



Fish News

Jan. 22, 2010

Plane Crashes in Water Near Sand Point; Two Crew Members on Board Are Missing

Two crew members aboard a Beechcraft 1900 are missing after they crashed in the water near Sand Point late last night. The Coast Guard said the ACE air cargo plane was leaving Sand Point bound for Anchorage when residents in the area heard the plane sputtering before it crashed.

The Coast Guard and Dennis McGlashan, Jr., of the Sand Point Volunteer Fire Department, requested assistance from local commercial fishermen to help search for possible survivors while the Coast Guard was en route. Four Sand Point fishermen, Dwain Foster, Taylor Lundgren, Robin Larsen and Joe Puratich, responded to the call for assistance. Fishermen reported seeing debris in the water stretching from the reef on Unga Island, across from Sand Point, to within one-quarter mile of Egg Island, located near Squaw Harbor.

“We went through the debris field and picked up whatever we could,” said commercial fisherman Robin Larsen of Sand Point.

“I retrieved what I believe to be the aft cargo bulkhead, various other parts of the plane, and what appeared to be a floatation device that would be located underneath the seat.”

Larsen said another fisherman retrieved a backpack. The Coast Guard arrived on the scene with a C-130 and a Jayhawk helicopter from Kodiak about 90 minutes after the

crash and began combing the waters. Larsen said he and the other fishermen traveled within one mile south of Egg Island while the helicopter hovered overhead.

“At that point, there were 10 - 12-foot seas. We were having trouble seeing anything,” Larsen explained. “The wind was gusting 50 - 60 knots, even 70 at times.”

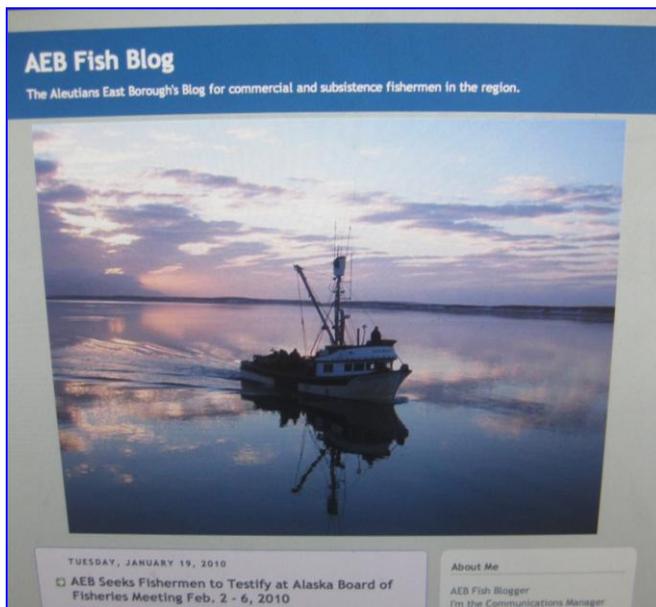
Larsen said he and the other fishermen followed the debris line all the way toward where they believe the crash occurred. He later provided those coordinates to the Coast Guard.

“We believe whatever’s left, the engine, the fuselage, the main part of the plane, could be there,” he said.

So far, the two crew members on board have not been found. The Coast Guard identified the two on the plane as pilot Ameer Ali and crew member Emily Lewis.

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

Borough Launches *AEB Fish Blog* for Fishermen



Explore <http://aebfishblog.blogspot.com> .

This week, the Aleutians East Borough kicked off the *AEB Fish Blog*, an online forum for fishermen to discuss regional policies and issues affecting the commercial fishing industry. The blog will also allow fishermen to “talk to each other” about how fishing is going and what challenges lie ahead. To help get the discussion rolling, the Borough posted information about the upcoming Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage, Feb. 2 - 6, 2010.

If you’d like to get in on the discussion, explore *AEB Fish Blog* by clicking on the links below. Then click on “Comment” at the bottom of the post. Point your browser to: <http://aebfishblog.blogspot.com> or visit this link: [AEB Fish Blog](#) .

If you have any questions, please call AEB Communications Manager Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579 or email ltanis@aeboro.org.

Reminder: Borough Reserves Meeting Room for Area M Fishermen during February BOF Meeting



The Borough has reserved Meeting Space #14 at the Egan Civic & Convention Center (lower level) in Downtown Anchorage for local fishermen to gather and talk to AEB's fish experts.

The Aleutians East Borough has reserved a meeting room at the Egan Center in Anchorage so local fishermen can gather for discussions about testimony on the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals during the BOF meeting next month. The Borough has booked Space #14 at the Egan Civic & Convention Center in Downtown Anchorage from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., Feb. 1 - 6, 2010.

AEB Resource Director Beth Stewart and Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten will be on hand to answer any questions about the proposals and testimony fishermen plan to submit to the Board. The Borough will provide laptops, a copier/printer and other office supplies for the meeting room. Issues include Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Finfish proposals.

Visit the link below for more information on the proposals:

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

Fishing for Answers in Alaska



Sand Point, AK

A recent article titled, "Fishing for Answers in Alaska" by Bruce Porter, delves into a fascinating issue: Can the unusual politics, economics and culture of the Alaskan salmon trade serve as a model for sustainable world fisheries?

The writer traveled from Sand Point, Alaska, to Balboa Bay aboard the 37-

foot gill net vessel, the *Melissa Marie*, captained by Benjamin Mobeck Jr. The area serves as the backdrop of his story. Along the way, he examines one of the most controversial fishing policies in Alaska, that of "limited entry".

According to Porter, economist Gunnar Knapp says the biggest problem salmon fishermen face is the fallout from globalization: competition from international salmon farmers in western Canada, Chile, Norway, Scotland and other places that raise fish in ocean pens. Porter also reports on the Individual Transferable Quota or "Catch Shares", which the Obama Administration has thrown its weight behind.

For more on Porter's story, *Fishing for Answers*, visit the link below.

[Link: Fishing for Answers in Alaska by Bruce Porter](#)

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