



Fish News

Dec. 4, 2009

ADF&G Has New Leadership Overseeing Westward Region

A couple of new faces have stepped in to take the reins at the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Westward Region of the Division of Commercial Fisheries. On April 7, 2009, Steve Honnold took over as Westward Regional Supervisor for ADF&G after Jim McCullough retired from that position.



Steve Honnold took the helm as the Westward Regional Supervisor on April 7, 2009.

Prior to this promotion, Honnold served as the Westward Region Finfish Research Supervisor. His background also includes serving as the Regional Resource Development Biologist from 2002 - 2005 and as the Finfish Research Biologist from 1995 - 2000. He began his career with the Fisheries Rehabilitation, Enhancement and Development (FRED) Division in 1986, working seasonally at various locales. He then moved to Kodiak in 1989 to assume the full-time duties of Assistant Area FRED Biologist.

Honnold's goal is to ensure that the Westward Region, Division of Commercial Fisheries staff consistently performs their duties while focusing on the department's mission. He plans to see that the region's finfish and shellfish/groundfish management and research programs are adequately funded and staffed. He also wants to ensure that biologists and support personnel are well-trained and provided with the proper resources and support to carry out their duties.

His priorities include:

- Ensuring the conservation of natural stocks of fish and shellfish based on scientifically sound assessments.
- Sustaining fisheries based on the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.
- Increasing fishery harvests and harvest opportunities through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations.

Jeff Wadle is the new Regional Management Finfish Supervisor for Region 4. He's based in Kodiak and manages Kodiak, Area M and the Aleutian Islands. Wadle started in his current position on Aug. 16, 2009.

Wadle has nearly two decades of experience under his belt working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He began his career as a volunteer in 1991. He was later hired as a biologist and worked in various parts of the state, including Dillingham, Juneau, Anchorage, Pt. Moeller and Kodiak.

As the Regional Management Finfish Supervisor, his highest priority is to support the biologists who manage the resource and maintain a dialogue with the fishermen in Region 4. Wadle says he looks forward to spending time in Area M and learning more about this exciting area under his management.



Jeff Wadle (right), is the new Regional Management Finfish Supervisor for Region 4. He recently accompanied his daughter, Natalie, on her first successful goat hunt.

Fish Meeting in Seattle Tackles P. Cod Sector Split and BOF AK Peninsula & Aleutian Islands Finfish Proposals

Published in In the Loop on Nov. 25, 2009

Nearly 30 people attended the fishermen's meeting in Seattle on Nov. 19, 2009, to discuss Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) proposals and the NPFMC's Pacific cod sector allocation motion. The Borough scheduled the meeting at the Silver Cloud Inn, located across the street from the Qwest Field Center, where the Pacific Marine Expo was being held.

AEB Resource Director Beth Stewart began the meeting with an update on the allowable biological catch (ABC) for pollock set by the NPFMC's Plan Team for 2010 Season:

Plan Team's Recommendations for Pollock: 2010 Season

A Season.....	5,879 tons
B Season.....	5,879 tons
C Season.....	7,984 tons
D Season.....	7,984 tons
Total.....	27,726 tons



The Plan Team's recommended ABC for the 2010 pollock season totals 27,726 tons for the A, B, C and D seasons.

The raw ABC numbers for the 2010 Pacific cod season recommended by the Plan Team are:

Plan Team's Recommendations for Pacific cod: 2010 Season	
Western Gulf.....	27,685 tons
Central Gulf.....	49,042 tons
Eastern Gulf.....	2,373 tons
Total.....	79,100 tons



The Plan Team's recommended ABC for the 2010 Pacific cod season totals 79,100 tons for the Western, Central and Eastern Gulf.

These numbers still need to be approved by the council. The 25% hasn't been subtracted yet for the state water fisheries, nor has the 10% for the offshore fishery.

Borough Fisheries Consultant Sam Cotten suggested having the advisory committees from King Cove and Sand Point choose a few issues which they can agree on. He said the fishermen's testimony would be more powerful if they come to the BOF and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) with common proposals. Both recommended spending a day hammering out proposals, if fishermen are interested.



BOF proposals # 147 & #148 would restrict openings in the northern district to allow more fishing in Nelson Lagoon.

Borough Assemblywoman Justine Gundersen mentioned that two BOF proposals (#147 & # 148) would restrict openings in the northern district to allow more fishing in Nelson Lagoon. She said currently, fishermen from the village are concerned that the increased pressure in the area is having a negative affect on local streams.

Dick Jacobsen said there's no common ground among fishermen on proposed changes to the Kupreanof line. (BOF proposal #141). He said if it's open, Area M fishermen will fish in the Chignik area.

However, complications could arise. Beth reminded fishermen that the proposal suggests equal fishing time on different days. For example, providing an Area M fishing day and a Chignik day. Beth recommended getting charts for any proposals suggesting that a line should get moved.

An ongoing issue is how to address the lack of fishing time within the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM). Because of low Chignik runs and the 600,000 fish guaranteed to Chignik fishermen, SEDM setnetters have been unable to fish in June and July for the past three years. BOF proposals #132 - 138 propose several changes that would allow SEDM setnet fishermen to obtain more time in their traditional fishing locations. ADF&G has offered to meet with local fishermen to discuss the proposals and help them figure out which changes would work best.

Beth said one proposal that seems to have widespread support among Area M fishermen is to limit the vessel size to 58 feet year round in state waters. She suggested that if fishermen still feel this way, they should voice that concern to the Board of Fisheries in February.

Sam informed fishermen that the latest draft proposal of the NPFMC's Pacific cod sector allocation motion contains nearly the same analysis as a recent draft but it has new data and tables. Beth said the council is treating the western Gulf and Kodiak differently. She suggested that fishermen from the Borough agree on a percentage split between the pot and trawl gear types. Currently, catcher processors would get 25 percent. Sam said that's not favorable to Gulf communities.

Sam reminded fishermen that the Council is likely to make a final decision on the P. cod sector split motion this month. Those who have an interest in the issue are encouraged to testify next week.

Explore the links below for more information on the council's Pacific cod sector allocation motion and the Board of Fisheries proposals.



BOF proposals #132 - #138 would allow SEDM setnet fishermen to have more fishing time in their traditional fishing locations.

Anyone with questions about the proposals can call:

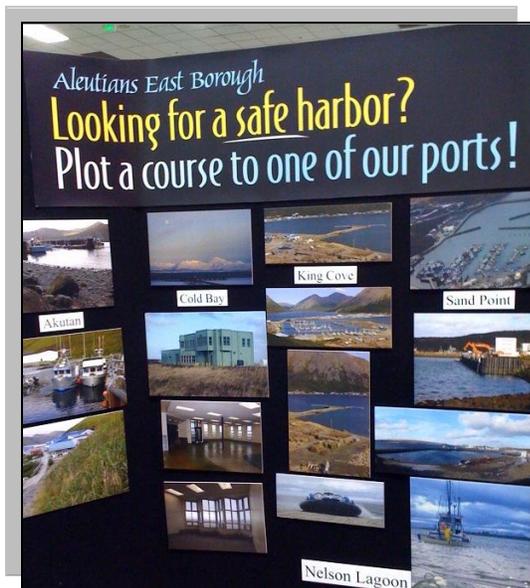
AEB Resource Director Beth Stewart
(907) 586-6655 or

Borough Fisheries Consultant Sam
Cotten (907) 242-1197

[Draft proposal - allocation of Pacific cod among sectors in the GOA](#)
[Draft Agenda - NPFMC Dec. 7 - 15, 2009 meeting](#)

[BOF: AK Peninsula and Aleutian Islands Finfish Proposals](#)
[BOF Meetings for 2009 - 2010](#)

AEB Booth Well-Received at Pacific Marine Expo



The Borough enlarged photos featuring the communities and their infrastructure to exhibit at the Pacific Marine Expo ("Fish Expo") in Seattle.

Many people were surprised to learn about all the changes within the Borough (the new harbor in False Pass, a harbor extension in Sand Point, etc.). Several attendees walked inside the Borough's booth to get a closer look at the photos and took flyers with them.

The Borough's give-aways (pens and 2010 calendars) were also very popular. The Borough ran out by the third day. Those who spent time working in the Borough's booth included Tom Hoblet, Carol Foster, Stanley Mack, Sharon Boyette, Dave Bash, Sam Cotten, Roxann Newman, Kim Newman, Ted Meyer, Bonnie Folz and Laura Tanis.

If the numbers of people stopping by to pick up the Borough's flyers, pens and 2010 calendars are any indication, then the Pacific Marine Expo (a.k.a. "Fish Expo"), held at the Qwest Field Center in Seattle Nov. 19 - 21, 2009, was a success.

The Borough used several photos of AEB communities, harbors and other infrastructure as a backdrop so fishermen visiting our booth would have a clear idea of what the Borough has to offer. The AEB received a lot of positive feedback.



The Borough handed out flyers of the communities, pens and AEB's 2010 calendars.

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