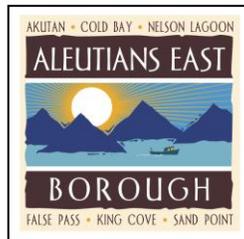




Fish News

Dec. 17, 2014



Reminder: AEB Fishermen's Meeting

Teleconference

Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 10 a.m.

TELECONFERENCE audio at the following sites:

King Cove Harbor House
Sand Point Borough office
False Pass City Office
Anchorage AEB office

AEB Winter Fisheries Pre-season Meeting.

Invited presenters include:

ADF&G Kodiak
US Coast Guard Juneau
NMFS Sustainable Fisheries, Juneau
NMFS Observer Program, Seattle
NOAA Fisheries Enforcement
EPA, Seattle
AIS Observers

Get answers about the upcoming winter fisheries from the experts.

Please contact Ernie Weiss at (907) 274-7557 or eweiss@aeboro.org for further information.

New ADF&G Acting Commissioner Sam Cotten Hits the Ground Running

Governor Bill Walker appointed former Aleutians East Borough Fisheries Analyst Sam Cotten as Acting Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game on December 1st, just hours after being sworn in as Alaska's Governor.



**Governor Walker appointed Sam Cotten as
Acting Commissioner of ADF&G**

This December has been a busy month for the new acting commissioner. One of Cotten's first steps as head of ADF&G was to sit in on the December 3 - 8 meeting of the Alaska Board of Fisheries in Cordova. According to Alaska Statute, the Commissioner is not a member of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game, 'but shall be ex officio secretary' of each board.

Following close on the heels of the Cordova meeting, Cotten attended the North Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in Anchorage, December 9 - 15. The ADF&G Commissioner is a voting member of the Council. Cotten's first major Council motion as Acting Commissioner, agenda item C-2 Bering Sea Salmon Bycatch, passed 10-0. Cotten also requested the Council not take up GOA trawl bycatch management until October, to give the Department a chance to review the progress on the current proposal and to consider other alternatives.

In a press release from the Governor's office, Governor Walker said he chose Cotten to serve as Acting Commissioner because of his impressive background.

"Cotten has a long history of public service in Alaska. I'm confident his strong fisheries background and legislative experience will guide us through this critical transition period," Governor Walker said.

"It was an honor to be asked to serve as Acting Commissioner, and I'm pleased to respond to the governor's request to take on these responsibilities," Cotten said.



"I think Governor Walker has picked the exact right person for the job of Acting ADF&G Commissioner," said Ernie Weiss, Aleutians East Borough Director of Natural Resources. "Sam is a good person who has the right experience. He will be a great steward of our fish & game resources to the benefit of all Alaskans."

"It was an honor to be asked to serve as Acting Commissioner, and I'm pleased to respond to the governor's request to take on these responsibilities," Cotten said.

Cotten's experience includes serving in both chambers of the Alaska Legislature for 16 years (1975 - 1991). He served 2 years in the Senate and 14 years in the House. He was Speaker of the Alaska House of Representatives from 1989 - 1990. Cotten also chaired committees on resources, finance, community & regional affairs and oil & gas during his tenure. He has also served on a number of boards, including the Alaska Commercial Fishing and Agricultural Bank, Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute committees, International Pacific Fisheries Commission Advisor and the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association.

“Alaska has a tradition of outstanding fish management practices, and I hope to continue that tradition as Acting Commissioner of Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game,” Cotten said.

Cotten commercially fished for salmon in Kachemak Bay for 21 years. He is a U.S. Navy veteran who served two tours in Vietnam. Cotten is a lifelong Alaskan, was born in Juneau and currently lives in Eagle River.

Congratulations to Acting Commissioner Cotten!

NPFMC Increases P. Cod Allocation in GOA; Increases Pollock in Both BSAI & GOA, But Cuts P.Cod TAC in BSAI

During the December meeting, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council approved the total allowable catch (TAC) for pollock, Pacific Cod and other groundfish.

The TAC for pollock in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BS/AI) was increased from 1,267,000 tons to 1,310,000 tons. However, Pacific cod

allocations were decreased from 246,897 tons to 240,000 tons in the BS/AI. Atka

mackerel allocations jumped up from 32,322 tons to 54,500 tons.

In the Gulf of Alaska, the council boosted the pollock TAC from 174,976 tons to 199,151 tons. The Pacific cod quote increased from 64,738 to 75,202 tons.



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council approved TACs for pollock and Pacific Cod in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands.

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