



---

## Fish News

---

June 26, 2007

### **SALMON FISHERMEN OBTAIN USDA CLASSIFICATION**

The federal government has officially classified Alaska salmon fishermen as agricultural producers. This new classification allows them to be eligible for various programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm bill such as low cost loans to help improve their business as well as marketing programs and cooperative marketing associations. Mark Vinsel, executive director of the United Fishermen of Alaska, says the average age of Alaska fishermen today is just over 50; and age 65 for family farmers. He says that's an alarming statistic, and we need to look for ways to make producing food a viable career option for the next generation. For more information, link to:

<http://www.adn.com/outdoors/fishing/story/8981618p-8897055c.html>

### **FEDERAL FISHERIES PANEL ESTABLISHES NORTHERN BOUNDARY FOR BOTTOM TRAWLING**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) voted this month in favor of establishing a northern boundary for bottom trawling. For years, conservationists have maintained that bottom trawling is damaging to the Bering Sea ecosystem. The action by the NPFMC stops movement of trawl fleets into new grounds (approximately 130,000 square miles) where sensitive marine mammals and seabirds feed and migrate. More than 25 Bering Sea tribal governments and Alaska Native organizations requested the closure. For more information, link to:

[http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061707/hom\\_20070617006.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061707/hom_20070617006.shtml)

### **BRISTOL BAY FISHERMEN PROTEST PROPOSED PEBBLE MINE PROJECT**

Bristol Bay commercial fishermen opposed to a large-scale copper and gold mine in Southwest Alaska recently protested in Naknek. The rally, held Saturday, June 16, 2007, was sponsored by the Renewable Resources Coalition, a group opposed to the Pebble mine project. Many fishermen say they're worried the proposed Pebble mine could devastate fishing families and subsistence communities that rely on salmon, pristine water and the region's abundant renewable resources. An earlier rally staged in Dillingham on June 10<sup>th</sup> drew more than 600 fishermen and their families.

### **BLACKLISTED TRANSPORT VESSEL IN DUTCH HARBOR**

Dutch Harbor port officials say the vessel Seed Leaf arrived last weekend, and is now anchored in Captains Bay off Unalaska Island. The Panama-flagged boat was blacklisted by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources after it was caught shipping undocumented fish last year. The National Marine Fisheries Service's authority over blacklisted ships in American waters is still unclear. The agency is in the process of writing the rules outlining what it can do in these cases, and began taking public comment on them earlier this month.

### **ROBUST HAVEST PREDICTED FOR BRISTOL BAY SALMON FISHERY**

State biologists are looking forward to a harvest of 26.3 million reds in Bristol Bay's sockeye salmon fishery, out of nearly 34.4 million fish expected to return to the bay. That prediction is 14 percent greater than the previous 10-year average of total runs of 30.2 million reds, with a run range of 17.8 million to 43.4 million fish. State biologists say they anticipate that all Bristol Bay systems will outrun their minimum spawning escapement goals. For more information, link to:

[http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061007/coa\\_20070610020.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/061007/coa_20070610020.shtml)

### **SAM COTTEN AND DUNCAN FIELDS APPOINTED TO NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Sam Cotten and Duncan Fields were appointed to two of the six Alaska seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). Cotten worked for the Aleutians East Borough (AEB) for the past five years as a resource analyst, government/industry relations specialist and a consultant. He also represented Eagle River in the Alaska Legislature for 18 years. He has served on a number of committees, including the Steller Sea Lion Mitigation Committee, the Salmon Industry Restructuring Panel and the Groundfish Rationalization Steering Committee. "As a result of my experience, I've gained a great deal of understanding and respect for the hard working, hands-on fishermen in the region and throughout the state," said Cotten. Fields, an attorney, fish processor and fisherman, currently serves on the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute and chairs the Alaska Fisheries Marketing Board. For more information, link to:

[http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/062607/hom\\_20070626077.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/062607/hom_20070626077.shtml)

### **UFA ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT OF UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA**

Joe Childers has been elected as the new president of the United Fishermen of Alaska. Deborah Lyons was voted in as vice president for the statewide commercial fishing trade association. Childers replaces outgoing President Bob Thorstenson Jr.. Childers represents UFA member group Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen and served as UFA Vice President since 2004. Childers also serve as vice chair of the Advisory Panel of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

### **REVISIONS TO AEB DRAFT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

Many residents living in the Aleutians East Borough have voiced their concerns for expanding economic opportunities while protecting the fish and wildlife resources. AEB's overall goal is to maintain a viable commercial fishing industry as well as retain

opportunities to participate in subsistence activities. The Borough is inviting public comment on its revised draft of the Coastal Management Plan. Copies of the revised plan are posted on the Borough's Web site: <http://www.aleutianseast.org> . Hard copies or CDs of the plan may be obtained by contacting AEB clerk Tina Anderson at (907) 383-2699 or 1-888-383-2699, or by email at [tanderson@aeboro.org](mailto:tanderson@aeboro.org) . Written comments on the draft may be sent to Tina Anderson, P.O. Box 349, Sand Point, AK 99661 or by fax (907) 383-3496. Comments must be received by noon on July 2, 2007.

### **GREENPEACE PLANS VISIT TO ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH**

Greenpeace has notified several Alaska Native tribal members in the Borough of its plans to visit Sand Point, King Cove and Akutan next month. Greenpeace hopes to meet with tribes to discuss a proposed Alaska Native Marine Cultural Heritage Zone. According to a document Greenpeace has sent to the tribes, the goal of this zone would be "to protect marine reserves for customary and traditional needs." The tentative schedule for the arrival of the Greenpeace vessel, the Esperanza is:

Sand Point – July 6 & 7, 2007

King Cove – July 8 & 9, 2007

Akutan - July 10 & 11, 2007

For more information, contact the tribes in your area or Greenpeace at (907) 227-8234.

### **ESTIMATED SALMON CATCH TO DATE – By Geographic Area – June 25, 2007**

<b>South Peninsula</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Coho</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Chum</b>
South Unimak	1,282	699,733	30	40,279	143,782
Shumagin Islands	3,340	686,802	191	146,174	115,818
South Unimak & Shumagin Is.	4,622	1,386,535	221	186,453	259,600
Southeastern Dist. Mainland	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total South Peninsula</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>1,386,535</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>186,453</b>	<b>259,600</b>
<b>North Peninsula</b>	<b>Chinook</b>	<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Coho</b>	<b>Pink</b>	<b>Chum</b>
Northwestern District	0	0	0	0	0
Black Hills	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson Lagoon	658	44,984	1	0	3
Moller & Herendeen Bays	0	0	0	0	0
Port Moller to Outer Port					
Heiden	1,148	214,526	0	222	1,552
Cinder River	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total North Peninsula</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>259,510</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1,555</b>
<b>Total Area M</b>	<b>6,428</b>	<b>1,646,045</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>186,675</b>	<b>261,155</b>

### **CHUM POOL BENEFITS AREA M FISHERY**

State Fish & Game area management biologist Aaron Poetter says the Area M chum catch totals 261,155 (259,600 total for the South Peninsula), as of Tuesday, June 26, 2007. He adds that the ratio of the sockeye to chum salmon catch this year is more than 6

to 1. Many involved with the chum pool, including Dale Schwartzmiller with Peter Pan Seafoods in King Cove, believe it has been working very well. "I think it achieves what the fishermen intended – providing a disincentive to catch chum for economic profit." "We, as a region, are trying to reduce our chum catches and the pool helps to do this as well as send a message to those concerned that we are trying," added King Cove fisherman Grant Newton. "It is extremely important to continue the chum pool."

For more information, link to:

[http://www.aleutianseast.org/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC={14E82F44-D5DB-4B07-A254-DCC8303D4424}](http://www.aleutianseast.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={14E82F44-D5DB-4B07-A254-DCC8303D4424})

### **NOAA SEEKS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON STELLAR SEA LION PLAN**

After receiving extensive public interest in endangered and threatened stellar sea lions in western and eastern Alaska, NOAA fisheries is releasing a Draft Revised Steller Sea Lion Recovery Plan for another round of public comments. The public comment period is open through August 20, 2007. For more information, link to:

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/stellers/recovery.htm>

### **CHINESE FILM CREW PROMOTES ALASKA FISH, TOURISM**

Chinese television and radio producers and a fish broker landed in Kodiak last week to promote Alaska seafood and the state as a tourist destination. Producers and a crew from CCTV (Central Television) visited several locations in Alaska to film a 45-minute show. CCTV is the major broadcast television network in China and is syndicated worldwide.

"The delegation will promote Alaska quality fish to the Chinese people," Chang said.

"That is the main purpose we are here." For more information, link to:

<http://www.kodiakdailymirror.com/?pid=19&id=4902>

### **HOLLAND AMERICA SERVES UP WILD ALASKA SEAFOOD**

The Holland America Line is offering a wild Alaska salmon dinner every night and other seafood dishes three times a week throughout the 2007 season. That means that all the prepared seafood comes only from Alaska commercial fishermen -- no farm-raised fish or bivalves are served. The "Wild" Alaska dinner reflects the ongoing popularity of wild Alaskan seafood.

---

*You are reading FISH NEWS, published bi-weekly by the Aleutians East Borough to help keep the lines of communication open between Alaska's commercial fishing interests. If you would like to have FISH NEWS delivered to you via e-mail subscription, send an e-mail message to [FISH\\_NEWS](mailto:FISH_NEWS). In the body of the message type SUBSCRIBE FISH NEWS. To unsubscribe type UNSUBSCRIBE FISH NEWS. This newsletter is also available in PDF and plain text versions. Please e-mail [FISH\\_NEWS](mailto:FISH_NEWS) to receive the newsletter in another format. For more information about our fisheries, our people, and our communities, please visit us at [www.aleutianseast.org](http://www.aleutianseast.org)*