



Fish News

Jan. 10, 2012

Reminder: South Peninsula District Tanner Crab Pre-Season Stakeholders' Meeting on Jan. 13th

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will host a pre-season commercial shellfish and groundfish stakeholders' meeting this Friday, January, 13, 2012 at 10 a.m. at the Borough office in Sand Point. The meeting will also be teleconferenced to the Harbor House in King Cove and the City office in False Pass. Nick Sagalkin, ADF&G Management Biologist and Kally Spalinger, ADF&G Trawl Survey Coordinator, will also dial in from Kodiak.



The purpose of this meeting is to provide commercial fishery stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the 2012 South Peninsula District Tanner crab fishery and recent changes to South Alaska Peninsula state-waters Pacific cod regulations. This meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please contact Mark Stichert with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak at (907) 486-1853.

Cold Bay's Strategic Location Ideally Suited for Transporting Live Crab to Asia

*By Ernie Weiss, AEB Natural Resources Director
Previously published in In the Loop on Jan. 3, 2011*

It's an idea that's been around for quite a while, but whose time may have finally come: the transport of live crab directly from the Aleutians East Borough 'hub' port of Cold Bay to markets in China and other Asian countries.



In the near future, Cold Bay could serve as the hub for transporting live crab directly to markets in Asia.

Former Cold Bay terminal manager Monty Martin was a founding member of the Cold Bay International Airport Enhancement Committee (CIAEC) in the fall of 2009, soliciting support for the shipment of raw fish products such as king crab, cod milt, fresh salmon fillets and roe through the Cold Bay hub. The idea is far from new, but has new life, due to recent events.



**DCCED
Commissioner
Susan Bell**

Back from an official trip to China, Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Commissioner Susan Bell was featured on a recent Channel 2 News story (see link below).

"The administration is definitely increasing our visibility throughout the world, where we see opportunity for increasing our exports and building investment in Alaska, particularly adding value to our products," Bell said.

Last month, Commissioner Bell, along with Department of Transportation Commissioner Marc Luiken and other state officials, met with Mayor Mack and other representatives from the Borough and crab industry. The Governor's Rural Affairs Advisor John Moller had set up the meeting for the attendees to discuss the potential new Asian-Alaskan seafood connections. The State of Alaska expects China to be its top

export customer in 2011, overtaking Japan, which until recently, had been purchasing more of Alaska's goods than any other country.

Alaska Crab Coalition Executive Director Arni Thomson hand-carried a letter from Mayor Stanley Mack to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) Board of Directors and shellfish committee meeting in Seattle.

"We believe the time is right and markets are ready for live crab harvested in Aleutians East Borough waters to be enjoyed worldwide," Mayor Mack said in his letter.

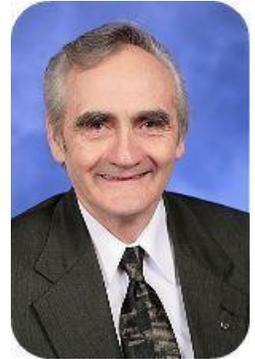
Additionally, Mayor Mack is looking for support from the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) in the AEB's effort to get a tarmac built to the new AEB airport terminal. State DOTPF will need to take the lead on getting an apron to the runway built.

Thomson has been working with Aleutians East Borough Natural Resources Director Ernie Weiss on the transport of live crab proposal for several months, building on previous work done by Monty Martin.

There is a heightened interest for live crab in China, Korea and other points in Asia, and there are 500 planes a week from Anchorage heading to Asia. However, this project aims not to take any business away from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, but to establish a brand new market option, making use of the location of the 10,415-foot main runway in Cold Bay (with the additional 5,125 foot crosswind runway) so critically close to the crab fishing grounds.

DOT Commissioner Luiken stated at the meeting that regulatory issues wouldn't be the biggest obstacle to the success of the project, but that success would depend on getting the interest of both the airlines and the processors. The business model needs to look at how much product will be available, and how often, to determine if the project is feasible. If needed, a customs agent should to be a cost-sharing item between industry and government.

Jim Stone with the Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers told the teleconference that his group of harvesters and processors are planning on shipping live snow crab out of Dutch Harbor this January, but are expecting significant dead loss, due to the extra stop in Anchorage. The world class airfield in Cold Bay will support larger planes that can fly directly from the Aleutians East to Asia, eliminating nearly all dead loss.



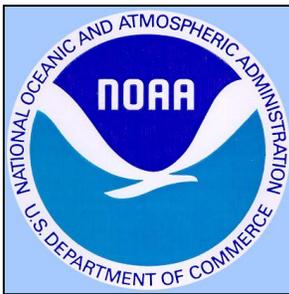
Borough Mayor Stanley Mack believes the time is right for live crab to be harvested from AEB waters and enjoyed around the world.

Ernie Weiss will continue to work with DCCED Deputy Commissioner Curtis Thayer and Arni Thomson to facilitate the forward momentum of the initiative to ship live crab directly to China from Cold Bay.

Visit the link below for more information:

[KTUU Ch. 2 story](#)

NOAA Seeks Comment on Proposed 2012 and 2013 Harvest Specs for Groundfish in BSAI through Jan. 26th



NOAA Fisheries proposes 2012 and 2013 harvest specifications, apportionments and prohibited species catch allowances for the groundfish fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area. This action will establish harvest limits for groundfish during the 2012 and 2013 fishing years to conserve and manage the groundfish resources in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands according to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

[Read more or submit a comment](#)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS **Alaska Board of Fisheries**

The Alaska Board of Fisheries calls for proposed changes in the subsistence, commercial, personal use, sport, guided sport, and guided sport ecotourism finfish regulations for Bristol Bay; Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands finfish areas; and statewide finfish regulations.



PROPOSAL DEADLINE - 5:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, APRIL 10, 2012

The Alaska Board of Fisheries is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, commercial, personal use, sport, guided sport, and guided sport ecotourism finfish regulations for the Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands management areas. Finfish includes: salmon, herring, trout, groundfish, char, burbot, northern pike, whitefish, Pacific cod, sablefish, shark, pollock, etc., but does not include halibut.

The board is accepting proposed changes to the subsistence, commercial, personal use, sport, guided sport, and guided sport ecotourism finfish provisions regulations. Examples of "statewide finfish" regulations can be found in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code and include, but are not limited to, policy for the management of sustainable salmon fisheries, policy for the management of mixed stock fisheries, policy for statewide salmon escapement goals, possession of sport-caught fish, fishing by proxy, etc.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, APRIL 10, 2012

To insure that the proposed booklets are distributed well in advance of the board meetings and the fishing season, the board has set 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2012 as the proposal deadline.

Proposals may be submitted by mail, fax, or online:

Mail: ADF&G, Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Fax: (907) 465-6094

Online: <http://boardoffisheries.adfg.alaska.gov/>

Proposals must be received by the 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2012 deadline at the Board Support Section office in Juneau. A postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt. You are encouraged to submit proposals at the earliest possible date.

Please use the Board of Fisheries proposal form, available from any office of the Boards Support Section or on our website at:

<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/fishinfo/index.php>. Proposals must contain a contact telephone number and address. Please print or type the individual's name or organization's

name as appropriate. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. Currently, we are unable to accept submission of proposal via email. We are working with our information technology section and hope to be able to offer this option soon.

All proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal. It may draw opposition that may not be germane to the element(s) of the proposal and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit proposals containing offensive language. Proposals published in the proposal book will be referenced with the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and include a brief description of the action requested. Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and the public for review and comment.

Proposals received per the above "Call for Proposals" deadline will be considered by the Board of Fisheries during the October 2012 through March 2013 meeting schedule.

For more information, please contact the Alaska Board of Fisheries Executive Director at (907) 465-4110.

Fish Calendar of Events



WASSIP
[Link - WASSIP](#)

8:30 a.m. on Jan. 17, 2012

Anchorage Hilton

Federal Subsistence Board
[Link - Federal Subsistence Board](#)

8:30 a.m. on Jan. 17th

Anchorage Egan Center

AK Marine Science Symposium [Link - AK Marine Science Symposium](#)

8 a.m. on Jan. 17th Anchorage Hotel Captain Cook

IPHC
[Link - IPHC](#)

Jan. 24 - 27, 2012

Anchorage Hotel Captain Cook



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