
Jan. 31, 2002

AEB HIRES SAM COTTEN FOR FISHERIES POST The Aleutians East Borough has hired long-time commercial fisherman and former state legislator Sam Cotten as its chief resource analyst. Cotten will represent the borough's fishing interests before boards and committees and other fisheries management bodies in his new position.

Cotten, a lifelong Alaskan, spent 16 years in the legislature. He was speaker of the house from 1989 to 1990. He also chaired committees on resources, finance, rules, community and regional affairs and oil and gas during his tenure. He currently holds a Cook Inlet purse seine permit. He's fished the region's Area M salmon fishery, and many others around the state.

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES ESTABLISHES NEW FEDERAL FISHERIES REQUIREMENTS Fishermen who use pot, hook and line or trawl gear in the directed fisheries for pollock, Atka mackerel or Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska or Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands must now obtain a federal fisheries permit endorsed for these fisheries and adhere to new vessel monitoring requirements for 2002, according to NMFS. Vessels with federal fisheries permits must also notify NMFS at least 72 hours before entering an area where the vessel will fish.

AEB's Beth Stewart has submitted a list of questions to NMFS to help local fishermen comply. Some of those questions have been forwarded to NMFS' legal department for analysis. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

Go to www.fakr.noaa.gov for links to the federal fisheries permit application, vessel monitoring requirements and fishing pre-notification requirements.

NMFS RESEARCH VESSEL TO STOP IN SAND POINT The National Marine Fisheries Service research vessel Miller-Freeman will stop in Sand Point Feb. 8-9 for a crew change. Plans are in the works to open the ship to the public. Members of the survey crew also hope to meet with local residents and answer questions about the groundfish survey.

EMERGENCY PETITION TO LIMIT LOCAL FISHERS DEEMED NO EMERGENCY An emergency petition seeking to further restrict the Area M salmon fishery was rejected by the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries early this month after board members deemed it a non-emergency.

The petition, submitted by the Lake Iliamna Fish & Game Advisory Committee and the Naknek-Kvichak Advisory Committee, called on the board to restrict the Area M salmon fishery after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game forecast a low Kvichak River salmon run for 2002.

MARINE CONSERVATION COUNCIL The Marine Conservation Council (MCA) is appealing the National Marine Fisheries Service decision to deny it access to information about a possible settlement of portions of the Greenpeace Steller sea lion lawsuit.

The appeal follows a proposed deal by Greenpeace attorneys that would make the NMFS documents available to the Marine Conservation Council and intervenors—but not the general public—if MCA dropped its request for the information. MCA rejected that proposal. No word on when NMFS will act on the appeal.

FISH CAUCUS BEGINS MEETING More than a dozen legislators joined fishers from around the state to attend the first legislative fish caucus meeting this session. Held on Jan. 23, Chris McDowell of the McDowell Group discussed the economics of Alaska's fishing industry during the meeting. You can listen to the a recording of the meeting by linking to legis.state.ak.us/. Click on meeting id 5372. The next fish caucus meeting was scheduled for today in the Butrovich committee room. Rep. Drew Scalzi was scheduled to present information on the fisheries bills he's introduced this session during this meeting.

The caucus was formed to serve as an educational tool for legislators and members of the public interested in learning more about Alaska's fishing industry. You can listen to the Fish Caucus meetings as they're happening by calling (888) 263-1555. The fish caucus will meet every Thursday throughout the session. Contact Ian Fisk at 1-888-865-2487 (in Alaska) or 907-465-2487 for information.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TO MEET IN ANCHORAGE The North Pacific Fishery Management Council will take up gulf rationalization, revisions to the groundfish supplemental environmental impact statement, essential fish habitat, Steller Sea Lion issues and more during its meeting in Anchorage February 6-12 at the Hilton Hotel. For an abbreviated agenda of the meeting click [here](#). Or link to <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc> for a full schedule.

The council will also meet jointly with the State of Alaska Board of Fisheries on Feb. 5 at 8 a.m. at the Hilton. A public workshop on the groundfish draft programmatic supplemental environmental impact statement is scheduled for Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Hilton.

BOROUGH TO SURVEY RESIDENTS ON SALMON The Aleutians East Borough, working with Concerned Area M Fishermen, Peninsula Marketing Association, and the Alaska Peninsula Setnetters Association, is developing a survey to uncover local residents' ideas on revitalizing the region's salmon fisheries. The survey will cover marketing efforts, price negotiations, and possible rationalization strategies. Contact Sam Cotten at the Aleutians East Borough, 274-7555 if you have items you'd like included in the survey.

AEB REPS MEET WITH PETER PAN IN SEATTLE Aleutians East Borough Mayor Dick Jacobsen and Administrator Bob Juettner met with Peter Pan officials in Seattle last week. Topics of discussion included a tax credit program for new investments in salmon processing equipment and custom packing—potentially an important step forward for regional salmon marketing efforts. Peter Pan is now processing chum salmon fillets in King Cove.

STEVENS SPEECH FOCUSES ON THE FUTURE OF FISHERIES Sen. Ted Stevens focused on Alaska's commercial fishing industry in his annual address to the Legislature last week. In his speech, Stevens called for a salmon summit this Spring to develop a plan that could make Alaska's salmon industry more competitive. He also mentioned a number of other measures that could aid the state's salmon harvesters, including mandatory labeling of farmed salmon. Link to: www.senate.gov for the full text of Stevens' speech.

FJORD SEAFOODS ISSUES PROFIT WARNING WorldCatch News reports that seafood giant Fjord Seafood ASA issued a profit warning this week and will adjust production capacity. Plans include destroying 3.2 million smolt of Atlantic salmon at fish farms in Chile. This was one of the fish farms visited by Aleutians East Borough reps in Chile during the November trade mission.

ALASKA SYMPHONY OF SEAFOOD GALA SATURDAY The Symphony of Seafood has moved new products,

expert judging and its awards ceremony to Chicago this year, but the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation will still hold a gala event with the People's Choice Award in Anchorage at the 4th Avenue Theater on Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m. No longer limited to value-added products, producers were asked to submit their favorite seafood dish for public judging at the gala. Call 1-800-478-7328 to purchase tickets.

CALIFORNIA SEA LIONS INCREASING AS STELLERS DECREASE Arctic Science Journeys Radio reports that scientists are spotting California sea lions around popular Steller sea lion haul-outs and rookeries across Alaska. Both males and females have been spotted as far away as the Pribilof Islands. There is speculation that changes in Gulf of Alaska ecosystems could make conditions more favorable. Read the story on WorldCatch News at: www.worldcatch.com.

OOPS, WRONG FOUR-LETTER WORD A headline in the last issue of FISH NEWS suggested that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council discussed gulf rationalization during its last meeting. The council discussed *crab* rationalization.

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

February 6-12, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

REPORTS

- Executive Director's Report
- NMFS Management Report (includes status report on CDQ policy amendment)
- ADF&G Report (includes enforcement report for state waters)
- NMFS & Coast Guard Enforcement Reports (VMS report/Russian Delegation)
- IPHC Annual Meeting Report
- Chiniak Study Report

NEW OR CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Programmatic Groundfish SEIS Revision (5 hours)
- Essential Fish Habitat (2 hours)
- Halibut/Sablefish IFQ Program (4 hours)
- Gulf of Alaska Rationalization (2 hours)
- Crab Rationalization (16 hours)
- American Fisheries Act (2 hours)
- Observer Program (3 hours)
- Steller Sea Lion Measures (2 hours)
- Salmon Bycatch (2 hours)
- Research Priorities (1 hour)

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT

- Groundfish Management Issues (8 hours)
- Staff Tasking (2 hours)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

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