Duane Kapp attended both meetings and was able to answer some questions about the new CEQ program. During the recent round of reducing the number of LLPs, CEQ organizations received LLPs that they can distribute to fishermen in local communities. They have 14 LLPs for Sand Point fishermen, 9 for King Cove and 1 or 2 for Cold Bay. Aleutia had just gotten the federal register notification and has not yet had an opportunity to establish rules for distributing these LLPs. The Aleutia Board will be meeting this week to begin establishing rules for these licenses (**see announcement below on page 4**).

**Upcoming NPFMC Meeting:** The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's June meeting will be held in Nome. Of particular interest to local pollock fishermen—the council plans to take final action on the Chinook cap. Few, if any fishermen, will be able to attend this meeting because they will be getting ready for the June salmon fishery. It is pretty clear that the council is on a steady course to implement the cap outlined in their motion from the April meeting.

AEB asked the Council to slow this process down in order to give local fishermen a better opportunity to participate in developing these regulations, but the Council not only failed to consider this request, they moved final action from the October 2011 meeting to the June 2011 meeting.

## News from Aleutia:



**Aleutia's annual membership meeting** will be held **tomorrow (Thursday, May 26, 2011) at 7 p.m.** at the **Aleutians East Borough Building in Sand Point.** Those in King Cove, Nelson Lagoon, and False Pass can listen in and participate via telephone. Aleutia hopes to arrange for lines to be open at the King Cove

Harbor House, the Nelson Lagoon Tribal Office and the False Pass City Office. Seats in Nelson Lagoon and False Pass are up for election. Those who attend in Sand Point will be able to sample Aleutia's new smoked salmon product.

Speaking of Aleutia smoked salmon, **the New Sagaya retail store in Anchorage** will be featuring this delicious sockeye in their stores soon. Next time you're in New Sagaya make sure to pick up a 4-ounce package. It's a great way to support the region. Aleutia smoked salmon is now being offered at the Sand Point lounge and will soon be featured in the King Cove bar. Bill Cumberlidge is also overseeing some sales in Sand Point. Give Audrey Foster a call at 907-383-5909 for information about the meeting or any of Aleutia's programs.



## Area M Fishermen & Families Eligible for Special Hotel Rate



Area M fishermen and their families are eligible for a special rate of \$89 per night at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel in Anchorage. For details and to make reservations, call the Millennium at (907) 243-2300.

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